



# Apollo News

**Apollo Elementary**  
15025 SE 117th St.  
Renton, WA 98059  
Phone: (425) 837-7500

**Marla Erath, Principal**  
**Janet Randall, Lead Secretary**  
Fax: (425) 837-7508

## *A Note from the Principal ...*

Can you believe it! We are here in the month of October. Thank you to all for your participation in this positive and exciting opening to this school year. We at Apollo look forward to sharing great teaching and learning with you and your students.

As a building we will continue to focus our school improvement goals around the topic of writing. We continue with our ALL SCHOOL WRITES and will have all children (K-5) participate in writing to a prompt, that will be jointly scored against grade appropriate rubrics, three times this school year. It is encouraging and motivating to teachers and students to watch the growth of a student's writing abilities over time.

### **Veteran's Day**

We will be hosting our Veteran's Day assembly on Monday **November 9th at 8:45 AM** in our Multi purpose room. Red remembrance bricks will be sent home to allow you to help us honor our veterans and current soldiers. We will have all bricks on display in the main entrance. If your child is bringing a veteran to school to be honored that day, please contact the office prior to Friday, November 6th so that we can prepare for their arrival. You are invited to attend this assembly as well, simply sign in at the office and head back to the MPR room. We will be honoring those who will be with us that day and then signing some patriotic selections under the direction of Lynne Boeger our music specialist. If you plan to attend please RSVP with the office @ 837-7500 so that we can prepare appropriate seating.



Marla Erath  
Principal

## Important Dates



### Upcoming Events

#### **November 1**

Daylight Savings Time Ends  
set clocks back



#### **November 3—4**

Parent/ Teacher Conferences  
**No School for Students**

#### **November 6**

Picture Retakes

#### **November 9**

Veterans' Day Assembly  
8:45—9:45 AM

#### **November 25**

Report Cards Go Home

#### **November 26—27**

Thanksgiving Holiday



### **Volunteers Make a Difference**



It is in this month that we begin to see the volunteers showing up to help in classrooms, working in the Library and other areas at school. Added to that list of activities is picture day and vision/hearing screening. This year we had more people sign up to help with picture day than we could use. If we did not contact you this time, do not despair. We have picture make-ups on November 6 and could use help there, as well. As this newsletter is going to print, we have almost 20 people helping with the vision/hearing

screening. To all of you who take time out of your busy day to donate help at Apollo, we truly thank you. Without your help it would be much more difficult to accomplish all of the activities that must be done. You make the difference and we appreciate it.

## Reporting the Absence of Your Child



As we move along through the school year, there may be times when your child will not attend school.

Please note that any and all absences will be considered unexcused until the office staff hears from a parent or guardian as to why the child was not in school that day. You may call the office or send a note along with your child to explain his/her absence from school. A cour-

tesy call will be made if the office has not heard from you to remind you to confirm your child's absence. Family vacations will only be considered excused if prior permission has been obtained from the principal (forms for this request are available in the office). Please refer to your student/parent handbook regarding what constitutes an excused or unexcused absence. When reporting an absence for your child, please communicate phone calls through the office versus your child's teacher. Thank you for your cooperation with the procedures of reporting absences.

## Apollo Parent/Student Handbooks

The handbooks have been passed out. If you have not done so already, please remember to read over the book with your student(s), sign the signature page and return it to the office via your student's classroom teacher. There is a lot of good information within the handbook, such as procedures for Apollo, contact information and more.



## Theme of the Month October: RESPONSIBILITY

This theme fits with the teaching of rules and the start of the school year. Students can display responsibility in the classroom, lunchroom, recess, hallways, bathrooms, etc. Responsible behaviors in these areas depend on safety, courtesy, and orderliness. Responsible behavior can also relate to care of school property as well as effort in learning and completing school work. Please encourage your child to display the skill of responsibility both at home and at school. Come see your child honored on the Principal's bulletin board.

## Late Again?



Is your child one of the students who is constantly late for school? Some students are showing up 1 or 2 minutes after the bell has rung. This is an issue that affects not only your child because of the information that has been missed, but it also interrupts the flow of the class. If it is the child who is either late waking up or dragging his/her feet while getting ready, perhaps you could encourage responsibility by having him/her set an alarm clock and get up on his/her own (or maybe not).

Wednesdays are particularly bad and the common reason is that parents have forgotten that Wednesdays start at 8:15. Please make every effort to help get your child to school on time. Tardies do show up on the report cards. Excess tardies will result in a letter from the principal.



## Issaquah Schools Foundation

As we start the new year, I want to help 'spread the word' about a partner that helps make possible so much of what makes our schools special—the Issaquah Schools Foundation. The Issaquah Schools Foundation is a community-supported non-profit that works year-round to raise money to bridge the gap between the dollars the state provides for basic education and the money our schools need to give our students a comprehensive 21<sup>st</sup> Century education. With your support, the Foundation is able to fund programs and investments that advance academic achievement, support struggling students, and promote professional development. Here at Apollo the Foundation has enriched our learning environment with numerous Academic Enrichment Grants. Each year, our teachers can apply for funding in amounts from \$10 - \$10,000 for programs and/or materials that bring learning to life through technology, innovation, science, math, literature and the arts.

Since 1997 Apollo has received **\$27,238** from ISF in direct grants. In the past three years, ISF funded investments at Apollo include

- **Word Attack Magic**-An engaging fast paced direct instruction spelling curriculum to increase students' phonemic awareness that helps them become better spellers and readers.
- **Lights! Camera! Action! Videotaping the Learning Process**-Students and teachers use video cameras as a tool to increase learning, improve teaching, and to reflect about the learning process in their classrooms.
- **Learning to Write with Favorite Authors**-Students have become more engaged in reading and writing after being introduced to a variety of favorite authors and their books.
- **Encouraging Fluent Readers**-Students are motivated to practice and improve reading fluency by reading books multiple times and then recording the books on tapes for others to enjoy.
- **Promoting a Love of Reading with Genres**-Students develop a love for reading while increasing reading skills as they learn about different genre literature elements.
- **Inspiring and Improving Student Writing**-Inspiring and improving student writing through authors' stories and writing experiences.

This year, a music grant was funded to benefit all elementary schools:

- **Learning Music Through Technology**-Music software that provides an engaging way to teach and reinforce a variety of music skills and concepts and help differentiate instruction.

In addition, ISF's funding has provided Apollo with:

- **National Board Certification Scholarships** that give teachers access to the 'pinnacle' of professional development programs; equipping them with the tools to develop inquisitive, engaged learners. **Apollo currently has two National Board Certified teachers with another in the process of obtaining certification.**
- **VOICE** (Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education) - a mentor/tutor program that pairs caring community volunteers with struggling students to improve academic performance, boost self-esteem, and help curb the high-school dropout rate.
- **GLAD** - a 'best practices' professional development program that helps teachers reach students of every learning style and help them excel. **Apollo has 22 GLAD trained teachers!**

You can help the Issaquah Schools Foundation continue elevating education for all students by joining the **Calling for Kids** Campaign. A **Calling for Kids informational flyer was included in your Opening Day Registration packet.** We have additional copies in our office. **The Foundation is asking every parent to participate.** We hope that you do. Your support will make a tremendous difference in the quality of educational resources we can make available to your student. Please consider contributing online today at [www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org). You may also contact the ISF office at 425.416.2045.

Thank you for making Issaquah Schools the best they can be.  
Marla Erath

## Community Fliers for Apollo

### [DRAWING and PAINTING classes for ages 6-14](#)

Check out the new **DRAWING** and **PAINTING** classes for ages 6-14 offered through Issaquah Parks & Recreation. A new session begins on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.TheDrawingBoardArtInstruction.com](http://www.TheDrawingBoardArtInstruction.com).

### [Halloween Self-Portraits for ages 5-11](#)

Create a self-portrait of you in your Halloween costume. Frame the artwork along with a photo of you in your costume! What a fun keepsake! Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:00-4:00pm, at the Issaquah Community Center. \$10. Register at [www.TheDrawingBoardArtInstruction.com](http://www.TheDrawingBoardArtInstruction.com).

### [City of Issaquah sponsoring Parenting with Love & Logic Classes](#)

Upcoming **Parenting with Love & Logic** classes offered at the Issaquah Community Center for parents of infants through 6-year olds. Register today! Check the website for more info: <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/Files/Fall2009.pdf>

### [Issaquah Parks & Recreation 2009-2010 Winter Youth Basketball Program](#)

All boys and girls interested in playing basketball sign up now for the Issaquah Parks & Recreation 2009-2010 Winter Youth Basketball Program. The goal of this program is to provide an opportunity for the recreational basketball player to sharpen skills and broaden his/her knowledge of basketball with an emphasis on fun, learning and good sportsmanship.

K-2nd Grade: <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/Files/K-2%20Flyer.pdf>

3-5th Grade: <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/Files/3-5%20Flyer.pdf>

### [Eastside Baby Corner Needs Donations](#)

Help families in need on the Eastside! Eastside Baby Corner needs donations of gently used children's clothing and everything that kids need from birth to age 12. Check out our website for our Top-10 most needed items.

Sammamish Arts Commission Presents:

### **Art of the Sari + A Photo Journey of Indian Textiles and Artists**

**September 16 – December 4, 2009 Sammamish City Hall Commons Gallery**

**Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00pm** in the gallery and is open to the public. Enjoy Indian dance, sari demonstrations, henna painting and as well as a sampling of Indian cuisine.

Brilliantly colored saris will line the gallery and an intricate rangoli pattern will be created on the floor + textiles, artists and the people of the craft villages in Northeastern and Western India will be presented in a series of photographic images by Sammamish photographer Michael Rainwater.