

DRIGGS' DIGEST

DRIGGS DRAGONS

May/June
2013

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Class Placement for 2013-2014 School Year

It is about that time to begin the process of placing students with teachers for the next academic year. Please know that the entire faculty, staff and administration will be working on this to try to make the best placement for your student(s) to thrive academically, socially, emotionally and physically. We will be considering learning styles, teaching styles and classroom environments, gender balance, social concerns, and exceptional students needs in the process. We will not be accepting any requests for specific teachers. There are no more student profile inventories accepted at this time.

Faculty Update

Springtime can bring changes to school faculties. We want to keep you abreast of new faces at new grade levels. **Ms. Christina Pettit** will be joining our second grade team for the 2013-2014 school year. Christina brings four years' experience of teaching second grade previously.

Mrs. Rochelle Horrocks will be moving on to teach at Rolling Meadows, another Granite School District elementary school. We wish her success at her new school and thank her for her time at Driggs.

We also welcome **Mrs. Stacie Barker** who has been hired as our new Kindergarten teacher for next year. Stacie comes to Driggs via Havre, Montana, where she has been teaching Kindergarten for the past three years. Stacie is excited to move home to Utah and we are excited to have her join our Driggs' community.

We are currently in the process of interviewing for an additional third grade teacher, and we will keep you posted on the progress. Thank you to the many teachers who sit on our hiring committees for the various positions. They put in many extra hours and it is appreciated!

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ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Driggs' Students, Teachers, Parents,
and Community,

What a wonderful year it has been! It has been a great privilege for me to work with you this year. I have appreciated the tremendous effort that each of you puts into the education of each student at Driggs. It is a bittersweet feeling to leave Driggs because I have felt accepted and a part of the team. Thank you for the encouragement and support that I have felt from you. Best wishes as we finish this school year and begin another in the fall.

Sincerely,
Brittany

Brittany Gilson, Assistant Principal

PTA PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As the school year comes to an end, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year. We are so grateful for the opportunity we have had to work with such wonderful people! We are continually amazed at how many people are so willing to work so hard to improve our school and community. It truly is inspiring! Thank you for all of your support this year and for "making the difference!"

Thanks to **Lara Peay and her committee** for our Book Fair and Bagels, and thanks to all of you who came out to support it. Thank you to **Chelsea Wood and her committee** for an "All Star" kindergarten registration! What a fun morning for the incoming kindergartners to hear the current kindergartners sing, see the school, and meet the teachers and staff. Spirit Day was a huge success with several classes having 100% of the kids in Driggs' colors and/or t-shirts! (For competition winners see blurb in Newsletter.) School Field Day will be June 4th, and our last Spirit Day will be May 31st.

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Fifth and Sixth Grade

For the 2013-2014 school year, students in fifth and sixth grade will rotate among all the teachers in that grade level. Teachers will be teaching a subject area to all students as they rotate through. This will enable teachers to teach to their strength and interest and students to benefit from that high quality instruction. Students will also learn the skill of managing themselves and their things, as they rotate from teacher to teacher. We are excited to bring this instruction method to Driggs. Students will be placed in a homeroom for attendance purposes, and that will be posted the end of July with all class lists. Parents will learn the details of the rotations in the grade level Back to School Mornings at the beginning of next school year and in teachers' disclosure statements.

Walking School Bus Initiative Update

Driggs Elementary was chosen as a perfect fit to pilot this exciting program. Throughout the fall we have hosted many "walking school bus" days to increase awareness and education about the benefits of an established Walking School Bus Program. Driggs Elementary is working to launch this program this coming fall. I invite all parents to attend an information session **Friday, May 17, at 9:00 a.m.**, to learn about our Walking School Bus program and ask questions and provide feedback to our organizing committee. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the program, find out how your child can be a part of the WSB movement, and also how parent volunteers fit in. The meeting will be held in the school MPR and will only take one hour of your time. Looking forward to see you there!

Safety Update

Last month, we had another school lockdown drill. We thank Holladay City Police for their feedback during the drill. We also tried our new district communication tool, Blackboard Connect. You should have received an automated phone call one hour prior to the drill notifying you of what was occurring at school. If you did not receive a call we may have the wrong personal information for you. Please come in and update your information in the main office. When you receive these calls, please refrain from calling into the main office. Our phones were bogged down with multiple calls, and we cannot answer them during an emergency drill. Thanks for the cooperation.

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Parent Volunteers

Our parent volunteers are one of the key components to our students' success! We are very appreciative for the help and support and could not do what we do without it. If you are a volunteer in the classroom or making copies for teachers, please arrange to have younger children cared for outside of school. This could become a liability and safety issue, as well as can be a distraction in the classroom for other students. Thank you again for your continued support.

Bus Reminder

Our GSD bus drivers want to send a reminder to parents and students that they are not allowed to transport live animals. Therefore, if your lucky child has a turn with the class pet, they will need to be transported by you to and from school at that time. Thanks for your understanding of this district policy.

Congratulations

Please help me congratulate our own **Mr. Mason James**, school custodian. He and his new wife, Alexi, were married on May 1st. Congratulations and best of luck to the newlyweds!

Thanks to Ms. Gilson

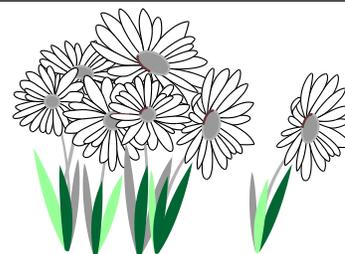
We also want to extend our appreciation and best wishes to **Ms. Brittany Gilson**. She has accepted a position as principal for William Penn Elementary and will be leaving Driggs at the end of this school year. We want to thank her for her service as assistant principal and wish her well in the coming years!

Sincerely,



Christina Vierra McGill, Principal

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE



Driggs' Art Corner

It's the end of the year and you will finally be able to see all of your student's wonderful art projects. We will be sending the Art Portfolios home with the students soon.

Last month we worked on:

Kindergarten: learned that art is not just drawing, painting, or sculpting something, but a process of seeing in a special way and sharing ideas and feelings.

1st Grade: created a beautiful color wheel flower and studied primary, secondary, and tertiary colors, and how artists use the Element of Color to create moods in artwork.

2nd Grade: learned how to use line and color expressively to create movement in the sky, and was introduced to the artist Vincent Van Gogh and his "Starry Night."

3rd Grade: became aware of Op art as a style dominated by optical effects and illusions by the use of lines, colors, and spaces.

4th Grade: discussed facial expressions and proportions in portraits by artists and drew a self-portrait combining basic proportions and observations.

5th Grade: learned that sketches can be created to aid visual memory and to explore texture qualities in a drawing of their shoes.

6th Grade: drew self-portraits combining direct observation and knowledge of proportions and compared and contrasted Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" to the Pop Art of Andy Warhol.

End of Year Thank You's!

It is so hard to name everyone who has contributed to this year's activities at Driggs. We have tried to acknowledge them each month after the activity has taken place, but still we miss a few to recognize. Thanks to each of the commissioners over **Community Involvement, Education and Family Life, Individual Development, Health and Safety, and Membership and Funding**. These areas include such things as Book Fairs, Box Tops, Fundraisers, Reflections, Grade Level Activities, Teacher Appreciation, Kindergarten Registration, SEP Teacher Meals, Science Fair, Art Specialist, etc. Thanks to all the committee members who supported these activities, with generous gifts of time and materials to make them happen.

Shannon Randle requested that the following committee members be recognized and thanked:

Vision Screening: **Melissa Auger and her committee**

Red Ribbon Week: **Liz Doxey, Natalie Boss and committee**

Family Fun Walk: **Heidi Marberger and committee**

Girls' Maturation: **Lindsi Wiseman and committee**

Boys' Maturation: **Carol Allred and committee**

Emergency Preparedness: **Lindsay Rosander and committee**

Field Day: **Kathy Hansen and committee**

(**Shannon Randle** should also be recognized for her spearheading the Jump-a-Thon.)

We would also like to thank **Dave McAllister** for running the Chess Club each month. **Sydney Lunt and her committee** deserve a special thanks for heading the Teacher Appreciation Week this month.

The parents at Driggs are amazing in all they do to support the many programs that enrich the curriculum at the school. Thanks, one and all, for all you have done!

BOX TOPS!

Thanks to everyone who contributed Boxtops this year. They help bring money into the school. Be sure to save your Boxtops over the summer to turn in next fall. Thanks, Driggs' Dragons!

(PTA PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE
continued from p. 1)

Just a reminder that Teacher Appreciation week is May 6 - 10th. Make sure to let your teachers know how much they are appreciated in their efforts to "make a difference" in the lives of our children. Thank you, teachers!!

Thank you for all you do and thanks for making Howard R. Driggs the best place for our kids to go to school!

Sincerely,

Kristine O'Brien
and Sabrina Peterson
Co-PTA Presidents, 2012 - 2013

S P I R I T
D A Y
W I N N E R S

We want to thank everyone who wore their school colors or a Driggs' shirt on Spirit Day! We had over 3/4 of our students and teachers participate! There were eight classes with one hundred percent: **Mrs. Cutler**, **Mrs. Ottosen**, **Mrs. Baer**, **Miss Woolsey**, **Miss Reese**, **Mrs. Sansom**, **Miss Bogden**, and **Mrs. Day!** Way to go! We had a drawing for the grand prize, and **Mrs. Cutler's class won**. They will receive new dictionaries for their room along with new ink cartridges and glue sticks.



Mother's Day, May 12th

MAY SOCIAL SKILL

This month our social skill of focus is **Controlling Your Anger**. We all get upset, and that is okay. However, what's not okay is when we are unable to control our anger. There are four simple steps that can help all of us to control our anger. 1) Take a deep breath. 2) Keep hands and feet to yourself. 3) Tell yourself to calm down. 4) If possible, go to a quiet place. We need to continue to think about others even when we are angry. If we do not control our anger, we need to be humble and admit when we are wrong. **Humility** means that you do not feel or act as if you are more important than others. You are happy to serve others and think other people's needs are important. You also admit your mistakes and learn from them. **Humility** means that you do not brag about yourself.

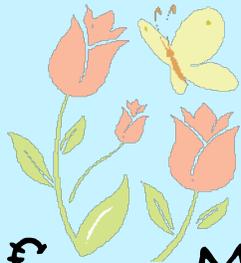
THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

I just wanted to take a minute and thank all the Driggs' parents and staff for being so welcoming and supportive as I took on the part time Library Assistant position. It feels like a home to me, and getting to touch base with all of the children is very fun. I love books, so this is the best of all possible worlds. I sure appreciate all your kind words. Have a wonderful summer.

--Kathy Nielson

A BIG THANK YOU!

We would like to give a big **THANKS** to our wonderful office staff and leadership, the teachers, the custodians, the aides, the art specialists, the librarians, the lunch workers--all who make the school run so smoothly. Thanks to our PTA Presidents who planned and worked so diligently on school activities. Thanks to everyone for your hours of work and positive attitudes that help us smile, too. You are the greatest!



May/June 2013



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Lunch Money:

for May: \$33.00
for June: \$6.00
daily: \$1.50
milk: .30

Spring Pictures



Chess Club 8:00

-----Teacher Appreciation Week-----

Early Dismissal
1:05 p.m.

Mother's Day



Lunch for week: \$7.50

Walking School Bus Mtg. 9:00 a.m.

Early Dismissal
1:05 p.m.

Chess Club 8:00 a.m.

Early Dismissal
1:05 p.m.

NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day



KINDERGARTEN
LAST DAY

SPRIT DAY

Early Dismissal
1:05 p.m.

Field Day

Awards Assembly



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!



Teacher and Staff Birthdays Coming Up

May

02 Valene Ottosen
08 Bruce Luck
13 Michele Cutler

June

15 Susan Jenco
16 Biana Lehwalder
28 Nancy Harmon

July

19 Jennie Bennion

August

08 Holly Crawford
20 Mason James

