

Stevens Speak

★ THE STEVENS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ★

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 27 - PTA Meeting 6:30-8:00

September 28 - 2 hr early dismissal - Professional Development Day

October 13 - Picture Day

October 14 - No School Professional Development Day

Inside this issue

- Highly Capable info pg 2
- PTA reminders pg 2
- Steven's Chess Club pg 2



Team Read Update

The Team Read Program has notified us that they are discontinuing the program at Stevens. The new start times have significantly impacted their ability to get high school students to the schools. We are looking into possible options and will keep you posted.

From The Principal

I have already received a number of inquiries regarding our math program here at Stevens. I'm going to take my space today to address this topic of interest. There are three aspects to each area of instruction: curriculum, instruction and assessment. Many of these areas are directed and informed by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which are adopted by our state and many others. These CCSS standards represent what we as a state have determined that students should know and be able to do at each grade level. Math is one of these areas.

We are now in our third year of implementation of our district adopted curriculum, Math in Focus (MiF). The curriculum was adopted after more than a year process that included a committee with teachers, administrators, central office staff, parents and community members. The committee then made their recommendations to the school board which formally adopted MiF. I firmly believe that no curriculum is perfect and the all math curriculums and programs have weaknesses. While MiF is our primary resource, the district has provided a variety of other resources for teachers to use. Additionally, teachers have the flexibility of using other materials as well.

While our CCSS represent the "what" our students should be learning, instruction represents the "how". This means that teachers should use MiF and other resources to plan and provide instruction that is "customized" (differentiated) to meet the needs of their students, helping them to learn the defined standards at each grade level. For instance, there are a total of 28 math standards for 2nd graders. Our district provides a curriculum map as a guideline as to how much time to spend in certain areas along with resources to help teachers plan. Our teachers then have to make instructional decisions about what resources to use that will best meet the needs of his/her students.

Assessment can be viewed as the end of this cycle, but it is really the beginning. Understanding what kids know and are able to do now informs us about what to teach next. Teachers do assessment both formally and informally. This is no different than what any of us experience when we go to a doctor whether it is a wellness check-up or we feel sick or are injured. The doctor uses all of the information they collect to make recommendations for next steps. What is important to know is that assessment represents one of the 3 legs of our metaphorical 3-legged stool with the CCSS representing the seat. I will be spending more time at a later date discussing assessment.

Together curriculum, instruction, and assessment represent our cycle of learning. All 3 must be aligned together with our CCSS. CCSS are the standards and represents what we want kids to know and be able to do. Curriculum is the resource that teachers use to design and provide instruction to help students learn those standards. Assessment should test to find out how well our students learned what we said we wanted them to learn.

Our work at Stevens this year is to evaluate to insure that our instruction is using the right resources to meet each student's needs and is aligned with the CCSS. We will be using our a significant chunk of our Professional Development time (some of which you experience as our early release days) to more effectively analyze data to inform instruction and develop systems and strategies to use the information we gather to be better able to teach what our students need to learn.

1242 18th Ave E
Seattle, WA 98112

Sept 21, 2016

Dr. Brian K. Fitch, Principal

Highly Capable Referrals

(Formerly know as Advanced Learning)

DUE OCTOBER 6!

The window for referring students for Advanced Learning testing closes October 6. Referrals in English are done online, using the Source (which is the parent portal for individual student information.) Translated forms are available on the district website:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=1548870>

If you have questions, please contact Mary Mills (mamills@seattleschools.org, 206-252-0182) or Matt Okun (mjokun@seattleschools.org, 206-252-0033.)

If you have trouble accessing the Source, please check here for information:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=16245> or email: sourcesupport@seattleschools.org .

From the PTA

DATE CORRECTIONS!

Please note that the Pancake Breakfast will be held on December 3rd. Please make this change to your Stevens calendar of events.

Also please note that the picture retake day will now take place on Nov 17 instead of Nov 16. Picture day has not changed it is still Oct 13.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING!

Siri Miller will be holding a volunteer training session at the school next Friday, September 28th at 9:30 am. Another date will follow in October, TBD.

For those interested, this training will cover a quick tour of the Stevens & PTA offices: including where to find supplies for art and other projects, a lesson on how to use the copy machine, and an overview of working one-on-one with students. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Siri at: siridmiller@gmail.com

Also, please remember to complete the Volunteer Application form and return it to the office along with a copy of your ID and certification of completing the Adult Sexual Misconduct Prevention on-line course. Link found here:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=18626>

If the office does not have ALL your paperwork, including a copy of your ID, your application CANNOT be

Stevens Chess Club

If you haven't signed up yet, there's still time! Open to all grades!

WHY CHESS???

Numerous studies have shown that chess:

Improves concentration and memory

Enhances reading and math Skills

Fosters logic, critical thinking and creativity

Encourages and rewards hard work

Our club has a ton of fun playing recreationally, and for those who are interested, competitively at tournaments. Check out our trophy section in the library!

THE DETAILS:

Mondays: 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

September 26, 2016 through April 24, 2017 (24 sessions)

Boys' K – 5: meet in the library with coaches from the Chess Mates Foundation.

Girls' K – 5: meet in Ms Andrews's room with Coach Wendy

Price: \$200 for the entire year. **(Scholarships and payment plans are available.)**

TO REGISTER: Email chessatstevens@gmail.com

*We have coordinated with the Miller After-School Enrichment Program so that students participating in chess and a second session through Miller will be able to go to the coordinated snack time between the first and second after-school sessions.

Looking forward to a great year!

Diane Stoebe (mom to Ronan 5th, Clío 1st) and Karin Zaugg Black (mom to Delia 4th, Sam 1st)

