

Message from PTA President

Dear parents, teachers, and students – Welcome Back! We hope that all of you had an enjoyable holiday season. We are pleased to announce that Mt Mahogany Elementary will be participating in The Utah Valley Spelling Bee/Scripts National School Spelling Bee completion on Friday, January 29th, 2010 sponsored by the Daily Herald. According to The Utah Valley Spelling Bee/National Script Spelling Bee guidelines the minimum grade level for competition in the spelling bee is 4th grade”; therefore, 4th-6th grade students will have the opportunity to participate. Prior to the school competition on January 29th, 2010 each class in grade levels 4th-6th must complete an individual classroom spelling bee competition by January 15th. Five contestants from each class will be selected during the classroom competition to compete in the school spelling bee on January 29th.

Student study guides including the classroom spelling bee rules and pronunciation guide are available through your child’s teacher and can be found under the PTA section on the school website. Additional study tips/material can also be found online at www.spellingbee.com, <http://www.merriam-webster.com> and <http://www.wordcentral.com>.

The Utah Valley Spelling Bee/Scripts National School Spelling Bee guidelines suggest the following study method for the classroom and school competition;

“For a classroom, grade level or school-wide spelling bee:

- Step One: Students should first learn the 50 study words for their grade level. Teachers provide the study words to students. (See attached study guides). The study words are also available in the password-protected area of spellingbee.com under "Study Words for (Grade Level) or online under the PTA section of the school website."
- Step Two: When your students master the 50 study words for their grade level, they are ready to learn the study words for all other grade levels. Study words are available for grades 1–8 in the password-protected area of spellingbee.com.
- Step Three: When your students master the study words for grade levels 1–8, they may get a head start on the next level of competition. They may learn the words in 2010 Spell It! Also, they may expand their spelling skill set by playing the fun word games at Merriam-Webster's Word Central."

The winner of our school spelling bee will advance to local competition at The Utah Valley Spelling Bee Competition at the Scera Theater on Friday, March 27th, 2010.

Please contact Jamie Anderson @ jjbanderson@msn.com should you have further questions.

Congratulations to our Pleasant Grove Council/Mt Mahogany 2009 Reflections Winners:

Representatives/Winners:

Intermediate Dance Representative:
“Beauty through Movement”
Gonzalo Martinez

Primary Photography Representative
“Petted Horse” Emily Felt

Honorable Mention:

Primary Visual Arts Honorable Mention:
“Beauty is the Fish of the Sea “
Baylor Payne

Primary Visual Arts Honorable Mention”
“Beauty is the Wings of a Butterfly”
Angelina Christiansen

Middle Photography Honorable Mention:
“Newborns” Kalysta Kallas

January: A New “Bee”ginning

4 School Resumes
4 Board PTA Mtg 2:30 pm Library
7 Spirit Treats
18 Civil Rights Day/Martin Luther King
21 Spirit Treats
28 PG Council Mtg @ Lindon Elementary 10:00 am
29 School Spelling Bee 9:30 am

Message from Alpine School District

Collaboration Incentive: FAQ's

1. What is the collaboration incentive?

The collaboration incentive is a district initiative rewarding teachers for collectively engaging in the characteristics of a Professional Learning Community--it encourages teachers to work together to improve student learning.

2. How did it come to be?

The Board of Education and Superintendent asked a district committee to develop an incentive program tied to legislature authorized funds. We were one of the first districts to have a state approved plan. Although the legislature pulled the funds last year, funding was set aside by the Board of Education for this year. Strong collaborative teams result in improved student outcomes.

3. Why is this something that the district is keeping in spite of budget cuts?

Rewarding excellent collaborative teams is a priority of our Board of Education. The money has already been budgeted for this year. It is supported through local funds.

4. How does it benefit our children, teachers and schools?

It allows teachers to improve and refine their instructional effectiveness while responding to students who aren't learning adequately. It improves the classroom experience benefitting everyone involved in education. The four essential questions drive the progress. Those questions are:

1. What do we expect students to learn?
2. How will we know what students have learned?
3. How will we respond to students who aren't learning?
4. How will we respond to students who already know?

5. When is it paid/awarded to recipients?

Collaboration incentive recipients will receive the monetary award in their April check.

6. How are recipients selected?

There is a district rubric or procedure teams should follow to qualify for the incentive money. It is an incentive program for teachers only. Any professional learning community (PLC) can participate. It can be a grade level team, department or even a group of singleton teachers from various schools instead of a group from just one school (i.e. a group of choir teachers from various schools may apply).

7. Who can I contact for more information on the program or how it is being implemented in my child's school?

Principals will work with their individual teams as far as the implementation of the incentive program at their school. Please feel free to contact your school's principal for more information.

SNAP PTA Newsletter Article

Lighten Up - Bright Colors Help Cars Spot Walking Students

We're finally through the darkest part of winter and the sun will be rising earlier through spring. But even with increasing daylight, it's still a good idea to keep kids in bright clothes when walking and biking during winter months.

Other ways to keep students safe when walking and biking to school this winter are the following:

- Follow the safest routes on your school's SNAP map (contact the school for your copy).
- Wear bright or reflective clothes so you can be seen in the dark too.
- Dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles.
- If you have a dark coat, add a brightly colored scarf or hat or reflective gear.
- Slow down. Wear gloves to avoid putting your hands in your pockets as they can protect you if you slip and fall.

- Walk with a buddy or group.
- Walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow and ice and you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as you can.
- Look left, then right, then left again when crossing a street.
- Cross only at crosswalks.
- Before you step off the curb into the street, make sure that any approaching vehicles have come to a complete stop where there may be ice and snow.

More ideas from UDOT's Student Neighborhood Access Program (SNAP)[™] to encourage your child to walk and bike are available at www.udot.utah.gov/SNAPParents.