**FOXY TALES**

**DOROTHY FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2016**

**INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER**

**INFORMATION FROM SPECIALIST TEACHERS**

**REFLEX MATH PROGRAM**

**VETERAN’S YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST**

**HOT LUNCH IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

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**UPCOMING DATES:** (Can go to Fox School Website for Calendar Information) [http://schools.camas.wednet.edu](http://schools.camas.wednet.edu)

**OCTOBER 3—6**

PTA Fall Book Fair
(8:45-3:45 Mon/Tue; 8:45-1:45 Wed/Thur)

**OCTOBER 4**

Bring Adult to Lunch (Last Name A-L)

**OCTOBER 6**

Bring Adult to Lunch (Last Name M-Z)

**OCTOBER 7**

Foxy Spirit Day—Wear Red!

**OCTOBER 10**

Kindergarten Field Trip to BiZi Farms

**OCTOBER 11/13**

4th Grade + Blended Class Trip to Water Center

**OCTOBER 13**

2nd Grade Field Trip to Post Office/Bakery

**OCTOBER 14**

NO SCHOOL—State In-Service Day

**OCTOBER 17/18**

5th Grade Field Trips to the Gorge

**OCTOBER 19**

Foxy Spirit Day—Disney Day!
(Disney, Marvel & Star Wars Characters)

**OCTOBER 20**

Picture Retakes
(If you did not like the Fall photos, bring back packet and Dorian will take new photos and replace for no charge.)

**OCTOBER 20**

PTA Membership Meeting 9:30 a.m. Cafe

**OCTOBER 20**

Dinner Night Out-Firehouse Sub’s (Bring flier)

**OCTOBER 21**

WALKtober—Walk to School Day

**OCTOBER 24-28**

Parent Conference Week Early Release
9:00-1:10pm Schedule EACH Day

**NOVEMBER 6**

Spirit Day—Wear Red!
MESSAGE FROM DR. SORK, PRINCIPAL

Dorothy Fox Elementary is off to a wonderful start in 2016-17. We welcome back our returning families and say hello to 126 new students with 64 Kindergarten students and 62 “graders” 1-5. We have 471 total students from 348 families enrolled this year which is a bit higher than last year with 19 more boys than girls. Our students were born in 15 different countries and they speak 16 languages in addition to English at home.

Dorothy Fox welcomed three new teachers to our ranks this year as well as a new school psychologist and ELL educator. One new staff member said she feels like she came to “teacher heaven” because of the amazing students she has in her class and the amount of support that is felt from parents, PTA, and the Camas community. FOX ROCKS!

Last year was our 2nd year of the (SBA) Smarter Balance Assessment for Washington State that tested Common Core Standards in Math and English Language Arts. We are excited at the increase in the student research and listening areas of ELA and look forward to using our New ELA adoption, ReadyGEN, to help address reading this year.

The Science MSP was similar to tests given in the past. The table below represents our solid student performance on these measures. Feel free to ask questions of your child’s teacher or discuss your child’s specific results at your Fall Parent Conference.

Here’s to a great year ahead!  ~ Cathy Sork, Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring State Tests 2016</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th Grade</th>
<th>5th grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fox ELA:</strong> Four Claims are Tested:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Reading</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td>81%</td>
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<td>3. Speaking/Listening</td>
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<td>Writing (Strongest Claim)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Research</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading (Weakest Claim)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>State Average for ELA</td>
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<td>57%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fox Math:</strong> Three Claims are Tested:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1. Concepts/Procedures</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>2. Problem Solving-Modeling/Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading (Strongest Claim)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Communicating Math Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing (Strongest Claim)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>State Average for Math</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fox Science</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Average for Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
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</tbody>
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Good Attendance Means...

Making sure children are in the building BEFORE 9am and stay until the end of the day. Being late impacts the student, the teacher, and the rest of the class. Leaving early cuts into instructional opportunities. Every minute of school is important.

Good Attendance Means...

Being at school every day. Students who fall below 95% attendance will be notified with a letter from the office stating our concern. Absences not relating to illness, medical appt., or family emergency will likely not be excused after 10 days gone.

Out-of-Town Trip/Parent Requests...

We want Fox to be a school where every child learns to their highest level. That can only happen when we have excellent levels of attendance. Children who miss a lot of school not only impact their own learning, but impact the load of the teacher and the pace of the classroom for others. Students have to be present to participate in discussions, formative assessments, and hands-on activities. Sending home homework does not replace today’s instruction. Out-of-Town or special parent requests must be requested in advance and teachers will provide what the child missed upon their return. Feel free to call the office with questions. We want to make the most of our 180 days!
Annual Veteran’s Youth Essay Contest for Grades 3-5.

Each year, the WA State Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) sponsors a youth essay contest for grades 3-5. This essay can be an excellent vehicle for students to showcase their writing skills while reflecting on a patriotic theme. VFW Post 4278 will present awards to the top three at each grade level in the Camas/Washougal area. This allows multiple elementary students to be publically recognized in front of their peers, teachers and families.

**2015/16 VFW Youth Essay Contest**

- **Deadline:** November 1, 2016
- **Submission Requirements:** (1) typed or handwritten essay, (2) not to exceed 250 words, (3) copy of official entry form must accompany essay
- **Theme:** *Why are the men and women who serve in the Military Special?*
- **Judging Criteria:** Theme (30 pts), Clarity of Ideas (30 pts), Theme Development (40 pts)
- **Awards:** 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awarded at each of the three grade levels

Entry forms are available in the school office or online at our school website.

http://schools.camas.wednet.edu/dorothyfox/
Walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy, reduce pollution, and avoid traffic. It’s also one of the best ways to connect with cool people and great places. Whether we are commuting to work or school, meeting friends, running errands, or exploring a new neighborhood, a walk can become an adventure. It’s simple, and it’s amazing what can happen when we walk!

WALKtober Challenges the Fox Community to Walk to School.

reflexmath.com...

A must for All Fox Students trying to Master Math Facts

Three ‘Til Green every week is the online goal.

The “green light” in the upper corner of the screen is an indicator of a productive session in Reflex. It means that your child will have answered a certain number of facts quickly and correctly in that session for the program to deem that particular session a productive one. Each child will take a different amount of time to achieve this since Reflex is adaptive so allowing them enough time to achieve the green light is ideal.

Talk to your child’s math teacher if you have not yet received your student’s log in information to this website.

Dorothy Fox has paid a subscription for our students to be able to log in to this online program at school and at home. We expect students to practice and the program will adjust and allow students to advance to higher levels as they show mastery.

Dorothy Fox Parents can track your own student’s Math Fact Progress by signing up for a Parent Reporting Account for Grades 1-5 if you wish. https://www.reflexmath.com/parents

Math fact fluency leads to higher order mathematics

Through automaticity, students free up their working memory and can devote it to problem solving and learning new concepts and skills (Geary, 1994). Quite simply, a lack of fluency in basic math fact recall significantly hinders a child’s subsequent progress with problem-solving, algebra and higher-order math concepts. If a student does not have his/her math facts committed to memory, he/she will spend a disproportionate amount of time figuring out the smaller calculations and not get the mastery they need at higher levels of math.

Less math anxiety

Math anxiety starts when children fall behind and can’t keep up. To avoid these anxieties, students’ early elementary years should focus on learning the foundation math skills needed for later years – math facts are among those important math skills.
PTA Payback Book Fundraiser
2016 was a HUGE Success!

The Dorothy Fox PTA was able to profit over $7,300 from this event. We had a lot of families buy the book that was sent home attributing to increased success this year. This will go a long way in supporting kids and school programs. Thank you to all who supported our school!

Follow the Dorothy Fox PTA on Facebook
Volunteer opportunities regularly posted.
https://www.facebook.com/dorothyfoxpta/

Next PTA General Meeting: Thursday, October 20th @ 9:15am
Dorothy Fox PTA is dedicated to helping to build school community and enrich the educational experiences for all our children. We provide support for school essentials such as: curriculum, classroom supplies, assemblies and field trips, STEAM Night and other programs. PTA members also organize family fun nights such as our school dance, movie nights and carnival.

Our membership is growing strong. We have 124 members and we would love to have at least one member of each Fox family join our local PTA. Membership dues are only $10 for the year and also come with National PTA and Washington State benefits and discounts. Your level of involvement is up to you! Join to stay more informed about upcoming events, attend meetings and events, volunteer to help out at an event, Chair an event or serve on the Board.

This year, one of our top priorities is to update our school library collection and support library programs. Proceeds from our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair will go to help our librarian purchase new books for the library and for teachers to add books to their classroom collections. The PTA also encourages our librarian and teachers to create wish lists so that parents who would like to make a direct book donation can do so right at the book fair.

October is National Principals Month! I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our amazing principle Dr. Sork. She truly strives to Ensure High Level Of Learning for All Students by hiring and retaining the best staff around, valuing parent involvement and creates an exceptional learning environment for all our children, through the use of the Fox Four: safe, respectful, responsible, learner. She applies for numerous grants and organizes extraordinary learning opportunities for students such as the “Walk, Talk and Rock like a Leader” workshop for forth and fifth graders, which was featured last week in the Camas Post Record. When students were asked to complete the sentence “I am thankful for my principal because .... “.

This is what they had to say about Dr. Sork:

“She is always friendly and has a smile on her face. She really listens and tries to help us.”
“She helps me learn. If you are in a problem, she will help you.”
“She is very, very nice. She sometimes comes in our classroom and I like her to visit.
“She helps the teachers who help us learn.”
“She is kind and has a happy smile.”
“I see her a lot.”
“She made up Fox “Paws”itives.”
“She is really nice”
“She’s always nice to kids and she doesn’t yell.“
“She’s nice and kind and she cares about other people.“
“I am thankful for my principal because she makes a really nice school.”

We look forward to your attending our next PTA meeting on October 20th, at 9:15am, in the Dorothy Fox Cafeteria.

Sincerely,
Lianne Lauda, President, Dorothy Fox PTA liannedfepta@hotmail.com
Welcome!

From your School Counselor; Chris Baxter

Hello Dorothy Fox Parents!
If you have a student who has been here for a while, you have probably seen me around the school helping in some way or other. I love to help make this school a positive place for everyone to thrive.

If you are new, Welcome to Fox! You are now part of the Dorothy Fox Family. This school is one of the most friendly and supportive places you will ever find. We all work together to make learning of all types happen.

As your School Counselor I do my best to be supportive and helpful to everyone. I teach lessons in each classroom on Friendship, Respect, Problem Solving, Emotion Management, Bullying, and Empathy. Our district curriculum is Second Step and Steps to Respect by Committee for Children.

I also give a lot of high fives and smiles to our students and parents all day.

Having my National Board School Counselor certification and a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology equips me to help you and your student when crisis or difficulties arise. I value being part of your team when you ask for support for your child. I have been at Fox 20 years and have connections for community resources, state medical insurance for kids, and know the ins and outs of supporting kids in Camas.

I hope you get in touch with me for anything that might help you feel like the Fox Family we strive to be.

Chris Baxter, M.A. NBCT
E-mail Chris.baxter@camas.wednet.edu
Phone 833-5700

From the Music Room:

It is my lucky 7th year here at Dorothy Fox and I’m still surprised each time at how fast things start moving once school starts. There are lots of things going on in the Dorothy Fox Music Program!

The Fox Pack Swingin’ Ukes has already had two rehearsals with an average of 78 students! This is a record for sure! I’ve got some great tunes picked out for our Holiday performance in downtown Camas on December 2nd, including the song that tells us how Hawaiians say “Merry Christmas.” How did I never program this piece before? I can’t wait! We also have a talented group of Level II students with lots of great leaders. This will be a fantastic year for this group, so stay tuned for more concerts and news!

Many 5th grade students are in the process of trying out for the Washington Music Educators Association Youth Honor Choir. We have a record ten students auditioning with four of them being boys (yeah boys!!!) If selected, they’ll join hundreds of other talented students from Washington in Bellevue this February for a clinic and concert. Wish them all luck—we’ll get the results around Halloween!

Our Kindergarten students are learning the procedures in class, singing games, playing hand drums and having a blast! First grade is working on steady beats, second grade is reviewing rhythms, third grade is singing/dancing/uke-playing, and fourth and fifth grades are learning patriotic songs for Veterans’ Day and reviewing the notes they can read and sing.

Please contact me if you have any questions about music class here at Dorothy Fox, and let me know if you would like to be more involved in any way. I can always use a helping hand!

Dustin.hunley@camas.wednet.edu

Thanks and FOX ROCKS!!!
Notes from the Fox Library with Mrs. Logan:

I’m Teaching Your Children to Steal Minutes. I’m teaching your children to steal minutes. For reading. Hopefully you’ve noticed your child noticing when they have minutes they could steal for reading—maybe in line in the grocery store, maybe while they’re waiting for an activity to begin or for a sibling to be finished. Maybe while they’re waiting for food at a restaurant—3rd-5th grade DFE students should all be noticing times they could be reading, and (hopefully) starting to STEAL those minutes to read.

One of the reasons I’m teaching students to steal reading minutes is because life is busy. Sometimes we don’t have 20 minutes in a row to sit quietly and read. Sometimes you eat dinner in the car after you pick up one child on the way to dropping off another child. Life happens. But reading—especially for kids—is essential. So I’m teaching them to do what lifelong readers do. They find minutes to read, even in busy days, and “steal” them. You’d be surprised how quickly they add up.

You may already have a child like this. Your child might, like my daughter, let all the hot water get used by no one because she’s reading when she’s supposed to be getting in the shower and she was “letting the water heat up” but then got started reading and couldn’t stop. But if your child, like my son, would rather play Pokèmon or build with Legos than read, it can be tricky to make them stop and focus. Stealing reading minutes is one way to harness short attention spans and make reading easier—break it up into a few minutes here, a few minutes there, and eventually you’ve done your 20 minutes. (Obviously we do want students to read for longer stretches sometimes, but for now let’s just focus on getting 20 minutes total, even if it’s scattered over the day.) It has the added bonus of occupying your children while you’re waiting in public.

The biggest barrier to stealing reading minutes? Not having anything to read. This is where you come in. You can help support your little time thieves by making sure they always have something to read. Stick some books and magazines in your car, in soccer bags, in your purse, in bike baskets—wherever it makes sense for your family. Keep a box of books near your table (for when kids are waiting for dinner). Model this behavior for your children and make it a habit to carry something to read with you.

My hope is that every parent of a Dorothy Fox student will get to experience the odd mix of joy and annoyance you get when you have to force a child to put down a book and do something else. When that happens, know that I’m sorry. Sort of. Not really.

NEWS FROM THE FOX GYM:

This month in PE, students are working on soccer skills and activities. Students are practicing dribbling, passing, trapping, goal keeping, and defense. Grades 3-5 are looking forward to playing a number of games such as line soccer, fast break soccer, diagonal soccer and mini-soccer. Grades 1 and 2 will play games such as soccer pin down, dribble shark, dribble tag, and sideline soccer. Kindergarten students will be working on soccer skills as well. They have and will continue to learn a variety of loco motor movements and participate in rhythmic activities.
Dear Fox Families,

Your students have done an excellent job in our lunchroom this first month of school. We are unique at Fox in that we have a breakfast cashier and a lunch cashier. We wanted to share some important and helpful information with you. If you attended Back-to-School night you might have been given a free and reduced meal application.

Things to know about Free & Reduced Breakfast/Lunch options are:

♦ You must fill out a new Free & Reduced Application for this year 2016-2017, even if your student participated in the program last year.
♦ Forms can be found in the parent corner on the District's website or the office.
♦ Forms can be submitted to the school office or to your student's teacher.
♦ Please allow up to 10 days for processing.
♦ Even if you do not eat school meals, the Camas Schools receive extra funding for learning programs for every family that signs up and qualifies. Please consider applying to help support reading and math instruction.

There are a couple of ways to deposit money to your student's account:

1. You can send cash or a check to school with your student or drop it in the drop box by the office. Please make checks payable to Dorothy Fox Elementary or Camas School District. Be sure to write your student's first and last name on the check. You can write one check for multiple students, just be sure to list their names and designated amounts on the check.

2. You can use the website www.mymealtime.com for online deposits. A service fee will apply. You must contact Angie Hyde from Nutrition Services at 360-833-5768 to obtain a PIN number to access your student's account. It's a great way to track student purchases even if you are not making a deposit. Please allow 1-2 days for deposit processing.

The price of lunch and milk/juice changed this year.

Breakfast prices remained the same.

- Breakfast $1.70
- Lunch $2.60
- Milk/Juice $.75

The following steps are taken to notify you when a student's account becomes below $5.50:

1. A small stamp is placed on the back of your student's hand and/or a green note given reminding them to let you know that their account is low.

2. You are contacted via email stating the balance has fallen below $5.50 or become negative along with the current balance.

The district allows 3 breakfast/lunch charges (borrows) before the student is offered an emergency meal that consists of a cheese sandwich, fruit & white milk.

Our monthly menus can be found on the Camas School District website. We look forward to a great year with your students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at Holly.Carson@camas.wednet.edu or Cheryl.Morris@camas.wednet.edu

Regards,

Holly Carson, Breakfast Cashier & Cheryl Morris, Lunch Cashier
Dorothy Fox School Garden
Let’s Grow Together!

“I think we should pick all the lettuce, gather it up and make a big salad.” ~4th grader

Join us in continuing to open and expand our school garden for all our children to enjoy.

No green thumb required! Students love to come visit the garden at lunch recess time, when it is open.

Volunteers needed:
Weekly – Work with students in the garden during lunch recess.
One time - Garden expansion:
  Landscape Architect to create garden design plan.
  Irrigation Professional to expand irrigation system.
  Install raised beds and create garden paths

Many thanks to our current volunteers and those who kept the garden thriving over the summer!

To get involved, please contact:
Lianne Lauda.liannedfepta@hotmail.com

Does your family drink Sunny Delight or Fruit2O?

Save the UPC labels and send them to DFE for the Sunny D Book Spree! For labels collected between now and Thanksgiving, Sunny D will donate 20 books to classrooms for every 20 book labels collected (one set of books per classroom).

Bring them to the Sunny D Label Box in the Library between now and Thanksgiving Break!

Thank you! For more information, visit: http://promo.sunnyd.com/bookspree/en/.
Dorothy Fox Roof Just About Done:
The company is working on a few final punch list items. Thank you to our community for the Bond passage that allowed this project to be done right. Fox is in great shape going forward. Room to expand with 4 empty classrooms and a facility in great shape. Next summer, our school will get new carpet. Fox Rocks!

Walk, Talk, and Rock like a Leader Program
On September 16, a CEF Grant paid for all of our 4th and 5th graders to participate in a half-day leadership training that exposed students to a variety of ideas. These cards represent some of the concepts that were introduced. You may have noticed posters around the main halls that captured student ideas about how to Be N.I.C.E. and show leadership around school and in life. This came from the Association of Student Leaders out of Olympia.