



# SKYRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

5220 NW Parker Street, Camas, WA 98607

Tel: 360 833-5800

Fax: 833-5801

Attendance: 833-5806

<http://schools.camas.wednet.edu/skyridge/>

September/October 2011

## From the Principal – Aaron J. Smith

Dear Skyhawk Families,

With a flurry of preparations and activities to kick off another great school year at Skyridge behind us, it feels good to turn the pages of our calendars to October and to get into the routine of learning up here on the ridge! We opened our doors to over 800 students this fall, and I am proud to report that everyone is taking it in stride and our returning students have been doing an admirable job of helping our newest Skyhawks find their way around the nest. We have such awesome kids!

The staff at Skyridge has also been working hard to plan for how we can best meet the educational needs of all of our students. During our late starts and weekly Professional Learning Community meetings, we have been looking at student achievement data to plan for how to adjust our current instructional strategies and to make plans for our academic enrichment and support programs during our flex period at the end of the day. This includes the information that we gathered from our oral reading fluency, reading comprehension, and math assessments that all of our students completed last week.

Despite receiving a significant amount of recognition for our outstanding achievement results, we are never complacent and are always looking for ways to better meet our students' needs. One of the ways we are doing this is through our flex period. As many of you seasoned Skyhawk parents will remember, we made some significant changes to our flex program last year and continue to fine-tune based on what we have learned. Beginning December 5, we will end our current flex rotation schedule and will shift to an 8 week academic enrichment and support model focusing on math and reading.

Depending on the student, this may include a direct instruction program focusing on a specific math skill, pre-teaching the following day's math lesson, reading comprehension support, creative writing, literature circles or a variety of other research-based approaches to challenge and support all of our students as strategically as possible. At the end of the 8 week session, we will take a two week break to regroup before starting another 8 week session. For the final six weeks of school, students will choose from our many popular exploratory offerings to finish off the year.

As always, if there is anything we can do to better serve you or your children, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support and for sharing your great kids with us. Go Skyhawks!

Sincerely,

### ASB Magazine Sale Fundraiser

Friday, Sept. 30 – Thursday, Oct. 13

Our annual ASB fundraiser began on Friday, Sept. 30. Magazine turn in days will be Thursday, Oct. 6; Tuesday, Oct. 11; and Thursday, Oct. 13.

You can support us today by shopping online! It's easy: Visit <http://www.qsp.com/> and click on 'Shop now'. Our Skyridge school code is #1154506.

ASB funds are used to support Skyridge student events and activities. Participation is voluntary and we **thank you for your support!**

**SKYRIDGE ATTENDANCE  
24 HOUR PHONE LINE:  
833-5806**

**Call directly to report any  
information regarding absences, bus  
passes, and student emergency  
messages. The voice mail box is  
checked frequently for messages.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Daily calendar review is available on our website:

<http://schools.camas.wednet.edu/skyridge/>

OCT 5 – SNN Club 2:45-3:30 pm; LMC

OCT 6 – Magazine Sale Turn in Day

OCT 11 – Magazine Sale Turn in Day

OCT 12 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mt. St. Helens Field Trip (Hunting);  
8 am–5 pm

– SNN Club 2:45-3:30 pm; LMC

OCT 13 – Magazine Sale Last Turn in Day

– Cross Country District Meet; Harmony Field

OCT 14 – NO SCHOOL; State Inservice Day

OCT 15 – CEF Auction; Fairgate Inn

OCT 17 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mt. St. Helens Field Trip (Hunting)

OCT 18 – 2011 Paper Cup; Doc Harris Stadium  
Skyridge Sky Hawks vs. Liberty Lions; 7:30 pm

OCT 19 – SNN Club; 2:45-3:30 pm; LMC

OCT 19 & 20 – LATE START Classes begin at 10:15 am,  
buses run 2 hrs. 15 min. later than normal schedule

OCT 20 – Science Olympiad Meeting  
2:45 – 3:45 pm, Room 204

OCT 21 – End of Grading Period; Progress Reports

OCT 25 – Picture Retakes

– Skyridge Band Concert, Tom Wallenborn Gym, 7  
pm

OCT 26 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mt. St. Helens Field Trip (M. Smith)

OCT 27 – Skyridge Choir Concert, Tom Wallenborn  
Gym, 7 pm

OCT 28 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade OMSI Field Trip (Ascenders),  
9am-1:55 pm



## Annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Sponsored by: Veterans of Foreign Wars and  
Ladies Auxiliary

Theme:

**“Are You Proud of Your Country?”**

**Entry Deadline: November 1, 2011**

Conducted nationwide, this VFW sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy with the prospect of winning U.S. savings bonds. The top 46 national winners all receive at least a \$1,000 savings bond. The first-place award is currently a \$10,000 savings bond plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

Rules Include:

- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words. Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated. The essay title or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typewritten in English with no-color or graphics
- Do not identify yourself within your essay.
- Do not place your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet.

Visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) for more information. Flyers and registration forms are available in our main office.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade East Coast Trip

Would your student enjoy experiencing a trip to Washington DC and New York City? An 8<sup>th</sup> grade East Coast Trip is planned for June 24-July 1, 2012.

If you missed the parent meeting on September 22, you can email [Jeanette.romano@camas.wednet.edu](mailto:Jeanette.romano@camas.wednet.edu) for more information. Flyers about the trip are available in the office.

*The Camas School District does not sponsor or endorse this event.*

### SKYRIDGE SPIRIT!

Join in our tradition of Friday Spirit Wear Days!

Show your school pride by wearing our Skyridge school colors of navy & burgundy! Our PTO sponsors spirit wear purchases and order forms are available on our Skyridge website or in the main office.

### COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP – A Washington Opportunity Partnership

The Washington State College Bound Scholarship program is a commitment of college scholarship funds to selected Washington 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. To be eligible, all you need to do is meet the family income standards, take a pledge to graduate from high school with at least a 2.0 GPA, and be a good citizen. Family income from your senior year will be verified upon high school graduation.

You may apply online at: [www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound).



# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Are you interested in participating in exciting science competitions? Teamwork is a required skill in most scientific careers today. Science Olympiad encourages group learning by designing events that forge alliances.

Competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 individual and team events. Each year, events are updated to reflect the ever-changing nature of the latest advances in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers, astronomy, engineering and technology.

Currently, more than 100 middle and high schools representing over 2,000 students in Washington are participating in Washington Science Olympiad; including over 1,000 volunteers involved in reaching middle and high school students for science. The challenging and motivating events align with the Washington State Learning Standards as well as the National Science Education Standards. The events are designed to enhance and strengthen both science content and process skills.

For further information you can visit <http://washingtonscienceolympiad.com/> or the Science Olympiad National Home Page at [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) (select B events) or talk with Mr. Hunting here at Skyridge.

**Our first Skyridge Science Olympiad Team Meeting for this year will be held on Thursday, October 20, beginning at 2:45 pm in room 204. A completed registration form and ASB card are required for participation.**

Camas Educational Foundation  
13th Annual Auction

*Let's Do Amazing  
Together!*



Camas Educational Foundation  
giving and growing together

Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 6 p.m.  
Fairgate Inn, Camas, WA

Silent Auction: 6:00 pm Live Auction: 8:00 pm  
Suggested Dress: Denim & Diamonds

Registration: \$42.00 featuring a carving station,  
upscale hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment  
and a hosted wine bar.

Child care provided at nominal fee for first 100 children.

Make your reservations online at: [cefcamas.org](http://cefcamas.org)  
For more information go to [cefcamas.org](http://cefcamas.org) or phone:  
360.335.3000 ext. 79915



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## Skyridge Middle School Magazine Drive

### HELP OUR SCHOOL AND ENCOURAGE READING!

The Magazine Drive is one of our major fundraisers. Here are 3 easy ways you can help!

This year we are encouraging you to place your orders online. It's easy, fast, accurate, and saves 4-6 weeks on delivery time! Look for the email link or simply go to [QSP.COM](http://QSP.COM) and follow the instructions to pay by credit card.

#### 1 Order Online



- ◆ Go to [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com) to order online.
  - ◆ Use our School Code: 1154506
  - ◆ Shop online 24-7, and pay by credit card.
  - ◆ Send emails to friends and family.
  - ◆ Invite your Facebook friends to support your school, using our new Facebook store!
  - ◆ All online orders count towards prizes!
- GREAT FOR OUT OF TOWN  
FAMILY & FRIENDS**

#### 2. The Catalog



- ◆ Complete the order form. Print accurate and complete information. Include seller and your school name plus email to receive confirmation
- ◆ Enclose white and yellow copies with payment, and keep the pink copy as a receipt.
- ◆ Allow 10-14 weeks for delivery.
- ◆ **Make Check payable to: Skyridge Middle School**

#### 3. The Postcard Booklet



- ◆ Help your child fill out each postcard with names and addresses of family and friends you don't see regularly.
- ◆ Do not tear postcards out. These booklets will be collected and sent to addresses with a list of items to support the fundraiser.
- ◆ Names will be used by QSP for this fundraiser only.
- ◆ Last year, our school received over \$10 profit for every completed booklet.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept 26	27	28	29	30 Kickoff Assembly (2:00 PM)
3	4 Postcard Booklets Due	5	6 1 <sup>st</sup> Turn in Day	7
10	11 2 <sup>nd</sup> Turn in Day	12	13 Final Turn in Day	14

**QSP Customer Service Number: (800) 678-2673**

Call the QSP # with any subscription questions. Please do not call the school.  
Please make sure your name and address exactly match your current subscription.

All renewals will add issues to your current subscription.

Most new subscriptions will begin in 10-14 weeks.

Online orders are processed immediately and save 4-6 weeks on delivery time!



# Mr. Blair's "Big Reunion Ride 2011"

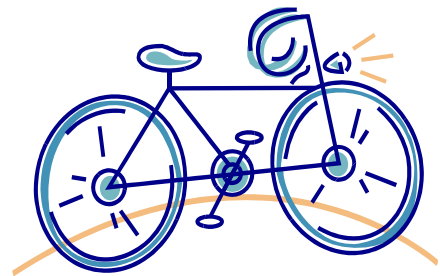
## Coast-to-Coast Summer Bike Ride

Our health/fitness teacher, Mr. Blair, is a true example of how being fit can prepare you to experience significant milestones in your life! This past summer he cycled from Everett, WA, to Washington, D.C. His trip which began on June 23 spanned 44 days, included 2,581 miles across 14 states, five rear flat tires, enduring oppressive heat in the Midwest, countless potholes and cracked roads, and plenty of aches and pains.

What helped motivate Mr. Blair? His students! Through the social networking site Facebook, Mr. Blair had 332 followers join his ride which played an integral role in his ability to finish the grueling and rewarding trek. Each night, he posted a question on Facebook which often related to geography or history. Students were fascinated by his ride and won small prizes for answering the most questions correctly. He also stayed connected with students by wearing a T-shirt signed by 120 of them on his first and last day on the road. "It was cool that he included us in his ride," said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Megan Lieser. "We got to follow along with him, and we learned a lot of new things. You get to see the whole journey and the real components of how hard his journey really is." Lindsey Latimer, also a Skyridge 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, said his adventure inspired her to bike more this summer.

Mr. Houston, also a Skyridge teacher, rode with Mr. Blair through Washington State at the start of this long journey. Mr. Blair and Mr. Houston, in addition to teaching our students fitness and health throughout the school year, also coach our girls' cross country team and provide daily inspiration to our students here at Skyridge!

In the future, Mr. Blair would like to guide a group of students on a ride across Washington, possibly as early as next summer.



## Jimmie Rodgers Visits Skyridge Music Students

While recently in his native hometown of Camas, Mr. Rodgers took time from his busy schedule to share experiences and perform for our Skyridge 8<sup>th</sup> grade music students.

Camas-born Rodgers is a successful singer, songwriter and author and rose to fame in the 1950s with his hit single "Honeycomb," which stayed at Number 1 on the charts for 7 weeks. Rodgers had several other songs climb high on the charts, had his own TV show and appeared in several movies.

Rodgers said he was in Camas when he first heard himself singing his hit song on the radio. While in Camas he performed two concerts and appeared at a book signing of his autobiography, "Dancing on the Moon."

