Marshall is “On Target” and Making Money!

Did you know that whenever you shop with a Target REDCard or Target VISA, Marshall earns money? With Target’s “Take Charge of Education” program, it’s true! Talk about a great excuse to go shopping! Just sign up (either online or call the number on your Target REDCard or Target VISA) and a percentage of each purchase made with either your card is donated back to Marshall!

Currently, we have 49 card holders participating, and have received over $1,500 through September 2007. The more people our school has that sign up and shop with their Target REDCard and/or Target VISA, the more money Target will contribute to Marshall!

So sign up (and this means everyone including grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors), and just start shopping!

To participate or to determine how much has been contributed towards our next check, visit www.target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142.

Parents/Guardians:
We make a HUGE difference at school, too!

Have you ever thought about becoming more involved at Marshall, but aren’t sure how? Attending a Marshall Community Council (MCC) meeting is a great first step. MCC’s purpose is to support and enhance existing programs at Marshall, and to create new and enriching opportunities for students, families, and staff.

By attending an MCC meeting, you will learn about the variety of activities and programs on which Marshall parents are working. You can also find MCC meeting notes on the Marshall website to become informed and/or to see what programs, issues or activities could benefit from your experience and talents. (Go to http://marshall.osd.wednet.edu/)

We know you’re busy; we’re busy, too. So why be involved? Because it’s important. Parent involvement has been proven to increase student success (in school and life), increase parent and teacher satisfaction, and improve the overall school climate. MCC works to improve our kids’ chances for success, and we are seeking more parents’ thoughts, ideas and input to help shape and achieve our goals.

Join us! The next meeting is Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 pm in the Marshall Library.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

January 2008
1/2—1/24......Mondays—Thursdays, 6th Grade Intramurals
1/7—1/31......Rehearsals for CP/SOS “Guys & Dolls” (see article inside)
1/10..............Marshall Community Council (MCC) Meeting, 6:30 pm in the Marshall Library
1/16..............CPSEA’s Annual Program Advisory Mtg., 6:30 pm, Knox Admin. Bldg. (see article inside)
1/21.............Martin Luther King, Jr.—No School
1/25..............Marshall Activity Afternoon 3-5 pm
1/28..............Spring Sports begin! (Boys—Basketball / Girls—Soccer)

February 2008
2/1..............Early Release Day and End of 2nd Quarter
2/1..............Marshall Students & CP/SOS present “Guys & Dolls” - 7 PM
2/2..............Marshall Students & CP/SOS present “Guys & Dolls” - (afternoon time TBD)
2/15 & 2/18......Mid-Winter Break (2/18 is Presidents’ Day)
2/19.............Report Cards mailed home

March 2008
Mid-Month ...MAP Testing (see article inside)
Invisible Children improves the quality of life for war-affected children by providing access to quality education, enhanced learning environments, and innovative economic opportunities for the community.

Bracelets for the Invisible Children—Changing Lives

The Marshall ASB (Associated Student Body) is in the beginning stages of organizing Marshall's participation in a fundraiser that benefits the children in war-torn Uganda. These funds allow them to get the care they need and a better education, enabling them to become successful adults.

Through a program called "Schools for Schools", sponsored by the Invisible Children Nonprofit Organization, our goal is to have a focused group of responsible students at Marshall who will make bracelets from beads and embroidery floss. The bracelets will then be sold for $2 each to raise money.

Along with a petition to our Washington state representatives explaining the situation in Uganda, we plan to make a financial donation from Marshall's bracelet fund. We are excited to participate and to raise awareness and funds for these children in Uganda.

To learn more about this cause, please visit www.invisiblechildren.com where you can click on the "Mission" link and watch a short informational video.

To learn more about "Schools for Schools", follow the "Movement" link on the home page where another video shares great information, too.

2007 Ping Pong Champs!

Congratulations to Paul Lester and Joel Christopher, our 2007 Ping Pong Tournament Champions!

Paul and Joel competed in a single elimination tournament in December against 18 first lunch participants and 26 second lunch participants.

Way to go, Paul and Joe!

OSD Acceptable Use Policy for Technology

Can ya' hear me now?

Many kids will return from winter break with new "tech toys", so we're printing this OSD Policy as gentle and timely reminder.

The Use of Electronics During School — Students must keep their cell phones*, MP3 players, video games and all other electronics in their packs or left at home as they are not allowed to be used during the school day. If they are used, they will be confiscated.

* Cell phones may be used but only if the student first receives permission (from a teacher or staff) and then the phone can only be used as a phone. If a phone is used without permission or for any other reason (e.g., a gaming device or MP3 player), the phone will be taken from the student.

Network Access — The OSD network and computers are for educational purposes only. What does this really mean?
- No personal email
- No gaming sites
- No streaming audio/video
- No networking sites (e.g., myspace)

Accessing the OSD public network is a privilege, and as such — if misused — may be revoked by the network administrators at any time. Students' internet use is fully monitored; so don't do anything that you wouldn't want to share with others.

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The CPSEA Annual Advisory Meeting

The Parent Special Education Advisory group (CPSEA) will hold their annual meeting on January 16, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the Knox Administration building.

In this meeting, parents and guardians will have the opportunity to provide input about program development needs.

Childcare will be available; please call 360-596-7530 to reserve a childcare spot.
COMING SOON:  STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

The testing season begins soon, and the Olympia School District conducts two main tests in middle school: the MAP test and the WASL.

The MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test assessment measures student growth in the areas of math and reading, providing a look at an individual’s progress over time. Students are not compared to each other, but to their own performance in previous years based on expected academic growth.

Done during the last three weeks of March, the MAP test is taken on computers and is individualized based on how a student is performing. A bank of questions allows the computer to choose appropriate questions based on correct or incorrect answers, allowing the testing to be tailored to each student and his or her level.

The second major testing—the WASL or Washington Assessment of Student Learning—occurs after spring break. The WASL assesses students at all grade levels, with 6th grade students tested in math and reading, the 7th graders tested in math, reading, and writing, and 8th graders tested in math, reading, and science.

The WASL is a 2-week assessment and the entire school will be on a schedule in which students take the WASL primarily in the mornings from 8-10 am.

Marshall’s Stars To Shine - February 1st & 2nd

Mark your calendars for February 1st & 2nd when you’ll get your chance to watch our talented Marshall students and the Capital Playhouse/“Students on Stage” production of the musical comedy, “Guys & Dolls”.

Set in mythical New York City, this classic Broadway play overflows with colorful characters and delightful music. The story twists and turns from Time Square to Havana, then to the sewers of Manhattan, all with a bright, brassy immortal musical score.

The entire cast will rehearse everyday after school from January 7th – 31st, preparing for their two performances.

February 1st will be an evening performance, and February 2nd will be a Saturday afternoon show.

Tickets go on sale soon! Watch for more information.

We’re Listening . . .

We want to hear from YOU.

Is there a topic you want to hear about? What can we tell you about Marshall, a staff member, OSD policies, etc.? Let us know what you want to read or learn about; this newsletter is for YOU!

( Check off as many that apply from below and/or add your own.)

☐ Student Activities  ☐ School Performances
☐ Community Projects  ☐ OSD Information
☐ Staff Highlights  ☐ School Sports News
☐ Volunteer Opportunities  ☐ Other:
☐ Other:

CONTEST

For a chance to win a small prize, submit this form with the correct full answer to the following question:

What are the date, time & location of the next MCC meeting?

Answer: __________________________________________

(Write your answer above, complete the following form, & submit the answer & form to the front desk by January 10th. All 3 parts of the answer must be correct to enter the drawing; chances of winning depend on the number of correct answers submitted. Contact information is required to notify the winner. No purchase necessary; no batteries required.)

Name: __________________________
Address: _________________________
Contact Phone: ___________________
Congratulations, Mustangs!
Our canned food drive was a huge success!

Our school’s goal was 2,000 food items, yet in true Mustang spirit, we went beyond our goal and collected **2,692 items** for the Thurston County Food Bank. **Fantastic!**

Mr. Pelto’s 8th grade class (see photo at right) also bet Mr. Hitchman that they alone could bring in 400 food items, and they brought in more! Chances are, we’ll soon see Mr. Hitchman dressed kind of funny.

Marshall Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Merrigan, Teacher/Librarian

Although Mrs. Merrigan is not new to Marshall, she is in a new job as our Teacher/Librarian.

Mrs. Merrigan has been a middle school teacher for 10 years, and eight of those years have been at Marshall. She says that her favorite things about Marshall are that it’s a small school where teachers are in teams with students, that people are caring and friendly, and that we can get to know each other.

You may have noticed some changes in the library this year. Have you seen the awesome country flags proudly flying? What about the toads? Perhaps you’ve noticed the different displays in the windows or that her student library assistants take on lots of responsibilities.

Mrs. Merrigan has also set some pretty big goals for our library, including the upcoming “Battle of the Books”, a team competition that will get kids excited about books and reading. (Watch for upcoming information!) She also wants to continue to build and update the library collections, and will concentrate on teaching research skills and integrating technology. She is well on her way to meeting these goals.

Mrs. Merrigan wants to make the library the hub of the school where parents, students, teachers and staff all feel welcomed. She wants the library to be an exciting place to learn and share information.

Marshall is lucky to have such a dedicated and talented teacher, librarian and staff member.