



# SKYLINE elementary school

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## Dear Parents:



Every new school year teachers and students set their sights on accomplishments for the year. Some goals center on continuing past successes; while others focus on tackling challenges. The New Year is a great time to re-examine these goals, make minor adjustments, or create new ones. There are many possible resolutions: to avoid putting off that assignment until the last minute, to stop watching TV when you should be doing homework, to improve in a certain subject area... it could go on and on. But how do you make meaningful goals that are lasting? Here are some tips for making and keeping your "New Year's" resolutions:

**Be specific.** The more specific your goal the easier it is to measure whether or not you are attaining it. For example, if you want to improve your reading, begin with a very specific activity such as, "I will read every night for twenty minutes." Remember to chart your progress.

**Be practical.** If you want to improve in math, think about your current abilities, your weaknesses, your schedule, and the amount of time you have to make progress. What would be reasonable to work on now? A month from now? Through the rest of the year?

**Set targets.** If you want to read a particular book, factor in how quickly you read, the length of the book, and other demands on your time like homework, chores or sports. Plan it out, it won't just happen on its own.

**Don't give up!** Resolutions that are too restrictive are broken in a short time. It's okay to adjust your goal. Now that you've tried to live it for a while you can change your activities, set new targets and make it more practical. It is better to continually readjust than to give up all together. Don't wait until 2010! Continual progress, no matter how large or small, should always be a goal.

Mr. B.

## Challenge Program

Lake Stevens School District Elementary Highly Capable nomination packets for students in grades 2, 3 and 4 are available at Skyline, the Educational Service Center and online at <http://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/challenge>. All nominations are due by Friday, January 30th. If you have any questions please contact your classroom teacher or Nancy Smith, Highly Capable Program Coordinator, at 425-335-1630.

## Another Resolution

As you know, Skyline is working toward achieving higher standards through our curriculum, using more rigorous assessments and asking students to be more accountable for their learning. When we look at the school day, there are two very critical times that help reinforce the learning experience for students: the first few minutes of each day and the end of the day review.

Teachers use the first few minutes of each day to make special announcements about the day's schedule, discuss the plan for the day and provide reminders for assignments that are due. At the end of the day they often review what was covered and review the assignment sheet. The opening and closing pieces help give students the ability to be successful and take responsibility.

Each day we have students arriving at school anywhere from ten to twenty minutes late. We also have students who are picked up early. This class time is important and children who miss this time may be at a disadvantage. We encourage parents to use the early dismissal days, late start days and holiday breaks for routine appointments and errands with students. When we expect students to be in school for the entire day, we give them a message that school is important. Thank you for helping in your child's learning.



## Upcoming Events

1/9 Pajama Day!

1/13 PTA Meeting 6:30 PM library

1/16 Martin Luther King Jr. assembly 2:15 PM

1/19 MLK Jr. Holiday—No School (No hay escuela)

1/26 Teacher training Day—No School (No hay escuela)

1/29 Autism Support Group 7:00 PM library

1/30 1st gr. Field Trip to Pacific Northwest Ballet 9:30

2/5 Late Start Day 10:45 AM  
No AM Kindergarten

2/13 No School—(No hay escuela)

2/16 No School—(No hay escuela) Presidents Day