



SKYLINE elementary school

January 28, 2009 Vol. 17, Issue 9

1033 91st Ave SE Everett, WA 98205 425-335-1520 Dave Bartlow, Principal <http://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/skyline>

Dear Parents:

“When I was in elementary school...” I was taught to memorize the steps of borrowing, carrying, two-digit multiplication, long division, etc. These are called algorithms. An algorithm is a multi-step method for solving a math problem. As kids, we practiced the steps over and over again until we had them memorized.

Not too much time was spent on whether or not anyone understood how the algorithm worked. Kids that had good memories succeeded while others struggled.

Algorithms are still taught in school but there is **much more emphasis on understanding the concepts** involved than the rote memorization of the steps. Research has demonstrated how powerful it is for students to talk about their math thinking. They need opportunities to talk with the teacher as well as their peers. Ideas are shared, students make connections to their own thinking, they are introduced to other methods, and their understanding of math grows. Many times before the algorithm is taught, the concept is developed. The development of the concept will eventually lead to the traditional algorithm. $37 + 48$ can be looked at as $30 + 40$ and $7 + 8$. Conceptually this is easier to comprehend and it leads eventually to a better understanding of the algorithm we all know and love!

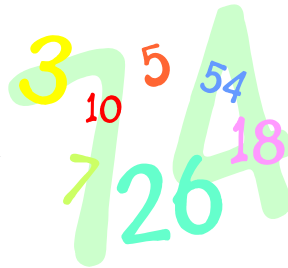
Mr. B.

Performance Report

The **2008 Skyline Elementary performance report** is available for your review on-line at <http://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu> on the district’s website. In it you will find a review of our school’s accomplishments, our goals and detailed information and data about our students, teachers and campus. Paper copies of the report went home in the Wednesday envelopes on January 21st. If you would like another paper copy please contact our office at 425-335-1520.

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.



Kindergarten Orientation

A **kindergarten orientation** meeting for parents of future kindergarten students, class of 2009-2010, will be held on **Thursday, March 12th from 7:00—8:00 PM** at Cavelero Mid-High School. Join other parents in learning how to give your child the best possible start in kindergarten. A 30 minute general session will provide information on registering and preparing your child for school. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to meet me and the kindergarten teachers who can answer your questions. We hope that you will **share the above information** if you have neighbors that are not currently members of the Skyline School Community. Please see the flyer on the reverse side of this newsletter. Thank you.

Calendar Updates

June 15, 16, and 17 have been scheduled as the make-up days for the three Lake Stevens School District’s December snow closure days. June 17 will now be the last day of school and will be an early release day. All graduation dates will remain the same. Also, the district recently met with all union leadership members and agreed upon **calendar dates for the next three academic school years through June of 2012**. Start dates, winter and spring breaks and the last day of school are set and can be found on the district’s website at <http://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu>.



Upcoming Events

- 1/30 1st gr. Field Trip to Pacific Northwest Ballet 9:30
Highly Capable nominations due
- 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
- 2/19 5th Grade Field Trip to LSHS Band Concert
- 2/19 PTA Art Night 6:30 PM
- 2/24 4th Grade Field Trip to Village Theatre 9:30 AM
- 2/26 AM Kindergarten Field Trip to PUD Theatre 9:00
PM Kindergarten Field Trip to PUD Theatre 12:30