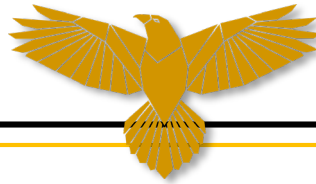


Finn Hill Middle School Matters

October 9th, 2020
Sixth Edition



Dr. Joseph Smith
Principal, FHMS

Updates & New Information

Monday, October 12th, is Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month. Indigenous Peoples Day serves as a celebration and highlights the native communities that have always been here. Indigenous Peoples Day has become a way to respect and honor those communities. Here's a little research on the Indigenous tribes that have lived in the City of Kirkland and surrounding areas for over twelve thousand years.

The Duwamish (Lushootseed: Dx^wdəw[?]abš, [dx^wdəw[?]abʃ]) are a Lushootseed-speaking Native American tribe in western Washington, and the indigenous people of metropolitan Seattle, where they have been living since the end of the last glacial period (c. 8000 BCE, 10,000 years ago). The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, with more than 3,000 members, has a reservation in southeast King County. Nisqually – The Nisqually Indian Tribe has more than 650 enrolled members, a majority of whom lives on or near the reservation.

FastBridge Assessments-

Over the course of the next three weeks, your child will be assessed in the areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts. The purpose of the assessments are to ascertain where students are in these two core domains. The assessments will be given during synchronous learning times like Falcon Time. The Assessment Window is open till October 30th.

Hence, it is important that you have a conversation (as we will too), with your child about doing their best on the assessments so that we will best know how to support them. Please make sure that your child is well rested and ready to engage!

Announcements

In an effort to increase connection, beginning next week, we would like to acknowledge your child(ren)'s birthday(s), in our upcoming Newsletters. Please submit the **day** and **month** of your child(ren)'s birthday during the coinciding month. Ideally, Your submission should be sent at the beginning of the month.

Yearbook: We are looking for weekly submissions by Finn Hill students that go along with various weekly Themes. All photos submitted must be of Finn Hill students only. **Students can find the links & codes for submitting photos and quotes on the FHMS Library Teams page on the Schoolwide Announcements channel.**

This week's theme is 'Black Lives Matter.' Students who want to give quote for the yearbook on this topic can fill out the form posted on the Library teams page.

Picture Day: October 7th, 2020. Thank you for all of your support with making this a smooth, seamless, and safe process!

Please join me in congratulating Sara Blake as the FHMS Data Analyst! Sara has three years of prior experience as the TIF for Evergreen Middle School. The primary purpose for creating this position is to utilize data-driven techniques to inform our goals. Our goals are to ensure that each student is prepared socially and academically at their current level and ready for the next level!

[Finn Hill Middle School Short Week Schedule Link](https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1602271899/lwsdorg/gsux5wfehewmiivfksyf/WeeklySchedules.pdf)
<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1602271899/lwsdorg/gsux5wfehewmiivfksyf/WeeklySchedules.pdf>

Content Library Links

You can visit each of these OneNote content libraries for grade level information and weekly overviews for core classes.

[6th Grade OneNote](#)

[7th Grade OneNote](#)

[8th Grade OneNote](#)

Fall 2020 Family Information Survey

We are still hoping to get more responses on our Family Information survey. This link has been sent out a few times, by various groups and so far we have responses for 190 out of our almost 700 students.

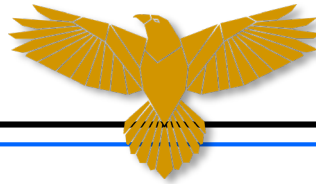
We know you have been asked to fill out a huge number of surveys in the last 6 months. Our goal is to use the information from this survey to better support the needs of our Finn Hill students during remote learning.

We will close out this survey in the next two weeks and will use the information collected to guide us going forward.

[Fall 2020 Family Survey Link](#)

Finn Hill Middle School Matters

September 25th, 2020
FOURTH EDITION



Dr. Joseph Smith
Principal, FHMS

WHERE WE'RE HEADING NEXT!

Student Academic Engagement

As we approach academic week seven, teachers and administrators have been evaluating student data as it pertains to Academic engagement. Teachers taking attendance for FIVE days- this includes Wednesdays. Which is a Asynchronous Learning Day.

The EXPECTATION is that students will be engaged in learning on all school days. If students need support, there are drop-in and check-in times so that students can get any support that they need. We do not want your child to fall behind! Hence, please check to see if they are completing their work or if they need support and let us know how we can help. We understand that Remote Learning has caused a huge burden on families, so please let's work together on making sure that your child is engaged and being challenged.

Previously, there may have been some confusion around the term "ENGAGEMENT". Engagement according to FHMS means making an attempt to complete or completing assigned work. Therefore, just turning on your LapTop does not mean you are engaged!

Student Social Engagement

Many teachers and families have made an appeal to increase Peer engagement, especially during these challenging times. Typically, students would be involved in clubs, after school plays etc. However, the COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly altered how we operate as a learning community. With that being said, we are in the throes of developing more opportunities for students to engage with each other. If you have any ideas or thoughts regarding supporting this initiative, please do not hesitate to reach out either directly to my office or through the FHMS-PTSA.

Shout-Outs-

Please forward any shout-out to me by Thursday of each week!

- Shout-Out to FHMS-PTSA for their tremendous support with Picture Day!
- Shout- Out to the Front Office Staff for organizing a safe, and efficient Picture Day!
- Shout- Out to Liza Duncan and Ron for their collaboration with the FHMS Administration to create optimal communication opportunities!
- Shout-Out to 6th grade teachers for organizing the Sixth Grade Family Workshop!
- Shout-Out to FHMS Staff for supporting students with your collaborative spirit and brilliant thinking!

Helpful Links

- TSA (Technology Student Association):

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602257238/lwdsorg/siweh129wqllefo2tcsq/TSAAnnouncement.pdf>

- Art Club Flyer:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602083497/lwdsorg/nvod1haa pklesgm1rg26/ArtClub>

- Curriculum Night:

<https://fhms.lwds.org/home-clone/curriculum-night>

- G.L.O.W. Club Flyer (Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever Club):

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602005563/lwdsorg/pvqlza7m2zuozz8gohs0/GLOWPster.pdf>

- Yearbook Sale Ad:

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602170273/lwdsorg/hdmszpk yok6fzu0cnzwe/YearbookFlyer_FullAd.png

- 4-Day Week Schedule (for No-School 10/16):

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1602005025/lwdsorg/pwm0zarnmim1gabdqpd/2020-2021NoFridaySchedule.pdf>

Once again, we thank each of you for helping to make remote learning successful. Have a great weekend!



Joseph Smith Ed.D. (He/him/his)
Proud Principal Finn Hill Middle School/ EAS
Phone (425) 936-2340
Web www.lwds.org Email jsmith@lwds.org