

DOLPHIN BYTE



Principal News

Hello Samantha Smith Families,

This spring, the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) will be administered in the spring of 2016 to all students in grades 3-5. Below is a list of the specific testing dates for each grade level for Smith. It is very important that students are present in class on these testing days.

Our teachers are planning activities to best prepare the students for these online assessments. You can help by ensuring that students are reading daily at home. As the testing dates are get, please be sure that your child is getting enough sleep and eating healthy foods. We find that reading, sleep, and nutrition are key factors in student success on these assessments.

Parts of the test are audio and will require students to use earphones/ear buds. Your child may bring their own audio devices from home, as they may be more comfortable using something familiar. Classroom teachers will notify you when they will want students to bring their audio device. You do NOT need to go out and purchase a headset or earbuds; we do have a supply at school for our students who do not wish to bring their own. Please do not have your child bring expensive wireless devices. As always, we cannot be held responsible for any lost or damaged personal items.

Thank you
 Rebekah Westra
rwestra@lwsd.org
 425-936-2710

Our State Testing Schedule:

Grade	English/Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science
Third	April 20 th and 21 st	April 27 th and 28 th	
Fourth	May 3 rd and 4 th	May 10 th and 11 th	
Fifth	May 3 rd and 4 th	May 10 th and 11 th	May 12 th

Fri 03/11/2016

NO SCHOOL

Thurs 03/17/2016

Math Kangaroo Contest
 Big Gym

Thurs 03/24/2016

Class Picture Day

Thurs 03/24/2016

Science/Math Night
 Big/Small Gyms
 6:00-9:00

Spring Break

April 4th – 8th

Thurs 05/19/2016

International Night

Mon 05/30/2016

Memorial Day

NO SCHOOL

Wed 06/15/2016

Last Day of School
 Early Release at 11:30

School News

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP): Parents, as you know, each year we participate in a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). Teachers and staff set goals regarding student achievement and work annually to meet those goals. Last year's CIP is now posted to the Smith website. Click [here](#) to take a look.

YEARBOOK ORDER DEADLINE! Parents, the **deadline** to order Yearbooks is **APRIL 18TH!!** To order yearbooks go to **ybpay.lifetouch.com** and enter the code **7755616**. Please make sure to print out a receipt to confirm your purchase. Only Lifetouch can confirm if an order has been placed, please do not inquire about purchases at the school. Thank you Kellie

MATH CHALLENGE MASTERS: On February 27th, Smith students from Grade 2-Grade 5 attended the Math Challenge Masters. Our students did an outstanding job! In second place-Alex Chen and Tristan Tsai. Third place-Susie Lu, Amogh Janganure, Karissa Song and Noah Shi. Fourth place-Di Mao and fifth place-Meghna Sekaran. Congratulations!!

MATH KANGAROO NIGHT INFORMATION: Hi Parents, Welcome to 2016 Math Kangaroo Smith Center!

Where: The Big Gym in Smith Elementary School

When: 5:30 pm--7:30pm March 17th, 2016

Schedule of event:

5:30 p.m. Check-in & pick up t-shirt, certificate of participation, and a gift.

5:50 p.m. Instruction begins. Parents leave the Gym.

6:00 p.m. Contest starts.

7:15 p.m. Contest ends. Group picture taking.

7:30 p.m. Parents come in to pick up students.

Note: Students will not be released until contest ends. Just in case if they finish early, they can bring a book to read quietly.

What to bring:

- * Sharpened #2 pencils
- * Good Erasers.

Note: No calculators, Scratch paper will be provided.

Prepare for the contest:

See the "Practice Material" tab and Media Library tab on the Math Kangaroo home web page for additional resources with valid login.

The competition's Answer Card can be viewed on the website at www.mathkangaroo.org/mk/answer_card_info.html.

Please show the students how to fill the answer card correctly.

After the contest:

All the students will bring the question booklets home.

The test results might be released in mid-May.

The questions should NOT be put into e-mail or published on the INTERNET until mid-May. Some competitions hosted in other countries after March 17th may use the same questions.

Miss the contest:

For students who cannot attend the event on March 17th, you can come to pick up your t-shirt, questions-booklet, and the gift from Math Kangaroo manager after March 17th, no later than April 15th by appointment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our center manager Lucia Liu by e-mail liuqianshi@hotmail.com or Math Kangaroo head office by e-mail info@mathkangaroo.org.

Sincerely,

Lucia Liu

Math Kangaroo Smith Center

PICTURE DAY: Class picture day is March 24th! If you would like to have an individual picture taken of your child, please let the teacher know and a packet will be sent home.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS: A fillable pdf version of the Volunteer Application has been released. You can now fill out the application electronically and email it directly to our district office. Here is the link: [district website](#). All application once approved, your application is good for 2 years.

GIRLS ROCK IN SCIENCE AND MATH: My name is Rishma Murugan. I am a sophomore at Redmond High School in Redmond, Washington. I am the president of **Girls Rock In Science & Math (GRISM)**, a program designed to increase interest in girls from 3rd to 5th grade in math and science. GRISM is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. We are holding a math and science competition for girls in 3rd to 5th grade! This competition is specifically tailored to girls in this age group.

It is more focused on **logic and concepts** and less on formulas and speed of computation. Our studies have shown that girls will identify with competitions such as this because it relates to the way they think. It also promotes **teamwork** and **cooperation** as the girls are randomly assigned their teams on the day of the competition. In addition, we have a unique engineering activity that participants always enjoy.

This is the third year of GEMS. Last year, **over 250 girls** attended the competition and everyone really enjoyed it. We also had **over 60 high school girls** from all local school districts participating as volunteers.

Please spread the word about this competition in your respective schools. We want to attract as many young and vibrant minds as we can! I have also attached the flyer, which you can post in your school bulletin boards and anywhere else.

When: Saturday, March 26, 2016

Where: Redmond High School

If you have any questions, please send an email to grism@girlsrockscimath.org. For more information on the competition, go to girlsrockscimath.com/gems-competition.

Thank you,

Rishma Murugan

President, Girls Rock in Science and Math

girlsrockscimath.com

RESERVED PARKING SPOTS: Parents, we have 3 reserved parking spots in our lot. Please do not park in those spots as they are reserved for particular staff members. Thank you

TAKING ADDITIONAL VACATION TIME: Dear Parents, if you are planning on taking additional vacation days during the school year, PLEASE make sure that you report the absences to the Safe Arrival Line. Thank you Kellie

CHECKING IN: If you should have items that you need to get to your child, always bring them to the office and I will make sure they get delivered in a timely manner. Kellie

ATTENDANCE- PLEASE READ: If your child is going to be absent from school for **any reason**, please call our Safe Arrival Line at 425-936-2711. Please do not email your child's teacher or the office staff, as there are times that we would be absent and not get the message. If a call is not received reporting the absence, your child's absence will be marked as unexcused. **When you call to report the absence, please make sure that you spell your child's name, state the reason for the absence, say the teachers name and the date. Thank you**

BUS PASSES: If your child is riding a different bus home in the afternoon, I must have a note from the parent with the color of the bus. **If there is a change in the after school routine, please call the office. Thank you**

MORNING ARRIVAL: Please do not drop off or have your child arrive before 8:15 in the morning, we do not have the staffing before that time to supervise the students. Thank you

ON CAMPUS: If you are on campus for any reason, you must sign in at the office and be wearing identification. If you need to get an item to your child, please bring it to the office and your child will be called down. Thank you

VOLUNTEERING: If you are planning on volunteering at Smith, you must submit a volunteer application to the Lake Washington School District. You can either submit online or there are packets in the office. The process can take up to 2 weeks, and once you have been approved the district will contact you via email. Your volunteer status is good for 2 years.

INJURIES: Parents, if your child has sustained an injury and requires specific instructions for care at school, please include the following information:

- Please include a doctor's note if you should have one that lists the injury and the duration of any limitations or restrictions. If there is not a doctor's note, an email explaining the injury and if there are to be any restrictions.
- Medications: we are not allowed to administer any medications unless we have a prescription from the doctor. I have the forms in the office.
- Crutches: these also require a note from the doctor.

PICK UP AFTER SCHOOL: When picking up your child after school, please do not leave your car unattended in the drive through lane. Thank you

PTSA News

Please note all information can be found at our website www.smithptsa.org

COMMUNICATION SURVEY: The PTSA is sponsoring a survey to improve the communications strategy at our school. Please click [here](#) to take this brief, anonymous survey and let your voice be heard!

ART WALK: Thank you Smith parents for making Art Walk 2016 a great success! We raised \$718 that will go towards materials and supplies for our Explore Art program thanks to your generosity. The Explore Art team would like to thank ALL of our fantastic art leads and co-leads for their hard work and dedication for Art Walk and throughout the school year.

A special thanks to Muddy Kinzer, Kim Bansal, Swarnima Aswinkumar, Lisa Whipple, Sophie Le, Stephanie Justus, Leanne Brodzinski, Cara Leitch and the many helping hands that helped us set up racks and clean up afterwards. Thank you!

SPRING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS REGISTRATION NIGHT: On **March 21st from 6:30 - 8pm** an open registration will be held at Smith in the Big gym for after-school programs. Come meet the Vendors and sign up that night. Don't forget to volunteer to monitor the class.

THE ANNUAL SMITH SCIENCE FAIR IS BACK: This year it is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Night - **March 24th from 5:30 - 8pm.**

- **Science** Project Boards display from 6:30 – 8pm
 - Conduct Science experiments and present your findings. **Registration deadline is March 7th 2016.**
 - For more information, project guidelines and judging criteria click: <http://samanthasmith.oursciencefair.com/SchoolHome.aspx>
- **Technology & Engineering** Demonstrations from 6:30 – 7:30pm
 - An exciting opportunity for Young SMITH Scientists and Engineers to dazzle their fellow students by explaining any Technology/Engineering concepts through models/demonstrations. **Submit ideas by March 15th** to Swarnima Aswinkumar - swarnima_d@yahoo.com
- **Math** Mania
 - Mathemagic Show from 5:30 - 6:15 &
 - Hands on Math Fun 6:30 - 7:30pm
- If you would like to help with this event or volunteer to judge, please contact Swarnima Aswinkumar - swarnima_d@yahoo.com.

MATH CHALLENGE #11 will be available for download from <http://www.mathinaction.org/Pages/SmithMC> on **March 11, 2016**, and due on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 3PM. Students may turn in solutions to their teacher or at the front office.

BOX TOPS: It is that time of year again to collect **Box Tops** for your school. Start collecting now. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

WINTER AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS: – Programs are in full swing, remember to sign up to monitor your new class by clicking [here](#). Classes have been cancelled when no volunteers are available.

SCHOOL SUPPLY VOLUNTEER: looking for a Volunteer to assist with organizing next year's school supplies EduKits. For more information, reach out to Cara (President@SmithPTSA.org)

YEARBOOK: To order your yearbook click [here](#) - Yearbooks are only available through online sales, so order TODAY. To

submit pictures for possible use in the Yearbook, click [HERE](#) and enter the access code VLHER. It's really easy!

DIRECTORIES: the online directory is available through your membership login at <https://smithptsa.ourschoolpages.com/Directory>. Hard copies have been delivered to the school. If you haven't received yours yet, ask your student's teacher or email Jennifer Jaddi @ rjjaddi@comcast.net.

MATCHING FUNDS

- **Amazon Smile:** Use <http://www.smile.amazon.com/> and designate *Samantha Smith PTA Lake Washington Council 2 8 57* to receive a percentage of your purchase.
- **Farmigo:** this new program allows our community to shop for locally produced foods and earn money for our school. We are searching for a volunteer for a limited weekly commitment. Read more through [this link](#).
- **Microsoft Matching:** Microsoft matches gifts of **time (\$25/hour)** and money. We have created a document with step-by-step details on how to apply for the matching and the request process. Click [HERE](#) for all of the info.

PTSA MEMBERSHIP: You can still join our amazing PTSA today by clicking [here](#)! If you are missing your directories, please contact Jennifer Jaddi @ rjjaddi@comcast.net

FACEBOOK: [Samantha Smith Elementary PTSA](#) is a GREAT source of up-to-date information. Like us Today!



WATCH D.O.G.S.: We are still looking for **Dads Of Great Students**. Become part of WatchD.O.G.S. you can still [sign up](#).

Should you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact myself at president@smithptsa.org or the PTSA Board at board@smithptsa.org.



Local Sports Stars To Speak at Spring Fundraising Events

Former Seattle Seahawk and Pro Football Hall of Famer **Walter Jones** is the highlighted speaker for the **Spring for Learning Luncheon on April 20th**. Walter played 12 seasons for the Seattle Seahawks as left tackle. He was the first-team selection of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000's. Following the 1999 season, Jones became the first offensive lineman in Seahawks history to be elected to the Pro Bowl. Jones has two students in the Lake Washington School District.

The Lake Washington Schools Foundation will host its **11th annual** fundraising events at the **Marriott Hotel at Redmond Town Center**. Please join us to support a beyond-basic education for all students in the Lake Washington School District. Register to attend or donate to support the event at www.lwsf.org. Your Samantha Smith table captain is Cara Leitch. To become a corporate partner or volunteer to help make the event a success, contact LWSF.

Should you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact myself at president@smithptsa.org or the PTSA Board at board@smithptsa.org.



Our students make it special
Our teachers make it awesome
Our parents make it ROCK!



Other Links



[PTSA Website](#)



[School Lunch Menu](#)



[School Website](#)



[Community Info](#)

Calendar, *continued*

March 11th-No School

April 4-8th Spring Break

May 30th-Memorial Day-No School

June 15th-Last day of school-Dismissal at 11:30

The Lake Washington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, gender, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran, military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. [Complete policy statement.](#)