

Important Dates

Friday, Dec 16 3pm

Sing Along

Monday, Jan 2nd

Welcome Back!

Principal's Newsletter | December 2022

Principal's Message

We have had a wonderful first part of the school year! Your kids are amazing and our wonderful teaching staff has been such a great team, working together to create amazing experiences and deep learning for our children.



Chautauqua Shines!

I'd like to share a ton of gratitude to our parents, our staff and our students. It is an honor and a pleasure to be your principal. Chautauqua is an amazing school and our staff and students work so hard to make each day a great one. Our students have been writing gratitude slips and putting them in a fish bowl in the Orca Pod at the entrance to the school. Reading the entries I see how many students appreciate their friends, their teachers, their art projects, music class and even school lunch! Many of them appreciate their family, their pets, and good food to eat.

Ask your child what gratitude they have shared.

In this newsletter, I'd like to share photos from the fall semester to show the amazing community we have built and to celebrate all we have done together. Thank you and have a wonderful winter break.



New bookshelves

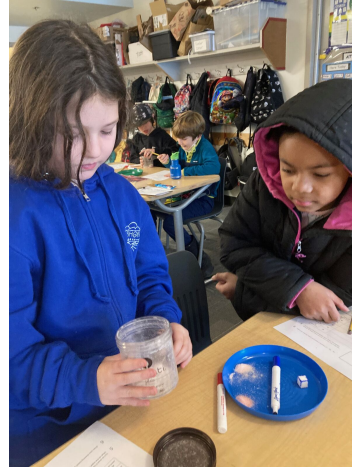
Thanks to our Bond funds we were able to get new bookshelves for our library. Thank you!

We have a wonderful selection of books and our students love our library. If you know of a volunteer that would like to come in and re-shelve books regularly, let our librarian know.



Clubs for 4th and 5th grade

Our fourth and fifth grades participate in clubs during their Friday specialist classes. They have so much fun and get to mix with students in different classes and experiencing different clubs each quarter. Students participate in clubs such as: clay, painting, sketchbooks, performance arts, intramurals, music, podcast, Artist in Residence, and running.



Mystery Science

Across the school, our students study science. We use Mystery Science to base our courses in hands-on, relevant, engaging lessons aligned with state science standards. In this photo they are engaged in a "Sugar Shaker" experiment. We incorporate teamwork, writing and problem solving into our science units.



Preschoolers!

We are proud of our youngest learners. We have two preschool programs and our 3-5 year olds are thriving. They learn and play and enjoy one another's company.

If you know any upcoming kindergarten students make sure they know to register for school next year!



Outdoor Tuesdays

Our students have been engaged in additional outside time on Tuesdays with our teachers and Vashon Wilderness Program Mentors. They've selected one of four pathways and enjoyed games and exploration outside. Thanks for sending them in appropriate clothing on Tuesdays (and all days since we always have outdoor recess).



Wednesday Music

We have enjoyed bringing back the tradition of greeting our students with music. Every Wednesday a different musician signs up to play as students enter the building. We have had some student musicians perform as well.

It's a great tradition!

If you know a musician that would like to sign up, send them this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054BAAAF2D6-music>



Lunch!

Let's celebrate the return to eating lunch inside together and our wonderful school lunches. We eat great food, have a salad bar to encourage healthy food choices and we recycle and share our left over food scraps with a local pig farm.



Field Trips!

This year we are able to return to having field trips! Our fifth graders did a salmon study with the Vashon Nature Center. Most of our field trips occur in the spring and are all linked to our curriculum.



Green Team!

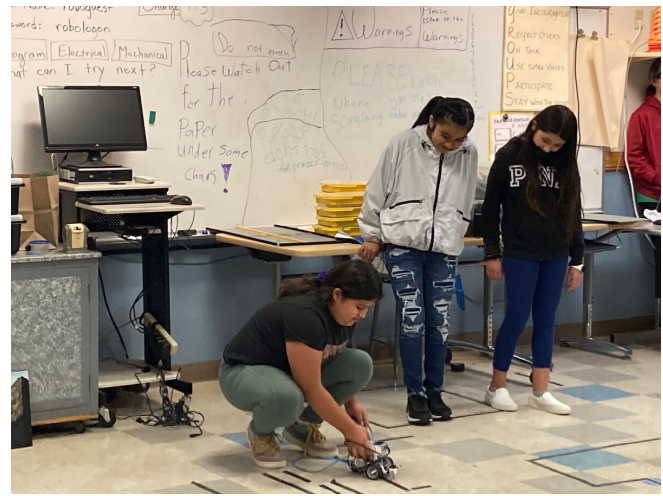
We have a very active Green Team of fourth and fifth graders that meets every other Wednesday and thinks of ways to help our environment. Recently, they taught classes how to wrap presents with cloth and reduce wrapping paper trash.

We are also thankful to have a chess club and a Club Chispa (Spanish for Spanish speakers).



Spanish speaking interns!

It has been wonderful to welcome Laia (from Spain) and Glenda (from El Salvador) to our school. If you are interested in hosting an intern next school year, please let Rebecca know at rgoertzel@vashonsd.org



Robotics

Our fifth grade students study robotics one quarter during the year, instead of specialists. It is a great way for them to learn about programming, engaging in a STEM project and practice team building.



Thank you to our Parent Group - FACE!

Family And Community Engagement:

Thank you to our parent group for innovating with new celebrations and support for our staff.

FACE provides treats for staff meetings, connections with families, popcorn and hot chocolate for kids, chess club and fun family events like Harvest Festival and Holiday Shop! Thank you for your support!

December 2022