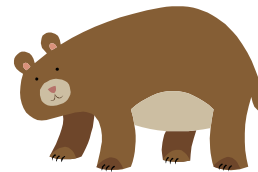


# The Grizzly Growl



## *Letter from the Principal, Mr. Cullum*

### Dates To Remember:

Sept. 20: Open House

6:30-7:30

Sept. 24: School Board  
Mtg. @ Mary Purcell

Elementary 7 PM

Sept. 19, 26: 1 Hr Late  
Start reminder -10:00  
am for Professional De-  
velopment

Oct 5th: Picture Day &  
SOM Breakfast

Oct 11th: Booster Club  
MTG. 6:00

Oct 25th: Monster  
Mash Skate Night

Nov 15th: Retake Day

Dear Parents, Guardians and Volunteers:

Hello and welcome back to school. We have had a great first week. Our current enrollment is nearly 440 students which is the largest enrollment we have had that any can recall. Even Ms. McMoran said she can not recall our enrollment being that high, and she teaches 2nd grade so we know 2nd grade teachers know all. With our enrollment we also have several new staff members at Mary Purcell. Currently our family engagement coordinator Ashley Bond is periodically doing a "post" of our new staff on our Mary Purcell Facebook page.

Just some helpful reminders as we go through the year. Please remind your child not to run out of the building during after school pickup. This is for the safety of our students and those waiting for students. If you are car pickup, please follow the directions of staff and move forward when possible. We ask parents to stay in their vehicles so we may keep the line moving. We also would like to remind all parents in car pickup line and those who park to pick up students, that we have to share our space and vehicles with our neighbors so we should not be blocking our neighbor's driveways. We need to be mindful that our neighbors do need access to their driveways.

This year our building wide focus on student management will focus on: Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance and Safety.

Thank you for make Mary Purcell a wonderful school.

Mike Cullum  
Principal

## *A letter from the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Torgeson*



As Mary Purcell's new Assistant Principal, I am honored and excited to welcome all students and families back to school. The teachers have worked hard to make their classrooms inviting and welcoming. It is inspiring to see how hard the students are at work and the intentional, focused efforts by our teachers.

As we begin another school year, parents often wonder about homework requirements and I would like to weigh in about the importance of building in time for reading into your family's daily schedule. Families are busy and finding time for your child to read each day can be difficult unless it is held as a priority. Research shows that reading regularly improves concentration and focus, increases vocabulary, improves the ability to empathize, reduces stress, expands memory and analytical thinking skills, and improves writing skills. So, as you settle into your back to school routines please make sure to keep daily reading a priority. Besides all the aforementioned benefits, reading is great entertainment! Let's have a great year!

~Paula Torgeson

Assistant Principal, Mary Purcell Elementary



### From the counselor, Anne Sidbury:

If you have children between the ages of 0 and 18, the Helping Hands Food Bank wants to make sure they have enough to eat on the weekends. The CHOW program stands for Cutting Hunger on Weekends and provides free, supplemental food to your door on Saturday mornings. You can visit [www.weekendfood.org](http://www.weekendfood.org) to sign up or call (855) 856-2211. Did you know that the food bank has moved? It's now located at 9386 Fruitdale Road in Sedro Woolley. They have new hours too.

They are open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, closed Tuesdays, and open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays and 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Fridays.

### Morning Arrival

Reminder that the doors for the school open at 8:45 (9:45 on PDW Late Start Wednesdays). Students who eat breakfast may enter through the Nelson Street doors and go into the cafeteria at 8:30. Students should be on their way to class when the 8:55 warning bell sounds.

On PDW Late Start Wednesdays our playground is open for those students that must be dropped off at the regular start time. The gate will be unlocked and Mrs. Brodersen and/or Ms. Nikki will be there from 8:30-8:45 or 9:45 on Wednesday.

### Attendance

Please call or email the office before 10:00 am on the day of your student's absence. If it is a pre-arranged absence a note or email can be sent in advance to the office.

If we don't hear from you, state law requires that we contact you. If we don't hear from you by 10:00 our automated calling system will give you a call to inform you that your student has an unexcused absence.

The e-mail for attendance is: [kberg@swsd101.org](mailto:kberg@swsd101.org) or call 360-855-3555.

### Food Service

We do have a breakfast and lunch program available for students.

Lunch - \$3.00 full price

- \$.40 reduced price

Breakfast - \$1.75 full price

- no charge reduced price

Milk - \$.60 for all students

We stop serving breakfast at the 8:55 warning bell.

### Booster Club

Mary Purcell's Booster Club would like to invite you to attend their upcoming meetings. They meet the second Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:00 in the library, with the first meeting scheduled for September 14. Child care is provided.

This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, find out ways to get involved in upcoming projects and to be a part of planning our upcoming year.

Feel free to contact the Booster Club at [marypurcellboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:marypurcellboosterclub@gmail.com)

Look for us on Facebook under Mary Purcell Booster Club

### Congratulations

to

Lily Hastings!

Her artwork was chosen for the cover of our school agenda.

Great job, Lily!

### **Building Hours**

The office is open from 8:30 AM -4:00 PM daily. 855-3555 - Nancy and Kelly

Students are allowed in the building at 8:45, daily or 9:45 on late start. Allowed on playground for laps at 8:30.

Breakfast is served beginning at 8:30, and students are expected to be in their classrooms by 8:45. Class starts at 9 am.

Students are dismissed at 3:30 Walkers exit the front of the building, and car pick up is in the back of the building on Nelson Street.

**Helpful Phone Numbers:** Transportation ~ 855-3504, Food Service - 855-3515, Emergency Line ~ 855-3573