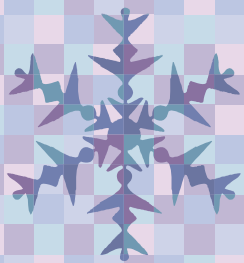


Edward C. Norman

Principal

Here's What's Happening



JANUARY, 2012 NEWSLETTER

RUSSELL SCHOOL

Principal's Corner — Most of you are aware of the reconfiguration of the Moscow School District schools beginning in the fall of 2012. J. Russell Elementary will become a 3rd through 5th grade building instead of being 4th through 6th grade.

Sixth graders will attend "middle school" at Moscow Middle School, formerly known as Moscow Junior High School. West Park Elementary School will serve K through 2nd grade and all of its students (K included) will be housed within the West Park building.

Many changes will happen and the physical moving of classrooms is a big undertaking. The district has committees in charge of the many areas for reconfiguration and all that is entailed with this redesign.

My first priority is students and their education, to create a stable and successful learning environment for all of our students. I will continue to advocate in all ways for our present students and students new to our building. I have met with Mr. Marineau, principal at West Park, and the counselors at Russell and West Park. We have made a general plan to talk with students and to hold some meetings for parents in the upcoming semester. Mr. Kevin Hill, principal at Moscow Junior High, has also planned visitations to Russell and parent nights for the 5th and 6th grade students who will be transitioning to the middle school. The district website (<http://msdweb.msd281.org/wordpress/about-msd/configuration/>) has a great deal of information posted for anyone looking for answers.

I am looking forward to a great and exciting 2nd half of this year. It is always so much fun learning about each individual in the school. Each student has unique abilities and personalities, just like a snowflake, and I will try to remember those characteristics to help make their years at J. Russell Elementary a positive and successful experience.

Classroom News—Physical Education w/Mr. Markley—Our **fifth grade students** received a lesson on physics while at the



Palouse Ice Rink. "**Science on Ice**" was a coordinated effort with the **University of Idaho** and the **Palouse Ice Rink**. Students learned about the **Properties of Water;**, how a **Zamboni smoothes the ice;** **Newton's 2nd Law of Motion, Force, Mass & Acceleration, hockey puck slingshots; and Rotational Motion in Action, ice skaters twirling.**

Following the physics activities, students put on **ice skates** and were introduced to the **basics of skating; forward/backward swizzle, snowplow stop, and two foot turns.**

A **very special thank you to Decagon Devices, Inc.** of Pullman for donating the monies to cover the cost for this informative and fun field trip.

Cultures/Language w/Madame Assefi-French has been the focus for **4th graders**. Students have studied the language for school-related objects, family names, parts of the human body, the alphabet, days of the week, months of the year and are also able to carry on small conversations in French.



Fifth grade students will continue their **Spanish** studies for the remainder of the school-year. They, too, have learned the alphabet, numbers, grammar; verbs, nouns, articles, pronouns, and conjugations, parts of the human body, and some daily conversations.

The **sixth graders** are finishing up their studies of the **French** language/culture and will take up the study of **Spain, its language and culture**, starting in **February**. Also, I am very proud of our student body in the way they responded to a question put forth to them during an assembly with the U of I men's basketball team. **Djim Bandonmel**, a forward, who hails from Quebec, Canada, was quite surprised when our students answered him in his native language, **French!** Good job, Russell Rams!



January 2012—Newsletter

Good News—Congratulations to **Matthew Miller**, a **5th grade student in Miss Samson's class**. Matthew placed first in the **Russell School Geography Bee** held on January 10th. Matthew will now take a 75-question written exam. Congratulations to other competitors as well! **4th graders: Aidan Kermott, Destiny Anderson, Andrew Stone; 5th grade: AJ Blankenship, Mackenzie Vogt; 6th grade: Sam Danes, Kylan Medina, and Kate Wray**. Approximately 100 students from around the state will qualify to compete in the **Idaho Geography Bee** sometime in April. Just one winner from each state receives an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the National Geography Bee, hosted by Alex Trebek. **Good luck, Matthew!**



Spelling Bee—The Russell School **Spelling Bee** was held on **January 25th**. The following students were participants: **4th grade**—Aidan Kermott, Caleb Compton, Jiayan Wang, Kimathi Nkanata-Gray, Griffin Olsen, Emelia Keim, Joel Pimienta, Gracie Foutch, Aaron Eisenhower, Andie Cook, Zach Coulter, Omar Abdelnaby, Talia Mullin, Sarah Carscallen, Jordyn Sullivan; **5th grade**—Teddy Jessup, Ben Hoesman, Brynn Bell, Aidan Barnhart, Mckinsey Hill, Dane Rennaker, Kieran Northcutt, Mackenzie Vogt, Mneote Louis, Gabe Couch, Savanna Paul, Matthew Miller, Kaneeta Groce; and **6th grade**—Jenna Stubbers, Madi Engberg, Hyrum Garner, Sophia-Grace Sivula, Claire Mullin, Jackson Dunn, Krista Pitkin, Addie Casper, Jazmine Baldwin-Wood. The Bee lasted over two hours minutes and was well attended by family and friends. Fifth grader, **Dane Rennaker** was the overall winner. Dane will represent Russell School in the regional bee at LCSC in Lewiston on **March 17th**. **Congratulations to all of our competitors and best of luck, Dane!**



Wish Cranes—**Jasper LaFortune**, a senior at Moscow High School, established the **Wish Crane Foundation**. It is based on a Japanese legend that a person who folds one thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish. **Sadako Sasaki** was a two-year old girl in Hiroshima, Japan, when the atom bomb hit a mile from her home. When she developed leukemia as a junior high student, she was comforted by the wish crane legend. **Her wish was for healing and world peace**. She folded **644 cranes** before she died at the age of 12. Since her story became known—most notably from the book Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr—**paper cranes have symbolized healing and peace**.



Jasper's dad, **Jim**, was a **beloved Moscow Jr. High science teacher** who was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2009. In the summer of 2010, he received an unexpected gift of 1,000 origami cranes from a Colorado elementary school class. It gave him and his family such tremendous healing power, that Jasper decided to create an organization to encourage others to fold a thousand cranes and gift them to a person who is suffering. **Jim passed away in November, 2010**.

So, Russell students, staff, and parents were honored to participate in the Wish Crane Project from September through December. We folded **2,000 origami cranes for two individuals suffering from cancer**. Each received one thousand cranes!

PHOTOS BY PAM BROENNEKE

