

★ We Appreciate
Our ★
Business Partners



★ Thank you for using
★ local businesses! ★



Yelm Community Schools
Yelm Prairie PTO

Panther Press

"Work Hard, Play Hard, Always Be Kind!"

www.ycs.wednet.edu-Prairie



Volume 32, Issue 29
April 22, 2016
Debbie McLaren, Principal

Yelm Prairie Elementary
PO Box 476, Yelm, WA 98597
360.458.3700 Fax 360.458.6326

Dear Prairie Families,

Starting last year, the state of Washington adopted the **Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)** to measure student achievement in English Language Arts and Math for elementary 3-6th graders.



What is the SBA?

The SBA is an entirely online test. Students will be asked to answer multiple choice questions, respond thoughtfully to real world problems, and write essays at every grade level. Due to the increased rigor and recent transition to SBA, it is likely that fewer students will meet grade level standards, especially for the first few years. Results should improve as students have additional years of instruction aligned to the new standards and become better equipped to meet the challenges they present. The SBA testing system also provides many accommodations and supports that students have not had in the past. The SBA will replace previous graduation exam requirements for the class of 2019.

How is my child being prepared for the SBA?

Teachers in Yelm Community Schools are teaching the new, more rigorous standards in English Language Arts and Math. Students are being asked to compare texts, conduct research, and write descriptively and clearly. Students are being taught to explain their mathematical thinking and to demonstrate why their answers to math problems make sense. An increased amount of instruction is occurring on Chromebooks, so students have the technical skills to complete online testing requirements.

How can parents help students be successful on the SBA?

Parents are encouraged to read with their students, including online reading. Students are encouraged to articulate their ideas using tablets, computers, or other technology devices. Families are also encouraged to access practice tests at wa.portal.airast.org/training-tests. Students at Prairie are scheduled to test from May 2 through June 3. Classroom teachers will notify parents of specific testing dates for their students.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to make sure your student is successful. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your student. We want your student to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities. Please call or email me or your student's teacher if you have questions about state testing.

Happy Friday!

Debbie McLaren



20th Yelm Arbor Day Celebration



Friday, April 29th
Yelm City Park - 11 a.m. — 12 p.m.

The Yelm Tree Advisory Board and Yelm Community Schools will be giving recognition to the winners of the Arbor Day Art contest. Congratulations to our Prairie winners:

Kindergarten 2nd place—Kiley Mueller
Third Grade 2nd place—Hannah Larsen
Fifth Grade 2nd place—Drew Larsen



Upcoming Calendar

Monday, April 25

- Kindergarten registration continues...

Tuesday, April 26

- 3:05 p.m.—Choir practice.

Wednesday, April 27

- Late start Wednesday.
- Happy Administrative Professionals Day Miss Kate & Miss Shari!*

Thursday, April 28

- 3:05 p.m.—Choir practice.

Friday, April 29

- 8:40 a.m. - Assembly.
- 9:30 a.m.—Sixth grade rewards trip to Sprinker. Return approximately 2 p.m.



March Rockin' Readers Announced ...

Kindergarten:

Max Brown, Asher Howell, Trew Kellems, Brooklyn Minor, Fernanda Ordóñez-Velasquez, Adrian Ortiz-Mendoza, Ellie Serdar, and Chaty Stone.

First Grade:

Malea Harding, Rylee Hominda, Cami McCurdy, Gus Morrow, William Parsons, Robert Presho, Faustino Ramirez, and Alexia Stone.

Second Grade:

Rylan Beaudin, Katelyn Eckroth, Hieu Huynh, Alex Ibarra, Zeb Meyer, and Weston Mullins.

Third Grade:

Kara Morrow, Monica Perez-Cruz, Alexander Sample, Alex Segarra, and Ella Stephen.

Fourth Grade:

Luke Keller, Gabby Michalski, Dallas Mitchell, Payton Nimocks, Katherine Piscopo, Emily O'Leary.

Fifth Grade:

Haylie Hetland, Aiden Kortjohn, Camille Moyer, and Zachary Walsh.

Kindergarten Registration ...



Register your student now, so they will be ready for the fall. Children must be five years old on or before August 31, 2016. When registering your new kinder please bring the following:

- Child's birth certificate.
- Proof of residency (document must have the physical address of your home) *This can be a utility bill, mortgage or rental statement, car registration, etc.*
- And immunization records.

We encourage parents to register early to help us plan for next year's classroom needs and for students to participate in the Kinder Round Up—scheduled for Monday, June 6th. Please tell your friends and neighbors that all Yelm Community elementaries will begin registering and not to wait.

Students of the Week

Kindergarten:

Kole Hren, Austin Kaylor, and Julie Moyer.

First Grade:

Evelynn Courneya, Gus Morrow, and Sullivan Smith.

Second Grade:

Greta Hewitt, Morgan Riddle, and Kyle Stark.

Third Grade:

Cayden Brown, Andy Hofer, and Amalie Moyer.

Fourth Grade:

Nikolas Dejjamcomo, Lori Easley, and Aylla Hentz.

Fifth Grade:

Noah Holloway, Hudson Nelson, and Gilberto Soto-Osegeuero.

Sixth Grade Student of the Month:

Keali Olsen and Ty Serini.



Sixth Grade Transition to RMS

Sixth grade students have some important dates to mark on their calendar to assist them with the transition to middle school. RMS Sixth Grade Activity Night at RMS is tonight—Friday, April 22nd, from 6:30—8:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. There will be a DJ, concessions, Ping Pong, basketball, air hockey and foosball. On Thursday, June 9th our sixth graders will be visiting RMS to tour the building and eat lunch. A permission slip with further information will be coming home closer to the date. The RMS administrative team visited our sixth grade students this past week. Please make sure your student returns the form given to them by the RMS staff to their teacher by May 3rd. If your student will be attending YMS next year, please let our office know.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 18—22, 2016

Our Prairie volunteers are the best!

Thanks for all you do!



Testing Tips ...

Testing is scheduled beginning the first week of May. Help your student make the most of this opportunity by helping him or her with the following:

- Get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.
- Do not make appointments on test days. A list of testing days will be posted on the school calendar online.
- Make sure students arrive on time.
- Read the entire question and all the answers BEFORE they answer.
- Take one question at a time, so you don't feel overwhelmed.

