



# THE SHOWALTER COMMUNICATOR

December 7, 2016

## *From the Principal's Desk:*

It's hard to believe that our school year is almost half over! As we are now in the holiday season, things are only going to get busier.

With the winter season and the possibility of snow, there is always the chance that we will have delayed start days or instances when we have to close the school due to inclement weather. School officials attempt to make that decision as early as possible to help parents make alternate plans for the day, if necessary. That information will go out to parents by phone using our School Messenger service and is communicated to a variety of media outlets that you can consult. Please remember that our primary consideration in deciding to close or delay school is the safety of our students.

In working with our students this year, the staff have continued to focus on preparing students for the statewide assessments, specifically the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and the Measure of Student Progress (MSP). On the SBA, students from all three grades will be assessed in both literacy and mathematic skill. On the MSP, only 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be assessed in the area of science. In preparing for the assessments, we have been working to emphasize the use of complex text, citing textual evidence and justifying thinking. This level of student performance is guided by our implementation of instruction that aligns with the Common Core State Standard (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We are continuing our efforts to prepare students for this assessment. The introduction of Chromebooks to all students for daily use over the past several year has been a big benefit for our students as all of our state assessments are now being done online. Staff will be sharing information regarding these assessments and the types of questions and tasks with students. They will be giving them opportunities to practice released items and familiarize them with the assessment process.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Celebration:** Please join us for an evening of learning. On Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, come and see your student present their story!!!! Our evening begins at 6:00 PM sharp and will end at 7:30 PM. We will begin our evening here at Showalter Middle School Commons. Refreshments will be served! For us to be able to plan for refreshments and materials, please RSVP by December 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 using the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/V6v3vrSuEX4VFv8F3>

\*Student must be accompanied by an adult in order to attend

**Winter Break Information:** Please remember that our last day of school before the winter break is Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. The building will be closed over the break starting Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and will not open again until we return to school in the New Year on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Parent-Teacher Conference Update:** We were pleased to see many of our families last month at parent-teacher conferences. Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to partner with us to support the important work of educating our students. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and your student around their progress. In May, we will be conducting a round of Student Led Conferences. Your student will set up an appointment with you and his/her advisor. At this conference your student will share with you the goals they set for the year, their progress and examples of their best work.

**Student Drop Off/ Pick Up: IMPORTANT SAFETY ISSUE!!** - In order to promote traffic flow AND increase safety, please read and follow the directions on the signs in the parking area. These directions are similar to what you see at the airport. **The right lane is for student pick up and drop off. The left lane is for flow through traffic only. DO NOT DROP OFF or PICK UP STUDENTS from the left lane. Students should be getting in or out of vehicles ONLY when your car is directly in front of the main door.** Please use the parking spaces that are provided. The bus loop in the back of the school is off limits for student pick up and drop off. We have had cars that block the buses and create an unsafe environment for our students. Please do not stop on 144<sup>th</sup> Street to drop off or pick up your students. This is extremely unsafe and should a law enforcement office witness this behavior, you will be ticketed.

**College Bound Scholarship:** Think your child can't afford college? Think Again!: Current 7th and 8th grade students that qualify for free or reduced lunch can apply for the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board's College Bound Scholarship. This scholarship will pay for the cost of tuition not covered by other state aid plus \$500 towards the cost of textbooks and can be used at any public Washington College, University, Community or Technical College as well as any approved private independent college, university or career school. All your 7th or 8th grader needs to do is to apply, and pledge to: Graduate on time with a 2.0 GPA, demonstrate good citizenship in their school and community and stay crime free, and when the time comes submit a Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply to the school of their choice. For questions regarding eligibility and to have your child enroll, please contact your student's counselor; Mr. Gregg or Ms. Grosche, our College and Career Readiness Specialist, Ms. Fichamba (206-901-7800) or visit [www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound) online.