SUPERINTENDENT
MATT MALLERY
PRINCIPAL
JOSH STONEY
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
SARAH BELL



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JILL EDGIN
CYNTHIA BREHMEYER
JAKE GOLDY
KAYLA MALI
ALEXANDER USHMAN

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

PTO Corner	1
From The Lohman Zone	2
Saturday Morning Basketball	3
YMCA Swim Lessons / Winter Break	4
December Breakfast & Lunch Calendar	5
From The Lohman Zone	6
Superintendent's Corner	7-8
Transportation Director's Corner	9
December Event Calendar	10
From The Lohman Zone	11
From The Lohman Zone Cont.	12
Winter Crossword Puzzle	13
The Food Service Corner	14

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
MATLOCK WA
PERMIT NO 1
CAR-RT SORT

ECR WSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

MARY M. KNIGHT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 311
2987 W MATLOCK BRADY RD
ELMA, WA 98541
360-426-6767
http://www.marymknight.com.

MARY M. KNIGHT
Home of the OWLS

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PTO Corner

The Mary M. Knight Parent Teacher Organization is hosting several winter activities and seeking community support in the coming weeks. School beanies are currently on sale for $20 each and may be purchased before and after school as well as at PTO concessions. Proceeds help support school programs, and families are encouraged to take advantage of this seasonal offering.

Teachers will be leading holiday craft activities as part of the school's Winter Mini Classes, with supplies provided by the PTO. Volunteers are needed to assist in classrooms during these activities.

The PTO is also seeking volunteers to assist with basketball concessions. Without additional volunteer support, concessions may need to close for certain games. Community members interested in helping may contact pto@mmk.wednet.edu for details or to sign up.

Following the winter concert on Thursday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m., the PTO will provide cookies and hot cocoa for attendees. Families are also invited to the next PTO meeting on Wednesday, December 3 at 3:30 p.m. in Mrs. Jewett's classroom.

The PTO extends its appreciation to the community for its ongoing support and participation in school events, helping make this school year a positive and engaging experience for students.

Classy
MMK BEANIES



PLEASE FIND A PTO MEMBER TO PURCHASE
$20 EACH

From The Lohman Zone -Mrs. Lohman:

Preschool, Hi Cap Coordinator, Math & Reading Interventionist



Braden, Remington, Harper, Hunter, and Jasper enjoy snack during a read aloud at MMK After-school Tutoring. We work on comprehension questions.



Hunter and Jasper use Geo Boards to construct hexagons during a shape lesson. The students actively create flat (2-D) and solid (3-D) shapes and memorize the shapes' names. We learn and review vocabulary words like: edges, corner-points, faces, sides, parallel, obtuse, acute, and right angles. I lead whole-group instruction, like this geo board lesson, and do one-on-one instruction during Rotation Stations. At stations, students practice with learning tools like puzzles, word-matches, and turn-taking games. Automaticity in math develops during play. We have a lot of fun, as we learn, at MMK's After-school Tutoring. (The current session is Nov. 13 to Dec. 18, 2025. There is no tutoring over holiday breaks.)

Saturday Morning Basketball

Saturday Basketball will start again in December and players in grades 2nd through 6th can also sign up to play in January's Shelton Parks & Rec youth basketball league.

Saturday Basketball is FREE for players in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. The Sports Boosters will cover the registration fees for the Shelton Parks & Rec league in Jan.

Saturday Basketball starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 10:30 a.m. Dates are December 6, 13, 20, 27 & January 3rd. The schedule for the Rec league will be shared when it becomes available, games are held in Shelton. Players who sign up for the Rec League must attend the Saturday Basketball practices to be eligible to play on the Rec League teams. If your child is sick though, please keep them home from practice.

REC LEAGUE OPEN TO MMK STUDENTS - GRADES 2-6
16 OPEN SPOTS- FIRST 16 PLAYERS TO TEXT
AMANDA GONZALES (360)490-5644 WILL SECURE SPOTS ON TEAMS.

We will form a wait list if we get more than 16 players and try to place them on teams if there is space. If enough wait list players sign up, a third team will be formed. If enough 2-3 grade players register, there will be a younger kids team and an older kids team. Otherwise, the younger kids will play up on the older teams. All teams will play on normal hoop height. Must have clean, non-marking Gym Shoes to practice and play!

Please remember that only kids who are practicing can be in the building during Saturday Basketball. No unattended children. No open gym. Parents are welcome to drop off/pick up or stay & watch from the stage, but let the coaches coach. We want a positive, fun environment where kids bring a good attitude and hustle to practices and learn basketball fundamentals. For questions, or to volunteer, please contact Amanda Gonzales at (360) 490-5644.

YMCA Swim Lessons

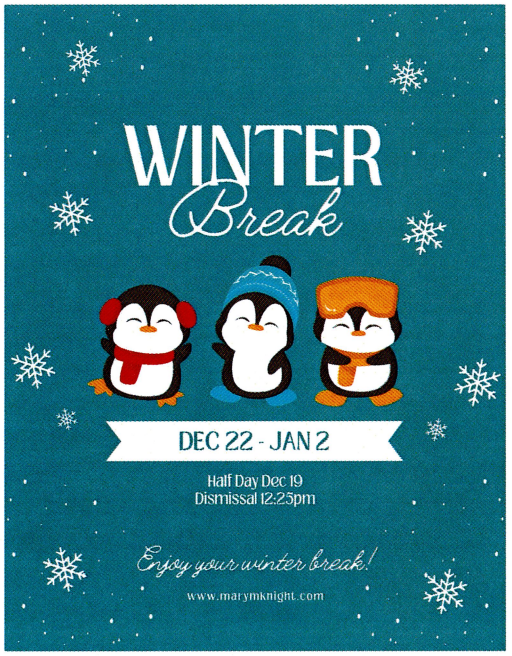
Swim Lessons are Coming!!!

Mary M. Knight School District students in kindergarten through third grade will participate in swim lessons this winter through a partnership with the Hoquiam YMCA. The program is made possible by a grant that provides four instructional sessions for each student.

Swim lessons will take place from **Tuesday, January 13, through Friday, January 16**. The lessons focus on water safety, basic swimming skills, and building confidence for young learners.

The district is seeking volunteers to help assist students during the lessons. Individuals interested in volunteering are asked to contact the main school office to obtain a volunteer packet. Teachers will also be reaching out to families as additional support is needed.

Permission slips for participating students will be sent home following Winter Break.



December Breakfast & Lunch Calendar

Day	Date	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	1	Egg & Biscuit	Corn Dog
Tuesday	2	Cinn Toast Crunch	Sloppy Joe
Wednesday	3	Quiche	Chicken Pozole
Thursday	4	Muffin Top & Go-Gurt	Teriyaki Chicken
Friday	5	Berry "Muffin" Bar	Pepperoni Pizza
Monday	8	Breakfast Burrito	Chicken & Black Bean Chili
Tuesday	9	Cocoa Puffs	Chicken Philly Sandwich
Wednesday	10	French Toast Bake	Hearty Beef Stew
Thursday	11	Smoothie & Muffin	Chicken Drumstick
Friday	12	Breakfast Biscuit	Pork Nachos
Monday	15	Chef's Choice	Hamburger
Tuesday	16	Honey Cheerios	Chef's Choice
Wednesday	17	Yogurt Parfait	Chicken Tortilla Soup
Thursday	18	Donut	Sweet & Sour Chicken
Friday	19	Berry Overnight Oats	Sausage Pizza
Monday	22	No School - Winter Break	
Tuesday	23		
Wednesday	24		
Thursday	25		
Friday	26		
Monday	29	No School - Winter Break	
Tuesday	30		
Wednesday	31		

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Menu is subject to change.
For the most up to date menu visit our online menu.

From The Lohman Zone -Mrs. Lohman:

Preschool, Hi Cap Coordinator, Math & Reading Interventionist

We are growing and learning at MMK Preschool

Friendships, Brains, and Skills are Developing!



Dr. Marigold gives Cody's baby a check up during Rotation Stations in The Lohman Zone.

Before school even starts, incoming MMK Preschoolers are assessed for how many uppercase letters they can name, the letters' sounds, numerals' names, rote counting, writing their name, and drawing a self-portrait.
There are 26 letters' names to learn. Multiplied by seven students, that makes 182 letter names for 100%. That is how I calculate the percentages. Here is a look at some of the progress Preschoolers have made, so far this year:

Learning target	Total # students knew at start of year	# at Nov 20th assessment
Letters named	23/182 (12.63%)	143/182 (78.57%)
Numerals 1-22 named	42/154 (27%)	119/154 (77.27%)



Each student brought a vehicle from home for this month's ***Wheelapahlouzah Day.***
Students constructed a village and a firehouse to drive their vehicles within.

Superintendent's Corner

DECEMVER 2025 MARY M. KNIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 311

Dear Mary M. Knight Families, Students, and Community,

The MMK Board of Directors has adopted a resolution to place a Replacement EP&O Levy on the ballot in February 2026. The ballot measure proposes collecting **$752,121 in 2027** and **$789,727 in 2028**. The estimated rate is **$2.08 per $1,000 of assessed property value**—the same rate voters approved in 2024.

This is a **replacement levy**, not a new tax. It replaces the current levy that is expiring and would fund the **2026–27 and 2027–28 school years**.

EP&O Levy: Supporting Our Students Every Day
Our Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy strengthens our commitment to knowing each student, understanding their strengths, and maintaining a safe, supportive learning environment.

Levy funds support:

- CTE (Vocational) programs with additional supplies, materials, and hands-on learning opportunities in career pathways
- Campus safety improvements
- Athletics and activities
- Additional staff and programs, such as Music, Preschool, nursing services, and additional teaching staff.
- Instructional materials and student technology
- Food service, equipment, and facility maintenance and repair

Our Vision
We are a community of learners and leaders united to enrich the lives of all students.

Levy funding helps bring this vision to life by supporting essential staff, sustaining classroom programs, and providing services that nurture the whole child. We continually work to improve our impact—trying new ideas, monitoring student progress, and adjusting our practices to meet each learner's needs.

The support of the EP&O Levy ensures we can continue this important work for every student, every day.

What Are Levy Equalization Funds?
Levy Equalization funds are provided by the state legislature to help "equalize" funding for school districts that do not have large commercial or high-value property bases. Districts like MMK rely on these funds to ensure students receive equitable opportunities—unlike property-rich areas such as Seattle or Bellevue, which can raise more revenue at lower tax rates.

How Levy Equalization Benefits MMK

- Every property owner in Washington contributes to Levy Equalization funding.
- If our local levy is approved, MMK receives these funds to support students and programs.

If the levy is not approved, MMK does **not** receive these funds, and the state distributes them to other districts.

In short: Passing the levy keeps state dollars here at home—supporting Mary M. Knight students instead of being redirected elsewhere.

The purpose of an EP&O levy is to fund educational programs and services that are **not covered under basic education funding**.

You will receive a district brochure in **January 2026** with more detailed information about the EP&O levy.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 360-426-6767.

Warm regards,
Matt Mallery
Superintendent of Schools
Mary M. Knight School District



Transportation Director's Corner

Happy Holidays

Dear Families,

As we move into December, winter is arriving in full force here in Matlock. With colder mornings, darker bus stop times, and unpredictable weather, this is an important moment to refocus on student safety and preparedness.

Winter Weather & Road Conditions
Our district's unique geography brings a mix of weather patterns—from clear, dry mornings to icy back roads. We monitor conditions daily and make decisions with student safety as the top priority. Please be prepared for late starts, snow routes, or closures.

Safety in Dark Morning Hours
Many students head to their bus stops before daylight. Please help keep them safe by reminding them to:
- Stand in a well-lit area whenever possible
- Use a small flashlight, phone light, or clip-on light
- Wear reflective or bright-colored clothing
- Arrive at least five minutes early

Please ensure students dress appropriately for winter conditions:
- Warm coats
- Hats and gloves
- Waterproof or sturdy shoes
- Extra layers on cold days

Wishing all of our families a warm, safe, and joyful holiday season,

Toby Lane
Director of Transportation
Mary M. Knight School District



December Event Calendar

Monday, Dec 1:
MSBB vs Oakville
Boys B Game 4:00pm
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys A Game 7:00pm
Tuesday, Dec 2:
Art Club Grades 4-6 3:00pm
SkillsUSA Meeting 3:00pm
Wednesday, Dec 3:
Late Start
ASB Meeting 12:30pm
PTO Meeting3:30pm
MSBB @ Queets
Boys Game 5:30pm
Girls Game 7:00pm
Thursday, Dec 4:
Friday, Dec 5:
Pep Assembly 2:05pm
HSBB @ Oakville
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys Game 7:00pm
Saturday, Dec 6:
Saturday Basketball 9:00am
HSW Ocosta Invite 10:00am
2025 Christmas Town USA 5:00pm
Sunday, Dec 7:
Monday, Dec 8:
MSBB vs Lake Quinault ***
Boys Game 5:30pm
Girls Game 7:00pm
Tuesday, Dec 9:
Art Club Grades 7-12 3:00pm
HSBB @ Naselle
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys Game 7:00pm
Wednesday, Dec 10:
Late Start
MSBB @ Wishkah
Boys Game 5:30pm
Girls Game 7:00pm
Thursday, Dec 11:
HSBB @ Evergreen Lutheran
Girls ONLY 5:30pm
Friday, Dec 12:
TRL Anywhere Library
HSBB vs Willapa Valley
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys Game 7:00pm
Saturday, Dec 13:
Saturday Basketball 9:00am
HSW @ WF West
Sunday, Dec 14:
Monday, Dec 15:
ASB Meeting 12:15pm
MSBB @ Taholah
Boys Game 5:30pm
Girls Game 7:00pm
Tuesday, Dec 16:
Art Club Grades 4-6 3:00pm
SkillsUSA Meeting 3:00pm
HSBB @ Ocosta
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys Game 7:00pm
Wednesday, Dec 17:
Late Start
MSBB @ Oakville
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys Game 7:00pm
Thursday, Dec 18:
Elementary Winter Concert 5:30pm
HSBB @ Tenino
Boys Game 5:30pm
Girls Game 7:00pm
Friday, Dec 19:
Early Dismissal 12:25pm
HSBB vs Lake Quinault
Girls Game 5:30pm
Boys Game 7:00pm
Saturday, Dec 20:
Saturday Basketball 9:00am
HSW @ Grays Harbor Champions
Sunday, Dec 21:
Senior Trip
Monday, Dec 22:
HSBB @ Quilcene
Girls Game 2:00pm
Boys Game 3:30pm
Tuesday, Dec 23:
Wednesday, Dec 24:
Thursday, Dec 25:
Friday, Dec 26:
Saturday, Dec 27:
Saturday Basketball 9:00am
Sunday, Dec 28:
Monday, Dec 29:
Board Meeting 12:00pm
Tuesday, Dec 30:
Wednesday, Dec 31:

*** = **8th Grade Fly Up Night**

Calendar Updated on 11/21/2025
For the latest event details, please consult our online calendar.

From The Lohman Zone -Mrs. Lohman:

Preschool, Hi Cap Coordinator, Math & Reading Interventionist

This is the second school-year that MMK staff have been learning about and implementing a Teacher Clarity (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN26HtvaERM) initiative under the guidance of AP Bell. The week of November 17 to 21, teachers were given a Challenge Assignment to create and deliver a lesson that included a guided reading with instruction in annotation symbols, feedback-loops, and assessment. The Learning Intentions and alignment help students to know WHAT they are supposed to be learning...and how they'll know, when they have been successful at the learning it.

The title of this challenge was: **INTENTIONAL EXCELLENCE: Deep Reading Strategies That Make Thinking Visible.**

My first thought was, *"This is too lofty and detailed for preschoolers."* But then I applied two of my 'quality tests' to what was being asked of me:

1. As a parent, *would I want my children (and now grandchildren) to do it?*
2. **What I permit, I promote**...so, if I permit students to "just enjoy the story," and not expect them to be listening for information and details, *then that is what I am promoting.* Not having the expectation that students are going to 'read for comprehension' leads to students who cannot comprehend what they read. Challenge accepted.

I brainstormed for a few minutes and thought about how I would have to deliberately and pictorially walk the preschoolers through the process. I knew it would take multiple lesson sessions, because even highly intelligent, older students who are engaged and motivated can only listen for so many minutes before they zone out. (First, I had to explain that when we walk somewhere, we take "**steps**" ...and that lessons have "steps," too. This procedure included 5 Steps:

Step 1: Pre-Reading Preparation

Step 2: First Read

Step 3: Second Read – Active Annotation that included students coding the reading passage with Stars (for key ideas and important information,) Question mark (for unclear/unknown words, places they needed help, and confusing parts,) and Exclamation points (when they were surprised, had a strong reaction, or made a text-to-self connection.)

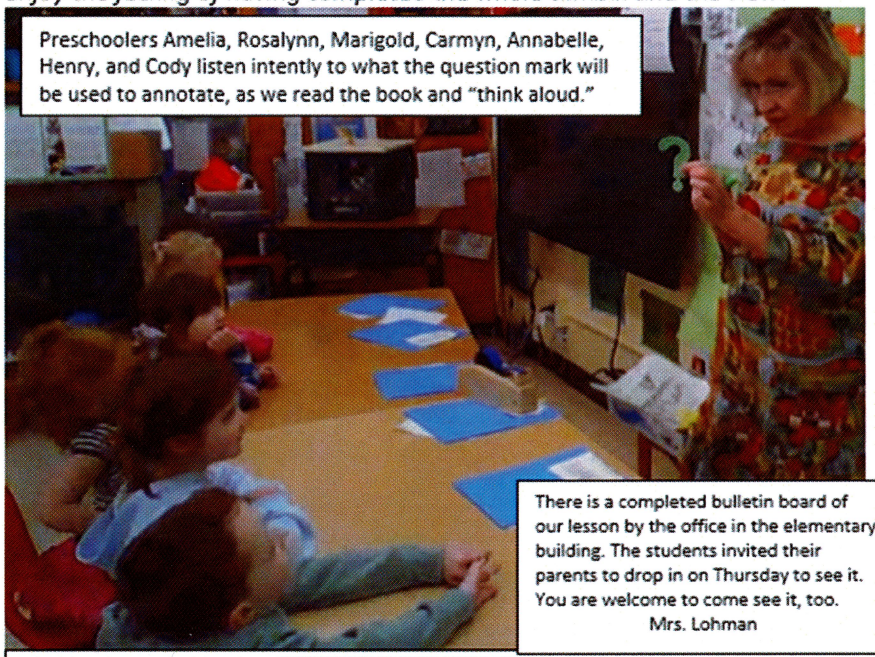
Step 4: Co-create the Success Criteria Checklist with the students by considering the question: ***"How do you know when you've done this well?"***

Step 5: Use Annotations as a Formative Assessment. Teachers were to collect the students' copies and review the work to see what students identified as important. We were to evaluate where there was confusion and what parts of the reading passage had caused students to feel connected to it. We could then use this knowledge about student interest and feelings to plan our next lesson.

So... How'd it go for Preschoolers?

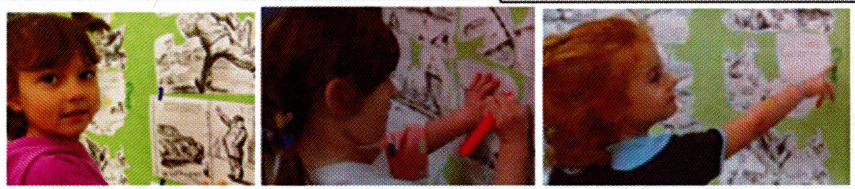
We did this lesson Monday and Tuesday (Nov. 17 & 18.) All preschoolers connected with the characters and story of ***Make Way for Ducklings***, by Robert McCloskey. (Read aloud at: https://youtu.be/83Circtj7Tg .)

I segmented the lessons with outside playtime and Rotation Station sessions, so that students did not have to sit too long. When students' attention would start to flag, I compared our lesson challenge to climbing a mountain. *"When you climb a mountain, you need to stick with it, so you can enjoy the feeling of having completed the whole climb... and the view!"*



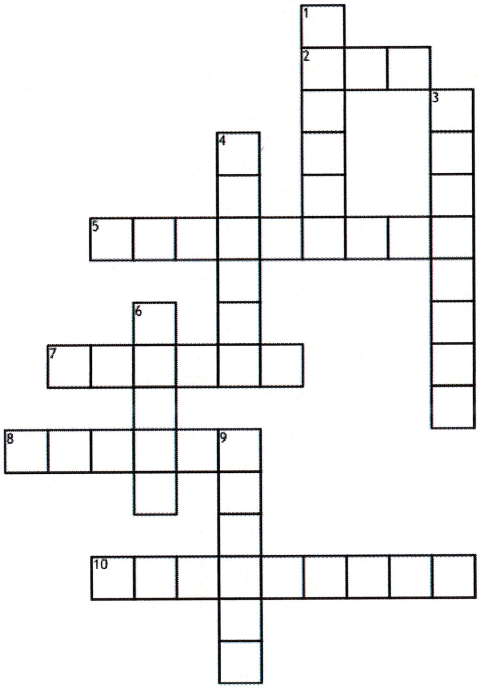
Preschoolers Amelia, Rosalynn, Marigold, Carmyn, Annabelle, Henry, and Cody listen intently to what the question mark will be used to annotate, as we read the book and "think aloud."

There is a completed bulletin board of our lesson by the office in the elementary building. The students invited their parents to drop in on Thursday to see it. You are welcome to come see it, too.
Mrs. Lohman



Amelia, Marigold, and Carmyn making annotations and explaining connections they felt during the story.

Winter Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. You wear it on your head
5. You can get warm by this inside
7. You wear them on your hands
8. You wear them on your feet when it's icy
10. December 25th

Down

1. You use it to pick up snow
3. Very icy cold
4. Children ride on it in snow
6. You wear them on your feet in the snow
9. A sport you can do in the snow

The Food Service Corner

This month, we piloted a second-choice breakfast option—cereal—and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. With this addition, we've seen an increase of about **15 more students per day** choosing to eat breakfast at school. We also experienced exceptionally high participation during our recent **Breakfast for Lunch** service, a student favorite!

At MMK, **both breakfast and lunch are provided to all students at no cost**, and participation continues to grow. On average, **50% of students eat breakfast** while **67% join us for lunch** each day. We're excited to see these numbers rise as we expand options and respond to student input.

Our Food Service team welcomes menu suggestions, and students have been enthusiastically sharing their ideas. One student requested **Hot Pockets**, and we were able to locate some—look for them on the menu later this year! Shantel even submitted her own favorite: **cheese-stuffed breadsticks,** which are made in-house. And Mr. Mallery was thrilled to see his request fulfilled—a homemade **Cheese Zombie** served with classic tomato soup.

We look forward to continuing to serve meals students love and to making the dining experience even better with your feedback!

