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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PTO Corner

Beanie Sale
Stay warm this winter with our cozy school beanies—now on sale for just $20 each! Beanies are available for purchase before school, after school, and at PTO concessions. Don't miss your chance to show your school spirit while supporting our programs.

Holiday Bazaar
Mark your calendars! The annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 8, and Sunday, November 9. Flyers for local businesses and social media promotions are underway.

Vendor registration fees are $45 for early registration and $60 after October 12. The fee covers participation for both days.
New this year: All vendors must sign a contract agreeing to remain until the designated release time on Sunday, November 9. Vendors who pack up early will not be invited back in the future.

Volunteers are also needed to visit surrounding businesses to request donations in support of upcoming PTO events. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Winter Mini Classes
Teachers will be organizing holiday craft activities for students as part of our Winter Mini Classes. The PTO will also be serving cookies, hot chocolate, and cider during the school's Christmas Program—a festive way to celebrate the season together.

Next Meeting
Please join us for the next PTO meeting on Wednesday, November 5, at 3:30 p.m. in the school library.
Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this school year the best yet!

Skyward Family Access

Skyward Family Access is transforming how parents engage with their children's education. This online platform connects families to real-time school data, offering a comprehensive suite of tools that enhance communication and monitor student progress.

Key Features for Parents
1. Academic Tracking: View grades, attendance, and class schedules to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
2. Assignment Monitoring: Stay updated on upcoming assignments and tests to help children manage their time effectively.
3. Teacher Communication: Easily message teachers and schedule conferences to foster collaboration.
4. Attendance Records: Access real-time attendance data to promptly address any issues.
5. Financial Management: Monitor student fees and lunch balances for easy financial oversight.
6. Custom Notifications: Set alerts for grades, attendance issues, and assignments.

Benefits for Families
Skyward Family Access empowers parents to play an active role in their children's education, enhancing support for academic goals and celebrating achievements. As research shows, parental involvement positively impacts student success, making tools like Skyward invaluable.

For more information or to access Skyward Family Access, please contact Shantel Freeman, the Executive Assistant. You can reach her at sfreeman@mmk.wednet.edu for any questions or support you may need.

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 students will again have the pleasure of swim lessons through the Hoquiam YMCA. Thanks to a grant that was received, students in grades K through 2 will have 4 lessons.

Swim lessons will start on Tuesday January 13th and end on Friday, January 16th.

As always, volunteers will be needed to assist students. If you are interested in volunteering for swim lessons, please contact the main school office to receive your volunteer packet. Teachers will be reaching out to you about needing hands to help!

Students will need a swim suit and a towel and some sort of bag to put their wet items in after lessons.

Students will depart the school at 11:45 and return around 2:45. They will receive lunch before leaving for swim lessons. You may want to pack a snack for the ride home as swimming makes us hungry!

Please return the bottom portion of this so we have parent permission for your student to attend. Please return to your classroom teacher NO LATER than Friday, January 10th.

My Child_____has permission to attend swim lessons.

_____
Parent Signature

_____
Date

November Breakfast & Lunch Calendar

Day	Date	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	3	Chef's Choice	Hamburger & Fries
Tuesday	4	Honey Cheerios	Breakfast for Lunch
Wednesday	5	Yogurt Parfait w/ Granola	Chicken Tortilla Soup
Thursday	6	Donut	Sweet & Sour Chicken
Friday	7	Berry Overnight Oats	Sausage Pizza
Monday	10	No School - Professional Development	
Tuesday	11	No School - Veteran's Day	
Wednesday	12	Scone	Bison & Lentil Chili w/ Cornbread
Thursday	13	Oatmeal Bars	Chicken Parm Sandwich
Friday	14	Cheesy, Potato, Egg, & Bacon Bake	Chicken Nachos
Monday	17	Calzone	Chicken Burger & Fries
Tuesday	18	Lucky Charms	Mac & Cheese w/Hot Dog in Bun
Wednesday	19	Pancake Dipper	Cheesy Tomato Soup & Cheese Zombie
Thursday	20	Homemade Granola & Yogurt	Orange Chicken
Friday	21	Cocoa Banana Bars	Double Cheese Pizza
Monday	24	Bagel & Cream Cheese	Deli Combo Sandwich & Chips
Tuesday	25	Cinnamon Chex	Cheese Stuffed Breadstick & Marinara Cup
Wednesday	26	No School - Thanksgiving Break	
Thursday	27	No School - Thanksgiving Break	
Friday	28	No School - Thanksgiving Break	

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.

Timberland Library Anywhere Library

Anywhere library will be returning to Mary M. Knight starting Friday, November 14th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the second Friday of every month going forward.

This service will look a little different in that students will be able to check books out without the fear of fines if they lose a book. This service will be offered from within the school library! We are excited to pair up again with them and their services!



Superintendent's Corner

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

You will be receiving additional information in January 2026 about our upcoming Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) levy, formerly known as the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) levy. Ballots will be mailed to voters on January 24, 2026, and must be returned or postmarked by February 10, 2026.

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

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

The Board of Directors and I are very aware that property values in Mason and Grays Harbor Counties have increased since voters last approved the EP&O levy. In 2024, voters supported an EP&O levy at a rate of $2.08 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.

At the upcoming November Board meeting, the MMK Board of Directors will be adopting a resolution to place a **Replacement EP&O Levy** on the ballot in February 2026 at the **same rate—$2.08 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.** This is the same rate that voters approved in 2024.

Maintaining this rate allows us to continue funding our current programs, even with increased property values, while keeping the overall tax impact consistent with previous years.

An additional benefit of passing our local levy is that the Mary M. Knight School District qualifies for **Levy Equalization funds**. These funds are provided by the state legislature to help "equalize" funding for school districts that do not have large commercial or high-value properties—unlike areas such as Seattle or Bellevue, which can raise far more revenue at lower tax rates.

Every property owner in Washington contributes a portion of their taxes to Levy Equalization Funds. With an approval of our local levy, **we ensure that these funds stay local**—supporting MMK students and programs rather than being distributed elsewhere. Please note that **Levy Equalization funds are only available if the local levy is approved by voters**.

You will receive a brochure from the district 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



Dear Families,

As we step into November, the chill in the air reminds us that winter and icy weather are just around the corner. This is the perfect time to make sure our students are prepared for the colder mornings and unpredictable weather that come with the season.

Please make sure your children are dressed warmly for their morning bus rides — coats, hats, gloves, and sturdy, dry shoes make all the difference. The mornings can be especially cold and damp, and we want every student to be comfortable while they wait for the bus.

As the days get shorter and the mornings darker, it's important that students stand in a visible, well-lit location where the bus driver can clearly see them. Reflective clothing, light-colored jackets, or small clip-on lights can help drivers spot students more easily — especially on foggy or rainy mornings.

Please remind your children to:

- Arrive at least five minutes early to the bus stop.
- Wait safely and calmly away from the roadway.
- Always follow the bus driver's instructions.
- Cross 10 feet in front of the bus when it's safe and the driver signals them to do so.

Your help in reinforcing these habits is essential in keeping our students safe every day.

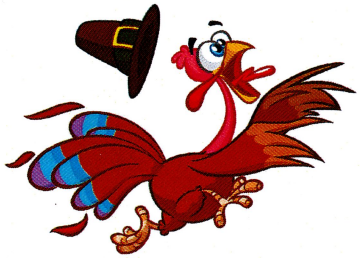
Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make student safety our top priority this season.



Warm regards,
Toby Lane
Director of Transportation
Mary M. Knight School District

November Event Calendar

Saturday, Nov 1:
HSFB at Crescent 1:00pm
Sunday, Nov 2:
Daylight Savings
Monday, Nov 3:
MS BB Practice Starts
Tuesday, Nov 4:
SkillsUSA Meeting 3:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 5:
Late Start
ASB Meeting 12:30pm
PTO Meeting 3:30pm
Thursday, Nov 6:
HSFB at WSD 1:00pm
Friday, Nov 7:
Lion's Vision Screening
Saturday, Nov 8:
PTO Bazaar 10am-6pm
Sunday, Nov 9:
PTO Bazaar 10am-2pm
Monday, Nov 10:
No School—PD
Tuesday, Nov 11:
No School—Veteran's Day
Wednesday, Nov 12:
Late Start
Thursday, Nov 13:
Friday, Nov 14:
Picture Re-Take Day
TRL Anywhere Library
World Class Scholars Presentation
ASB Meeting 12:15pm
Saturday, Nov 15:
Sunday, Nov 16:
Monday, Nov 17:
HS BB Practice Starts
HS Wrestling Practice Starts
MS BB at Queets
Girls 5:30pm
Boys 7:00pm
Tuesday, Nov 18:
SkillsUSA Meeting 3:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 19:
Late Start
MS BB vs Taholah
Girls 5:30pm
Boys 7:00pm
Thursday, Nov 20:
Running Start Info Session 5:30pm
Friday, Nov 21:
Saturday, Nov 22:
Sunday, Nov 23:
Monday, Nov 24:
MS BB vs Wishkah
Girls 5:30pm
Boys 7:00pm
School Board Meeting 6:00pm
Tuesday, Nov 25:
MS BB at Lake Quinault
Girls 5:30pm
Boys 7:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 26:
No School—Thanksgiving Break
Thursday, Nov 27:
No School—Thanksgiving Break
Friday, Nov 28:
No School—Thanksgiving Break
Saturday, Nov 29:
HS BB Elma Jamboree—TBD
Sunday, Nov 30:



News from The Lohman Zone

Mrs. Lohman: Preschool, Hi Cap, Math & Reading Interventionist

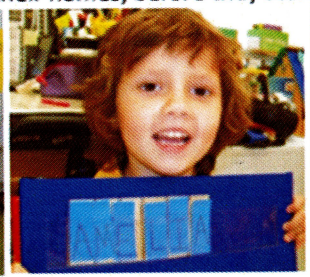
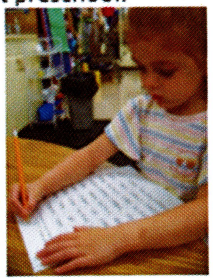


Names are important. In The Lohman Zone, I build independence and pride by using systems. But the systems. I begin with phots of the children on schedules and areas, so they know the answer to, "Where do I go?" I pair the photo with their printed name. I 'fade' the use of the photo, as students learn to recognize their names.

Cody has paper letter tiles to construct his name. After he learned to build his first name, I added tiles his last name. Now he can build and write both names from memory.

The letters in a child's first name are the best ones to use, when starting to teach letters' names and sounds. These are the letters that mean the most to a child. When they know the names and sounds, then we can use them to build short words that use familiar letters. For instance, ANNABELLE can be used on letter tiles to build: AN, BAN, BELL, BALL, NAN, NAB, AND LAB.

If your child is headed to MMK Preschool next year, please watch for news about Next Year's Kids' Club in the January MMK Newsletter. At the NYKC Meetings, I make these name templates and letter tiles for the students-to-be, so they can have time to become familiar with their names, before they start preschool.

After becoming familiar with their own name, students learn to find and circle their names on increasingly more complex sheets with all the students' names on them.



Standing Strong for America's Heroes

Our school has chosen to partner with the Gary Sinise Foundation (GSF) for our annual Veteran's Day Penny Wars because it reflects the same values we teach our students: gratitude, service, and community. While there are many organizations that assist veterans, we believe the GSF offers a uniquely transparent, affective, and morale-building approach to honoring those who serve.

1 More of Every Dollar Helps Veterans Directly

- Over 94¢ of every dollar goes directly to programs supporting our wounded heroes, first responders, and their families.
- Low Fundraising Costs: Only 6¢ per dollar raised. This is far lower than the national average for large charities, most of whom spend 20¢ to 25¢ to raise a dollar in donations.

2 Programs that Build Independence and Morale

- R.I.S.E. Program: Builds custom smart homes for severely wounded veterans, helping them live independently and with dignity.
- Community & Education: Supports Gold Star families, children of fallen heroes, and first responders through scholarships and outreach programs.

3 Proven Accountability and Transparency

- 4 Stars (100%) rating with Charity Navigator for fundraising efficiency, financial health, and transparency.
- Top Ratings from CharityWatch and the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

HOW IT COMPARES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	
Program Spending	**Many Other Large Veteran Charities**
88% to Direct Programs	**Often 70-80% to Direct Programs**
$6 to raise $100	**Up to $25-$30 to raise $100**
Direct Assistance to families and community morale	**Broader Awareness Campaigns**

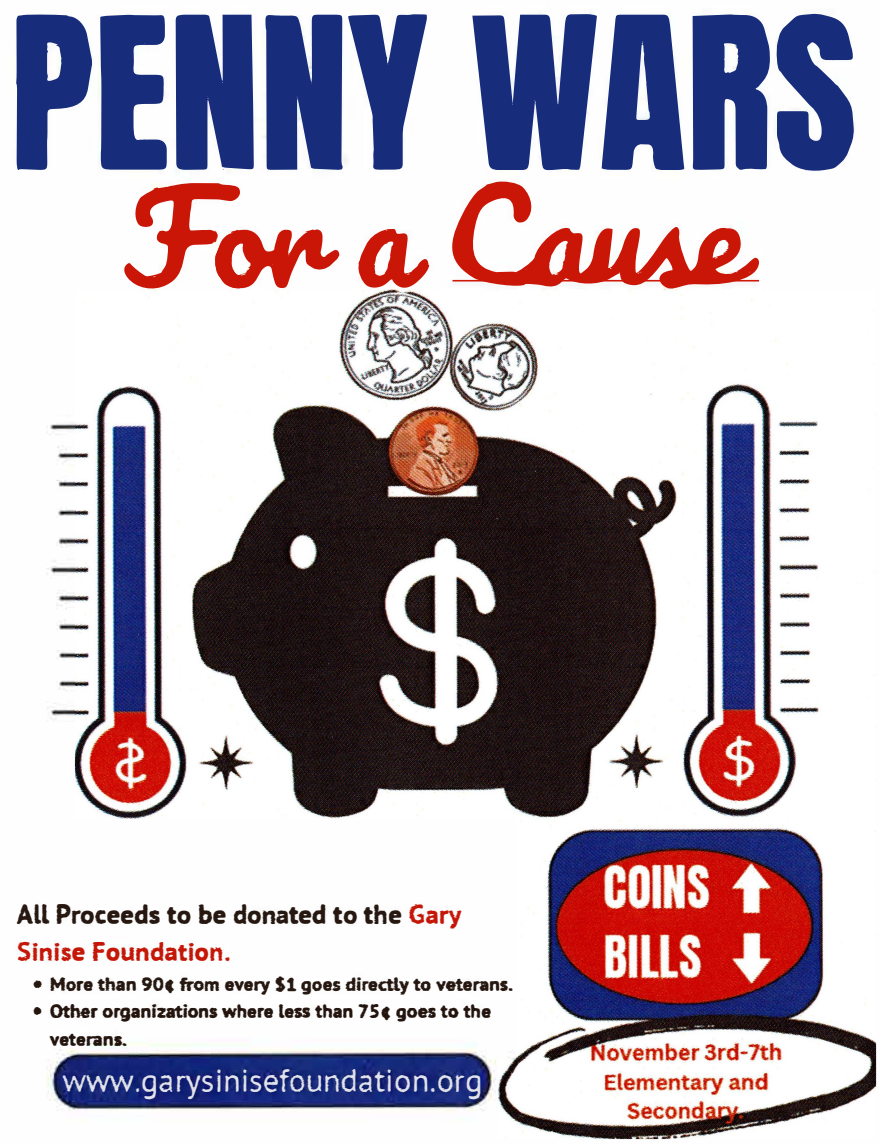
WHY THIS MATTERS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

- **Gratitude:** Recognizing the sacrifices of our service members.
- **Service:** Contributing to causes that make a measurable impact.
- **Integrity:** Choosing organizations that use donations responsibly.

Together, we're helping to rebuild lives, restore independence, and remind America's heroes that they are never forgotten.

LEARN MORE OR DONATE | garysinisefoundation.org | Follow: @GarySiniseFoundation

Penny Wars



The Food Service Corner

Food Service Team Cooks Up New Breakfast Favorites

The Food Service Team has been hard at work testing a variety of new scratch-made breakfast menu items this month, bringing fresh flavors and homemade goodness to our school mornings.

Students have enjoyed sampling delicious new options including the Harvest Muffin, Cinnamon Roll, Homemade Granola with Yogurt, Quiche, Blueberry Muffin Top with Go-Gurt, and a warm, comforting French Toast Bake. Each new dish has been prepared from scratch with care, as the team continues to explore recipes that are both nutritious and student-approved.

"We're excited to keep trying out new recipes in the kitchen," said members of the Food Service Team. "It's been great to see students enjoying our homemade options."

In addition to the new menu items, the department is thrilled to announce that a brand-new serving line has arrived and will be up and running very soon. The new setup will help streamline meal service and make breakfast and lunch even more efficient and enjoyable for everyone.

Thank You for Supporting Free Meals for All Students

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to every family who turned in their CNEEB form this year! Completing this form each year is vital—it helps Mary M. Knight School maintain its Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) status, which allows the district to continue serving free meals to all students.

The form must be filled out annually by each family, and without enough completed forms, MMK could lose its CEP eligibility. Your participation makes a real difference in keeping meals accessible and free for every student. Thank you for your continued support!

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in Full Swing

Our Elementary Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) has kicked off to a great start this year! Students have had the opportunity to sample a variety of fresh and exciting produce, including white nectarines, Italian sweet orange peppers, house-made corn salsa, kiwi berries, red kiwis, Happi pears, Kissabel apples, strawberries, and starfruit.

The students have enjoyed exploring these unique and healthy options, and we can't wait to try even more fresh produce with our elementary classes in the coming months!