



Kids Stuff



Saddle Up for St. Jude's at Horse Country Farm

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 21 from 1-4 p.m. It's the annual Saddle Up for St. Jude's fund-raiser and Summer Camp Open House. Sign up for day camp, enjoy a half-hour trail ride or riding lesson, lease a horse, give your little one a pony

ride - 50% of everything that comes in on Sunday goes to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Meet award-winning local authors who will be signing and selling their books, including Shannon Kennedy who uses the horses at Horse Country Farm in her

Shamrock Stable series. May 21 is also the last day for your child to write an essay and win a session of 3-Day Wild West Horse Camp. St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital is the hospital that actor Danny Thomas and now daughter Marlo Thomas

believe in so strongly. It's for kids with catastrophic childhood diseases and no child is turned away because of the family's inability to pay. Located on Hwy. 92, between Granite Falls and Lake Stevens, Horse Country Farm is an easy Sunday drive. Bring long,

skinny carrots and come visit! Horse Country is open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For more information, call 360-691-7509 or 425-335-4773, or visit www.horsecountryfarm.com or www.camphorsecountry.com



Pictured at right is Molly on Sedona enjoying a ride at Horse Country Farm in Granite Falls. May 21 is the last day for your child to write an essay for a chance to win three days at Wild West Horse Camp.

Fun at your local library

Snohomish Library 311 Maple Ave.

- Paper Art: May 5 ~ Do you like cutting, folding, or gluing things together? Come do paper art! Experiment with hexaflexagons, origami, kirigami, quilling, and Mexican paper flowers. For school-aged kids. 3pm
- Reading with Rover: May 6, June 3 ~ Read aloud to a loving canine listener. For children with a caregiver. 11am
- Digging into Dirt: May 12 ~ Prepare to get dirty! Learn about soil, composting, plants and the environment. Build your own take-home worm farm and help plant flowers and seeds in the library's garden. For school-age kids. Wear gardening clothes. Registration required by 2:55 p.m. on May 12. Supported by the Snohomish Garden Club and the Friends of the Snohomish Library. 3pm

• Mystery Math Mind Meld: May 19 ~ Come hang out at the library and play games like Chocolate Fix, Mancala, Mastermind, Math Dice Jr., Qwirkle, and more. You don't have to admit that math mind melding with friends could be fun. For ages 9 and up. 3pm

Monroe Library 1070 Village Way

• Reading with Rover: May 27 ~ Read aloud to a loving canine listener. For school-age children with a caregiver. 11am

Mukilteo Library 4675 Harbour Pt. Blvd.

• Read with Carmen and Risa: May 9, 16, 23, 30 ~ Read with one of these sweet therapy dogs for 15 minutes and receive a "pawtograph" souvenir. For school-age

children. 3:30pm

Sultan Library 319 Main Street

• LEGOZ Club: May 20 ~ Come and build to your heart's content using LEGOZ, Roylco Straws, K'NEX and more! Snacks provided. For families. 10am

Everett Library - Main 2702 Hoyt

• Paws to Read: May 9, 16, 23 ~ Read aloud to gentle therapy dogs. 3:30pm
• Brick Builders: May 11, 18, 23 ~ 4pm
• Louie Foxx: May 13 ~ Louie Foxx presents "Reading is Magic." 2pm

Everett Library - Evergreen

9512 Evergreen Way
• Paws to Read: May 8, 15, 22 ~ Read aloud to gentle therapy dogs. 3pm
• Brick Builders: May 10, 17, 24 ~ 4pm

Finding the right camp



With a little help from the camp professionals at the American Camp Association, here's some sound advice that helps parents sort through the choices and benefits that camp delivers.

How to Decide When Your Child is Ready for Camp

Children are ready for new experiences at different stages. Parents know their children best and these questions can

help gauge whether this is the summer your child will start camp.

Children under age seven may not adjust easily to being away from home. Consider the day camp experience to prepare them for future overnight camp.

Does your child talk about camp on a sustained basis? How much persuasion is necessary from you?

Has your child had positive overnight experiences away from home? Were these separations easy or difficult?

What does your child expect to do at camp? Learning about the camp experience ahead of time allows you to create positive expectations.

Are you able to share consistent and positive messages about camp? Your confidence in a positive experience will be contagious.

Session Lengths

Camp can last for just a few days or stretch to all summer long. It's well worth the trouble to investigate the variety of choices offered by camps before your child packs a backpack.

• Benefits of Short Sessions (one-three weeks): First-time or younger campers have a chance to learn new skills; bonds develop with other campers and staff; great exposure to camp experience with less expense; minimizes homesickness.

• Benefits of Longer Sessions (four-twelve weeks): Strong sense of belonging to camp community; chance to learn new skills; development of specialized skills; multiple opportunities for learning and enrichment; lifelong friendships; opportunities to contribute to camp culture.

Courtesy of American Camp Assn.

Register Now! Summer Day Camp

New
Extended
Hours!
6am-7pm

Hey Kids... Do you like Sports? Computers? Field Trips? Arts & Crafts? Making New Friends?

Hey Parents... Is your child between 5-18 years old? Do you want a wide range of activities for your child? A safe place with caring adults?

**Summer Camps are Monday thru Friday
Call Now for Registration!**

- Currently enrolling for before and after school care for school age children
- Now serving ALL Snohomish Schools! Transportation provided

Now accepting DSHS Payments

Please call or email Marci Volmer at 360-568-7760 or mvolmer@bgcsc.org
402 Second Street • Snohomish



Kids Stuff

Local youth growing vegetables and flowers at school

By **KAREN LAW**
contributing writer

The skies were gray, but there was no lack of sunny faces among the students working on the unique garden beds at Whittier Elementary in Everett.

Second-graders Dillon Adams and Peter White, both 8, mix compost and organic matter for marigold seeds under paraeducator Cami Martin's supervision. Later, four more students, Lulu Pray, Tenley Cappola, Madisun Williams-Strong and Michah Carter, join up from another recess to learn about soil testing and perlite as Martin has them prepare planting pots and trays.

"I'll help carry the trays," Lulu volunteers, while Tenley coaches Madisun about getting on her garden gloves to shovel compost-rich soil into her pot.

"Is it concrete?" Michah asks as he rubs a perlite granule between his fingers for the first time.

Martin launches into a lesson about how perlite helps soil from drying out and Dillon catches on quickly.

"It's like a sponge, so you don't have to water as much," he says.

The students are part of Whittier Elementary's Garden

Club, a group that numbers about 15 to 20 kids each year who give up part of their recess time each day to help Mother Nature produce vegetables and flowers.

"We grow strawberries, cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini, squash, broccoli and cauliflower," Martin said. "And we have gardens that represent different areas. There's the North America garden and the Asia garden, for example, and for the Pacific Northwest, we're going to have a rain garden put in with a totem made by a man from the Tulalip Indian tribe."

There are 40 growing beds in all, and just this year, an apple orchard was added at the front of the school with ten trees planted

The program is in its third year and entirely supported by the school PTA and community businesses. It has become a vibrant showcase for hands-on learning, producing nutritional organic ingredients for Whittier's school salads and creating top-notch educational displays at the Evergreen State Fair.

In fact, the garden club won first place the very first time they entered last year.

"We're the only school in the county that has 4-H on site," Martin said with pride,

adding that there is a strong STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) component too. She pointed to an unusual bed filled with small PVC pipes, explaining that it was for students trying to see if they could grow perfectly round carrots, and gave a tour of a raised pond built with cement bricks and a liner that will be used to raise koi fish to learn about their life cycle, diet, and pond filtration principles.

Another project that will teach about water pressure, hydraulics, gears and other engineering concepts is in the works for next year, Martin said. It will be a fountain

created from musical instruments.

PTA events coordinator and parent volunteer, Maribeth Halstead, is another dynamo behind the club's success. Martin coordinates learning concepts with Whittier's teachers and staff and Halstead coordinates PTA support, club events and contributions from community partners such as the Starbucks on 10th Avenue, which supplies used coffee grounds, and the Marysville Home Depot.

The garden funding also has a direct link to the Everett Garden Club's annual plant sale, which happens May 13 this year. The money raised

at the plant sale goes to grants for projects such as school gardens.

Penny Creek and Hawthorne elementary schools, North Middle School, as well as Olivia Park Elementary, received garden club grants of \$500 each this year, club president Kathy Nazare said.

The Snohomish Garden Club also uses its grant money to support school gardens in similar fashion to various elementary schools and Glacier Peak High School, club spokeswoman Patricia Warren said.

As for how Whittier's student body benefits from the garden, school lunches have never been more lively.

heard two little girls arguing in the lunchroom the other day over who should get this pink pansy in their salad," said Martin with a laugh. Thanks to the garden club, Whittier's students are now savvy to the fact that rose petals, violets and pansies are not only colorful but edible.

"I like working the garden and the edible flowers," said Peter. "When I get home, I like to help my mom take care of our garden, too."

It seems the Whittier Elementary Garden Club is growing a lot more than just fruits, flowers and vegetables.



photo by Kaitlyn Price

Peter White, 8, Cami Martin and Dillon Adams, 8, prepare to plant Lemon Queen Sunflowers in the garden at Whittier Elementary on Tuesday, April 25.

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