



Medical Lake School District 326

January 2008 Newsletter



A Message from the Superintendent:

by Dr. Pam Veltri, Superintendent

On December 11, 2007, the Medical Lake School District Board of Directors passed a resolution to run a bond to take care of facility needs for the next 20 to 30 years. The bond would include:

- **A new K-3 elementary ON THE SAME SITE as the current building located on Prentis Street. The new building would be built around the old building and after students move into the new classrooms the old building would be torn down. This saves approximately \$200,000 over modernizing the old building and allows children to remain in their school while the building is being constructed.**
- **Replacement of the aging portable classrooms at the middle school with eight new classrooms. This would allow students to remain in their building for classes. They would be able to go to their classroom and use the restroom without walking outside to and from the main building, sometimes in bad weather.**

In 2001, a group of citizens, including parents and community members, worked on our Strategic Plan which included a long-range facilities plan. At that time they recommended to the School Board that Medical Lake Elementary needed to be replaced and Medical Lake Middle School needed to be modernized. They also concluded that to modernize Medical Lake Elementary School would cost as much or more than a new school, so a new school would be the best option for children. Since that time the School Board has continued to look at facility needs. The issues with Medical Lake Elementary School have not changed. It is an old building with many fire and safety issues. At Medical Lake Middle School, students still leave the building and walk outside to portable classrooms without bathrooms. Some days the students brave snow and ice as they walk to the portable classrooms and some days they are soaked from heavy rains. In May and June of 2007, the Board contracted with CFM Research to conduct a community survey. The survey results showed that citizens favor a funding measure to improve Medical Lake Elementary and Medical Lake Middle School.

Why build a new elementary school?

The current Medical Lake Elementary school is close to 50 years old. The fire safety equipment, wiring and electricity are not adequate for the needs of students. When the temperatures climb, the school does not have air conditioning and students become lethargic and learning is difficult. It has encapsulated asbestos throughout, which is not harmful unless it was exposed through construction. The cost to dispose of asbestos when a building is modernized is very expensive because it is considered a hazardous material. The goal of modernization when it comes to schools is to (1) extend the useful life of the building by 30 to 40 years and (2) bring the building into conformance with all current building codes. To accomplish these two goals would require all major systems in the existing building be modernized including but not limited to heating, cooling, ventilation, fire protection, wiring, plumbing, life safety, technology infrastructure, roofing, doors, windows, structural systems, seismic design, handicap accessibility, interior finishes, exterior finishes, energy code compliance, asbestos abatement and site improvements. To modernize the current Medical Lake Elementary, building estimates are in excess of \$200,000 above the cost of new construction.

Why build eight new classrooms at Medical Lake Middle School?

The existing building was built in the early 70's. The district has completed several upgrades to the building using maintenance and operation funds. These upgrades include: turning three classrooms into two state of the art science labs, replacing the carpet throughout the building, replacing the roof, replacing the carpet with tile in the multipurpose room, new heating and air conditioning, painting hallways, lockers and classrooms, and making all doors handicap accessible.

The middle school building still has many more useful years and with the addition of eight classrooms, it will be a viable building for educating middle school children. The eight classrooms will be used for teaching. Students will no longer have to go outside of the building and walk to their classes, sometimes in bad weather. They would have access to bathrooms in the main building without having to go outside, enter the main building and then return, which takes valuable class time.

(Continued on page 2)

Message from Superintendent Pam Veltri

(Continued from page 1)

Why build a new building on the same site as the current Medical Lake Elementary School?

By building the school on the same site, we would honor the wishes of our community members. When the district ran a survey on future facility needs, community members expressed the desire to keep the elementary on the same site. The site is centrally located in the city. By building a new school on the same site, we will save our citizens approximately \$200,000 in construction costs over the cost of modernization of the current building. Students would be able to remain in their school until the new school is built. This also reduces the construction costs because we will not need to purchase portable classrooms to house students in during construction and will cause less stress on both students and teachers.

How much will the projects cost?

The proposed cost of the new elementary would be approximately \$15.8 million. Local tax payers would pay approximately \$1.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value or \$139 per year on a \$100,000 home.

The proposed cost of the eight new classrooms at Medical Lake Middle School would be approximately \$3.7 million. Local tax payers would pay approximately 31 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value or \$31 per year on a \$100,000 home.

The **total Amount** for **both** projects would cost the local tax payer approximately \$1.70 per \$1000 of assessed value or \$170 per year on a \$100,000 home.

The bonds for Hallett Elementary will be paid by the time we would begin this new project.

An Increase in Property Values Will Not Increase School District Tax Collections

- Changes in property values don't change the amount of taxes authorized
- Local school taxes can only increase by a vote of the people
- Changing property values will change tax rates, but NOT tax collections

Board of Directors

Rod Von Lehe (President)

Julie Albright (Vice President)

Peggy Schweikhardt

Kelly Fouts

Ron Cooper

Senior Citizen Tax Exemptions

If you are a senior citizen or a disabled person, you may be tax exempt from excess and special levies such as school bonds and maintenance and operations levies, if you meet the following qualifications:

- You are at least 62 years of age or 100% disabled.
- The property must be your primary residence.
- Your total income (gross) from all sources must be \$35,000 or less.
- You are a widow/widower at least 57 years of age whose spouse had an approved exemption on file with the Assessor at the time of death.

If you meet these guidelines, you may be eligible to file for a property tax reduction. For additional information about eligibility or to apply for exemption, please contact the Spokane County Assessor's Office, County Courthouse, 1116 W. Broadway, or call **477-5754**.

Register to Vote

You may register to vote by mailing in the voter registration form which must be postmarked no later than 30 days prior to an election.



- You can download a form to register by going to www.secstate.wa.gov/elections or our district website at www.mlsd.org
- If you miss the 30-day deadline, you can still sign up in time for the election, but you must register in person no later than 15 days before the election.
- You may register to vote in person at the Spokane County Elections Department, 1033 W. Gardner Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANT

from Scott Blasingame, MLMS Vice Principal

Medical Lake Middle School has received a \$500 grant from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program to support the school's math and science programs. Four Lakes Grocery/Exxon has worked with school officials to secure the grant which is one of 4,000 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobil stations. The grants were made possible by funding from the Exxon Mobil Corporation.

"Medical Lake Middle School works hard to make learning interesting and fun," said Joe Wyles, manager. "As an Exxon retailer, I am proud to help young people of the Medical Lake-Four Lakes Communities.

The Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools. Exxon Mobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Mr. Joe Wyles met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant, including having a commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers.

MEDICAL LAKE CARDINAL ATHLETICS

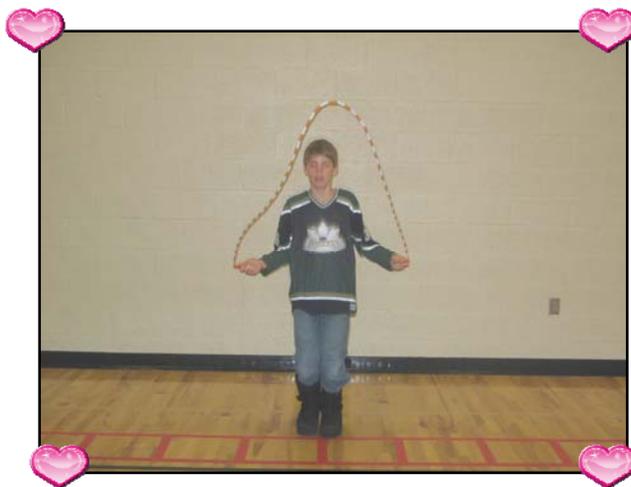
by Chris Spring, Athletic Director

Winter sports are in full swing and we are excited about the challenges ahead in boy's basketball, girl's basketball, and wrestling. Head coaches for our winter sports are Arnold Brown (boy's basketball), Val Von Lehe (girl's basketball), and Sam Petersen (wrestling). You can go to www.mlsd.org to access schedules and rosters for our teams.



Also, Medical Lake High School requires yearly physicals for all athletes. Physicals will be considered compliant for thirteen months from the date of examination. If your child is planning on participating in spring sports, be sure to get a head start on paperwork and fees. Athletic paperwork packets are available in the high school business office.

Cardinal gear is available in the high school business office and at Denny's Harvest Foods in Medical Lake. We stock sweat shirts, t-shirts (short and long sleeves) and winter hats. Any questions regarding Cardinal Athletics should be directed to Athletic Director, Chris Spring at 565-3293. Go Cardinals!



Gage Oldenburg performing short rope.

Michael Anderson Elementary School Kicks Off Jump Rope For Heart

On December 3, the students at Michael Anderson Elementary School wrapped up their Jump Rope for Heart Program with a huge celebration. The festivities began with a video of the participants followed by an amazing performance of advanced short and long rope jumping activities; which included a surprise performance by our staff. Jerome Morales was our top fundraiser this year, bringing in a whopping \$500.00. Our "Spirit Award" went to Gage Oldenburg, who came up with the creative idea of jumping rope in front of the BX while asking shoppers for donations.

A huge thank you to the parents, base community and teachers who helped make this year's Jump Rope for Heart Program a great success. Every year the generosity of our base community amazes us. The students at Michael Anderson Elementary School were able to present the American Heart Association with a check for a stunning \$2,919.60. We are extremely proud of our students and all the hard work and sacrifices they have made to help fight heart disease and strokes which are the number one killers in the United States.



Camille Edelstein and Madyson Clark, 2007 JRH participants



Great News

FAMILY ACCESS UPDATE

by Debra Dupey

Family Access now has the ability to send you e-mail notifications for low lunch account balances and attendance. If you would like to be notified by e-mail when your child's lunch account falls below \$4.00 or when your child has been marked absent or tardy you can subscribe to one or both of these notifications. To subscribe, log into your Family Access account and:

1. Click on the Account Information and enter or verify your e-mail address.
2. Click on the e-mail notifications link, click "Change My Notifications" and select which notifications you would like to receive. A process will run each evening at 5:00 p.m. that will generate an e-mail to you.

Also, beginning December 10, if you have children in Middle School or High School a monthly calendar will be the opening page. On the monthly calendar, assignments from all the selected student's classes will display their due dates, along with any grades the student has earned on those assignments. Assignments in red are marked as missing in the teacher's grade book. A fly over on an assignment will give you further details about that assignment, and clicking on the assignment will give you full detailed information. An "absent" notification will appear on the dates they occurred. Non-school days and term dates also appear.

If you do not already have a Family Access Account please check out the Family Access tab on the Medical Lake School District web site, www.mlzd.org and fill out an application. Any problems please call Debra Dupey at 565-3147.

HALLETT "POWER BLOCK"

NUTRITION SERVICES

By Charlotte Cook

We are looking for great people to work with our cooks, serving meals to your children. It just takes a couple of hours out of your day. You can get your children off to school and be home before school is out. It is a fun and rewarding job and you also get paid. Why not give us a try? Please call Charlotte Cook at Nutrition Services (565-3427) for an application. The wage is \$8.66 per hour.



TARGETS MATH SKILLS

First thing each school morning Hallett Elementary students and staff work on improving math skills. The early morning schedule calls for all Hallett staff to be working with students on math, so during that time there are no special classes, such as P.E. or Art, instead all kids are working on basic skills to help them stay up with grade level skills. This extra dose is over and above the regular math classes the students have each day. "Our staff wanted a consistent time each day to work with small groups of kids," said Principal Dan Mueller, "so this is our try at that...every staff member is working with students each day on math." We are hearing good things from students and teachers. Kids say they are learning and understanding math better this year. Teachers will continue to check progress during the year.

Mrs. Young's class working on early morning math at Hallett



MLHS JAZZ BAND PERFORMS

On Saturday, November 17, the MLHS Jazz Band Trombone section won the Lautzenhiser Best Trombone Section Award at the EWU Jazz Dialogue Festival. The festival hosted jazz bands from around the state.



Preston Terry, Cory Davis, Cameron Sweet, and Josh Stebbins were asked to perform in the evening concert in front of all the festival participants as part of the award.

Also, this year we have a record-breaking FIVE band students selected for All-State. Preston Terry is one of four trombonists from around the state selected for the prestigious All-State Jazz Band. Elyse Lewan (clarinet), Arielle Aguado (percussion), Kelsey Schultz (alto saxophone), and Nissa Van Meter (percussion) were all selected for the All-State Wind Symphony. The students will work with a guest conductor for three days in February in Yakima, and then put on a concert for thousands of people from around the state.

CONGRATULATIONS JANINE

Janine Warrington, a 7th grader at Medical Lake Middle school was recently presented the 2007 Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award at the recent conference of the Washington Association of Educators of Gifted and Talented (WAETAG) in Richland. Only one student per state was selected for this award.

Janine's 4th through 6th grade teachers at Hallett Elementary School, Carol Tyson and Jeremy Clark, nominated her. Some of Janine's many accomplishments are superior academic achievements; participant for three years in Math is Cool Competition, and involvement in drama departments at school, church, and EWU. She has won a poster contest for recycling and organized a neighborhood clean-up effort. She was also selected as a recipient of the 2007 Lion's Club Appreciation Award at the end of 6th grade. She played the role of Hanazo, an obnoxious Japanese man that was a kite maker in "Dragon on the Wind" recently at EWU. She will start earning college credits next summer doing what she loves.



WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

It is important for the health of all students, staff and families that your child **not be at school when sick**. The following guidelines are appropriate reasons to keep your child home from school:



- *A fever of 100° F or higher. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- *A consistently goopy, runny nose.
- *White or yellow drainage from the eye, crusty eyes, and/or redness of the eyelid or skin surrounding the eye.
- *A bad cough – one that you wouldn't want your well child to be around.
- *A sore throat, especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck.* A child that seems ill – unusually tired, pale, or difficult to awaken; says he or she has a headache or body ache; seems confused or irritable, and/or lacks normal appetite.
- *A rash that is associated with fever or severe itching.
- * Vomiting within the last 24 hours or as directed by your physician. Your child should be free of vomiting and feeling well for 24 hours before returning to school.
- *Diarrhea and/or bloody diarrhea. According to Washington State Administrative Code, a child who has one episode of bloody diarrhea or two episodes of diarrhea at school must be sent home and cannot return until the diarrhea has resolved. Some diarrhea may be related to bacteria or viruses. You should contact your health care provider if your child has severe or bloody diarrhea.
- *If your health care provider has prescribed antibiotics, your child needs to remain at home for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotics.
- *Any contagious disease that can infect others such as chicken pox, influenza, whooping cough or gastroenteritis.
- *As directed by your child's health care provider.

If you have concerns about any of the above symptoms please contact your health care provider.



MRSA Awareness

by David Dobbins

The latest buzz-word alarming our schools and community is MRSA, short for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or more commonly know as staph infection. Several reports of MRSA in eastern Washington and north Idaho schools over the past months brings increasing awareness about this disease which can have devastating effects if not quickly treated.

Interestingly, about 30 percent of the population carries the MRSA bacteria with no ill effects, while a much smaller percentage contracts the bacteria through neglect of personal hygiene, or coming into direct contact with someone already infected. MRSA occurs more frequently in hospitals and institutions, and far less so in schools.

When MRSA strikes, it is usually in the form of a pus-like sore that resists antibiotic or ointment treatment. Untreated, it can lead to severe illness or death.

With an increase in reported cases of MRSA at regional schools, additional training for school staff on identifying, disinfecting and preventing the transmission of the disease has already taken place. To further inform our community, a letter was sent or delivered home to all parents outlining the precautions taken so far, and some information to educate those concerned parents of our community. To date, we have no reported cases of MRSA at Medical Lake schools.

The key to combating MRSA appears to be, quite simply, increased hand washing covering sores and infections, and seeking medical help for those suspect infections. By hand washing we mean 20 seconds of washing in warm water with soap. If hand washing is not convenient, then a 60% ethyl-alcohol based sanitizer may be used as a temporary solution. Nothing beats a good hand washing when it comes to improving personal hygiene and taking the steps necessary to curtail germs. Medical authorities should be contacted quickly should a sore or infection not heal within a reasonable amount of time.

For more information on MRSA, please contact the Spokane Regional Health District via their web site at <http://www.srhd.org>.

High School Leadership Class created the above posters for MRSA awareness

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS UPDATE

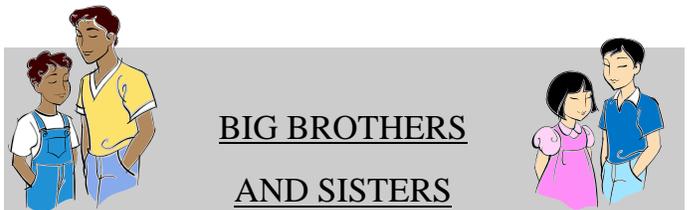
Seniors, we are working to provide an online application for you on the Medical Lake web site. Applications will be available in February, so look for more information after the New Year. If you are interested in helping or joining the Medical Lake Dollars for Scholars Team please give us a call ay 299-6707.



The annual **Silent Auction** will start on February 5, at the Basketball game. Auction items will be at Denny's Foods on February 8 and 9, and the final day will be on February 15. If you would like to donate new items please contact Janeen Van Slyke at 299-6707.

The annual **Yard Sale** will be held on May 9 and 10 in the parking lot of Denny's Foods. If you have a donation, please contact Dan Dorshorst at 299-5478.

The Medical Lake Dollars for Scholars Board members donated 300 books and participated in the book exchange at the high school. We are also supporting the "Character Counts" program at Medical Lake Elementary School.



BIG BROTHERS

AND SISTERS

AT MICHAEL ANDERSON

Fairchild AFB and Michael Anderson were recently honored at a dinner on Dec 6, by Big Brothers and Big Sisters. They received the award for Community Partner of the Year. Chief Master Sargeant Paul Sikora and Cheryl Stitt attended to receive the award. FAFB is the largest source of volunteers for BBBS with an average of 24 new matches in our school based program each year. The support by the troops at Fairchild Air Force Base, their families, and Michael Anderson Elementary School has made this one of our most successful partnerships. FAFB makes a tremendous difference in our school and community based programs as well as in our fundraising efforts. The one hour a week that volunteers spend with their little brother or sister having lunch and going to recess is very powerful in the lives of our students.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

ACTIVITY BUSES

The Medical Lake School District provides five buses for the purpose of assisting parents in getting their children home following after-school activities. These buses travel on pre-established routes that loop through areas and have stops at designated places. It is up to the parent to determine how they will get their child from the stop to home. There is no funding from the state to operate these routes. The money comes from the district's general fund. Due to the lack of state funding, many districts do not offer this extra transportation service.

Students involved in a school sponsored events after the regular school day may be eligible to access one of the activity buses to the stop nearest their home. Eligibility is determined by the following criteria:

- Regularly scheduled programs such as athletic practices, class plus, extended day learning, etc.
- Non scheduled events would be: study hall, detention, library, etc.



Students in non scheduled events need a signed note from the supervisor of the event, noting the day and event the student is involved in. Students without proper authorization may be denied a ride. If the

student without proper authorization is given a ride, a discipline form will be turned into the office and the student will be disciplined.



CELL PHONE USE BY STUDENTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

The use of cell phones and cameras on school buses pose a safety hazard to all the students on the bus. The use of the cell phones and cameras are a distraction to the bus driver, therefore cell phones and cameras are prohibited. Cell phone calls need to be made prior to the student boarding the bus. A driver may allow a student to make a brief call to a parent or guardian if deemed necessary.

BUS PASSES AND PARENT NOTES

Students must have a note or pass to ride buses other than their regularly assigned bus. The bus pass or a note shall be from the students' parent or the school. Notes from parents shall be presented to the teacher or office staff. The note shall be co-signed by the school official, otherwise the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

PERSONAL ENTERTAINMENT

Personal music devices, game boys etc. may be used on the bus at the discretion and with the permission of the driver. Music devices may only be used with ear phones. Open speakers are not allowed. The volume of all devices must be kept low so that it does not disturb other students or the driver. For safety purposes, ear pieces must be removed from both ears during the time the bus is at the students' bus stop during the loading or unloading process. Students must be able to hear the driver and traffic.

SKATEBOARDS ETC.

Skateboards and roller blades are prohibited from being transported on any school buses.

See board policy 8123 "Student Conduct on Buses" for a complete list of the policies that govern the riding privilege.



Senior Parents WE NEED YOU!!!

Meeting Dates: November 27 and December 17 at
6:30 p.m. in the HS Cafeteria for help with Senior Aloha

We need help running the concessions at the home basketball games. This money goes directly to the Senior Aloha. Please come and give us a hand. At each home basketball game the Aloha Committee will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful full size handmade quilt. It will be on display at each game. We will draw the winner at the last home basketball game. This money goes directly to the Senior Aloha. We have other fundraisers and events planned. There's **LOTS** to do.

Donkey Basketball is scheduled for March 14. This will involve all the schools., so save the date. You won't want to miss this!!





Marissa Rodriguez with the Spokane County Commissioners

America Recycles



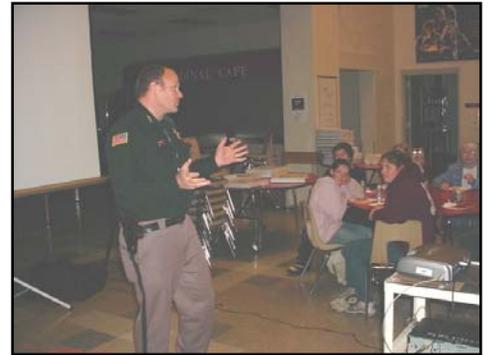
Two Medical Lake School District students were honored in the Spokane County Commissioners' Chambers Tuesday evening, November 27, 2007, for their contributions to the "America Recycles" Poster Contest. First-grader Marissa Rodriguez from Michael Anderson Elementary and fourth-grader Jeremy Ryan from Hallett Elementary both submitted posters for the Annual Calendar Publication for the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System.

Jeremy's and Marissa's poster designs were among 30 finalists selected from over 300 entries. The theme for this year's calendar was, "It All Comes Back to You." In addition to being selected as finalists, Jeremy's entry was selected for an Honorable Mention and Marissa's entry was selected to be published in the calendar for the month of March, 2008.

Drug & Alcohol Addiction



About 50 Medical Lake community members attended an airing of the HBO documentary on drug and alcohol addiction at the high school on November 27. The documentary focused on several family members who are combating drug and alcohol abuse, and the families of those who have lost loved ones to drugs. It talked about community programs to combat the effects that drug and alcohol abuse has on families and communities around the world. One and one-half hours of the four hour DVD was played to the audience following an introduction by Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich. He began by asking the crowd if they knew anyone, family or friend, who was battling drug or alcohol abuse. Nearly every hand went up, lending credence to the fact that drug and alcohol abuse is rampant in our society. He said a community response is needed to effectively combat the problem, and this is where those efforts are developed.



Polly Johnson, an ESD-#101 Student Assistance Specialist assigned to the District, coordinated the event with David Dobbins, District Security/Resource Specialist, Arnold Brown, our After School Programs Coordinator, and Medical Lake SCOPE volunteers.

The event was kicked off by a free pizza and soda dinner provided by a Safe Schools Healthy Kids Grant, and prepared by West Side Pizza of Medical Lake.

High School Java Jazz Night

You are invited to attend our annual Java and Jazz Night. It's on Friday, January 18, from 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. You are invited to stop by at any time to enjoy live jazz, coffee, conversation and dessert! It's always a fun evening featuring the high school jazz band, jazz combos, and Windbornne choir. You can purchase tickets for \$5.00 from any Jazz Band or Windbornne student, or at the door.



Once again, thank you very much for supporting our many activities.

Phone (509) 565-3100
Fax (509) 565-3102



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better tomorrow.”



The Kindergarten rooms of Mrs. Larson and Mrs. Brock at Michael Anderson Elementary decorated gingerbread houses in December. They had a great time and the houses that they built were incredible. They made them from graham crackers, candy canes, m & m's, gum drops, coconut and **lots** of frosting! They were taken home for a special treat! Here are Mrs. Larson's morning and afternoon students showing their finished houses.



