

# Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer  
From: Terri Vasquez, Principal  
Date: May 11, 2015  
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

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## **ENROLLMENT:**

AM Kindergarten: 63	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: 79
ELL Kindergarten (AM): 13	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade: 101
PM Kindergarten: 38	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 92
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade: 97	Special Day (COSSA): 11

**4<sup>th</sup> GRADE PREPARES FOR MOVE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL:** On April 30th, Ms. Winters met with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to introduce herself, talk about procedures and expectations at HMS, and answer any questions they may have before they visited the middle school on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This proactive approach helps calm nerves and put some fears to rest.

**BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS:** We are just finishing assessments.

**NNAT3 STUDY:** First, Second, and Fourth grades are participating in the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test study that compares the reliability and validity of a short online test with the same short paper/pencil test. Each classroom will earn up to 4 iPads for participating and completing the study.

**YMCA “Make a Splash” Program:** The second leading cause of death in the United States for children between the ages of 2 and 14 is drowning (Source: CDC) and Idaho ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country for drowning rates, although it is a land-locked state (CDC). The YMCA is doing everything they can to change these statistics. Treasure Valley Family YMCA, in conjunction with USA Swimming/Y-USA and Jackson’s Food Store is providing free-of-charge the Make a Splash (MAS) program to all our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from May 4-18, 2015. Make a Splash is a national child-focused water safety initiative created by the USA Swimming Foundation with the goal of teaching every child in America how to swim. Aligning the “learn to swim” efforts of providers across the country, M-A-S saves lives. Partnering with local schools is a proactive approach to teaching basic swimming and safety skills along with hands-on fun that reaches children of all ethnicities and economic situations. At the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, M-A-S lessons are taught by experienced and certified instructors, with no more than a 6 to 1 student-to-instructor ratio, assuring that the participants will learn important skills while receiving the time and support necessary to be successful. While half the students learn to swim, the other half are on “dry land” enjoying activities such as cardio-fitness games, rock climbing activities, water and science experiments, and educational sessions with local EMT and law enforcement agencies.

**FIRE ALARM:** The fire alarm went off by itself during SBAC tests on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We called the fire department to come check the school. We not only practiced our evacuation procedures, but some members of the fire department were able to see every part of the school. Many had no idea we had a basement or storages upstairs.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

May 13 – Volunteer Tea  
May 14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Field Day  
May 18 – Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Field Day  
May 19 – Spring Concert for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades  
May 20 – Picnic Day  
May 21 – Bikes for Books Assembly, Volunteer Tea  
May 21 – Kindergarten Graduation