

October, 2009



Howard Elementary

www.4j.lane.edu/schools/howard
Volume 1 Issue 2

"We seek to maintain a spirit of joy in learning, cooperation in doing, and optimism for success and the future. Our goal is to have every student exceed state standards in all academic areas."

Principally Speaking.....by Suzanne Price

No Child Left Behind is a federal law that requires schools to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is the amount of progress, determined by the state of Oregon, schools must make to ensure every child is proficient on the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) Test by the year 2014. Under No Child Left Behind, each state has developed and implemented measurements for determining whether its schools and local educational agencies are making adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is an individual state's measure of progress toward the goal of 100 percent of students achieving to state academic standards in at least reading/language arts and math in grades three thru ten. It sets the minimum level of proficiency that the state, its school districts, and schools must achieve each year on annual tests and related academic indicators.

A school or district can make AYP if each group of students meets or exceeds statewide annual objectives AND 95% of students enrolled participate in the assessments on which AYP is based.

In September, AYP results were released. **Howard is proud to report that we, once again, made AYP! Not only did Howard make AYP, we made significant gains at two grades levels while maintaining admirable levels of performance at another.** Making AYP in all groups is quite an accomplishment and I am very pleased with the performance of both our staff and students. I hope you will join me in congratulating them for this outstanding achievement and that you will continue supporting our success this year.

To learn more about OAKS and to view Howard's AYP results, login to the Oregon Department of Education website at www.ode.state.or.us. Go to **REPORTS** for AYP results and **TESTING/ASSESSMENT** for OAKS information.

Road Runner News

A Chill is in the Air

With cooler weather drawing near, it is time to put away those shorts and dig out the sweaters. As you are aware, Oregon weather changes frequently. Please dress your child for the weather.

Dressing in layers is always a good idea so that children can adjust to the changing temperature accordingly.

“Hoods off to You”!

Hoods are allowed in school under the following circumstances:

- ☺ To/from school
- ☺ Recess, for warmth

Ring, Ring....Cell Phones at School

If students choose to bring cell phones to school, they should be turned off and stored in backpacks during school hours.



FALL CONFERENCES are scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 4 and Thursday, November 5. There will be **NO SCHOOL** on Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6. **Scheduling forms will be coming home soon and need to be returned to school no later than Monday, October 12.**

Halloween Parties

Individual teachers will determine if Halloween parties will take place in their classrooms. If teachers permit costumes during this holiday celebration, the following dress code will be enforced, as it pertains to costumes:

- NO weapons
- NO weapon-like props
- NO excessive bareness (no spaghetti straps, exposed bra straps, bare midriffs)
- NO “gang” attire
- NO masks

Volunteer Training Workshop

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS! Are you interested in volunteering at Howard? Are you an active volunteer but have no idea how to operate the machines often used by teachers? If so, this is the workshop for you! To help accommodate busy schedules, the workshop will be offered on two different dates and will cover the following:

- Copy machine
- Die cuts
- Laptops (logging in, etc.)
- Book binding
- Emergency procedures
- Working with small groups of students
- What to do if you encounter a difficult situation with a child



WORKSHOP DATES/TIMES: October 12 @ 1:30 PM & October 13 @ 9:00AM. After signing in at the office, please meet in room 12.

Attention Kinder Parents

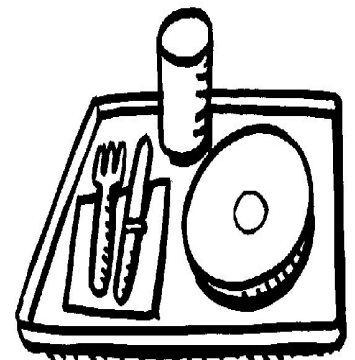
A friendly reminder that students riding the bus will NOT be dropped off at home unless a parent, or responsible, pre-authorized adult, is present.



THANK YOU to those parents who attended Curriculum Night. What a great way to begin partnering with the teacher as we educate our students together.

Free and Reduced Lunches

As a friendly reminder, you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch form for your child/children every school year. Even if you do not intend to use this service, and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in. As a Title I school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is **VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE EVERY ELIGIBLE FAMILY IN THE SYTEM**. If you have not applied yet this year, please pick up an application in the reception area of the school office or visit the Eugene 4j website at www.4j.lane.edu/nutrition/freelunch. Your child/ren should be able to use the form from last year through October 16. Beyond this date, you will need to send \$2.15 with your child for lunch



Personal Property

Personal property can be vulnerable to theft and may be disruptive to the learning environment. To reduce the risk of personal loss and to minimize disruptions, we ask that students do not bring electronic equipment such as ipods, digital cameras, or personal gaming systems to school. Similarly, students should not bring toys to school, unless pre-arranged with the teacher.

Please understand that the school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen personal property.

Do You Have a New Phone Number?

If you, or any of your emergency contacts, have changed numbers recently please make sure you have notified the school office. It is extremely important this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or your child becomes ill at school.



Wear Your Bike Helmet!

When riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards to school, safety is important. Please be sure your child has a properly fitting helmet and wears it while riding. Not only is it the law, but it will also protect your child from serious injury should an accident occur. We take your child's safety seriously. As such, students that come to school without a helmet will be required to leave their bike, skateboard, or scooter with the principal until a parent is able to retrieve the item or bring a helmet.



Laptops and Student Responsibility

Howard Elementary is “in front of the pack” when it comes to technology hardware and its use in everyday teaching and learning. As such, each student is assigned a laptop for use during the school day. To increase longevity, we expect students to treat equipment with respect, and within the parameters we have established and proper usage. Please understand that mistreatment, careless handling, and/or improper use of laptops/desktops may result in loss of privileges.

Reading Buddies Enjoy a Story Together



Students from Mrs. Rock and Mrs. Callihan's classrooms.

HOWARD ROADRUNNER RUNNING CLUB IS COMING!

**ATTENTION ALL 3RD-5TH
GRADERS! IN PREPARATION
FOR THE UPCOMING
ELEMENTARY CROSS-COUNTRY
MEET, PE TEACHER, MRS.
VREIM, IS HOSTING AN AFTER
SCHOOL HOWARD
ROADRUNNER RUNNING CLUB.
RUNNING CLUB WILL BEGIN ON
THURSDAY, OCT. 1ST AND END
ON MONDAY, OCT. 19TH. IT
BEGINS AT 2:05 AND
CONCLUDES AT 2:30, EVERY
MONDAY AND THURSDAY.
STUDENTS NEED TO FIND THEIR
OWN TRANSPORTATION HOME
FROM SCHOOL. PLEASE SEE
MRS. VREIM OR MRS. CHINN
FOR A PERMISSION SLIP.**

Here come the Speed Stacks!

Starting Oct. 26th, PE teachers, Mrs. Vreim and Mrs. Chinn, will begin the *Speed Stacks Unit*. They will be hosting an after school *Speed Stacks Club* starting Tuesday, Oct. 27th and ending on Thursday, Nov. 12th. On November 12th there will be a special night for the speed stack club, where families will be invited to come and students can share the skills they have been practicing so hard. Speed stack club will be open to all Howard students, in all grades and will be held in the gym after school from 2:05-2:30. Speed stack club will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and students need to find their own transportation home from school. See Mrs. Vreim or Mrs. Chinn for a permission slip.