“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

“A child’s mind is like a bank – whatever you put in, you get back in ten years; with interest.”

~ Frederic Wertham ~

Welcome to what is sure to be an outstanding year! The staff of Howard has been working hard to ensure every child confidently and enthusiastically meets the challenges that lie ahead. As parents, you are key to your child’s success. One secret to a successful school year is to set good routines right from the start. Tips to help your child succeed were gathered from teachers and administrators from across the country and published in Home & School Connection. Below are tips to help your child succeed.

Take time to make time – “One key to success is to follow a schedule...children need a schedule they can depend on – one that includes definite times for homework, meals, and sleep. Then they can work around those times to include the extras.” Furthermore, “Limit TV and video games. Decide how much of this kind of free time to allow – and stick to it.”

Read, read, read – “Continue to share reading with children, even after they can read by themselves. This allows them to enjoy stories that may be too difficult for them to read alone. For variety, try reading newspapers, magazines – even comic strips. You’ll send the message that reading is important.”

Check into it – “Take a few minutes everyday to look at what your child brings home from school....Talk about schoolwork together; this shows that you care.”

A strong home/school partnership and open communication will further enhance your child’s success in school. I look forward to working with each of you as we educate your youngster(s) together.

Suzanne Price
Attention Visitors

As a safety precaution, we require that all visitors/volunteers start their visit in the office. Please sign in and receive a visitor’s badge so that staff members and students know you are a “safe” visitor. If you do not have a badge, don’t be surprised if a staff member asks you to please stop by the office to check in. Equally important is that you sign out in the office when your visit is complete. By doing so, we know who is in the building in the event of an emergency. Thank you, in advance, for honoring this important safety procedure.

On a related note, community members often use Howard’s track/field for exercise and to walk their dogs. For safety reasons, pets should be kept on leashes if Howard’s facility is used during school hours or school-sponsored events. Sharing this important information with neighbors would be much appreciated.

Smile!

School pictures are scheduled for October 2.

Breakfast Reminder

Breakfast is served daily from 7:25 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. and is FREE to all students. It is VERY important that your child gets a good breakfast in order to have a successful day. If you choose to take advantage of Howard’s Breakfast Program, we ask that your child(ren) are in the cafeteria no later than 7:40 a.m. This will ensure that they will be able to arrive in class on time.

Parents needed for SITE COUNCIL. We meet monthly from 2:30-3:30. Contact the school if you are interested.

~ Don’t Forget ~

New Release Time this Year!

Dismissal time for the 2009-2010 school year is 2:05; 1:05 every Wednesday.

KINDERGARTEN

M/T/Th/F
AM 7:55-10:35
PM 11:25-2:05

Student Pick Up

Please remember when picking up your child from school that you need to park your car in the designated areas. For safety reasons, Do NOT block or park your vehicles in the bus lanes, bike paths, or behind other marked parking spaces. These areas must be kept clear so that children can safely navigate to buses and cars. And remember, disabled parking spaces are for individuals with permits only. Finally, so that a driver’s full attention is on student safety, we would ask for your cooperation in keeping arrival/dismissal times a CELL FREE time.

Students With Medications

We do not dispense medications of any type (prescription, cough medicine, aspirin, etc.) without a parent’s signature. In the interest of efficiency, physician’s signatures are not required when PRESCRIPTION medications are brought to school IN THE PRESCRIPTION CONTAINER with directions and a current date. The written instructions on the container must correspond with the instructions parents give the school. We will still need to have a MEDICATION FORM filled out by the parent to retain on file for the school year. If there is a change in the directions then you will need to get that change in writing, from the physician, or ask your pharmacist to make up a new container reflecting the updated directions. We will not accept any medication brought to the school in baggies or any container other than the original prescription bottle. CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH THEM. PARENTS MUST BRING ANY MEDICATION (EVEN OVER THE COUNTER MEDS) TO THE OFFICE.
Wednesday Dismissal Time

Please remember that EVERY Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:05. There is no one available to supervise children after this time. Unfortunately, children left waiting for a ride home spend a very long and uneventful hour sitting in the hall outside of the office. Please make note of this regular early dismissal to avoid a missed pick up of your child.

School Information Available For Non-Custodial Parents

Howard Elementary is able to provide all co-custodial or non-custodial parents a duplicate copy of all district labeled mailings. Please let the school office know if you would like the name of a co-custodial or non-custodial parent added to the student’s enrollment information.

School to Inform Parents If Their Student Receives a Threat

“Oregon law requires schools to inform parents if their son or daughter’s name appears on a targeted list (i.e. a “hit list”) that threatens violence or harm from another student.” We will be using the following procedure to inform you if your student either receives or makes a serious threat of violence or harm.

If your son or daughter’s name appears on a list threatening violence or harm by another student, we will attempt to meet with you personally, or talk by telephone, within 12 hours of learning about the threat. We will tell you about the threat, who made it (if we know), and the action we are taking to respond to it. We will also send you a notice within 24 hours, stating that your son or daughter received a threat. Our number one priority will be to make sure that school is safe for your children.

If your son or daughter made the threat, we will let you know that he or she made it and the action we are taking, including informing the parents of the student who received the threat that your student made. We are also required by the district’s “Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook” to inform the police.

A HUGE Thank You to Starbucks!

This fall, the Starbucks located at 7th and Washington adopted Howard Elementary School. This store, along with six other Starbucks, adopted schools in the Eugene 4j District to assist students in need of school supplies. As a result, many of our students benefited from Starbucks generosity! In addition, the supplies were delivered to Howard complete with coffee for the staff. Thanks, Starbucks!

KUDOS to the Grocery Outlet Store!

On August 22nd Howard staff, parents, and students helped the Grocery Outlet celebrate its first annual customer appreciation day. The store, located on River Road, is owned by a Howard family (Michael and Elisabeth Griego) parents of Abi (5th) and Ashley (2nd) Griego. By helping the store with their celebration, the Griego’s have generously donated the proceeds from this event to Howard Elementary. As a result, Howard raised $177.25 for our school. Thanks, Grocery Outlet and the Griego family!
Free and Reduced Lunches

This is a reminder that 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, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in.** As a Title 1 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 system. If you have not yet applied for this year’s meals, please pick up an application in the reception area at the school or check your “Back to School” packet. **The deadline to have these forms turned in October 16.**

Student Attendance and Tardies

One of the most reliable predictors of school success is regular attendance. Absences for any reason result in lost instruction time. We know that students who fall behind often become discouraged learners. It is our hope that we can work together to encourage your child’s regular attendance and success at school. We understand that there are many factors in your lives that make it difficult, at times, for your child to be in school or on time. However, it is important that we work with you to reduce these to an absolute minimum. **Please remember that your child is expected to be in his or her classroom at 7:55 a.m.** The first bell rings at 7:50 a.m. giving your child 5 minutes to hang up their coat, retrieve homework, etc. Class activities start promptly with morning announcements. This morning class time is one of the most important times of the day. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable class time, it is disruptive to his or her classmates.

When your child is going to be late or absent from school, please call the office at 790-4900, before 8:15 a.m. and inform the office staff. You may leave a message on the voice mail, if calling before office hours. Please leave the name of your child, their room number, and the reason for the absence. It is extremely important that this be done, as every child must be accounted for on a daily basis. As a friendly reminder, according to **Oregon Truancy Regulations**, if your student has eight unexcused half-day absences in any four-week period, you will receive a letter from the school notifying you of our attendance concerns. Please understand that if irregular attendance continues, we will be obligated to make a referral to a truant officer for further investigation.

APPLE VISIT

Last year, Howard was named an **APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL**. As such, we often have outside visitors interested in the great work we are doing incorporating technology into everyday teaching and learning. To date, we have two formal Apple visits scheduled; October 15th and April 23rd. We are proud to highlight our students/program and share what we have learned over the past several years.

Welcome New Staff Members to Howard!

Jennifer Potter ~ English Lang. Learner/Title
Renee Stacey ~ 4th Grade Teacher
Allen Grush ~ Librarian
School/Home Communication
Families can look forward to a weekly communication from classroom teachers. This communication will come home in student Friday Folders and will serve as an update on classroom happenings, areas of study, friendly reminders, school news, and/or ways in which parents can help. For school-wide happenings, be sure and check out Howard’s website at http://schools.4j.lane.edu/howard.

Messages for Students
Please make sure that your child knows what they will be expected to do when the school day is over before they leave home in the morning. Staff is not available to hand deliver messages throughout the day and when the bell rings at the end of the school day it becomes quite difficult to reach individual children that we have taken messages for. We will be happy to deliver messages in an EMERGENCY situation, but if at all possible please make sure that your child(ren) knows who will pick them up, if they should walk home, or ride the bus before they leave for school.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – If there is a change in your child’s regular PM “pick up” routine, a written note is required.

A Related Attendance Message from the Nurse
Your child begins to learn the importance of school in kindergarten and attendance is one of the critical factors in determining their academic success. Children get sick, and when they are sick, it can be difficult to focus on learning. When your student is running a fever, can’t keep their mucous contained or vomiting we do not want them in school exposing the rest of us. However, a few sniffles, occasional cough, or other minor ailments is not a good excuse to miss school. If your child is not feeling well in the morning and then feels better as the day progress, bring them to school.

School district recommendations children are fever free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. That means that if they had a temperature over 100 degrees in the afternoon they should not attend school the next day. The same applies to vomiting; if your child vomited in the afternoon we do not want them at school the next day.

When a child is home sick they need rest; that means no TV or video games. Books and quiet activities done in bed or on the couch are good for children. If a student stays home ill, they shouldn’t attend sports practice or play with friends after school even if they are feeling better. If you have questions or would like to talk about your child’s health, please feel free to call me, Robin Wellwood, RN. at 710-0345.

Recess Reminder
Physical activity and free play is an important part of the school day. All children are expected to participate in recess, unless a doctor’s note is provided. Appropriate dress for the weather is strongly encouraged, along with shoes in which your child can run and play.

Hours of Supervision
The school provides supervision between the hours of 7:50-2:05 pm, except for 1:05 on Wednesday and during official school events and programs that occur before and after school. Students eating breakfast will have supervision starting at 7:25. Those students not having breakfast should arrive at 7:50. There is no supervision of the building grounds at other times.