

Dec., 2009
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Howard Elementary

www.4j.lane.edu/schools/howard

Volume 1 Issue 4

“An Apple Distinguished School”

“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 Speakingby Suzanne Price

Howard Elementary; A Great Choice!

Howard Elementary will be holding its *School Choice* information meeting in late January/early February. As you consider your child's enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year, it is our hope that not only will your child's enrollment continue at Howard, but that you will invite neighbors and friends to seriously consider our school as well. **Howard offers a strong academic program delivered by caring and dedicated staff. Howard is a place where families and community members gather to support, celebrate, and honor the diverse achievements of all our children. The entire Howard staff hopes to make each school year one of the most productive and enjoyable years your child will experience. With the caring guidance of talented staff, our students make academic gains while developing persistence and personal responsibility, qualities that are the cornerstone of life long learning. Our staff and students are a family, bound together through affection and shared goals, and there is a place for everyone at our school.**

If you are considering enrolling your student next year in any 4J school or program, other than your designated neighborhood school, or the school your student is now attending, please note the following time line. The school district's open enrollment policy allows students to attend any 4J school, provided there is space available, but requires completion of a *School Choice* form. Any student not in our attendance area, who would like to attend Howard Elementary, needs to complete a *School Choice Request* form.

School Choice forms must be returned to the Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street by March 19, at 5:00 p.m. Students will be accepted based on a lottery conducted at the Education Center. Results of the lottery will be available the week of April 5, 2010. If you have questions, contact the school office at 790-4900 or the Education Center at 790-7553.

As a reminder, River Road and Howard Elementary now share a “super-boundary”, which means families living within these two attendance areas will be provided transportation to either neighborhood school in kindergarten and first grades.

Road Runner News

Grant Requests Funded

Lisa Vreim's proposal 'Fitness Fun for Everyone!' was awarded \$1,940 on Nov. 9 by the EEF board of directors. In addition, Lupe Callihan and Denise Ermatinger's proposal 'Sensational Science' was awarded \$2000 two weeks later. Gifts to the Eugene Education Fund made possible 51 grants so far, and more may be sponsored by year end. Details are at www.eef.lane.edu.

Grant support is in addition to donor-earmarked gifts parents and neighbors make through EEF. This steady support means our kids get wider opportunity and more individual attention. Some of our dreams remain unfulfilled. If you have not already made a gift this year, would you consider doing so now?

Make your check payable to "Howard Elementary EEF" and mail it (EEF, P.O. Box 1015, Eugene OR, 97440) or bring it to our office. You can also contribute by credit card or monthly bank transfers. For more information call David Meredith at 343-6877.

Lost and Found

Howard's lost and found box is running over. If you have articles of clothing that are missing, please stop by and check to see if any of these things belong to your family. Items remaining in our Lost and Found after January 8, 2010 will be donated to a local charity.

News Crew

Fifth grade students lead our Roadrunner Announcements each morning. Thank you to Chris and Alyssa for greeting us each morning during the month of November. Tanner and Cassie have taken the helm for December and January. They're all doing a great job!

Congratulations to a Howard Artist!

Artwork submitted by Skyler, in Mrs. Callihan's class, was selected from over 450 entries by the University of Oregon Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA). Artwork will be on display at the JSMA from December 1 to March 28, 2010. The art show is entitled NewArt Northwest ~ Kids: Heroes and Heroines. Way to go, Skyler!

Be Good for a Sub

Substitute teachers are on the look-out for students exhibiting respectful and courteous behavior during their teacher's absence. The guest teacher is asked to record the names of those students who were especially helpful and responsible throughout the day. From this list of terrific students, one name is drawn to receive a free **Subway** coupon for being "good for a **sub**".

Following are our most recent recipients of a Subway coupon:

Kelsi G., Alyck M., Anthonie A., Emily W., Jack M., Harlan B., Taylor W., Josh E., Ethan G., America T., Betsy B., Rachel C., Drew P., Carlos O., Miguel V., Pivi A., Carlos L., Harlan B., and Erik K.

Thanks, Subway (located in the Santa Clara shopping mall and on 99/Barger), for generously donating Subway sandwich coupons in support of our program.

Artist In Residence – Liz Casey

Last year students learned about varied subject matter in art including Still Life, Landscape and Abstraction. Students learned drawing and watercolor techniques and had an opportunity to paint all three types of paintings as well as briefly studying some famous art and artists.

I am very pleased to return to Howard to instruct an art residency based on sculpture. We will look at some famous sculptors and classical techniques and properties of sculpture. Students will be exploring sculptural form with paper mache. The finished project will be a creature/character made with lots of fun and imagination. Students will have an opportunity to develop their character by using story boards and creative writing. We will start the art residency in early January.

Family Math Night

Date: Thursday, January 14th, 2010

Time: To Be Determined

Come join us for a night of fun, math related games and activities. All Howard families are welcome! Look for a flyer to be sent home in early January.

PTO CORNER

Message from the PTO Officers

Dear Howard Parents and Teachers,
A school is not a building or an address, but a community of people joined together in a single purpose: the education of children. As parents, we entered the Howard community eager to actively support the education of our children. We believe that by making school a family activity we enrich our children's education and teach them to value the school community. For the past two years we have served the Howard community as board members for the Parent Teacher Organization. We have enjoyed our time on the board and believe that we have made a positive contribution to Howard Elementary, but it is time for us to step aside and make room for new parents.

This is not a decision we have made lightly, and it is not a reaction to any single event. We have simply come to the conclusion that it is time to serve the Howard community in a new way. The work of the PTO is important, so we hope that a new group of parents will step forward to lead. We will all continue to be active parent volunteers and are excited to find new ways to serve our children and the Howard community. We want to thank all of those who have supported us. We have made some great friends and learned a lot over the past few years.

Sincerely,
Meagan Schopp (Pres) Brenda Ivey (Vice Pres)
Ann Wiltshire (Secretary) Mona Stiffler (Treas)

As a result of the Board's resignation, PTO will be seeking to fill all four vacancies, plus a few new positions. Information regarding this process will be forthcoming. In the weeks ahead, **please consider getting involved in PTO leadership.**

Upcoming Meetings:

1/12/10.....Adoption of bylaws and officer nomination process begins.
2/9/10.....Nomination of new officers

Box Tops/Campbell Soup Labels

Keep cutting those box tops and saving those labels! This is an easy way to support our school. Box tops and labels translate into resources for our school. You can send the items with your child or drop them off in the front office.

PTO Grants Awarded

During our November PTO meeting, staff members submitted and shared grant proposals for PTO's consideration. We are pleased to share that \$8271 worth of grants were awarded to classrooms, our PE department, our counselor, and the school-wide Artist in Residency program. It was through staff, student, and parent support that we were able to raise the funds that were, in turn, shared with the school to enhance learning. Thank you!

Last Printed Newsletter

The April issue will be that last printed newsletter for Howard Elementary. In the spirit of conservation, and in the age of technology, we will be moving to an electronically mailed newsletter starting in May. So, **it is important that we have your most current email address (it can even be a work address)**. If you haven't given us your email address, and you would like a copy of our school newsletter, please do so right away by simply calling the front office at 790-4900. This email will be placed on a newsletter list serve. For those families without internet access, we will still produce some paper copies.

Family Resource Coordinator Now at Howard

Alicia Longoria is the 4J Family Resource Coordinator and she will be working with the families and staff at Howard Elementary. As the Family Resource Coordinator, she will be at the Howard every Wednesday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Services provided by the Family Resource Coordinator will include family activity nights, parent education, open library, referral to community resources, and translation. If you have any questions please call Alicia at 790-4900, or stop by and visit, she will be located in the front office.

Emergency Drills

In order to prepare for emergencies, Howard conducts regular emergency drills including fire drills, lockdown drills, and earthquake drills. It is important that if you are visiting or volunteering during one of these drills, that you participate in the drill. This includes exiting the building, joining a classroom for lock down procedures, or relocating to an earthquake safe zone depending on the type of emergency. These drills are timed so immediate response to an

emergency signal is a must. Finally, during a drill, we reference our volunteer/visitor "sign-in" book to ensure all guests are safe so it is important that you sign in/out during each visit.

Preventive Dental Programs at Howard offered by our School Nurse

Grades 1-5 may participate in a weekly fluoride rinse program at school which reduces cavities by about 35%. Only students with a signed permission slip may participate. This can be done in addition to daily fluoride supplements, but is not advised if a daily fluoride rinse at home is already part of your routine. Your child's teacher has permission forms available.

Kindergartners may participate in a daily fluoride tablet program, which strengthens the enamel of permanent teeth that are growing beneath the gums. Only students with a signed permission slip may participate. Your child's teacher has permission forms available.

Grades K, 1 & 2 can participate in a twice a year fluoride varnish program brought to school in partnership with the Lane County Community Health Centers. Eighty six students participated in this program at our dental screening in November, and a repeat treatment will occur in the spring. Ten first and second graders may be able to take a free trip to LCC dental clinic on March 9. Permission forms will be sent home in February. Do you have questions? Our school nurse can be reached via her pager at 710-0345, and is at Howard on Tuesday mornings.

Resources for Dental Care if No Insurance

Robin Wellwood, our school nurse may be able to assist with dental care resources for those without insurance. Please give her a call at 710-0345 if you need help accessing dental care.

White Bird Clinic has a pediatric dentist available, can bill OHP, and also serves low-income, uninsured children on an income-based fee. Call 344-8302 for information, an application will need to be completed. Urgent dental care clinics are also available.

Children's Dental Clinic provides dental care for low income students without any dental insurance and who do not qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. An application with financial information is required, contact Robin for an application.

Questions About Influenza?

Oregon statewide flu hotline, 1-800-978-3040 is a great resource. Nurses are available to consult with you about need for medical care. Those with symptoms and at high risk for complications

should contact their health care provider as soon as you suspect influenza. Flu information is continually updated on the district website, <http://www.4j.lane.edu/flu>

Winter Weather Is Coming:

Sign up now for weather-related school closure alerts!

When we have to close or alter our school or bus schedules due to hazardous winter weather, you want to know as quickly as possible. Now Eugene School District 4J is offering another way for parents, students and staff to be alerted if there are snow closures or delays.

There are several ways to find out about weather-related closures, delays and 4J bus route changes on snowy or icy days:

- Text-message alerts (NEW!)
- 4J website, www.4j.lane.edu
- KRVM-FM 91.9
- Other radio and television news stations

Want to sign up for the new text-message alerts? Go to www.4j.lane.edu/weather to learn how.

Don't Forget Your Coat!

We have many students coming to school without their coat. Please remember that our students go outside every day for recess unless it is extremely rainy. Unfortunately, we do not have coats, hats and/or gloves for students to borrow. So please double check with your child as they head out the door to make sure they are grabbing all of their cold weather gear.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

DECEMBER:

21st: **Winter Vacation Begins**

JANUARY:

5th: **Classes Resume**

6th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

12th: PTO Meeting.....6:00-7:00pm

13th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

14th: Family Math Night

18th: **No School; Martin Luther King Day**

20th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

26th: Site Council Meeting.....2:30-3:30pm

27th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

28th: Bday lunch w/Prin & PBS Assembly.....1:10pm

29th: **No School: Grading Day**

FEBRUARY:

3rd: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

5th: Vision Screening

9th: PTO Meeting.....6:00-7:00pm

10th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

15th: **No School; President's Day**

16th-25th: OAKS Testing

17th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm
23rd: Site Council Meeting2:30-3:30pm
24th: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm
26th: Birthday Lunches with Principal