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# Howard Elementary

[www.4j.lane.edu/schools/howard](http://www.4j.lane.edu/schools/howard)

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“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 Speaking . . . . by Suzanne Price

## Howard Elementary: An Apple Distinguished School

We are proud to share that we have been named an Apple Distinguished School for the second year in a row! We are the only Apple Distinguished School in Oregon, and one of 53 nationwide!

Schools nominated by Apple for designation as an Apple Distinguished School must demonstrate Apple's highest vision of a successful 21st century learning environment, a strong relationship with Apple, and a willingness to do outreach activities.

As described from the Learning Interchange ([www.edcommunity.apple.com](http://www.edcommunity.apple.com)), “Apple Distinguished Schools are recognized by Apple for their demonstrated success in implementing a 21st century learning environment. This learning environment manifests itself through visible “best practices” of visionary leadership, an IT infrastructure that supports learning, engaging teaching and learning methods, one-to-one mobile computer access for students and teachers, ongoing professional development, and systematic evaluation and assessment of their program.”

Immersed in technology, Howard is an excellent school and a positive choice in your child's education. With **School Choice** presentations under way, please invite friends and acquaintances to attend **Howard's presentation on February 25th at 6:45**. Tours are also available any time during the weeks of January 25th and February 22nd. Share the good word!!

Road Runner News

### **Don't Miss The 15TH Annual Conference On Families**

on February 27, 2010: Life in the Family Zoo: From Tots To Teens sponsored by The Community Center for Family Counseling (CCFC) at Lane Community College. This lively all-day event features nationally recognized keynote speaker and author, Dr. John Platt and other experts in parenting. Dr. Platt presents moving and humorous stories from personal experience woven with dozens of practical easy-to-use strategies for building relationships with youth. Afternoon presentations feature experts in the areas, effective parenting with teenagers, creating the family life you want, and setting up a classroom and/or preschool setting for cooperation. Cost for full day (including lunch) is \$40. Continuing education credit is available. For more information call Laura Backen Jones at 463-5234 or email lauraj@ori.org.

### **Safe, Responsible, and Respectful!**

Our goal at Howard is to create a community of learners where all members can flourish and grow. While our staff strives to foster the best environment possible, the attitudes and behaviors of the students are the true indicators of our success. Positive contributions to our school community do not go unnoticed. We do not take good behavior for granted; rather, we appreciate it very much. Positive behavior influences others in the classroom and common areas. We could not be any happier that so many of our students make wise decisions each and every day.

We are proud to share that, as of January 12, 89% of our students have not received a single \*Level III behavioral referral to the office. This means that 267 out of our 300 students consistently make wise choices and display positive citizenship. Furthermore, of these students, only 4 %, or 11 students, have received more than one Level III referral, representing our more chronic misbehaviors.

We would like to celebrate and thank the vast majority of students who come to school ready to learn, positively interact with their friends, and work toward a productive future. So, the next time you see a Howard Elementary School

student, tell the youngster he or she is doing a great job!

\*Level III behavior referrals are issued for more serious offenses and are handled by the principal.

### **Caring Majority**

"The foundation and backbone of a bully-proofing program is developing the climate of the school into one where everyone sets a tone of caring and carries the message, 'Our school will be a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment so teachers can teach and children can learn.' The key to creating this climate is shifting the *silent majority* into a *caring majority*." (Bully Proofing Your School, Sopris West Publishers)

The *silent majority* consists of the 85% of students who are neither bullies nor victims, but who often stand by as their classmates experience bully-type behavior. By doing so, the bystander is implicitly allowing this to happen. Empowering the *silent majority* to stand up against bully-type behaviors will help to create a safe and secure environment for all.

At Howard, we recognize the need to empower the *silent majority* and encourage students to support each other to stamp out bully-type behaviors. In January we implemented a new program entitled the "Caring Majority". The program encourages students to stand up for a child who is being treated unkindly, include everyone, stop rumors, display empathy, etc. Staff members report these extreme acts of courage and kindness to the principal. In turn, the student's picture is taken and a letter of recognition sent home. The picture is put on display in the main hallway for their caring behavior. To date, we are proud to share the name of six students who exemplify the type of students we want to keep our school inclusive and bully free.

Congratulations on being a great friend Savannah, Gabriel, Emily, Caelyn, Ryan, and Ana.

### **Valentine's Day Candy Restrictions**

At Howard Elementary, we continually strive to provide healthy opportunities for your child. Valentine's Day is no exception. We are asking families who want to include a treat with their child's classroom valentines that you follow the 4J Wellness guidelines. The guidelines state that candy and gum are not allowed in the classroom. For some healthy alternatives, the 4J Wellness guidelines is a great resource and can be found in the school office and on both 4J's and Howard's websites, respectively, at [www.4j.lane.edu](http://www.4j.lane.edu) and [www.Schools.4j.lane.edu/howard/howard\\_site/Home.html](http://www.Schools.4j.lane.edu/howard/howard_site/Home.html).

### **Newsletter to Paperless Later this Year!**

In the spirit of conservation, starting with our April newsletter, we will be going paperless! That is, we will be distributing our newsletter via email and our website. So, please make sure we have your most current email address. Don't have Internet access or a computer? Don't worry...we will still print a few copies, which will be available in the front lobby for your convenience.

### **Math Night**

Our family math night, held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success. It was lots of fun and we enjoyed seeing so many Howard families. Over 150 people attended! Be sure to join us at our next family event, Literacy Night, on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>!

### **Come One, Come All to Family Literacy Night!**

On Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00pm we will be hosting our annual "Howard Family Literacy Night". Please come celebrate with your child the exciting activities they have been doing around literacy in their classroom. Parents and students will get a chance to visit classrooms to explore laptop use, visit websites related to literacy, and see literacy based projects. Our BEST after school program will also have a presentation by students in both strings and dance classes. As an added bonus, each Howard student who attends will receive 1 FREE BOOK! In addition, the book fair will be taking place and we will conclude the evening with FREE PIZZA & JUICE in the cafeteria. Come join us and support reading in our school. See you in March!

## **PTO CORNER**

In January, new by-laws were presented and adopted. These by-laws can be found on our school's website, under the PTO drop down menu. Check them out ☺!

### **Nomination of Officers**

We are currently seeking to fill five officer positions; President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. Nomination forms and job duties can be found on the PTO bulletin board located in the main hallway or on the school's website under the PTO drop down menu. Nomination forms were due to the front office by February 1<sup>st</sup>. However, you are still encouraged to complete and submit a form in case our pool of interest is low.

Election of officers will occur during our February 12<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting, held in the library at 6:00 PM. Nominees must attend this meeting to be considered. If you are a nominee, and cannot attend the February meeting, please contact the school principal prior to the meeting.

### **Volunteers!**

We are always in need of enthusiastic volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, in any capacity, contact Lee Bretoi at 541-225-4990 or [pahlee@hotmail.com](mailto:pahlee@hotmail.com). She will let you know our needs and get you rolling!

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### **Save The Date!**

**The 3rd Annual Girls Rule! Parent-Daughter Fair** happens March 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 3:30 at Lane Community College. Don't miss this great opportunity to laugh, play and learn together. Fun workshops, free lunch, prizes... and more! Open to girls 9–14 with a caring adult. For more information call 284-4335 or go to <http://www.opheliasplace.net/girlsrule>

### **News Crew**

Fifth grade students lead our Roadrunner Announcements each morning. Thank you to Tanner and Cassie for greeting us each morning during the months of December and January.

# **FROM THE NURSE...**

## **Due Date for Complete School Immunization**

### **Records:**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010** is immunization exclusion day this school year. This means that **your student's school immunization record must be up to date with all required immunizations in order to stay in school. Letters were mailed if your student is missing immunizations.** Please return these letters with the dates of shots that were given. For questions or a duplicate letter, please leave a message for the health assistant at your child's school.

Do you lack health insurance or financial resources to pay for needed shots? Please contact your local high school clinic as they are available for immunizations, sick and well care for all 4J students and their siblings. Always take your child's immunization records to medical appointments. Another option is the Wednesday morning walk-in immunization clinic at the Lane County Health Department, located at 6<sup>th</sup> and Oak.

Churchill Clinic 541-790-5227

North Eugene Clinic 541-790-4445

Sheldon Clinic 541-790-6644

South Eugene Clinic 541-790-8020

### **Flu Vaccines – Not too late**

Influenza typically continues through April. It isn't too late to benefit from Seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines. There is a "Flu Vaccine Locator" button on the website [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) that has information on clinics, also you may check with the Public Health Department at 541-682-4041. We encourage all children to be vaccinated.

### **Free Dental Sealants Clinic**

**Saturday, Feb 27 at LC Dental Clinic 9:30 -12:00**

**Ages: 7 years to 14 years old**, for children who have limited access to dental care.

Parent or guardian must be present to fill out and sign the child's health history and to authorize treatment. There will be Spanish-speaking persons available to assist.

**Treatment:** Children will have x-rays and an examination by a dentist. The dentist will determine if sealants are an appropriate preventive treatment for the child: decay free permanent molars will benefit from this plastic coating.

### **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**". I wish we could recognize them

all with a free coupon, but it's just not feasible. Following are our most recent recipients of a Subway coupon:

Melissa in Ms. Pond's class

Kylee, Harlan and Ashley in Mrs. Kirk's class

Gabby, Shelby and Natasha in Mrs. Callihan's class

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

### **MLK Essay Contest Winner!**

Congratulations to Joe, in Mrs. Callihan's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a recent Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

### **Important Dates:**

#### **FEBRUARY:**

5<sup>th</sup>: Vision Screening

9<sup>th</sup>: PTO Meeting..... 6:00-7:00pm

10<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal.....1:05pm

15<sup>th</sup>: **No School; President's Day**

16<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>: OAKS Testing (4<sup>th</sup> grade writing)

17<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal..... 1:05pm

22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: School Visitation Week

23<sup>rd</sup>: Site Council Meeting..... 2:30pm

24<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal..... 1:05pm

25<sup>th</sup>: School Choice Presentation.....6:45-8:00pm

26<sup>th</sup>: Birthday Lunch with Principal

#### **MARCH:**

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: Book Fair

3<sup>rd</sup>: Early Dismissal..... 1:05pm

4<sup>th</sup>: Literacy Night

10<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal..... 1:05pm

12<sup>th</sup>: **No School; Professional Development**

15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: OAKS Testing

17<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal..... 1:05pm

19<sup>th</sup>: Birthday Lunch with Principal

19<sup>th</sup>: School Choice Deadline

22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>: Spring Vacation

29<sup>th</sup>: **No School: Prof.essional Development**

30<sup>th</sup>: Classes Resume

31<sup>st</sup>: Early Dismissal..... 1:05pm