

March, 2010

Howard Elementary

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

Volume 1 Issue 6

“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.”

Road Runner News

Principally Speakingby Suzanne Price

With the second semester well underway, I would like to thank you for all that you do to support your child in their pursuit of educational excellence. The staff of Howard Elementary realizes that a strong partnership between home and school is vital to academic success. We appreciate your involvement and encourage continued engagement in your children's education, whether it be at school or at home.

According to the American School Board Journal, “The greatest impact on student achievement comes from family participation in well-designed at-home activities,” (i.e. homework). Ask your child to show, share, and demonstrate what they are learning in class. Inquire about homework on a regular basis. I realize busy schedules don't allow for this type of inquiry every night, but establishing a regular time to interact with your child regarding homework/schoolwork is beneficial. Your child will love the attention and you will gain insights into your child's education.

OAKS Testing Continues...

The OAKS test (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge & Skills) is one of many assessment tools used to measure academic progress. Results enable both the district and individual buildings to celebrate successes and focus on areas in which growth is needed. Howard staff will reassure your child that while this test is important, it is not something in which they should become overly stressed. We find encouraging students to do their best, building their confidence and supporting their efforts is beneficial.

Under the No Child Left Behind federal legislation, all students in grades 3-8 are required to be tested, annually, in math and reading. In addition, students in grade four will be assessed in writing and fifth grade students in science. In Oregon, students have three opportunities to take the test in an effort to meet standards. The state provides a large testing window to accommodate for a school's ability to offer testing on three separate occasions. The testing window is now open and closes on May 14, 2010. Students at Howard Elementary School began round one of statewide testing in early December. Round two will take place the week of March 15. If a third attempt is necessary, final testing opportunities are given in early May. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions about OAKS testing.

As parents, you can be supportive by **doing your best to avoid scheduling appointments during OAKS testing. In addition, providing a nutritious breakfast and a good night's sleep will help prepare your child with a healthy mind and body.**

To learn more about the OAKS test, you can visit their website at www.oaks.k12.or.us.

Kindergarten Orientation

Howard Elementary will be hosting its annual Kindergarten Orientation for all 2010-2011 kindergarten age children on Thursday, April 22 from 9:45-11:00. If you have a kindergarten age child (5 by September 1, 2010) please join us for more information about our kindergarten program. Please share this invitation with a friend or neighbor who has a kindergarten age child and encourage them to attend. Exciting things are happening at Howard and it all starts in kindergarten.

Daylight Savings Time

This year, daylight savings time starts on March 14. Remember to "spring forward" one hour on this date!

First Annual Culinary Competition

On February 15, 4th and 5th graders from around the district shared their very own "kid-friendly" recipes with contest judges during Eugene 4j's first annual Elementary Culinary Competition. Lili and Clayton, both 5th graders from Howard, entered the competition. Both students presented healthy snacks that included fruit as their main ingredient. In fact, Lili won the "Kid-Friendly" preparation award. We are proud of Lili and Clayton and hope they continue sharing their culinary creativity with others!

Girls Rule: SAVE THE DATE

The 3rd Annual Girls Rule! Parent-Daughter Fair happens March 13th 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 www.opheliasplace.net/girlsrule.

PTO CORNER

Looking for Carnival Volunteers

Are you looking for a great way to be involved with your child and their school? The Howard Elementary Family Carnival is a wonderful way to do just that! We are looking for parent volunteers for this year's Carnival. We have jobs that can be done right from your home!! Please drop us a note in our PTO mailbox (located in the front office) or contact Amanda Jones, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 541-954-8702. The school Carnival is scheduled for June 10th.

New Officers Elected

Please join us in welcoming our newly elected PTO Officers to their new posts:

President: Lee Bretoi
V.P./Secretary: Tanya Jackson
Treasurer: Amy Gorham
Parliamentarian: Shana Simpson
Volunteer Coord: Amanda Jones

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Have Times Changed? If So, Free/Reduced Meals May Help

During these difficult economic times, your family may find itself struggling financially. If your circumstances have changed over the past several months, consider completing a Free/Reduced Lunch application to see if your child qualifies for free, or greatly reduced, meals. Applications can be found in the front office or on line at www.4j.lane.edu/nutrition/freelunch. It's not too late; applications are accepted throughout the year!

Lunch Accounts

Lunch accounts can be monitored and deposits made on line at : www.4j.lane.edu/nutrition/payschoolmealsonline.

Howard News Crew

Fifth grade students lead our Roadrunner announcements each morning. Thank you to Riley and Kenzie for greeting us each morning during the month of February.

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:

Ethan – room 1
Kylie – room 3
Isaiah, Janessa, Kylin and Paige – room 4
Maya – room 6
Gavin and Caitlyn – room 7
Bryson, Jacob, Jordan and Luis – room 15
Skyler – room 18
Rowan – room 20

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

Caring Majority

At Howard it is important for us to recognize students who show extreme acts of kindness, helping us to stamp out bully-type behaviors and ensure everyone feels welcome and safe at school. Staff members report these acts to the principal, who in turn, takes the child's picture for display and sends home a letter of recognition and appreciation. We are proud to add two more students to our Caring Majority bulletin board, Sara and Rosa from room 17; thank you, girls!

MARCH:

- 1st-4th: Book Fair
- 3rd: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 4th: Literacy Night
- 9th: PTO Meeting 6-7:00pm
- 10th: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 12th: **No School; Professional Development**
- 15th-19th: OAKS Testing**
- 17th: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 19th: Birthday Lunch with Principal
- 19th: School Choice Deadline
- 22nd-28th: **Spring Vacation**
- 29th: **No School; Professional Development**
- 30th: Classes Resume
- 30th: Site Council 2:30pm
- 31st: Early Dismissal 1:05pm

APRIL:

- 2nd: Spring Pictures
- 6th: PTO Meeting 6-7:00pm
- 7th: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 14th: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 16th: **No School; Professional Development**
- 21st: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 22nd: Kindergarten Orientation . . .9:45-11:00am
- 23rd: Apple Visit
- 27th: Site Council 2:30pm
- 28th: Early Dismissal 1:05pm
- 30th: Birthday Lunch with Principal

Newsletter to go Paperless in April!

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.



RECEIVE Howard School News Via E-MAIL

I want to be kept up to date and informed about the happenings at Howard Elementary School. Please add my email address to the School Information System so that I can receive The Road Runner News (Howard's monthly newsletter) and other school announcements via email beginning in April, 2010.

Note: Your e-mail address will not be shared or distributed in any manner.

There is no need to share your email if you have already done so. However, if your email address has changed, or you want to add an address, please complete the form below and return to the school office as soon as possible.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your NAME: _____

Your STUDENT'S NAME(S) _____

Your E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____