



Howard Elementary

www.howardelementary.org

Volume 1 Issue 8

“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

With school nearly over, families will begin transitioning from the structured routines of school to the more leisurely days of summer. While summer brings lots of play and exploration, don't let reading get put on the shelf. Reading is paramount to a successful education. Children become better readers by reading. Yet, according to The Parent Institute, a recent survey found that more than half of all students surveyed said they spend just four minutes a day reading at home. Conversely, they spent two hours a day watching television. Research goes on to say that children who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading books, magazines, and newspapers are more likely to become good readers and do better in school. The Parent Institute offers some tips that can help your children want to read:

- Read aloud to your child.
- Keep track of your daily activities for a week. Is reading a low priority? Establish a family reading time where family members can read silently, or aloud to one another.
- Set the example. Children who see their parents reading usually grow up to be readers themselves.
- Make reading easy and fun. Read outside, under a shady tree. Make a tent with blankets and clothespins; climb inside to read. Create an indoor “reading picnic” by spreading out a blanket in the middle of the family room and reading.
- Don't try to compete with the TV. Have a set time the TV is turned off every night, and stick with it!

Enjoy the time you have with your children this summer. Reading offers a special opportunity to connect with your kids! On this page of the Eugene Public Library's website you will find the "[Kid's Booklist](#)" It is a list of recommended reading material for children sorted in a variety of ways. Here you can find books that your Primary Student can easily read as well as award winning books for readers at all Elementary skill levels.

<http://library.booksite.com/7137/nl/?list=CNL18&preview=1#Recommended>

Courageous Conversations...Race & Equity

During a recent professional development day (March 29), the entire North Region staff gathered at Madison Middle School to engage in courageous conversations around race and equity. While individual schools have already been having these tough conversations, this is the first time the entire region has gathered together to have a collective experience centered on race and equity. Especially moving was a panel of North Eugene High School MSAN (Minority Student Achievement Network) students who shared their personal stories about attending Eugene schools as a student of color. Their stories were real, eye-opening, and wrenching at times. Based on the experiences shared, it is clear we have work to do to ensure all our students feel safe, welcomed, and are achieving at the same rate as their counterparts in the dominant culture. At Howard, we are committed to continuing these difficult conversations as we work to grow both personally and professionally in a concerted effort to be more culturally knowledgeable and sensitive. We care deeply about the emotional, social, and academic lives of all our students...and we want them to know it!!

The May/June edition of our newsletters marks the final publication of the 2009-2010 school year. The office will close on June 24th and reopen on August 16th

The last day of school for Howard Elementary is June 17th. This is a full day of school. Students return to school on September 7th

Fall Class Placements

Students will receive a postcard in late June with their class assignment. Watch your mail for this important information.

Apple Visit a Smashing Success!

On April 23, over 30 visitors spent the morning touring our school and observing our staff and students in action. Guests were at Howard to learn about instructional technology and how we infuse digital tools into everyday teaching and learning. As an **Apple Distinguished School**, two years running, we are happy to share our accomplishments in hopes of transforming more and more classrooms into 21st century learning environments.

Summer Food Program

Food for Lane County will offer free lunch, Monday thru Friday, at Emerald Park, from June 20 ~ August 19 between the hours of 12:00 and 1:00 pm. For more information, call 541-343-2822. From June 28th – August 27th free lunches will be provided at Peterson Park Barn from 12:00-1:00 pm, at 870 Berntzen Road, Eugene. For more information regarding the meals at Peterson Park, call 461-6424, ext. 3061.

A Note from the Kitchen . . .

As a friendly reminder, student lunch account balances (negative or positive) will be carried over to the new school year, even if students are transitioning to middle school or have transferred to another 4j elementary school. Please call Carolyn, in the kitchen, at 541-790-4900, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's account.

Field Day Coming Soon!

Howard's Annual Field Day is set for Tuesday, June 15. Look for more information coming home in the weeks ahead.

A Message from the LIBRARY

We've had a most enjoyable year in the library, but now is the time to begin returning books and taking inventory in preparation for the close of the school year. In doing so, the last day for check out is May 14th. All books are due back to the library no later than May 31st, giving us adequate time to ensure all books are returned, re-shelved, and ready to go for a new school year in the fall! PARENTS, we are asking for your help in reminding students to return checked out materials on time.

THE LAST DAY FOR BEST WILL BE JUNE
10TH. THERE WILL BE A FIELDTRIP TO
EMERALD PARK...STAY TUNED FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Track Club

Several 4th and 5th grade students have joined Howard's Roadrunner Track and Field Club, which meets on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:05-2:30 with Mrs. Vreim and Mrs. Chinn. Students are practicing the running and field events that they will be participating in at the North Region track and field meet on May 20th.

PTO CORNER

Papa's Pizza Family Night a Success!

April 15th was our first Family Night fundraiser at "Papa's Pizza Parlor" on Coburg Rd. Thanks to all who participated. Some of you were able to eat in the restaurant while others came for pick-up. We were happy to see each and every one of you. With such great support we were able to raise a total of **\$477**. Thank you!

Community Garage Sale

May 29th is our next PTO sponsored event and it's going to be a "Garage Sale". We are looking for donations to include in our community garage sale. So...clean out those closets and sort through those storage bins. All donations will be accepted and stored for you until the day of the event. You also have the option of bringing items to donate on the day of the sale. Dropping donated items off by 8 AM, on the day of the sale, would be appreciated. For more information please give Tanya Jackson a call at **541-517-0701** or email her at iwantyouback2@yahoo.com

Don't Miss the Annual School Carnival!!

Mark your calendars for June 10! We are still in need of volunteers. Please look for a Volunteer Sign Up Sheet located on the PTO bulletin board. ANY help is appreciated.

PLEASE JOIN US TUESDAY, MAY 11 AT 6PM
FOR OUR NEXT PTO MEETING.

Howard Students Have BIG Hearts!

On April 5th, Howard students participated in ***Jump Rope for Heart*** and raised \$800.31 for the American Heart Association, helping children with heart conditions. Students learned many new ways to use a jump rope, other than the traditional single rope jumping. Mr. Squires' class donated the most money by raising \$261.06! Makenna Spahr, from Mr. Squires' class, was the top collector with a whopping donation of \$200. Way to go!

Track Meet

The annual North Region track meet will be held on Thursday, May 20th, at North Eugene High School. All Howard, 4th and 5th graders have been working hard in PE with Mrs. Vreim and Mrs. Chinn to prepare for this exciting event. YG, Corridor, River Road, Awbrey Park and Spring Creek will be joining the fun as well. Students will get to participate in events such as running, standing long jump, shot put, and softball throw. All students will earn ribbons. We are focusing on participation and a fun time for all! Fourth and fifth grade families will have more information sent home.

Be Good for a Sub

Please join us in recognizing the following students for exhibiting kind, courteous, and respectful behavior to our invaluable substitute teachers. In honor of this outstanding behavior, students were given a coupon for a FREE kid's meal at Subway. Thank you to the Subway Stores located on 99/Barger and in Santa Clara for their generous donation of these coupons!

Liam – Rm. 1

Pivi – Rm. 2

Jack – Rm. 3

Taylor and Brianna – Rm. 6

Kodie, Gabby, Bailey, Colby & Tessa – Rm. 7

Daniel – Rm. 16

Liberty and Autumn – Rm. 19

5th Grade Celebration

A promotion ceremony will be held for our 5th graders on Thursday, June 16 @ noon. Invitations will be sent home in the weeks ahead. Still, mark your calendars now for this memorable event.

Lost & Found

Our bin runneth over...during the last week of school, lost and found items will be displayed in the main hallway for your convenience. Please stop by to claim those lost articles of clothing. At the close of the school year, all lost and found items will be donated to local charities.

Ballot Measure 68

A measure that would affect schools has been referred to voters by the Oregon Legislature. Ballot Measure 68 would amend the Oregon Constitution to allow Oregon public school districts to use bond proceeds to buy land and other assets, and would create a state matching fund to help finance school district capital costs. The measure would have no financial effect on either state or local government expenditures or revenues. (Source: Measure 68 ballot titles and explanatory statements, "Oregon Voters' Guide for May 18, 2010, Primary Election.")

Statewide primary election ballots should arrive in registered voters' mailboxes in early May and are due to election offices by May 18. For more information about Ballot Measure 68, please visit www.4j.lane.edu/measure68.

Athletic Shoes at School Please

With warmer weather we really encourage the use of athletic shoes at school so children will run and play outside. When students wear flip flops, sandals and crocs there is less running and playing on the playground. Also, if they do run and play we get stubbed toes, splinters and twisted ankles. For these reasons please monitor your children's choice in shoes.

www.tracktownusayouth.com

School district 4J is among the 20 local partners making up the Youth Track Network. We will be providing information about FREE opportunities for 4J kids, including clinics and events like these coming up soon:

Family Walk Challenge/swimming/movie/food - May 14 – 5:00-9:00

Sheldon & Amazon Centers – call 541-682-5312 for details

Hershey's Track & Field – Ages 9-14 – Open Meet

Silke Field – May 27 – Registration 3:30 – Meet at 4:00 – Details: 541-736-4544

*You can receive Tweets or Facebook updates about
FREE activities.*

Search Track Town USA Youth!

Important Dates:

MAY

- 11th: 5th Grade Group Picture 1:00
- 11th: PTO Meeting 6-7:00
- 12th: Early Dismissal 1:05
- 14th: 5th Grade to OMSI
- 19th: Early Dismissal 1:05
- 20th: 4th/5th Grade Regional Track Meet
- 25th: Site Council 2:30
- 26th: Early Dismissal 1:05
- 27th: Birthday Lunches with Principal
- 28th: No School: Professional Development**
- 29th: PTO Garage Sale
- 31st: No School: Memorial Day**

JUNE

- 2nd: Early Dismissal 1:05
- 4th: Birthday Lunches with Principal
- 9th: Early Dismissal 1:05
- 10th: School Carnival 5-8:30
- 10th: Last day for BEST
- 11th: No School; Report Cards**
- 15th: Field Day
- 17th: 5th Grade Celebration 12:00
- 17th: 5th Grade Clap Out 2:00
- 17th: Last day of school (full day)