

October, 2010



Howard Elementary

www.howardelementary.org
An Apple Distinguished School
Volume 2 Issue 2

"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

District Budget

4J Starts Work to Develop a Sustainable Budget

How do we provide 21st century learning and support achievement for all students in these tough economic times?

The Eugene School District's financial challenges have been growing each year due to increasing expenses and decreasing revenues. We've patched our budget gaps by reducing staff, trimming school and work days, and using federal stimulus money and district reserve funds. Now 4J faces a deficit next year of about \$27-38 million — a staggering 19-27% of the district's operating budget.

This fall, the Eugene School Board is starting work to develop a sustainable budget. Their goal is to develop a multi-year plan that will balance the budget and put 4J on a sustainable course, while providing all kids with a sound education. Our staff, students, parents and community will be affected by the changes ahead and will be part of the conversation moving forward.

The board will ask for initial input from students, parents, staff and community members through a web survey in mid-October. They also will hold regional meetings with representatives from every 4J school. The process and additional input opportunities will continue through early January. The board is expected to approve a multi-year strategy in mid-January.

We'll keep you informed as the process continues. In the meantime, you can find more information at www.4j.lane.edu/sustainablebudget.

By working together, we can make the best decisions possible for all our students.

Road Runner News

WHY SKIN COLOR? If you were able to join us for Curriculum Night in late September, you likely saw a display that was created by the staff of Howard Elementary. The display is entitled, "At Howard, we are not just black and white..." and contains self-portraits, personal poems, and skin color swatches. The staff participated in an activity that generated discussions around skin color and emphasized the similarities and differences we all share, while at the same time gaining a better understanding of who we are both as individuals and as a group. This exercise provided staff with an opportunity to think about skin color and how your skin color shapes whom you are. We reminded ourselves that if we say, "We don't see color," this can translate to, "We don't see you." Students are aware of the differences in color, but sometimes grown ups are afraid to acknowledge these differences for fear of saying the "wrong" thing. We want ALL children to be seen, heard, and valued. If you haven't had a chance to view our display, please do so during your next visit to Howard.

STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNIZED RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of drug free America. And, perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

At Howard, students will be invited to participate in a week's worth of school spirit activities that will focus on being drug and alcohol free. Our activities will include:

TUESDAY, October 26

"Color My World Drug Free" Wear our School Colors-BLUE and WHITE.

WEDNESDAY, October 27

"Team Up Against Drugs!" Everyone is invited to dress up in his or her favorite team jersey.

THURSDAY, October 28

"Friends Don't Let Friends Do Drugs". Dress like twins and match your friend

FRIDAY, October 29

"Say Boo to Drugs!" Students/Staff can wear orange & black (good alternative to costumes!).



Class presentations with the Counselor will focus on age appropriate drug awareness and a chance to make a personal promise to not use drugs and/or alcohol.

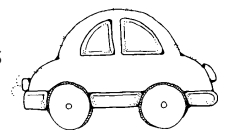
5th Grade Student Service will visit classes in the cafeteria to share with them during the week, and give afternoon reminders on the announcements of themes the following day.

4j TAG PARENT MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Please join us for a time of learning and sharing around issues related to being a parent of a gifted student. Paula Wilkes, of Pacific University Center for Talented and Gifted, will be offering two separate meetings during the month of October. The first will be from 8:30-10:30 am on Wednesday, October 13th in the Mozart Room at the Eugene School District office located at 200 N. Monroe. The second will be from 7:00-8:30 pm on Tuesday, October 26th at Kalapuya High School at 1200 N. Terry in Eugene. The title of these presentations is "Parenting Your Gifted Child." Please contact Kerri Sage, 4j TAG TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) at 541-790-7574 if you have any questions.

HANDICAP PARKING

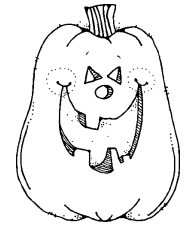
Please be sure and reserve this space for our visitors who are in need of handicap parking. As a friendly reminder, it is unlawful to park in handicap spaces without the proper permit. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



HALLOWEEN PARTIES

Individual teachers will determine if Halloween parties will take place in their classrooms. If teachers permit costumes during this holiday celebration, the following dress code will be enforced, as it pertains to costumes:

- NO weapons
- NO weapon-like props
- NO excessive bareness (no spaghetti straps, exposed bra straps, bare midriffs)
- NO "gang" attire
- NO masks
- NO especially scary or gory costumes

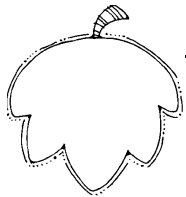


Our Halloween Parade will take place on October 29, starting at 1:30. Parents and guardians are invited to enjoy the parade. Guests should gather on the playground at this time in the final leg of our parade route.

HOWARD ROADRUNNER RUNNING CLUB IS COMING!

Attention all 3rd-5th graders! In preparation for the upcoming elementary cross-country meet, PE teacher, Mrs. Vreim, is hosting an after school **Howard Roadrunner Running Club**. Running Club will begin on Monday, October 11 and continue thru Tuesday, October 19. The running club begins at 2:05 and CONCLUDES at 2:30, every Monday and Thursday. Parents, please make arrangements for your child's transportation home. Prompt pick-ups are a must ☺. Mrs. Vreim, our PE teacher, will be sending more information home, soon.

THE 4J ELEMENTARY CROSS-COUNTRY MEET WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 AND WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.



FALL CONFERENCES are scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 3 and Thursday, November 4. There will be NO SCHOOL on Thursday, November 4 and Friday, November 5. **Scheduling forms will have been sent home and need to be returned to school no later than Thursday, October 14.**

WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY ~ OCTOBER 6

Walk and Bike to School Day was on Wednesday, October 6th. Thirty years ago 50% of students walked or biked to school. Today only 15% do. Walking or biking to school is an excellent way to make physical activity a part of students' daily routines. Walking or biking helps improve strength, endurance, decrease anxiety and stress, and helps maintain weight. Students who either walked or biked to school on Wednesday, October 6, received prizes from Oregon Walk and Bike to School Organization. Prizes included Walk and Bike stickers and shoelaces, healthy snacks from Cliff Kids, and for our grand prize, a Nutcase Super Start bike helmet! Don't let exercise only happen during special events; walk or ride to school everyday!

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

As a friendly reminder, 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, and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in. As a Title I 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 SYTEM.** If you have not applied yet this year, please pick up an application in the reception area of the school office or visit the Eugene 4j website at www.4j.lane.edu/nutrition/freelunch. Your child/ren should be able to use the form from last year through October 14. Beyond this date, you will need to send \$2.25 with your child for lunch.

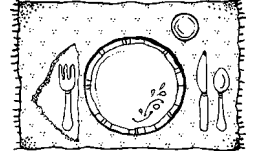
FROM THE KITCHEN ~ LUNCH ACCOUNT BALANCES

Beginning last spring, a few changes were implemented in the school cafeteria. The students now enter their lunch code information in the computer prior to getting their meals. **Students with a negative balance on their meal account will be given an "emergency meal" which consists of a cheese sandwich, milk and all-you-can-eat salad bar.** To help communicate to families when students have a negative lunch balance, we have

implemented a program that will help minimize large overdraft charges. **Kitchen staff will use a fun smiley clock face hand stamp to let families know it's time to check in with food service about their account.** If your child comes home with a clock face stamp, please contact Carolyn Tompkins, our Food Services Coordinator, at 541-790-4900; she is happy to work with you regarding your child's account.

As always, you can send in money with your student or you can add money to your child's account online. Lunches are \$2.25, or \$.40 if your family was approved for "reduced meal prices".

As a reminder...we offer a HEALTHY, FREE breakfast complete with 5 entrées, each and every morning, from 7:25-7:50 in our cafeteria. Come join us!



LAPTOPS AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Howard Elementary is "in front of the pack" when it comes to technology hardware and its use in everyday teaching and learning. As such, each student is assigned a laptop for use during the school day. To increase longevity, we expect students to treat equipment with respect, and within the parameters we have established for proper usage. Please understand that mistreatment, careless handling, and/or improper use of laptops/desktops may result in loss of privileges.

WEAR YOUR HELMET TO SCHOOL

When riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards to school, safety is important. Please be sure your child has a properly fitting helmet and wears it while riding. Not only is it the law, but it will also protect your child from serious injury should an accident occur. We take your child's safety seriously. As such, students that come to school without a helmet will be required to leave their bike, skateboard, or scooter with the principal until a parent is able to retrieve the item or bring a helmet.

DO YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you, or any of your emergency contacts, have recently changed numbers, addresses, or email accounts, please make sure you have notified the school office. It is extremely important this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or your child becomes ill at school.



A CHILL IS IN THE AIR...Brrrrrr

With cooler weather drawing near, it is time to put away those shorts and dig out the sweaters. As you are aware, Oregon weather changes frequently. Please dress your child for the weather. Dressing in layers is always a good idea so that children can adjust to the changing temperature accordingly.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: A friendly reminder that students riding the bus will NOT be dropped off at home unless a parent, or responsible, pre-authorized adult, is present.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS! Are you interested in volunteering at Howard? Are you an active volunteer but have no idea how to operate the machines often used by teachers? If so, this is the workshop for you! To help accommodate busy schedules, the workshop will be offered on two different dates and will cover the following:

- Copy machine
- Die cuts
- Laptops (logging in, etc.)
- Book binding
- Emergency procedures
- Working with small groups of students
- What to do if you encounter a difficult situation with a child

WORKSHOP DATES/TIMES: October 12 @ 1:30 PM & October 13 @ 9:00AM. After signing in at the office, please meet in room 12.



PTO Corner

Is it October already? We are still in need of Room Representatives (RR). Your primary role is to support classroom activities as requested by the teacher and act as liaison between the teacher and classroom parents. You are also the contact person between PTO and the classroom. Howard PTO is here to help support our school, so that our children can have the best learning environment. To do this efficiently we need your help as a RR.

September 20 We started our Cookie Dough Fundraising! Yippee.

October 4 End of Cookie Dough Fundraising and money collection.

October 12 PTO Meeting @ 6pm in the Library, childcare provided. We will be discussing funds for each classroom and start accepting written proposals from teachers. We hope to see all of our parents there.

October 14 Pick-up day for Cookie Dough from 2pm - 5:30pm. If you cannot make it in this time frame, please contact PTO to make other arrangements by calling 541-933-5331.

October 21 Papa's Pizzas night on Coburg Rd. 5:30pm-7pm. We will have tables reserved for Howard PTO; look for us. It'll be a mini- carnival with face painting, raffles, and more.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 11 BEST begins
- 12 PTO meeting (6:00pm)
- 13 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 15 NO SCHOOL; professional development
- 20 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 21 Papa's Pizza Night @ Coburg Rd.
- 26 Site Council (2:30)
- 27 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 29 Birthday lunch with Mrs. Price (October bdays)
Halloween Parade (1:30-2:00/KG time TBA)

November

- 3 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
Parent Teacher Conferences (4:00-8:00)
- 4 Parent Teacher Conferences (8:00-8:00)
NO SCHOOL: conferences
- 5 NO SCHOOL: Teacher Compensation Day
- 9 PTO meeting (6:00)
- 10 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 11 NO SCHOOL; Veteran's Day
- 12 NO SCHOOL; Furlough day
- 17 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
Health Screening
- 19 Picture retakes
- 23 Site Council (2:30)
- 24 Birthday lunch with Mrs. Price (November bdays)
Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 25 NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 NO SCHOOL; Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 1 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 6-10 Easy CBM math/reading testing
- 15 Roadrunner assembly
- 15 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 20 Winter vacation begins

January

- 4 Classes resume

