

November, 2010



Howard Elementary

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

Volume 2 Issue 3

“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

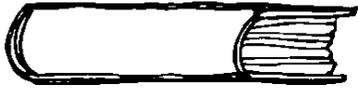
Howard is a safe and welcoming place to be, filled with courteous and respectful boys and girls. Based on our referral data, office referrals are down 32% from last year, during this same time frame! This decline follows a 29% reduction in office referrals between the 08-09 and 09-10 school years! Equally as noteworthy is that this year’s data indicates 95% of our students are referral (level III) free! We attribute this decline to explicitly teaching our expectations, consistently recognizing positive choices, and genuinely caring for our children...plus, we have fantastic students! We also believe the collaborative partnership we have formed between school and home plays a vital role in the safe and welcoming environment we have created at Howard; thank you, families! Our students have responded well to our efforts and we are proud of their positive choices and caring attitudes.

Howard’s PBS team meets monthly to discuss school-wide student behavior and identify ways to reinforce our school rules; be safe, be kind, and be responsible. To this end, we’d like to share our expectations for classroom behavior and ask for your support as we hold students accountable to these expectations.

- Follow teacher directions
- Take turns
- Raise hand for help
- Work and wait quietly
- Be respectful and supportive of others
- Listen when the teacher is talking
- Ask for help appropriately
- Use an inside voice
- Congratulate others on their successes

If your child brings home a BEEP BEEP for being safe, kind, or responsible in the classroom please let him/her know that you are proud of them and that they should be proud of themselves.

Road Runner News



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Howard's First Annual OREGON BATTLE OF THE BOOKS!

This year, Howard Elementary School will participate, for the first time, in the Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB)! The focus of OBOB is to expose students, regardless of ability, to quality literature representing a variety of literary styles and viewpoints. The goals of the program are to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension, and promote academic excellence.

All students participating in OBOB, at Howard School, must be in 4th or 5th grades for the current school year, 2010-2011. Each student must provide a permission form signed by a parent or guardian. Please help your student fill out the form. All details concerning OBOB participation are included on the form.

Parents are welcome to attend "Battles", and encouraged to volunteer. Competitions will start in January and continue until Howard has a Champion Team. The Champion Team will compete in the Region 3 North Tournament on Saturday, March 12, 2011 in Springfield.

The Region 3 North Champions will compete in the Oregon State Tournament April 16, 2011 in Salem.

Good Luck Roadrunners!

Library Book Fine Workshop

These are difficult times for many. In the library, we are aware of the difficulties families face, so we have instituted a process for the students (with severely overdue books or other library materials) to take personal responsibility for their missing items. With signed permission, your student may volunteer to help out with various projects and chores, after hours, in the library. The chores are very light (wiping tables, shelving books), but may include creating in Paper Mache, cutting out paper shapes and decorating bulletin boards and displays using tape, glue, thumb-tacks and staplers. These "Book Fine Workshops" are held each week on Wednesday afternoons, during the hour after early release, that is, from 1:05 to 2:05 PM. Transportation will not be provided. If your child meets the criteria for participation, a letter will be sent home with them. The bottom of the letter will serve as a permission slip. Please fill it out and return it to the school, so that your student can participate.

Book Care Tips from the LIBRARY

- ✓ Keep library books safe from rain and dampness
- ✓ Remember to return library books so that you can continue checking out
- ✓ Keep books in a safe place; safe from pets, small children, and spilled food/drink
- ✓ Use a bookmark rather than turning down page corners or marking with a pencil
- ✓ In order to avoid rips, turn book pages carefully
- ✓ Handle books with care. Hug your book!



Set Your Clocks Back!

At this time of year, clocks need to be set back one hour. The official time change is 2:00 AM, on November 7. Remember to "fall back" one hour on this date!

Student Attendance and Tardies

Please remember that your child is expected to be in his/her classroom at **7:55** AM. The first bell rings at 7:50, giving your child five minutes to hang up their coat, retrieve homework, and settle in. The class activities start promptly at 7:55 with morning announcements. This morning time is one of the most important times of the day and can set the tone for the remainder of the day. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable instruction time, but also it is disruptive to his/her classmates.

When your child is going to be late or absent from school, please call the school office at 790-4900. You may leave a message if calling before office hours. Please leave the name of your child, their room number, and the reason for the absence. For your child's safety, it is extremely important the school is contacted when your child is going to be absent or late. Automated attendance calls are generated at 8:30 AM.

Excused/Unexcused Absences?

Each year, questions arise concerning whether an absence is recorded as excused or unexcused. The same questions arise concerning tardies. The following information should help clarify this matter.

Oregon Revised Statute 339.065 states: "An absence may be excused... if the absence is caused by the pupil's sickness, by the sickness of some member of the pupil's family or by an emergency. A principal or teacher may also excuse absences for other reasons where satisfactory arrangements are made in advance of the absence." The Howard staff primarily limits "other reasons" to doctor or dentist appointments that cannot be made outside the school day. Baby-sitting, vacations, and family social events are generally not considered acceptable reasons to miss school. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT OREGON TRUANCY LAWS APPLY WHETHER AN ABSENCE IS EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED. As per the law, we will be sending home attendance letters should a student be absent an equivalent of eight half days during a four and half week period. We will also notify parents, via a letter, should irregular attendance patterns persist. We do this as a means of informing parents and to ask for help in ensuring regular and consistent attendance.

When the attendance of the student becomes a concern, (whether absences are excused or unexcused) the principal or counselor may contact parents about the school's concerns. If the attendance problem continues, the school will be obligated to refer the family to the Lane ESD Truancy Office.

Birthday Lunches with the Principal

The last attendance day of each month, students whose birthdays fall within that month can enjoy eating their lunch with Mrs. Price. A special table setting, a birthday pencil and snack, and unique time with the principal make for a memorable experience. To date, we have celebrated August, September, and October birthdays. November's lunch celebration will be held on the 24th.



Lunch Accounts

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



Howard Teacher Gets a Surprise of \$1,000 in Classroom Supplies

Teachers across the nation buy many of their classroom supplies out of their own pockets. But this year, two teachers in Eugene School District 4J were surprised with a trove of supplies and an award from the "A Day Made Better" campaign. On the morning of October 5, 1,000 teachers across the United States, including two in Eugene, received surprise deliveries of school supplies from OfficeMax worth a total of \$1 million (\$1,000 each). One of these teachers was our very own **Carla Zimmerman, 1st grade teacher at Howard.**

OfficeMax and Adopt-A-Classroom founded "A Day Made Better" to help provide supplies to teachers and classrooms across the nation, because teachers regularly spend \$1,000 out-of-pocket on essential classroom supplies each year.

By recognizing and rewarding some of the nation's dedicated teachers, the organizers seek to call attention to the issue of teacher out-of-pocket spending and motivate widespread support for teachers nationwide. Since "A Day Made Better" first began in October 2007, OfficeMax has funded more than 3,500 teachers and their classrooms on behalf of the "A Day Made Better" cause and helped attract donations for 10,000 classrooms through Adopt-A-Classroom.

Learn more at adaymadebetter.com or adopt a teacher at adoptaclassroom.org.

Eugene Education Fund (EEF) Donations

Eugene families and local businesses are invited to donate funds to the EEF. Donations can be earmarked to a specific school (in this case, Howard Elementary) as a means of support the school's efforts to enhance learning and offer children the best education possible. To learn more, and to make a donation, contact the EEF at http://eeflane.org/ways_to_help/planned_giving/.

Be Good for a Sub

Substitute teachers are on the lookout 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 **mini pizza** coupon from **ABBY'S PIZZA** for being "good for a sub". Following are our most recent recipients of a Subway coupon:

Hannah in room 15
Emma and Ian in room 4

Tyler in room 7
Naxana in room 16

Ashley in room 19



News Crew

Fifth grade students lead our Roadrunner Announcements each morning. Thank you to Jazminn and Gene for greeting us each morning during the months of September and October. Chris and Tasia will lead us in November's announcements!



FROM THE NURSE'S DESK!

Influenza Season is Coming ~ Flu Vaccine Recommended

The CDC recommends everyone, age 6 months and older, be vaccinated against influenza. This year's vaccine includes protection against H1N1 as well as the other seasonal viruses. Consider inquiring about nasal spray instead of injection!

Who should NOT get flu vaccine?

- Anyone with anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs or other components of the flu vaccine.
- Infants under 6 months old

Stay Healthy! Wash your hands, eat lots of fresh vegetables & fruits, get enough sleep every day, drink enough water, exercise some everyday and **wash your hands again! Don't touch eyes, nose, or mouth unless hands are freshly washed. Teach children to cover mouth/nose when coughing/sneezing with the crook of elbow or their sleeve. Encourage hand washing of at least 15 seconds; singing the ABC song is a good way to measure how long to wash hands.**

Where? Contact your health care provider, your pharmacy, My School's Health Center at North Eugene 541-790-4445 or the Health Department 541-682-4041.

Wishing you a healthy winter, Robin Wellwood, RN, School Nurse

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE PTO??

Our Cookie Dough Fundraiser was a huge success! We surpassed our goal and profited **\$6,820!!** With the money carried over from last year, we were able to allocate **\$8,338** for classroom projects, field trips, and to other programs at Howard Elementary School! Thank you, students and parents, for all your hard work.

There was a GREAT turn out for our first Papa's Pizza Fundraiser. We raised **\$565.58!** There were free raffle give-aways, with lots of goodies and gift cards, during the Fundraiser! Thank you to all those who came by to support our event!

We have openings for these positions on the PTO Board and Committees:

1. Treasurer
2. Carnival co-Chairs. We need three co-Chairs for Carnival this year, as this is a huge fundraising event for our school.
3. Garage Sale Chairperson

Please email us for more information if interested. Thank you.

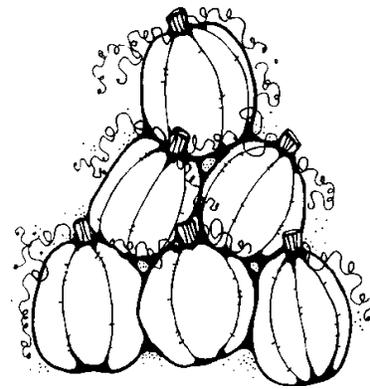
HowardElementaryPTO@gmail.com

(541) 933-5336

DATES TO REMEMBER

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
- 7 Set clocks back one hour
- 9 PTO meeting (6:00)
- 10 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 11 NO SCHOOL; Veteran's Day
- 12 NO SCHOOL; Furlough day
- 16 Parent Laptop Training (or untrained parents only) 5:30pm Rm. 12
- 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 @ 8:15 am
- 15 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 18 Early Dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 20 Winter vacation begins

January

- 4 Classes resume



www.tracktownusayouth.com

School District 4J is among the 23 local partners making up the Youth Track Network. We will be providing information about free opportunities for 4J kids, including clinics and activities like these coming up soon:

FREE 1 hour Youth Clinic with UO Track Team
Autographs session with OTC Elite's
★ Andrew Wheating ★ Ashton Eaton ★ Nicole Blood
Ages 12 & under - PK Park (next to Autzen)
2 hrs prior to football kick-off – (Football tickets not required)

Turkey Stuffer 5K Run/Walk Thursday, Nov. 25. 8:30 am - Lively Park
Free for youth 14 & under without T-shirt Free swimming after the run
www.willamalane.org