

Dec./Jan. 2011



Howard Elementary

www.howardelementary.org

Volume 2 Issue 4

“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

Road Runner News

OAKS & ODE Mathematics Achievement Standards 2010-2011

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. 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.

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 13, 2011. Students at Howard Elementary School begin round one of statewide testing the week of January 24. Round two will take place the week of March 14. 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 or visit their website at www.oaks.k12.or.us.

In a move to prepare students for the increased rigors of the new [Common Core State Standards](#) and the [Oregon Diploma](#), the Oregon State Board of Education voted on October 28, 2010 to increase math achievement standards (cut scores) for grades 3-8, effective for the 2010-11 school year, by 7 points. The current high school cut score for "Meets" of 236 will remain the same. Recommendations were made to increase the level of math students are expected to know in elementary and middle school to create better alignment between the lower grades and the new high school graduation requirements for math.

While the increased rigor of the new cut scores will initially result in fewer students meeting the achievement standard, this higher bar is necessary to get our students ready for the new Oregon graduation requirements and success after high school. Fewer students meeting the achievement standard will not mean students know less than they did the year before or that they are doing worse in school. These new achievement standards simply require a higher level of mastery of mathematics information and concepts.

Should you have further questions regarding the OAKS test, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.



Eugene Education Fund (EEF) Grants Funded!

Lisa Vreim's proposal 'Health and Fitness Room' was awarded \$500 on Nov. 1 by the EEF board of directors. Also funded was James Squires and Amber Frank's proposal 'State Capitol Visit' for \$500 and Carla Zimmerman's proposal 'Turn It Up!' for \$2,000. On Nov. 22, we received more good news when we learned that Suzy Rock and Lupe Callihan's "Sensational Science" proposal for \$2000 was also funded. We couldn't be happier! Thank you.

Grant support is in addition to donor-earmarked gifts parents and neighbors make through EEF. This steady support means our student receive wider opportunities and more individual attention. Despite our grant awards, some of our dreams remain unfulfilled here at Howard. If you have not already made a gift this year, would you consider doing so now? If so, checks can be made payable to "Howard Elementary EEF" and mailed to P.O. Box 1015, Eugene, Oregon 97440 or bring it to our school office. For more information call **541-343-6877** or write eef@4j.lane.edu.

Grants Galore!

We would like to thank the following organizations for funding grant proposals submitted by Howard teachers. It is through community support that we can offer our students experiences that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. Please join us in expressing our sincerest THANKS to:

- Selco**; \$500 for fieldtrips and PE equipment (Rm. 7 & PE)
- LTD**; \$200 for support with *Walk/Ride Your Bike to School* day (PE)
- Chvatal Orthodontics**; \$250 in support of the 5th grade OMSI trip
- Parent Donations**; \$250 for classroom itouches (Rm. 6)



A MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE - Fever Free Policy

We need your help in doing our best to prevent illnesses from spreading at school. Please remember....**Fever today? No school tomorrow.**

Do not send your child to school until they are fever free (under 100 degrees) for 24 hours without any fever reducing medication (ie Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen). Aspirin should not be given for fever due to viruses, to prevent a complication called Reye's syndrome. Also, please remember **if vomiting or severe diarrhea today, no school tomorrow.**



To further prevent the spread of illness, it would be helpful if you reinforced the importance of coughing/sneezing into sleeve, and the adoption of thorough hand-washing (singing/thinking the ABC song is about right length of time). Thanks so much! If you have questions, please call our school nurse, Robin at 710-0345.

FREE Medical Visits: Check it Out!

Community Health Centers of Lane County has a new program for children and youth! The Soy Sano (I am Healthy) program provides FREE medical visits and referrals for dental and vision services to new patients ages 0-18 who are uninsured and not eligible for the Oregon Health Plan because they do not meet citizenship requirements. This program is funded by a safety net capacity grant and is in collaboration with the 4J school district and Planned Parenthood. To schedule an appointment, please call [541-682-3550](tel:541-682-3550).

Don't Forget Your Coat!

We have many students coming to school without their coat. Please remember that our students go outside every day for recess unless it is extremely rainy. Unfortunately, we do not have coats, hats and/or gloves for students to borrow. So please double check with your child as they head out the door to make sure they are grabbing all of their cold weather gear.

Toys, Toys, Toys!

Students occasionally ask if they can bring toys to school. Educational toys are only permitted, with teacher permission, to be shared during "show and tell". Following "show and tell", the toy should be returned to the child's backpack. Toy weapons are not allowed at any time.

Howard Boasts Safe, Kind & Responsible Students

Howard has a strong Positive Behavior Support program that teaches and reinforces responsible choices and good citizenship. In support of this program, on November 19, Howard hosted a Reward Activity for those students who were referral free for the entire month prior to the celebration (...starting on October 20). Each classroom teacher organized a fun activity and students had the opportunity to sign up for 40 minutes of crafts, ball games, movies, computer games, and more! I am pleased to share that 96% of our students were able to join in the festivities. Our next Reward Activity will be held on January 21st; eligibility started on 12/6. Our next Reward is a **surprise** students will not want to miss! Way to go Road Runners!



Emergency Drills

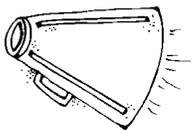
In order to prepare for emergencies, Howard conducts regular emergency drills including fire drills, lockdown drills, and earthquake drills. It is important that if you are visiting or volunteering during one of these drills, you participate in the drill. This includes exiting the building, joining a classroom for lock down procedures, or relocating to an earthquake safe zone depending on the type of emergency. These drills are timed so immediate response to an emergency signal is a must. Finally, during a drill, we reference our volunteer/visitor "sign-in" book to ensure all guests are safe. Therefore, it is important that you sign in/out during each visit.



Wondering About Winter Weather? When we have to close or alter our school or bus schedules due to hazardous winter weather, you want to know as quickly as possible. Weather-related school closure decisions are normally made early in the morning and announced via all methods by 6:30 am. These decisions are made district-wide and are the same for every 4J school. If there is a change in the school schedule or bus routes due to inclement weather, Eugene School District 4J will announce the change. If school is in session and on regular schedule, the district will NOT make an announcement. Students who ride school buses that sometimes use snow routes have been informed of what to do when snow routes are in effect. There are several ways to find out about weather-related closures, delays and 4J bus route changes on snowy or icy days... **Text-message alerts (NEW!), 4J website, www.4j.lane.edu, and KRVM-FM 91.9**

Want to sign up for the new text-message alerts? Go to www.4j.lane.edu/weather to learn how. If school is in session, families are encouraged to consider road conditions in their area and make their own decision based on safety; parents' individual decisions about school attendance will be honored.

A Message from the Counselor (Mr. Baker) ~ Sleep is essential to good health. A good night's sleep plays a key role in disease resistance, injury prevention, clarity of thought, and stability of mood. Unfortunately, more than 70 million Americans, including children, do not get enough sleep. Elementary school-aged children require an average of 10 to 11 hours of sleep per night, but according to the 2004 Sleep in America Poll, which examined the sleep habits of children, 69% of children experience one or more sleep problems at least several nights a week. Good sleep is as important as daily exercise and proper nutrition. Sleep may be thought of as "nutrition for the brain." Inadequate sleep can result in decreased concentration and academic performance, and may be linked to behavior problems misdiagnosed such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.



News Crew

Fifth grade students lead our Roadrunner Announcements each morning. Thank you to Chris and Tasia for greeting us each morning during the month of November. Antonio, Noah, and Kyla will serve on our News Crew during December and January.

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** or a free order of french fries from **WENDY'S** for being "good for a sub" (coupons change, periodically). Following are our most recent recipients of a coupon:

Isaiah, Sara and Tyler in room 7
Hannah and Naxana in room 16
Emma and Ian in room 4

Douglas in room 6
Ashley in room 19
Anthony in room 13

Katilin in room 4



LOST & FOUND FLOWETH OVER

Our lost and found bin is filled to the brim with coats, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, sweaters, and more! We will be donating these items to a charitable organization at the end of January. So...please be sure and check out both the bin and the hooks, located in the front hallway near the bathrooms, to claim lost items in the weeks ahead.

Words of Praise

You are never too old to enjoy getting praise. Like Beeps, Beeps for students, we have a program at Howard, called *Words of Praise*, for the staff. And . . . parents are invited to participate! If you would like to share a compliment or thanks to a staff member, simply complete a *Words of Praise* card and give it to the office. We will make sure it gets in the appropriate staff member's mailbox. *Words of Praise* cards are located in the front lobby, inside a clear plastic wall mount. We'd love to hear from you!

NO PARKING, Please ~ ***We would like to remind parents that parking behind those vehicles located in spaces directly in front of the school (where no curb is present) is considered double parking and there is a fine of \$25 associated with blocking access to the parking spaces. To ensure access in/out of these parking spaces, and to avoid a possible ticket, please DO NOT park in this area. We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for your on-going support.***

PTO CORNER We would like to thank all teachers for going the extra mile for our children. As a result of their hard work writing grants for field trips, PTO was able to award money to each of our grant proposals. PTO awarded a total of \$8,398.81 (\$4,646.71 in grants and \$3,752.10 in cash allocations). We will post a list of grants awarded on the "PTO Corner" bulletin board for all to see. If you have questions PLEASE email us.

December 11th we had our first Barnes & Noble Book Fair. Thank you to all the parents who came to support and helped out. We do not have the total amount raised, as yet. But, we did make \$179.40 in tips from Gift Wrapping! THANK YOU AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS! See you in the new year!!

Dates to Remember:

January

- 3 NO SCHOOL: Professional Development
- 4 Classes resume
- 5 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 11 PTO meeting (6:00)
- 12 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 14 NO SCHOOL: Furlough day
- 17 NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Day Observed
- 20 Math night (6:00-7:00)
- 21 School wide reward activity (for referral free students from 12/6-1/21)
- 24-28 Round 1 OAKS Testing (grades 3-5)
- 25 Site Council (2:30)
- 27 Birthday lunch with Mrs. Price
- 28 NO SCHOOL; grade day
- 31 NO SCHOOL; furlough day

February

- 2 Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 4 Report cards sent home
- 8 PTO meeting (6:00 pm)
NAEP Testing (4th grade)
- 14-18 OAKS Testing (4th grade writing)
- 18 NO SCHOOL; Howard Professional Development
- 21 NO SCHOOL: President's Day
- 22 Site Council (2:30)
- 22 Strings concert @Madison Middle School (7:30)
- 23 Road Runner Assembly (8:15)
- 24 Student birthday lunches with Mrs. Price
- 28 Book Fair week



