



Howard Elementary

www.howardelementary.org

Volume 2 Issue 7

“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

As always, the safety and security of our students is of the highest priority! With this in mind, we felt it was important to offer parents a few reminders of student pick up procedures, along with a few suggestions for keeping children safe from strangers. As a safety measure, we only release students to adults identified on each child's emergency contact list. The only exception occurs if we receive personal notification from a parent giving the school permission to release their child to someone not included in our system. We may also ask parents, guardians, or other authorized adults to identify themselves when contacting the school. Please understand, these inquiries are for your child's safety and we hope they are not perceived as anything other than care and concern for our students. In addition, for the safety of our students, if a parent/guardian has not picked up his/her child by the time buses have departed and staff have re-entered the building, the child will be brought to the office where supervision is provided, until the guardian arrives.

Stranger Danger: On a related note, it is important for guardians to teach their child(ren) about the inherent dangers they may face as they venture out into the world. The following tips and strategies are from www.mychildsafety.net, *A Parent's Guide to Child Safety*.

“Unfortunately the world is a scary place and there are people out there who prey on children. No doubt, it is a very important issue that all parents must address – and one that requires ongoing, open communication with their children. The single most important thing to remember when teaching your children about stranger danger is to instill confidence, rather than fear. You want to equip your child with the knowledge and strategies they will need to protect themselves in dangerous situations. Also, keep your child's age and maturity level in mind and base lessons upon that. Again, stranger danger lessons should be ongoing. Adapt the conversation as your child grows, as he/she is likely to encounter different types of situations.”

“Who are “strangers”? First and foremost, children need to understand what you mean by stranger. Not all people unknown to them are necessarily dangerous – they need to understand the difference between “good” and “bad” strangers; an overly simplistic dichotomy, but one that puts the issue in terms a child can understand. This is important so children understand where and to whom to turn if they are ever lost or feel scared, threatened, or if they think someone may be following them. Examples of “good” strangers may include police officers, security guards, teachers, store clerks, etc. These are all examples of people to turn to if when your child needs help. On the other hand, in many situations where your child may be approached by a “bad” stranger (the park, residential street, etc.) those easily identifiable people may not be around.

Your child should know that there really are many more "good" people, than "bad." If they are approached by a "bad" stranger who tries to lure or physically pull them away, the best thing they can do is get the attention of other adults - whether that is by running to the nearest home, or making enough noise to be heard by someone, the vast majority of adults will help a child in danger.

"Stranger Danger" Tips and Strategies: Additionally, the following are important tips and strategies for children to protect themselves:

- Know your name, address, and phone number.
- Use the buddy system; avoid walking anywhere alone.
- Trust your instincts; if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- If a stranger approaches you, you do not have to speak to him or her. Never approach a stranger in a motor vehicle. Just keep walking. Do not accept candy or any other items from a stranger. Never walk off with a stranger no matter what he or she tells you.
- If someone is following you try to remember the license plate of his or her vehicle and immediately tell a trusted adult.
- If a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away or dragging you into his or her car. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is dragging you away, scream, "this is not my dad," or "this is not my mom."

While sharing the above tips with your child is extremely important, the best way to teach stranger danger lessons is through role-playing scenarios. Check back soon for our page on Stranger Danger role-playing scenarios.

Volunteer Sign In/Out A Must ☺!

As an added safety precaution at our school, we require that all visitors/volunteers start their visit in the office. Please sign in and receive a visitor's badge so that staff members and students know you are a "safe" visitor. If you do not have a badge, don't be surprised if a staff member asks you to please stop by the office to check in. Equally important is that you sign out in the office when your visit is complete. By doing so, we know who is in the building in the event of an emergency. Thank you, in advance, for honoring this important safety procedure.



Site Council Members Needed for 2011-2012

The purpose of Site Council is to work with staff to develop, implement, and provide oversight of Howard's School Improvement Plan. In addition, input regarding school programming/initiatives, curriculum, and family involvement efforts is often solicited. This governing body meets one Tuesday a month, from 2:30-3:30. The Council membership includes two to three parent representatives (depending on the size of the group) with the term lasting two years. **WE ARE IN NEED OF PARENTS TO JOIN SITE COUNCIL FOR THE 2011-2013 SCHOOL YEARS.** If you are interested, please complete a Site Council Nomination form (found in the front office or on our website) no later than May 6, 2011. This deadline may be extended into the fall should nominations be limited.

Howard Title I Survey

We are currently surveying all families, staff and 2nd-5th grade students in order to review our current school improvement plan. Our school improvement plan includes goals of increasing student achievement and enhancing parent involvement.

This SHORT survey can be completed on-line by using the following links:

English: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BU2Y5GDSM/>

Spanish: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BU2YZGEBQ/>



The survey must be completed by Friday, April 29th and should only take a few minutes of your time. Please complete the survey only once even if you have several children attending Howard. For those families that receive a paper copy of the newsletter, a paper copy of the survey is attached. Please complete and submit to your child's teacher. If you have any questions, please call us at 541-790-4900. Thank you!



Attention 5th Graders ~ Transition to Middle School

Howard Elementary feeds into Kelly Middle School. To help prepare students for the transition, 5th graders can look forward to a visit from middle school staff and students AND a tour of Kelly Middle School in May. Details will be shared via class newsletters as the May dates draw near. Starting second semester, families should also be receiving copies of KMS's newsletters. Please let us know if you have not been getting this correspondence.

Eugene Education Foundation Grants Thank you for all you do for your child's education!

Here's a simple way to make sure schools are ready as the years go by: make a gift. Your gift may be the one that completes the funding for our school's next \$500 or \$2,000 grant proposal to Eugene Education Fund! In the last decade EEF has used community gifts to send schools \$1,124,011 in grants. Gifts support district programs, too, including Science Kits, early reading efforts and clinics that ensure 4J kids are healthy learners.

Give online at www.eef.lane.edu, or send a check to EEF, Post Office Box 1015, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

Be Good for a Sub Recognition Continues

Congratulations to the following students for earning a "Be Good for a Sub" coupon for their **RESPECTFUL and COURTEOUS behavior during their teacher's absence**. Their positive choices add to the overall atmosphere at Howard. Thank you to Abby's, located on River Road, for their support; Michael in room 7, Maikel in room 14, Shae in room 15, and Austin in room 16. Congratulations!!



Kindergarten Orientation



Howard Elementary is hosting its annual Kindergarten Orientation for all 2011-2012 kindergarten age children on Thursday, April 27th at 9:30 am. If you have a child (5 by September 1, 2011) that will be starting with us next fall be sure and join us for more information about our kindergarten program. Please share this newsletter 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!

Classroom Placement for 2011-12

We recognize there may be times when parents wish to share specific needs, concerns, or information regarding classroom placement. A **PARENT INFORMATION REGARDING CLASSROOM PLACEMENT** form is available in the office for parents who wish to communicate specific information regarding the placement of their child. Please understand, this is not an opportunity to request a particular teacher, but rather to share information about your child to assist us in class placements. Parents should know that information provided will be carefully considered, along with other placement factors, in our effort to create well balanced classroom groups. A team of teachers, working with the principal, determines classroom placement. The following factors are considered when making placement decisions:



- 1) A balance in class size, boys and girls, academic performance, learning styles, social skills, and students with special needs;
- 2) Consideration of the *Request for Classroom Placement* form.

With vast budget reductions, staffing assignments are still tentative and subject to change. Finally, it is important for parents to understand completion of this form does not guarantee a particular placement through this process. **In order for parental information to be considered in the placement process, The Parent Information Regarding Classroom Placements form must be returned to the office no later than May 6th.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Howard Family Night Out!
Papa's Pizza on Coburg Road

April 14th

Fliers will be coming home soon with more details!

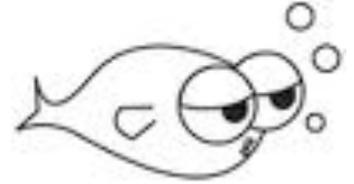
Keep those BOX TOPS and CAMPBELL'S soup labels coming!

FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!



We are pleased to share that our Food for Lane County Food Drive, sponsored by our PTO, was a success. Families donated 417 pounds of food, an incredible number and a testament to our giving spirit! Thank you to all those who participated in the food drive and helped those less fortunate.

SPRING FLY FISHING FESTIVAL **Adults and children of all ages are welcome.** **Saturday, April 16th**



What: Fourth Annual Eugene Spring Fly Fishing Festival
When: Saturday April 16th, 2011 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Where: Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street (at the river, next to Skidders Butte)

The McKenzie Fly fishers have again joined the Cascade Family Fly Fishers to provide the community with a **FREE** day of tying, casting, and rod building that will introduce people of all ages to sport of fly fishing. Learn about aquatic insects, water safety, knots and leaders, and tackle selection. Watch demonstration fly tying professionals show off their tying techniques. Look for more bug life than ever in the live display tank, and then let the experts help you "match the hatch" at instructional tying tables. Learn about current fish management activities and ask an ODFW fish biologist where you can catch fish. Try your hand at designing the perfect fish habitat on the ODFW stream table. Tie a fly and then take it to Alton Baker Park to catch one of the fish being planted there before the festival. Join with expert casters for fly-casting instruction and demonstrations throughout the day on the lawn by the river. Learn about gear and boating techniques that will help keep you safe on the water. Learn about the art of bamboo rod building from professionals and skilled practitioners. Bring your own bamboo or conventional rod project and sit down next to experts who will help you solve problems. Try your hand with a bamboo fly rod outside the shop. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. For more information call (541) 343-3109, or email oakcrk@aol.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April

8-14	ELPA testing
12	PTO meeting (6:00)
13	Apple visit
	Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
14	Papa's Pizza Day @ Coburg Rd.
15	NO SCHOOL: Howard Professional Development
18	NO SCHOOL: Furlough day
20	Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
22	Roadrunner assembly (8:15-8:45)
22	Deadline for school choice applications
25-29	Kindergarten registration week
25-29	Staff appreciation week
26	Site council (2:30)
27	Kindergarten Orientation (9:30-10:45)
27	Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
29	Student birthday lunches with Mrs. Price

May

- 2 School Choice Lottery
- 3 Lottery results available to schools
- 4 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 6 Schools to notify parents by mail of school choice results
- 9-13 5th grade/ Kelly Middle School transition week
- 10 PTO meeting (6:00)
- 11 Jog-A-Thon
- 13 5th grade to OMSI
- 16-20 Easy CBM Reading/Math Spring Benchmark testing
- 17 Strings concert (7:30 @ Madison Middle School)
- 18 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 19 North region track meet (4th and 5th grades)
- 20 Deadline for parents to choose/notify schools of choice
- 24 Site Council (2:30)
- 25 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 26 All school BBQ
Birthday lunches with Mrs. Price
- 27 NO SCHOOL; Mandatory Furlough Day
- 30 NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

