



Howard Happenings

November, 2013

www.howardelementary.org

New School Updates!

If you've missed the big news, Howard will be getting a brand new building the fall of 2015, which means next year will be our last year in the old building! Our current building was originally built in 1949, so it's had a good long life but is hardly the type of building you'd expect to house the school district's technology immersion program.

We have put together a Howard Design Committee, made up of parents and staff members, who will be working with district staff and the architects on the design of the new building. Last month, the team visited three elementary schools in the Portland and Camas, Washington areas. We also walked through our 4Js newer buildings at Chavez and Holt. We were touring these buildings looking at space, lighting, color, structure, functionality, and much more.

In the next couple months, we will be holding public input sessions on the design of the new school, which will likely be held here at Howard. Stay posted for when those events will happen!



Feed Hope! Make Hunger History

Howard is working with Feed Hope, an organization who would like to coordinate with our school community to provide food boxes for families over winter and spring break. Feed Hope is a partnership between community groups, business and organizations, who want to invest in our community and care deeply about those around us. Howard staff will work to identify families to participate, but please contact Lori in the office if you feel this is something that would help your family.



Thanksgiving Week Reminder

As you are making your plans for Thanksgiving events remember that 4j will have the entire week (November 25 – 29) off due to the combination of mandatory furlough days and the two days that we traditionally have off for Thanksgiving.

PBIS Monthly Focus

Along with our Positive Behavior and Intervention Support main rules of Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible we also have a monthly focus that is taught to our students by our staff and posted in the hallways. This is a great reminder that helps children take their behavior up one more positive notch. Below is the list of each month's focus so that you can help draw their attention to these ideas at home. We encourage you to use these practices in any fun way you can incorporate them into your family.

November: Appreciations

December: Generosity

January: Be Your Best

February: Cooperation

March: Safe Bodies

April: Encouragement

May: Positive Attitude

June: Celebrating Your Success



Messages for Students

Please make sure that your child knows what they will be expected to do when the school day is over before they leave home in the morning. Staff is not available to hand deliver messages throughout the day and when the bell rings at the end of the school day it becomes quite difficult to reach individual children that we have taken messages for. We will be happy to deliver messages in an **EMERGENCY** situation, but if at all possible please make sure that your child(ren) knows who will pick them up, if they should walk home, or ride the bus before they leave for school.



Early Mornings

Please remember that students are not to be on campus prior to 7:25, when the doors open and supervision begins. Students that arrive before this time are not supervised. Your child's safety is a high priority. We are asking for your help by bringing your child at, or after, 7:25.

Student Tardies

Your help is needed in making sure that your child is in school on time. The first bell rings at 7:50 and students are expected to be in class by 7:55. The class activities start promptly with the morning announcements. This morning class time is one of the most important times of the day. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable class time, it is disruptive to his or her classmates. We understand that mornings can be hectic, but it is important to stress the need to be to school on time.

Notes from PTO

PTO is growing! We are excited to announce that we have filled the following positions:

Fundraiser Coordinators: Quinton Williams and Angelica Fruin

Fundraiser Committee: Rena Dayton

Volunteer Coordinator: Heather Hurst

Parliamentarian: Jenna Adams

Please contact Howard PTO if you would be interested in joining the Fundraiser Committee. We need more volunteers to help with upcoming events and help plan for next year.

We have several exciting activities coming up, free for the whole family!

Friday, November 8th is Family Movie Night in the Howard gym
Saturday, December 7th from 9am to 4pm is our Holiday Bazaar in the Howard gym

Thursday, December 12th from 5:00 – 8:00 is Parent's Night Out - Craft night for the kids

Holiday Bazaar: we are seeking vendors to sell products at our bazaar. If you are interested in purchasing a table for \$20 to sell your goods, please visit our website for more information and you will find an application that will need to be turned in at least a week before the event. Applications can be dropped off for the PTO at the Howard Office.

Volunteer/ Fundraiser Opportunities: Howard Elementary was lucky enough to be chosen by EWEB to run their parking lot during a U of O football game. All proceeds will go directly to Howard Elementary.

DATE: Saturday, November 16th

TIME: tba - depends on the start time of the football game (~ 4 hours prior to kickoff)

LOCATION: EWEB parking lot downtown

DETAILS: We are looking for 10-15 volunteers to work different shifts during the day. Duties will include collecting money and directing traffic.

CONTACT: please email Howard PTO if you are interested in volunteering.

Continue to look at our website and PTO board at the school for more information on upcoming events.

Please contact us via email or phone. We would love to hear from you! Join us at our next PTO meeting, Tuesday, November 19th at 6pm in the Howard Library. Childcare is provided in the gym.

Email: howardelementarypto@gmail.com

Phone: 541-933-5336

Website: howard.4j.lane.edu/parents/pto

Ill Students Need to Stay Home



When students are ill, they need to stay home. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send him/her to school:

Fever of 100 degrees or more. Children should stay home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications.

Vomiting or severe diarrhea. Children should stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours.

Severe cold. A little snuffle is not a reason to stay home, but a severe cold or influenza is.

Severe sore throat or a persistent cough

Ear ache

Severe headache

If your child has a communicable disease, she/he should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps, and whooping cough. Please call the school and tell them when your child has a communicable disease.



Birthday Parties

Birthday parties are not celebrated at school. With teacher permission, parents may provide a store bought "treat" with the expectation that celebrations do not interfere with the instructional program. Please contact the teacher before sending or bringing any treats to school. In accordance to 4j's Wellness Policy, "sugary treats" are not permitted. A list of foods that meet these guidelines is available on line at 4j.lane.edu/nutrition/wellness/overview. A positive alternative to treats are fun pencils, erasers, note pads, etc. Another suggestion would be to donate a book to the classroom, in the birthday child's name.

Upcoming Events

11/01 – Teacher Comp Day – No School
11/03 – Set Clocks Back 1 Hour to Standard Time
11/05 – Election Day
11/08 – Movie Night – 6:00 pm in the Gym
11/11 – Veterans' Day – No School
11/16 – EWEB Parking Lot Fundraiser
11/19 – PTO – 6:00 pm in the Library
11/22 – Picture Retakes
11/25 – No School- Furlough Day
11/26 - No School- Furlough Day
11/27 - No School- Furlough Day
11/28 – Thanksgiving
11/29 – No School – Holiday
12/06 – No School – Professional Development Day
12/07 – PTO's Holiday Bazaar
12/10 – PTO – 6:00 pm in the Library
12/12 – Craft Night 5:00
12/23 – First Day of Winter Break
1/06 – Professional Development Day – No School
1/07 – Students Return to School