



Howard Happenings

December 2013/January 2014

www.howardelementary.org

School Choice for the 2014-15 School Year

Spread the word to all of your friends that Howard rocks! With Howard's focus on technology we are an excellent school and a positive choice in your child's education. We're also just a year and a half away from opening a brand new building! With School Choice coming soon, please invite friends and acquaintances to visit Howard and seriously consider joining the Howard family. And if you have any friends or neighbors living in the Bethel School District, be sure to let them know that they too can now apply to attend Howard, even if they live outside our school district. The visitation schedule and application deadlines will be out soon, but generally plan to apply for in district transfers in January and for out of district transfers in March.



What is the Technology Fee Used For?

As many of you may already know, Howard Elementary is one of the only schools in Eugene to be a technology immersion school. Our focus at Howard is to use technology to enhance and guide students in their education through integrating technology into everyday curriculum and lessons. Our school has been supplied with numerous devices that help us accomplish this goal, such as SmartBoards, document cameras, projectors, laptops, iPad mini's and online subscriptions.

To attain these devices and have access to online subscriptions we have been using the technology fee to help fund this goal. Our technology fee is not only for families that will be taking laptops or iPads home in the future, but for any student who uses a device on a daily basis here at Howard. There are many things that the \$30 fee covers:

- Wear and tear on the device
- Insurance
- Batteries
- Replacement parts
- Subscriptions (totaling \$6400)

Please keep this in mind when we ask for this fee at the beginning on the year because your child has a unique opportunity to use technology on a daily basis that other students are not provided with.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your child's teacher or the office staff.

Remember Your Coat and Warm Shoes!

We have many students coming to school without their coat and wearing flip flops. 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!



Winter Weather and School Closures

Winter weather is on its way! 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.

Weather-related school closure decisions normally are made early in the morning and announced via all methods by **6:30 a.m.** This is to ensure the most current weather conditions are assessed. Decisions are made district-wide and are the same for every 4J school.

Parents and students have several ways to learn about weather-related school closures in Eugene: the 4J website, Twitter / text message alerts, KRVM-FM, and other local TV and radio stations.

How To Find Out if there is a change in the school schedule or bus routes:

- A notice will be posted on the 4J website's homepage, www.4j.lane.edu.
- District-run radio station KRVM-FM 91.9 will air school closure information regularly.
- Other local radio and TV stations also will air closure information, although the district cannot guarantee the accuracy of the messages reported on those stations.
- Text-message alerts will be sent to subscribers via Twitter. (If you are interested in receiving these alerts please sign up through the district website.)

Safety Concerns: On any day when inclement weather is a concern and school is in session, families are encouraged to consider road conditions in their areas and make their own decisions based on safety; parents' individual decisions about school attendance will be honored.

4J Nutrition Services Community Advisory Meeting

Thursday, December 12th
4:00 – 6:00 pm
4J Education Center
Auditorium
200 N. Monroe St.

This meeting is open to the community. Please RSVP to 541-790-7656 or hafdahl@4j.lane.edu.

The topics for discussion are local purchasing, pilot programs, transparency of nutrition facts and ingredients, and variety of menu choices.

Free Dental Care for Students

Assistance League of Eugene is happy to announce that the Children's Dental Center on the Churchill High School campus is now open and ready for patients. Volunteer dentists and hygienists provide treatment and students may be seen at their offices or at our newly remodeled and fully equipped dental facility.

The Center is taking applications for those students who qualify for dental care. Interested parents may pick up applications from the Howard office.

The Center is located at Churchill High School, 1850 Bailey Hill Road, Bungalow #10, Eugene, and operates Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the school year. Questions? Call Linda Eichner at 541-790-5181.

Community Service Grant Awarded to 1st Grade

Mrs. Kirk applied for a grant from Figaro's Pizza and was awarded \$100 to spend on transportation for the 1st grade to go on a field trip to Food for Lane County. Figaro's Pizza has been awarding grants to Howard Elementary and other community schools on a yearly basis.

Feed Hope! Make Hunger History in River Road!

Hundreds of children in Eugene get their basic nutritional needs met at school during winter break, many of these children face the reality of going hungry. Howard is working with River Road Serves to collect juice boxes, cereal bars, cups of fruit, granola bars, pudding cups, fruit snacks or strips, non-refrigerated milk, beefaroni or spaghetti, and single serving cereal boxes. If you are able to help, these items can be dropped off before Dec. 17th at Howard, Grocery Outlet, Trinity United Methodist, and Emerald Park. Families are also welcome to help us package food for neighborhood children on Dec. 18th at 6:00 PM. This will be a family opportunity. Children as young as 3 can participate! Space is limited, so email riverroadserves@gmail.com

Updates from PTO

The PTO has been busy planning events for December:

There will be no PTO meeting in December.

Holiday Bazaar - Saturday, December 7th in the Howard Gym, from 9am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Student Craft Night - all students of Howard are invited to join us for craft night from 6:00 - 8:00pm. This event is for all kids and dinner will be provided. Parents are not required to stay during this event. Students will be able to make crafts for their family and friends for the holidays.

River Road Serves is a new program that helps support our Howard families by supplying food for winter break. There is a collection barrel at Howard if you would like to donate non-perishable food items such as: granola bars, beefaroni, spaghetti, or individual fruit cups. We will need volunteers to help pack the food on Wednesday, December 18th.



****Remember Popcorn Wednesdays - only \$.25 a bag!!**

Visit our website at:

<http://howard.4j.lane.edu/parents/pto/>

Upcoming Events

12/4 – Howard Community Design Workshop – 7:30 p.m.
12/6 – No School – Professional Development Day
12/7 – PTO Holiday Bazaar 9:00 – 4:00
12/12 – PTO Craft Night/Parents Night Out – 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
12/19 – Parent Laptop Training – 2:30 p.m.
12/20 – Birthday Lunch with Mr. Chinn
12/23 – First Day of Winter Break
1/6 – District Professional Development Day – No School
1/7 – Students Return
1/20 – MLK Day – No School
1/21 – PTO Meeting 6:00 p.m.
1/24 – Family Movie Night, 6:00 p.m.
1/28 – Site Council, 2:30 p.m.
1/25 – Grading Day – No School
1/30 – Birthday Lunch with Mr. Chinn
1/31 – No School - Howard Professional Development Day