



# Howard Happenings

## February 2014

[www.howardelementary.org](http://www.howardelementary.org)

### School Choice for the 2014-15 School Year

There is still time to 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 of our school district. Tours will be available any time during the week of February 24 – 28.

Families in 4J have a choice of schools. 4J's school choice policy means that families may send their children to any school in the district provided there is a place available. School choice request forms are available on line at [4j.lane.edu](http://4j.lane.edu) and will be accepted until Friday, February 28 at 5:00 p.m. Families that reside outside of 4j boundaries will be able to apply online beginning on March 1 and will be accepted until Tuesday, April 1. If you need assistance or computer access, please call Lisa Hollingsworth at 541-790-7553.

A School Choice Information Meeting with Spanish Translation available will be held Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 pm at the 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe.

### Howard Elementary New School Design Open House

Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 5:30–7 p.m.

Design has started on a new Howard school building. Groundbreaking may occur as early as spring 2014.

Please join us to view the initial design and share your comments. Visit with the architects and other design team members.

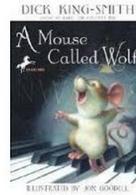
5:30 p.m. Open house begins  
6:00 p.m. Presentation  
7:00 p.m. Ending time

Join the mailing list for school design news by emailing [howarddesign@4j.lane.edu](mailto:howarddesign@4j.lane.edu)

Watch for updates at [www.4j.lane.edu/bond](http://www.4j.lane.edu/bond)  
Call 4J Communications at 541-790-7737

### Literacy Night is Coming!

Please join us for Family Literacy Night on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>! More details will be provided as the date gets closer, but mark your calendars and expect a fun event to celebrate reading. Hope to see you there!



### All School Reading Activity

Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse ("Wolf," for short) has a big name for such a little mouse. But the name fits. His favorite pastime is listening to Mrs. Honeybee, the lady of the house, play the piano. If only he could sing along to the music! One day, Wolf decides to try -- and to his surprise, out of his mouth comes a perfect melody.

It's not long before Wolf is singing everything from "Three Blind Mice" to Chopin to the Beatles, all to Mrs. Honeybee's accompaniment. Then an accident leaves Mrs. Honeybee in danger, and it's up to Wolf to save her... the only way he knows how.

By participating in our upcoming all school reading activity you and your child will be able to find out how this little mouse handles this big problem. To continue our effort to increase student interest in reading for pleasure, we have embarked on a school wide read aloud of A Mouse Named Wolf. The entire school will be reading this story with their teachers. As we advance through the book, we will ask thought provoking questions during our morning announcements in order to encourage class discussions about the story. We hope to include some enrichment opportunities related to music and this story. Classrooms may be displaying some of their projects, art, or writings at Family Literacy Night on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### It's O.B.O.B. Time Again!

Oregon Battle of the Books 2014 has started! This state wide reading program for students in the 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade is a wonderful way for kids to discover the joy of reading and discussing books with their friends. Teams are assembling, students are racing to read and study their books. Battles will begin the week of Jan 27<sup>th</sup>! The battles are being held during in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade scheduled library times. The playoff battle and awards ceremony assembly will be held in our gym in mid February. Our top team will go to regional playoffs on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Thurston High School in Springfield. Wish us luck! Coordinator/Coach Julie Hopkins Library Assist. [hopkins\\_j@4j.lane.edu](mailto:hopkins_j@4j.lane.edu)

## Howard PTO Events

### PARENT APPRECIATION NIGHT – Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Hey parents. Our PTO is so appreciative of all you do for your kids and for this school and we want to show you. Join us for a Parent's Appreciation Night on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We will be having some dessert and giving away prizes to parents who come. In fact, we are giving away a free iPad that night!!! You read this right, an iPad. There will be a couple of other prizes as well. Also, we want to tell you guys about the vision of the PTO in the coming years. We are so excited about all that is happening at Howard and we want to be involved in making Howard one of the greatest elementary schools in our city. We need all of you parents on the team to make that happen. So please come, win something, eat some cookies, and get involved with a PTO that is committed to this school, teachers, and community.

### BOOK FAIR – February 24<sup>th</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup>

We are excited to announce that our annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming up. This year's theme will be a Book Fair Fiesta. The fair will run from February 24<sup>th</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>, times will be announced at a later date. The Book Fair is a great way to get more books in the hands of our children and in our school Library as well as our teacher's classroom libraries. New this year we will be having more raffles for books or prizes, so stop in to check out our fair and a chance to win a raffle. The book fair will coincide with our annual Literacy night which will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

PTO will be running this event and are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, decoration and many more things, so if you can help please call or email us at: [howardelementaryPTO@gmail.com](mailto:howardelementaryPTO@gmail.com) or phone [541-933-5336](tel:541-933-5336).

### PTO SPRING EVENTS:

We have had great parents join our PTO group and are hoping we can get more parents involved with the great things that our PTO group is doing for our students and parents at Howard Elementary. We need parents like you to make this a great school year and continue our growth for next year.

One spring event will be a Jog-A-Thon, where proceeds will go towards supplementing the Technology Fee that all parents have to pay in September. It is our goal to raise enough money to pay for each and every student's technology fee. In order for that to happen, we really need your support!

The school Carnival will be our last event of the school year. Please let us know if you would be interested in helping in anyway. We will be discussing details of our fundraisers at our PTO meetings, so please try to attend and lend your support and maybe some volunteer time to help make our events a success.

### PTO MEETINGS – held in the Howard Library from 6-7pm

\*child care is provided

Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

## Wednesday Early Dismissal

It is extremely important to remember that every Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:05; 11:35 for kindergarteners. No one is available to supervise children after this time. Office staff and teachers frequently have meetings or other obligations that they are required to attend to. If you are unable to be on time please call one of your child's contacts for assistance with pick up.

### Volunteering Reminder

As we head into spring, more field trips will be happening and we appreciate all of our volunteers that want to attend and help out around the school with various classroom activities. However, it is 4j policy that all volunteers must have a background check on file. It can take several weeks to process these checks, so please turn in your forms well in advance of the field trip or event date.



### Do You Have New Contact Information?

If you or any of your emergency contacts have recently changed numbers, addresses, or email accounts, please make sure you have notified the school office. It is extremely important that this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or child becomes ill at school.

### Please Keep Sick Children at Home

When children are sick, 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 fever reducing medication.

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

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

**Severe sore throat, ear ache, head ache, or persistent cough.** If your child has a communicable disease, he/she should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps and whooping cough (pertussis). Please call the school and let them know if your child should contract any of these diseases.

### Future Happenings

1/31 – No School, Professional Development Day  
2/4 – New School Design Open House, 5:30 pm  
2/6 – Parent Appreciation Night, 6:00 pm  
2/7 – No School, Grading Day  
2/17 – Presidents Day, No School  
2/18 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm  
2/24 – 2/27 Scholastic Book Fair  
2/27 – Literacy Night, 5:30 pm  
3/18 – PTO Meeting  
3/21 – No School, Professional Development Day  
3/24 – 3/28 - Spring Break