



Howard Happenings

May/June 2014

www.howardelementary.org

New School Design Updates



After multiple meetings by the building design team and several public meetings, the overall schematic designs for the new Howard Elementary School are finished. Current versions of the site and building can be viewed at the link below. This concept will be explored further in the Design Development phase, which the latest designs of can also be found at <http://www.4jnewschoolshoward-riverroad.org/>

The images on the website speak better than words, but the new school is being built to hold up to 600 students. It will be two stories (and will have a key coded elevator), have a classroom neighborhood for each grade level, two courtyards, an outdoor dining area adjacent the cafeteria, a much larger gym, library and cafeteria, and will be energy efficient along with significantly improved building security. Additionally, a new track with astro-turf field and rubber track surface will be installed this summer and ready for use at the start of next school year. It will be located on roughly the same spot as the current track.

Regarding the timeline for the new building, construction will begin later this summer and if the project remains on schedule we will be opening a brand new school the following school year (2015-2016). To make way for the construction, Rooms 4 and 5 will be demolished this summer, which will be something of a preview of what will happen the following summer when the entire building will come down to make way for fields and parking. If you'd like to come watch part of the old building come down this summer, or just stay up to date on what's happening at Howard, please "Like" our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/4jhoward>

5th Grade Graduation

5th grade families – Make sure you add Thursday, June 16th to your calendars. It will be on this day that the 5th grade graduation ceremony will take place in Howard's gym at 1:00 pm. At the end of the ceremony, families will be invited back to the classroom to take photos and have a brief visit. Then at 2:00 pm, all families (as well as the entire school) will be asked to line Howard's hallway to give the 5th graders a proper send off ... a school wide clap out. We hope to see you there!

Last Day(s) for Students

Kindergarten and 5th grade students' last day will be Monday, June 16th with dismissal at normal times. 1st through 4th grade students' last day will be Tuesday, June 17, with an early release time of 11:10, with lunch being served.

Howard 2014-2015 Staffing Updates

Eugene schools are again facing budget and staffing cuts for next school year. However, Howard is in somewhat of a unique situation because for the second year in a row, we have gained more students, compared to most schools who have declining enrollment, so for next year we will not be making any classroom staffing cuts, although we didn't receive any additional classroom staffing for our increased enrollment.

For classroom configurations, this means we will be able to continue to have straight grades for next year, with two teachers at each grade level, kindergarten through 5th grade. We have three kindergarten classrooms this year, which means that we will be shifting one of those part-time teaching positions up to 1st grade to help with our largest grade level.

School Counselor, PE and Music time will be the same for next year. Learning Center (LC) teaching time will go up to a full-time teaching position. Comprehensive Learning Center (CLC) teaching time will remain the same, although CLC EA time, was reduced by 2.5 hours.

We also have a few teacher assignment changes to announce for next year. At kindergarten, Ms. Seno and Ms. Robertson were both temporary hires, so we will have a vacancy at kindergarten. At 5th grade, Ms. Rock will be returning from her leave and will re-team with Ms. Callihan. Jen Kirkwood will also be moving from the CLC into the LC, which was temporarily filled by Ms. Fenech. This leaves us with a vacancy at kindergarten, a half-time teacher at 1st grade, and in the CLC. See below for a summary of next year's teaching assignments.

Howard 2013-2014 Staffing Plan:

Kindergarten: Ms. Silver and To Be Announced
1st Grade: Ms. Kirk, Ms. Swift, and a half-time teacher To Be Announced
2nd Grade: Ms. Gaston and Ms. Larsen
3rd Grade: Ms. Krieder and Ms. Zimmerman
4th Grade: Ms. Frank and Ms. Groshong
5th Grade: Ms. Callihan and Ms. Rock
Counselor: Ms. Harris
Title 1: Ms. Vaughan
Learning Center: Ms. Kirkwood
Comprehensive Learning Center (CLC): To Be Announced

It looks like we'll continue have some amazing teaching teams next year, and despite some of the cuts we've had to make, we believe this is the best plan for preserving the core mission of Howard Elementary School's technology immersion program.

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child that will be 5 by September 1st or know of someone who does – kindergarten registration for next school year is underway! Please call our secretary, Lori at 541-790-4900 or stop by the school office for an enrolment packet.

PTO Corner

Howard students and teachers will be participating in the very first TECH TROT on Friday, May 9th from 9am to 12pm. The purpose of the Tech Trot event is to raise money to help lower or eliminate the Technology Fee that students pay in the fall. Students will have 30 minutes to run, skip, walk or dance around the track, rain or shine. Besides raising money to help support fellow students, this activity promotes healthy living and exercise. Please come out to cheer on our students! If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email Howard PTO at howardelementarypto@gmail.com.

Pledge envelopes have been sent home, they are to be used to track the pledges or donations and to collect the money. Please make checks payable to Howard PTO. Pledge envelopes will be due a week after the Tech Trot to allow for time to collect pledges based on number of laps completed. Students will need to turn them into their teachers no later than Friday, May 16th. There will be prizes awarded for the classroom that brings in the most pledges.

Howard Carnival will be held on Thursday, June 5th at 5:30. This is an exciting event that our students look forward to every year. This year there will be new carnival games and activities, including a "Car Bash"! Join us to find out what all the excitement is about!

We need your help to make this carnival the best ever! Howard is looking for volunteers to help with various duties, such as seeking donations for the silent auction, running games and activities, serving food, and to help with cleanup.

We are currently meeting every week on Mondays at 6:30; please email howardelementarypto@gmail.com if you would be interested in helping in any capacity.

Popcorn Wednesdays - we are still short on volunteers to make and bag popcorn on Wednesdays. There is a sign up sheet on the PTO bulletin board, just outside of the main office. If we do not have at least two volunteers on Wednesday, then we will have to cancel the popcorn. This is not considered a fundraiser, it is a special day for the kids to purchase popcorn as a special treat, or buy it for a friend. If you have two hours in the morning after dropping of your student, please consider volunteering. Howard needs you!

PTO will hold our next meeting on Tuesday, May 20th in the Howard Library. Child care is provided at no cost. This is a great opportunity to learn about all the exciting things that are going on at Howard.

Parent Site Council Representative Needed

Howard's Site Council works with staff to develop, implement, and provide oversight of our School Improvement Plan. In addition, input regarding school programming and 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 parent representatives with the term lasting two years. We will have two vacancies for the 2014-2016 term. If you are interested, please contact Lori in the office for a nomination form by May 16th. If necessary this deadline may be extended into the fall if nominations are limited.

Family Engineering Night

Mark your calendars! On May 29th from 5:00-6:00 PM we will be having a Family Engineering Night. There will be fun engineering activities for you to enjoy with your children, a cookie snack, and we are hoping to have a local engineer come and talk with us about their job. Please come and enjoy the activities with us on this night! We look forward to seeing you there.

Notes from the Library

What a wonderful year this has been! It has been my honor to work my first full year in Howard's school library. We have done some exciting things this year. Thanks to Forest Point we were able to make our very own personalized shelf markers. A few students made book posters to encourage others to read their favorite book.

Eugene Education Fund graciously funded a grant for Oregon Battle of the Books, the students had a lot of fun and we plan to continue this program next year, too!

Oregon Children's Choice Awards book: *Pie* by Sarah Weeks was voted our favorite by grades 3-5.

Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award books: *Clementine and the Family Meeting* by Sara Pennypacker and *8 Class Pets* by Vivian Vande Velde were voted our favorites by our 2nd-5th grade students. We'll have to wait and see if our favorites will win the state award!

A big thanks goes to our fabulous PTO and parents for our scholastic book donations, we received so many new books this year! Thank you for supporting the book fair! An additional special thanks to all the volunteers who helped out in our library this year!

Important upcoming dates to remember for your school Library:

May 27th -30th Last week of checkout
June 2nd - 5th Book Return and Movie week
June 11th All Library Books DUE ☺
June 13th Prize baskets (2) and book give away (4)
(students may enter after all books are returned and fees are paid)

Parents please call or email me if you have questions about your child's library book(s). If you are unable to pay our book fee please let me know and I will be happy to make arrangements for you. Julie Hopkins: Hopkins_j@4j.lane.edu or 541-790-4933

Future Happenings

5/2 - Talent Show and BEST Show Off - 2:30 pm
5/5 - 5/9 Penny War Fundraiser
5/9 - Jog A Thon - 11:00 am
5/20 - PTO Meeting - Library - 6:00 pm
5/22 - 4th/5th Music Concert - 6:00 pm
5/26 - Memorial Day - No School
5/27 - Site Council - 2:30 pm
5/27 - 2nd/3rd Music Concert - 6:00 pm
5/29 - Family Engineering Night - 5:00 pm
5/30 - No School - Howard Professional Development
6/3 - Last Day of BEST
6/5 - School Carnival - 5:30 pm
6/6 - No School - Grading Day
6/11 - Kindergarten Celebration - 10:00 am
6/12 - 4th Grade Play - 6:00 pm
6/13 - Field Day
6/16 - Last Day for Kindergarten and 5th Grade
6/16 - 5th Grade Graduation - 1:00 pm
6/17 - Last Day for 1st - 4th Grade - 11:05 Dismissal