



Howard Happenings

October, 2013

www.howardelementary.org



FALL CONFERENCES

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, October 28 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm and Wednesday, October 30 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. **There will be no school on Monday, October 28 and Friday, November 1.** Scheduling forms have been sent home and need to be turned in no later than October 10.

Meeting with your child's teacher should help build strong parent – teacher partnerships. Partnerships that are needed if you and their teacher are to reach your common goal: helping your child get the best education possible.

Each teacher will come prepared with samples of your child's work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too. Be sure and talk with your child before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your child if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teacher. Make sure your child doesn't worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher are meeting together in order to help them.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about: personality, habits, problems, information about your child's home life, and hobbies that you feel are important for the teacher to know.

- Questions about your child's progress
- How you and the school can work together to help your child

Some good questions to ask are these:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- What strengths do you see in my child

WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL

Please remember that EVERY Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:05; 11:35 for Kindergartners. There is no one available to supervise children after this time. Unfortunately, children left waiting for a ride home spend a very long and uneventful hour sitting in the hall outside of the office. Please make note of this regular early dismissal to avoid a missed pick up of your child.

CURRICULUM NIGHT ~ TONIGHT!

Curriculum night has been rescheduled to TONIGHT, October 3rd. The format is designed for parents to attend teacher presentations to learn about curriculum, classroom routines and expectations, and become acquainted with staff members. So that your full attention can be focused on the information provided, this evening is for adults only. **Childcare will be provided beginning at 5:45 in the cafeteria.**

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP REMINDERS

During student drop-off and pick-up, for student safety, we ask that visitors to the school use the parking lots and DO NOT PARK in the bus lanes located in the east lot. These areas are reserved for student loading/unloading by both school buses and families. Similarly, we ask that vehicles are not left unattended unless you are parked in a designated parking space. Please also remember that handicap parking is reserved for vehicles with authorized handicapped permits, only.

Additionally, we'd like to remind families to be good neighbors to the folks living around our school, making sure to not block intersections, use driveways as high speed u-turn lanes, and to also make sure any trash is not left in neighboring yards.

Thank you all for your cooperation making student drop-off and pick-up safe for students and families!



SCHOOL PICTURES ARE COMING

School pictures will be on October 18th. – SMILE!

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 that you have notified the school office. It is extremely important this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or your child becomes ill at school.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

This is a reminder that you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch Form for your child/children every school year. **Even if you do not intend to use this service and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in.** As a Title 1 school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is very important to have every eligible family in the system. If you have not yet applied for this year's meals, please pick up an application in the reception area at the school or complete one online at 4j.lane.edu. The deadline to have these forms turned in is October 15.

PTO CORNER

Good Things Are Happening!!

A big thank you to all the parents that showed up to our first PTO meeting of the year!

Cookie Dough Sales are underway! This fundraiser ends Oct 2nd. The pick-up day for merchandise will be Monday, October 14th. We are seeking volunteers to help sort and hand out items.

There are exciting things happening at Howard. We are looking for parent volunteers to fill a variety of roles within PTO. With our new school soon underway, we would like to have some BIG goals set in place. Join us in making important decisions for Howard Elementary. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Library. Childcare is available.

Popcorn is back! Popcorn is available every Wednesday for .25!!!

Please feel free to contact your Howard PTO. We would love to hear from you!

Phone: 541-933-5336

Email: Howardelementarypto@gmail.com

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

BEST IS STARTING SOON!

The Howard BEST after-school program will begin October 21, 2013. BEST provides an extended academic program, along with enrichment activities and a meal...all delivered in a safe and welcoming environment.

BEST partners with Eugene Springfield Youth Orchestras, Oregon State University Extension, City of Eugene Recreation and many other community organizations that provide staff and services to help make this program a success! BEST is now in its tenth year of operation and serves children in grades 1-5 at Howard. The program offers academic assistance in small reading and math groups, as well as enrichment activities such as Lego engineering, rock climbing, yoga, art and sports.

A dinner is served at school and transportation home from the afterschool program is provided by the school district. The program is open 4 days/week Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for 3 hours each day. Participation is limited. For information call Kelly Henson, BEST Coordinator @ (541) 790-4902

REMEMBER TO DRESS WARMLY!

With cooler weather drawing near, it is time to put away those shorts and dig out the sweaters. As you are aware, Oregon weather changes frequently. Please dress your child for the weather. Dressing in layers is always a good idea so that children can adjust to the changing temperature accordingly.



HALLOWEEN PARTIES



Individual teachers will determine if Halloween parties will take place in their classrooms. If teachers permit costumes during this holiday celebration, the following dress code will be enforced, as it pertains to costumes:

- NO weapons
- NO weapon-like props
- NO excessive bareness (no spaghetti straps, exposed bra straps, bare midriffs)
- NO "gang" attire
- NO masks
- NO especially scary or gory costumes

Our Halloween Parade will take place on October 31, starting at 1:00. Parents and guardians are invited to enjoy the parade. Guests should gather on the playground at this time in the final leg of our parade route.

SAFETY WEEK

As we did last year, Howard conducted a Safety Week to practice all of the most common safety drills. This is a good way to bring awareness to staff, students and families about the various safety procedures that are in place to keep students safe if there were ever an emergency. Below are the drills that we practiced. Please take a few minutes and discuss these drills with your child. Your interest will allow them to share with you any of their concerns.

Monday, Sept. 30- Directed Evacuation: Directed Evacuation is used to get students and staff out of the building by a route designed to protect their safety. This is the procedure we use for earthquake drills and monthly fire drills.

Tuesday, Oct. 1- Room Clear: A Room Clear, issued by the teacher, is used to send students away from a potential threat in the classroom. The teacher directs students to leave the classroom and go immediately to a prearranged area, typically the next classroom over. This procedure would be used if a classroom incident threatened the emotional or physical safety of students, e.g. someone becomes very ill or unconscious; an intruder enters the room; a serious conflict erupts between students.

Wednesday, Oct. 2 - Lock Down: Lock Down protects staff and student from a threat inside the building when it may be more dangerous to leave the building than to stay in a secured room. Teachers are notified to lock their classroom doors close window blinds. All students are accounted for and everyone stays secure until notified otherwise.

Thursday, Oct. 3- Earthquake/Fire Drill: The Earthquake Drill is designed to keep students safe in the building until the earthquake stops. At that time the alarm will sound and students proceed with a Directed Evacuation. This procedure is used to get students and staff out of the building by a route designed to protect their safety.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/3 – Curriculum Night
- 10/4 – Professional Development, No School
- 10/11 – State Inservice – No School
- 10/28 – Parent Conferences 8 – 8, No School
- 10/30 – Parent Conferences 4 – 8, Normal Wednesday Schedule
- 11/1 – Teacher Release Day, No School