



Howard Elementary

www.howardelementary.org
Volume 2 Issue 8
"An Apple Distinguished School"

"We seek to maintain a spirit of joy in learning, cooperation in doing, and optimism for success and the future. Our goal is to have every student exceed state standards in all academic areas."

Road Runner News

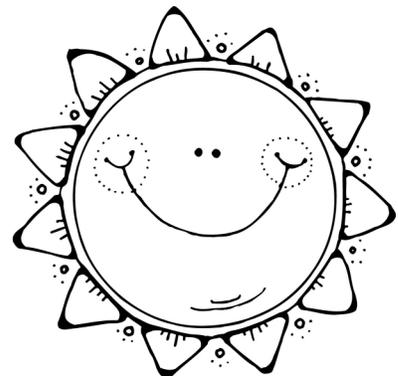
Principally Speaking.....by Suzanne Price

Once spring break is past, it is a rapid slide into summer – a time for fun, exercise, and especially learning. Now is the time to begin thinking about how you will provide balance for your children. Parent Talk suggests, using the checklist below, to inventory the needs of your children.

The loss of skills over the summer is a concern for educators. To support our efforts, we ask that you do your best to not allow your children to spend their summer sitting in front of the TV or simply playing games on the computer. These may be pleasant diversions, but they will not send your children back to school with refreshed minds and sharpened skills. Build a bridge of activities that will link the work of one year with that of the next. Time management skills, such as working hard, developing a "to do" list, having a plan, and starting/finishing a task on time are important life skills that will also benefit children. Ask your children regularly, "What did we learn today?" (I'm sure you will learn a great deal from your child, as well). Enjoy each other and the precious time you will have together this summer.

This list can get you started thinking about beneficial areas for your children. Plan something of high interest and something that will improve their learning success, e.g. a reading program. Some libraries sponsor summer reading and discussion groups. If your children want an athletic camp or activity, balance that experience with art or learning that will build their intellectual skills. You can also give your children a very full summer without leaving home ☺

- Artistic
- Athletic
- Basic skills for school
- New academic skills
- Outdoor adventure and survival
- Doing simple jobs/chores
- Caring for animals
- Social skills
- Travel
- Others



Classroom Configurations for 2011-2012

Faced with a steep budget deficit, all 4j schools have been especially challenged in developing next year's staffing plan. In light of this challenge, some difficult and heartbreaking decisions had to be made. As always, at the forefront of any decision is the overarching question, "What is best for students?" With this in mind, and with the daunting task of looking at what we were able to offer using the resources we were given, a collective decision was made to reconfigure classrooms in grades 2-5 and form "blended classrooms". Through the creation of blends, we are able to maintain some counseling, PE, and library time. We were also able to ensure our kindergarten day remained at a 12:05 dismissal (as opposed to a 10:35 dismissal), supplement instructional support, and keep most of our tech support...all of which positively impact student success.

What is a blend, you may ask? How do blends work? Included with this month's newsletter is a *Frequently Asked Questions* document that we hope will address some of your questions. We will also be hosting a Q & A, during our May 10 PTO meeting (6 pm). We believe blended classrooms bring with them many benefits AND our staff is committed to ensuring our students receive the same outstanding education they have come to enjoy.

SCHOOL WIDE "AT HOME" Reading Incentive Program: As noted in an article from *Family Literacy*, "Reading is a competency learned not only through instruction, but also through practice." Research shows that the more reading a person does, the better he or she becomes. In a 2009 study on independent reading, it was noted that when students reading independently, growth in reading skills can be seen in a variety of areas including word recognition, reading fluency (how smoothly a student reads), vocabulary, comprehension (understanding what is read), language syntax (the rules that apply to language) and motivation. Another 1992 study on reading achievement found that



"reading at school was the number three predictor of reading achievement world wide. The number two predictor was reading at home!" The bottom line...it's important that students READ AT HOME. As such, we are implementing a school wide "at home" reading incentive program for our students. Students will be challenged to meet monthly reading goals, depending on grade level. Minutes can be accumulated by reading independently, reading aloud, or being read to. Students can read to a parent or younger sibling, even a favorite pet or stuffed animal! Reading materials can range from reading comic books, recipes, chapter books, newspaper articles, picture books, etc. Students meeting their monthly goal will be entered into a drawing to win a free book. Books were purchased, by PTO, through Scholastic Points earned during our book fair; Thank you PTO!! The program started the week of April 18. Here are the reading goals for April and May. This is a great opportunity to spend some quality time reading with your child(ren). Happy reading!

April

April 18-24

April 25-May 1

Goal for month of April:

200 minutes for 2nd-5th grades;

150 min. for Kinder & 1st

May

May 2-8

May 9-15

May 16-22

May 23-29

Goal for month of May:

400 minutes for 2nd-5th grades; 300 min. for Kinder & 1st



This and That...

The May/June edition of our newsletters marks the final publication of the 2010-2011 school year. The office will close on June 24.

The last day of school for Howard Elementary is June 16. Students return to school on September 7, 2011.

The last day for BEST will be June 9.

HOWARD TECHNOLOGY DAY a Great Success



On April 13, eighteen visitors spent the day touring our school and observing our staff and students in action. Guests were at Howard to learn about instructional technology and how we infusion digital tools into everyday teaching and learning. As an ***Apple Distinguished School***, three years running, we are happy to share our accomplishments in hopes of transforming more and more classrooms into 21st century learning environments.

On a related note, during an April 6 School Board meeting, several staff and students participated in a Technology Fair sharing with Board and community members, along with district personnel, some of the ways we are using technology to support and enhance learning. Thank you to Ms. Pond and Ali, Zayda, and Kirsten ~ Mrs. Larsen and Jack ~ Ms. Watson and Briana ~ and Mrs. Groshong and Kara.

Fall Class Placements

Students will receive a postcard in late June/early July with their class assignment. Watch your mail for this important information.



Summer Food Program

Food for Lane County will offer free lunch, Monday thru Friday, at Emerald Park, from June 20 ~ August 26 between the hours of 12:00 and 1:00 pm. They will be closed on July 4th. The program is for children ages 2-18 and is a first come, first served program.

A Note from the Kitchen...

As a friendly reminder, student lunch account balances (negative or positive) will be carried over to the new school year, even if students are transitioning to middle school or have transferred to another 4j elementary school. Please call Carolyn, in the kitchen, at 541-790-4900, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's account.



A Message from the LIBRARY

We've had a most enjoyable year in the library, but now is the time to begin returning books and taking inventory in preparation for the close of the school year. In doing so, the last day for check out is May 20. All books are due back to the library no later than 26, giving us adequate time to ensure all books are returned, re-shelved, and ready to go for a new school year in the fall! PARENTS, we are asking for you help in reminding students to return checked out materials on time.

Field Day Coming Soon!

Howard's Annual Field Day is set for Monday, June 13. Look for more information coming home in the weeks ahead.

Lost & Found

Our bin runneth over...during the last week of school, lost and found items will be displayed in the main hallway for your convenience. Please stop by to claim those lost articles of clothing. At the close of the school year, all lost and found items will be donated to local charities.



Be Good for a Sub

Please join us in recognizing the following students for exhibiting kind, courteous, and respectful behavior to our invaluable substitute teachers. In honor of this outstanding behavior, students were given a coupon for a FREE mini pizza at Abby's (River Road location) or a FREE fry at Wendy's. Thank you to the Abby's and Wendy's for their generous donation of these coupons! Briana in room 14, Corey and John in room 3, Sara and Jasmin in room 7, Makenzy in room 16.

Track Meet

The annual North Region track meet will be held on Thursday, May 19 at North Eugene High School. All Howard 4th and 5th graders have been working hard in PE with Mrs. Vreim to prepare for this exciting event. YG, Corridor, River Road, Awbrey Park and Spring Creek will be joining the fun as well. Students will get to participate in events such as running, standing long jump, shot put, and

<i>4th grade meet:</i>	<i>9:15-11:30</i>
<i>5th grade meet:</i>	<i>11:30-1:30</i>

softball throw. All students will earn ribbons. We are focusing on participation and a fun time for all! Fourth and fifth grade families will have more information sent home.

Track Club

In preparation for the North Region Track and Field meet, Mrs. Vreim is starting an after school Roadrunner Track & Field Club! The Club is open to students in grades four and five who would like extra practice preparing for the upcoming meet on May 19, at NEHS.

The **Roadrunner Track & Field Club** will meet on T/TH from 2:05-2:30. The club will meet from May 3 - May 17. Students will need to provide their own transportation home. Please call or email Mrs. Vreim with any questions. Thanks so much!

Jog-a-Thon at Howard: Mrs. Vreim will be hosting Howard's annual Jog-a-Thon on May 12. All K-5 students will be participating in the event and are invited to gather donations. Donations (no checks, please) are due to Mrs. Vriem, on May 12, and will go to support the purchase of PE equipment. The top two students, from each grade level, will enjoy a pizza lunch with Mrs. Vriem! Please look for flier coming home soon.

Here's the 'scoop'! From PTO...

Papa's Pizza Family Night a Success!

April 15th was another Family Night fundraiser at "Papa's Pizza Parlor" on Coburg Road. Thanks to all who showed up. Some of you were able to eat in the restaurant while others came for pick-up. We were happy to see each and every one of you. With such great support we were able to raise a total of **\$562.80**. Mrs. Vreim will be getting the new play structure! Thank you!

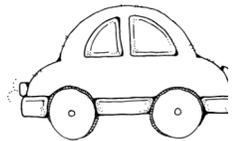
Community Garage Sale

May 21-22 from 8am-4pm is our next PTO sponsored event and it's going to be a "Garage Sale". We are looking for donations to include in our community garage sale. So...clean out those closets and sort through those storage bins. All donations will be accepted and stored for you until the day of the event. You can also bring items to donate on the day of the sale. Dropping donated items off by 8 AM on the day of the sale, would be appreciated. For more information please our PTO a call at 541-933-5336 or email them at howardelementarypto@gmail.com.

Don't Miss the Annual School Carnival!!

Mark your calendars for June 9! We are still in need of volunteers. Please look for a Volunteer Sign Up Sheet located on the PTO bulletin board. ANY help is appreciated.

PTO's First Annual CAR SHOW is scheduled for June 4th from 8am-4pm! This is sure to be a fun event for the entire community, while raising funds for our school. Please contact the Howard PTO, at 541-933-5336, if you are able to volunteer. Please be sure and mark your calendars and plan on attending. Visitors will be able to enjoy food, fun, and lots of car browsing!



PTO is now accepting nomination forms for 2011-2012 officers. Forms can be found in the main hallway, on the PTO bulletin board. Forms are due no later than May 9 and can be turned in to the Howard office.

Please join us Tuesday, May 10 at 6pm for our next meeting

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Thank you to all of our wonderful Howard volunteers! The students and staff appreciate all of your hard work and dedication ~ we couldn't do it without you! We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude by honoring you on June 14th at 2:15. Please join! Thanks, again, for your never-ending commitment to Howard school!

CONGRATULATIONS TO 4J'S 2011 ACE AWARD CHAMPION, LORI HENRY!

Sponsored by the local business community, the ACE (A Champion in Education) Awards recognizes exemplary work by teachers, classified staff, volunteers and administrators in the Eugene 4J, Bethel and Springfield school districts.

Howard's own school secretary, **Lori Henry**, is the 4J Champion in the classified category! Lori was honored at a special ceremony at the Valley River Inn and presented with an award and \$1000 for Howard school! Congratulations, Lori, for a job well done!

Lori's remarkable skill set, coupled with her genuine care and commitment to the school, makes her coworkers feel like Howard is the luckiest school in 4J! Her belief that people always come before paper is apparent and appreciated by all. Lori's confident presence and unfailing dependability have become a comfort and support the whole school community is fortunate to enjoy.

Attention BEST 4th and 5th graders!

Next school year you will have the opportunity to participate in the beginning strings class, **String Academy**, sponsored by Arts Umbrella and the 4j BEST program. This class teaches students how to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass, is taught by a highly-qualified music educator, and is a wonderful experience for any child. If you would like to sign up for next year's class or have any questions about getting involved, please contact Arts Umbrella at [541-484-0473](tel:541-484-0473) or visit www.artsumbrellausa.org. Also, be on the lookout at the beginning of next year for materials regarding enrollment in the class. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Dates to Remember

May

- 6 Schools to notify parents by mail of school choice results
- 9-13 5th grade/ Kelly Middle School transition week
- 10 PTO meeting (6:00)
- 11 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 12 Jog-A-Thon; donations due
- 13 5th grade to OMSI
- 16-20 Easy CBM Reading/Math Spring Benchmark testing
- 16-20 5th Grade/Kelly Middle School transition week
- 17 Strings concert (7:30 @ Madison Middle School)
- 18 North region track meet (4th and 5th grades)
- 19 Deadline for parents to choose/notify schools of choice
- 20 Site Council (2:30)
- 24 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 25 All school BBQ
- 26 Birthday lunches with Mrs. Price
- 27 NO SCHOOL; Mandatory Furlough Day
- 30 NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

June

- 1 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 4 PTO car show
- 8 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- Roadrunner Assembly (8:15-8:45)
- 9 School carnival (5-8pm)
- Last day of BEST
- 10 NO SCHOOL: Grading day
- 13 Field day
- 14 Volunteer appreciation (2:15)
- 15 Last day for Kindergarten
- 5th grade celebration (12:00-1:00pm)
- 5th grade clap out (1:00)
- Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
- 16 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

