

November, 2011



Howard Elementary

An Apple Distinguished School

www.howardelementary.org

Volume 3 Issue 3

"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."

Principally Speaking.....by Suzanne Price

On October 10, 205 Howard students, in grades 2-5, were welcomed into what was likely a new classroom, filled with new classmates. The prior Wednesday, Superintendent Sheldon Berman, announced that Howard was the recipient of additional certified staffing designed to lower class sizes and undo the blends that were created due to budget reductions. We were thrilled with the additional staffing and accepted the challenge of creating six new classes, and all that this entails, with vigor and enthusiasm. In an amazing show of collective support and unprecedented teamwork, the entire staff rallied together to make the necessary changes. Our efforts to tackle this monumental task, in a single day, were met with determination and success. I couldn't be more proud of the spirit with which staff approached this challenge.

It goes without saying how pleased we are with Dr. Berman's swift and decisive "move to action". The results have been dramatic and have had a positive impact on both the learning environment and staff morale! It's all smiles at Howard! Thank you, Dr. Berman and the 4j School Board!

On behalf of the entire Howard staff, we would like to thank our wonderful families for their support through this transition. Since the shift in early October, we have had a terrific three weeks and look forward to a productive "rest of the year" filled with learning and laughter. The students are doing exceptionally well; they are safe, happy, and learning!!

As to be expected, the increase in staffing has resulted in a few staffing changes. The following staff have been reassigned; Lisa Chinn moved from PE and 4th grade facilitating teacher to a full time 4th grade teacher, Mark Thornton moved from a 3rd grade facilitating teacher to our PE teacher, and Robin Vaughan has increased her hours to assume the role of Teaching and Learning Consultant (once held by Lisa Chinn). Finally, please join me in welcoming Kim Kelsay to the Howard family as our new 3rd grade teacher.

As always, we welcome your questions, concerns, and praise!

Road Runner News

Birthday Lunches with the Principal



The last attendance day of each month, students whose birthdays fall within that month are invited to enjoy eating their lunch with Mrs. Price. A special table setting, a birthday pencil and snack, and unique time with the principal make for a memorable experience. To date, we have celebrated August, September, and October birthdays. November's lunch celebration will be held on the 30.

Set Your Clocks Back!

At this time of year, clocks need to be set back one hour. The official time change is 2:00 AM, on November 6. Remember to "fall back" one hour on this date!

Eugene Education Fund (EEF) Donations

Eugene families and local businesses are invited to donate funds to the EEF. Donations can be earmarked to a specific school (in this case, Howard Elementary) as a means of support the school's efforts to enhance learning and offer children the best education possible. To learn more, and to make a donation, contact the EEF at http://eeflane.org/ways_to_help/planned_giving/.

Be Good for a Sub

YEA for YOU!

Substitute teachers are on the lookout for students exhibiting respectful and courteous behavior during their teacher's absence. The guest teacher is asked to record the names of those students who were especially helpful and responsible throughout the day. From this list of terrific students, one name is drawn to receive a free kids meal/piece of pie coupon from **Marie Callendar's**, a FREE pizza at **Abby's**, or a **Wendy's** coupon for being "good for a sub". Following are our most recent recipients of a Subway coupon: **Emma, Corey, Maggie, Joey, Shane, Peyton, Cooper, Steven, Niyah and Corbin.**

STUDENT LEADERS ARE BLOSSOMING AT HOWARD

Student Council

We are pleased to announce that Howard has started a Student Council program for our 5th graders. The program is designed to encourage student involvement as well as fostering leadership and responsibility. The Council will generate school spirit activities and seek out community service projects the school can embrace at the local, state, and/or national level. Please welcome the following students to our first Student Council in many years!

Room 17: Emily, Doug, Kinley, Luis and Niyah

Room 18: Caelyn, Makenzy, Julio, Matthew and Austin

Alternates: Betsy and Hayden

News Crew

Fifth grade students lead our Roadrunner Announcements each morning. Thank you to **Julio** and **MaKenzy** for greeting us each morning during the months of September and October. **Hannah** and **Alex** will lead us in November's announcements!



Safety Patrol Coming Soon

In the weeks ahead, fifth grade students will be invited to apply for a position on Howard's very first Safety Patrol. The purpose of the patrol is to assist in the safe arrival and dismissal of students AND to help promote a safe, orderly, and relaxing environment for students while enjoying breakfast in the cafeteria. Information will be shared with 5th graders soon, including eligibility requirements, expectations, and the application process. We are excited about offering this leadership opportunity to our students; it's a win/win situation!

Book Care Tips from the LIBRARY

- ✓ Keep library books safe from rain and dampness
- ✓ Remember to return library books so that you can continue checking out
- ✓ Keep books in a safe place; safe from pets, small children, and spilled food/drink
- ✓ Use a bookmark rather than turning down page corners or marking with a pencil
- ✓ In order to avoid rips, turn book pages carefully
- ✓ Handle books with care. Hug your book!



Library Volunteers Requested! Can you help out in the library 1-2 mornings a week, from 7:30-7:50? We are looking for a reliable person to open the library and supervise students who wish to complete homework or read quietly; this is not a time to check out new books. If you can help, please contact Allen Grush at 541-790-4900. Thanks!

HOWARD STUDENTS ARE OUTSTANDING CITIZENS!

We have a CARING student body that is learning to stand up for one another, showing empathy and support for each other in an effort to ensure all students feel safe and welcome. Thank you to the following students who have been recognized as being **extra caring individuals** in our school!



Congratulations to the following students for doing a terrific job when guest teachers are in the building. The positive behavior displayed by these students help ensure our guests have a memorable experience at Howard: **Justin in room 6, Corey in room 7, Emily in room 17, Ayla, Ethan, and Naxana in room 18.**

Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)

Howard's PBIS team meets monthly to discuss school-wide student behavior and identify ways to reinforce our school rules; be safe, be kind, and be responsible. To this end, we'd like to share our expectations for classroom behavior and ask for your support as we hold students accountable to these expectations.

- Follow teacher directions
- Raise hand for help
- Be respectful and supportive of others
- Listen when the teacher is talking
- Have safe hands and feet
- Use an inside voice
- Congratulate others on their successes



If your child brings home a BEEP BEEP for being safe, kind, or responsible in the classroom, please let him/her know that you are proud of their positive choices and express congratulations for a job well done!

10 Ways to GET INVOLVED in Your Child's Education

...From Positive Promotions

1. Talk with your child, everyday, about his or her school experiences.
2. Read the school handbook and all notices that the school sends home.
3. Meet your child's teacher and attend Parent/Teacher conferences.
4. Consult with your child's teacher whenever you have concerns.
5. Attend school events, PTO meetings, and school board meetings.
6. Stay aware of your child's academic progress. Praise all earnest efforts and accomplishments.
7. Review homework assignments each day and help your child organize time and work.
8. Provide learning experiences. Visit museums, watch educational TV shows, and have books and other learning materials available at home.
9. Join the school's PTO and participate in its activities.
10. Volunteer at school. From classroom assistance to field trips, school events, and fundraisers, there are many opportunities to offer your services.

REMEMBER – Your attention and involvement show your child that school is important.

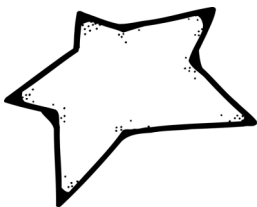
Words of Praise

You are never too old to benefit from a compliment or an expression of appreciation. Parents are invited to share these "words of praise" to staff by simply completing a card, located in the main lobby, and giving it to an office staff member. We will ensure the card gets to the appropriate staff member!



Early Mornings

Please remember that students are not to be on campus prior to 7:25, when the doors open and supervision begins. Students that arrive before this time are not supervised. Your child's safety is a high priority. As such, we are asking for your support by bringing your child at, or after, 7:25 am. Thank you.



Walk and Bike to School Day

On October 7th, Howard participated in *International Walk and Bike to School Day*, which is an event focused on physical activity, health, and the environment. Howard had 159 students either walk or bike to school, which is 49% of our school population; up 19% from last year! Way to go! Students that participated earned prizes from Ms. Chinn and the Walk and Bike organization like shoelaces, stickers, and healthy snacks.

From the Nurse...Flu Vaccines

Per the Center for Disease Control, everyone six months of age and older should get a yearly flu vaccine. Ample supplies of influenza vaccine are now available. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for your body to develop an immune response. Get vaccinated now so that you will be protected when flu season begins. In the United States, influenza season usually begins in October and can last until May. In Oregon we've had our first reported flu related hospitalization, so I encourage you to get

vaccinated today! The nasal spray is indicated for healthy, non-pregnant persons aged 2-49 years.

In addition to getting immunized, it's also important to ward off the flu and other viruses and bacteria by these methods:

- Protect yourself and others by washing your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose with something other than your hand when you cough or sneeze.

FROM THE NURSE: Head Lice



Schools are no longer required to send home notices to families when cases of lice are brought to their attention. Still, we wanted to inform you that there have been some recent cases among children at school. As such, you may wish to monitor your child for head lice a little more frequently in the coming weeks. Screen all household members close to scalp line for nits (lice eggs) and for live lice. Use really good lighting and pay close attention to area behind ears and at nape of neck. Pictures are available at the web site <http://identify.us.com>. If in doubt, or you see nits, please consult with your health care provider, school health clinic, or school nurse. Look for tear shaped, yellowish eggs firmly glued to the hair shaft. See diagram below from the CDC website www.dpd.cdc.gov. Nits are tiny, smaller than the head of a straight pin.

Treatment Suggestions for Controlling Head Lice from 4J Health Services are also available.

PTO CORNER

Volunteer opportunities abound!! If you are able to volunteer in any of capacity, please contact the Howard PTO at howardelementary@gmail.com or phone 541-933-5336. We need:

Teacher Dinner Dishes During Parent/Teacher Conferences:

- 1) Parents to provide a dinner dish to share with teachers during parent/teacher conferences on 11/9 or 11/10. Please email the PTO, with FOOD for CONFERENCES in the subject line or call 541-933-5336 and leave a message.
- 2) Volunteers to help set up/clean up before or after the meal on 11/9 or 11/10.

Popcorn Wednesdays! If you would like to help pop and bag popcorn Wednesday mornings, please email the PTO or sign up on the sheet located on the PTO bulletin board, in the main hallway.

Volunteers to provide **gift-wrapping** services during the **Barnes and Noble Book Fair**, on December 11, are needed. No skills necessary! It's a fun way to spend a blistery afternoon. You might even get to enjoy a few classroom performances!

PTO is still in search of **Room Reps!** This is a great opportunity to work directly with your child's teacher on classroom celebrations, fieldtrips, and projects. Please let your child's teacher know if you are interested in serving in this role. Let the PTO know, too!

There are **TWO VACANT BOARD POSITIONS**; parliamentarian and secretary. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve in a leadership role and get involved! Please speak with Beth, Stacey or Lara if you are interested or want to learn more!

Dates to Remember

November

- 3 Papa's Pizza Night (Coburg Road); **FUNDS COME RIGHT BACK TO HOWARD!**
- 9 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
Parent/teacher conferences (4-8)
- 10 NO SCHOOL: Parent/teacher conferences (8-8)
- 11 NO SCHOOL: Veteran's Day
- 14-18 Easy CBM Reading Progress Monitoring
- 15 Parent laptop training (8:15)
PTO meeting (6-7)
- 16 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 17 Parent Strategy Class (6-7pm)
- 18 NO SCHOOL: Conference compensation day
- 22 Site council (2:30)
- 23 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 24 NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Holiday
- 25 NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Holiday
- 28-30 Easy CBM Reading Winter Benchmark
- 30 Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price
Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)



December

- 2 Picture retakes
- 2 Movie night (6-8pm)
- 7 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 11 Barnes & Noble Book Fair (PTO Sponsored)
- 12-16 Easy CBM Winter Benchmark
- 14 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
- 16 Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price
- 16 Referral free reward
- 19-Jan 2 NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

January

- 3 NO SCHOOL: Professional Development/Teacher Planning
- 4 Classes resume
- 4 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)