

April, 2012



Howard Elementary

An Apple Distinguished School

www.howardelementary.org

Volume 3 Issue 7

"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

In our fourth year as an Apple Distinguished School, Howard continues to be viewed as a leader in instructional technology. As we have done for several years, Howard will be hosting a *Technology Day* whereby we open our school to visitors to observe the work staff and students are doing with digital tools. New this year, we are pleased to extend an invitation to our families so they, too, can see the use of these valuable tools in action. However, to help ensure minimal disruption to the learning environment, this event has been designed for adults, only. We ask that alternative arrangements please be made for younger siblings. We appreciate your understanding and support of this request and hope you are able to attend!

Our *Technology Day* visits will run between the hours of 8:00-11:00 on Wednesday, April 11th! You are welcome to stop by at your convenience and are invited to tour any of our classrooms. Upon your arrival, please check in at the office and pick up a folder of information. Morning refreshments will also be available to our guests.

Howard utilizes a variety of digital hardware, software applications, and on line publications all geared toward motivating students and enhancing learning. We have a Technology Plan that includes the following beliefs around the use of technology:

- Utilizing technology to support District and State curriculum standards;
- Providing instruction to advance fluency in the use of technology and to deepen students' educational experience;
- Providing learning opportunities using technology to address individual student needs, to meet/exceed state testing standards, and to broaden knowledge of the world around them;
- Providing students with digital skills to be competitive both academically and in the work place;
- Using technology in ways that promotes critical thinking and problem solving skills as they relate to the real world;
- Instructing students to navigate on line resources in a safe and discerning manner;
- Enhancing student learning through the mastery of computer skills at all grade levels;
- Safe and careful use of both hardware and software; and
- Offering professional development to staff in the on-going pursuit of gaining new skills and strategies designed to incorporate digital tools into daily instruction.

The best way to teach a child is to "speak their language"; technology!

Road Runner News

FREE Movie Night ~ Howard will host its second Movie Night! With nearly 80 movie watches at our first event, we hope to draw even more movie-goers on April 12! The movie will start at 6pm and Student Council will be selecting which movie we will be featuring! PTO will be selling concessions for your enjoyment. While gym mats will be on the floor for children to lie on, families are welcome to bring pillows, blankets, and small bean bags to add comfort. Chairs are available for adults.



Literacy Night a SUCCESS! Thank you for yet another well-attended and enjoyable Literacy Night, where students were able to share with their families the work they are doing around reading and writing. We'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Elder Thomas for generously sharing her talent for story reading! We had 314 visitors, up from 279 last year's count. This included 124 students and their families! Thank you for your continued support and interest in your child's education...and never stop reading!!



Attention 5th Graders ~ Transition to Middle School

Howard Elementary feeds into Kelly Middle School. To help prepare students for the transition, 5th graders can look forward to a visit from middle school staff and students AND a tour of Kelly Middle School in May. Details will be shared via class newsletters as the May dates draw near. Starting second semester, families should also be receiving copies of KMS's newsletters. Please let us know if you have not been getting this correspondence.

Eugene Education Foundation Grants Thank you for all you do for your child's education! A simple way to help is to make a gift donation to Howard Elementary, through the EEF. Your gift comes directly to our school and supports the purchasing of valuable resources (ie technology, curricular materials, and supports our many student incentive/leadership programs). In the last decade EEF has used community gifts to send schools over a million dollars in grants. Gifts support district programs, too, including Science Kits, early reading efforts and clinics that ensure 4J kids are healthy learners.

Give online at www.eef.lane.edu, or send a check to EEF, Post Office Box 1015, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

PARKING IN/NEAR HANDICAP SPACES ~ To avoid a hefty fine, and to ensure our visitors in need of a handicap space have access in/out of these reserved spots, please refrain from parking and/or blocking these spaces. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Be Good for a Sub Recognition Continues

Congratulations to the following students for earning a "Be Good for a Sub" coupon for their **RESPECTFUL and COURTEOUS behavior during their teacher's absence**. Their positive choices add to the overall atmosphere at Howard. Thank you to Izzy's and Shari's for their support; Kiley (rm 4), Paige (rm 13), Carter (rm 15), Savannah (rm 16), and Luis (rm 17). Congratulations!!



Kindergarten Orientation

Howard Elementary is hosting its annual Kindergarten Orientation for all 2012-2013 Kindergarten age children on Thursday, April 26th at 10:00 am. If you have a child (5 by September 1, 2012) that will be starting with us next fall be sure and join us for more information about our kindergarten program. Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor who has a kindergarten age child and encourage them to attend. Exciting things are happening at Howard and it all starts in Kindergarten!

Classroom Placement for 2012-2013

We recognize there may be times when parents wish to share specific needs, concerns, or information regarding classroom placement. A **PARENT INFORMATION REGARDING CLASSROOM PLACEMENT** form is available in the office for parents who wish to communicate specific information regarding the placement of their child. Please understand, this is not an opportunity to request a particular teacher, but rather to share information about your child to assist us in class placements. Parents should know that information provided will be carefully considered, along with other placement factors, in our effort to create well balanced classroom groups. A team of teachers, working with the principal, determines classroom placement. The following factors are considered when making placement decisions:



1. A balance in class size, boys and girls, academic performance, learning styles, social skills, and students with special needs;
2. Consideration of the *Request for Classroom Placement* form.

Staffing allocations will remain under review in the months ahead. As such, assignments are still tentative and subject to change. Finally, it is important for parents to understand that completion of this form does not guarantee a particular placement through this process. **In order for parental information to be considered in the placement process, The Parent Information Regarding Classroom Placements form must be returned to the office no later than May 4th.**



Volunteer Sign In/Out A Must ☺!

As an added safety precaution at our school, we require that all visitors/volunteers start their visit in the office. Please sign in and receive a visitor's badge so that staff members and students know you are a "safe" visitor. If you do not have a badge, don't be surprised if a staff member asks you to please stop by the office to check in. Equally important is that you sign out in the office when your visit is complete. By doing so, we know who is in the building in the event of an emergency. Thank you, in advance, for honoring this important safety procedure.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHERE CLASSROOMS ARE PLANNING SPRING FIELDTRIPS. In order to serve as a chaperone, volunteers must have completed a background check (and been approved) with the district. It can take several weeks for this process to be completed, so don't put off this important step if you are interesting in chaperoning an upcoming trip.



Site Council Members Needed for 2012-2013

The purpose of Site Council is to work with staff to develop, implement, and provide oversight of Howard's School Improvement Plan. In addition, input regarding school programming/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 to three parent representatives (depending on the size of the group) with the term lasting two years. **WE ARE IN NEED OF PARENTS TO JOIN SITE COUNCIL FOR THE 2012-2014 SCHOOL YEARS.** If you are interested, please complete a Site Council Nomination form (found in the front office or on our website) no later than May 11, 2012. This deadline may be extended into the fall should nominations be limited.

Reading is Important! Each month, students are challenged to meeting monthly reading goals. Those who do are entered into a drawing for a FREE book. Beep, beep....be your best, and be a reader! **February & March Book Winners ~ congratulations!**

room 20: Felicity & Ethan	room 19: Katelynn & Dimitri
room 18: Jessica & MaKenzy	room 17: Katie & Luis
room 16: Immanuel & Myka	room 15: Kirsten & Anthony
room 14: Jack & Garrison	room 13: Shane & Gabrella
room 7: Autumn & Carlos	room 6: Kaitlyn & Milo
room 4: Devon & Owen	room 3: Hermes & Dustin



Smartphones and Safety ~ NBC Action News recently did a story on smartphones and your/your child's safety. Photos that have been emailed or uploaded onto your phone can leak information to others and result in a potential safety risk. To learn more, watch the short youtube clip attached.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2vARzvwXwY>

Eugene Concert Choir ~ In March, representatives from the Eugene Concert Choir visited Howard and taught students some songs the choir will be performing, at the Hult Center, on April 21. Howard students are invited to join the ECC's performance on this date!! Please look for a flier, coming home soon, with more information, including steps for getting two complimentary tickets (one for your student performer and one for an accompanying adult). Additional tickets can be purchased for \$2 each, through the Hult Center.



Updates...

PTO will be selling concessions during Howard's Movie Night on April 12th! Come join the fun!!

Donations and volunteering are needed for:

- School Garage Sale, May 19th & 20th; we need donations and volunteers to work the sale!
- Staff Appreciation Week; on April 23rd the PTO will be hosting a special luncheon for the staff. If you would like to donate a food dish, contact the PTO at [541 933-5336](tel:5419335336) or email us at howardelementarypto@gmail.com

Thank you!

Dates to Remember

April

- 6 Spring pictures
10 LCC dental clinic (8:30-12:30)
11 Howard Technology Day (8-11 am)
Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
12 FREE Movie Night at Howard (6:00)
13 NO SCHOOL: Howard Prof. Development
Day
16 Week of April 16; OAKS round 2
17 Parent laptop training (2:30)
PTO (6:00)
School library is open for families; 5:30-6:00
(just before the PTO meeting)
18 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
20 Referral free rewards activity
21 Eugene Concert Choir performance (more information coming soon)
24 Site council (2:30)
25 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
3rd grade science fair (12:30-1:00)
26 2012-2013 Kindergarten orientation (10:00)
Planned Parenthood parent review -5th grade (5:00)
27 Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price

May

- 3 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
9 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
11 5th grade to OMSI
Site Council nomination forms due to office
14 Week of May 14; OAKS round 3
15 PTO (6:00)
15 School library is open for families; 5:30-6:00 (just before the PTO meeting)
16 Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)
19 PTO Garage Sale
20 PTO garage sale
22 Site council (2:30)
25 Roadrunner assembly (8:30)
Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price
28 NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day

