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. Children may enjoy spending their summer break playing with electronics, watching television, and sleeping late. Still, it’s important to remember that their minds and bodies need daily exercise. Suggestions for meaningful summer activities designed to both stimulate your child and add some family fun can be found in Report to Parents. The article suggests:

**Look for educational moments in daily routines** and regular outings. For example, a trip to the grocery store can involve a discussion about nutrition while a walk to the park can include a study in nature.

**Take advantage of free/low cost community-sponsored programs** at the library, recreational areas, county parks, area museums, etc.

Pull out those **board games** and **puzzles**. These activities are great for math, motor skills, patterning, and social skills.

**Reading** should be a part of every day! Set aside time for the entire family to read. This could include turning off the electronics for 20 minutes while the family reads to each other and/or on their own. Set a summer reading goal or get your child involved in a summer library reading club.

Throw in some **science** by exploring the world around you. Foster an interest in plants, bugs, stars, or clouds. Simple kitchen science experiments can be easily conducted; look for experiments at the library or on line.

Encourage young authors by **writing** stories together. Create books, journal about a family trip to the beach, write letters to family members, have your child make “to do” lists or shopping lists, or write thank you notes for a recent gift. The possibilities are limitless!

Partake in **local attractions** that you may have never visited; ie a farmer’s market, free museums, an art show in the park, free events at the fair grounds, etc.

…and don’t forget to enjoy the **great outdoors** exploring, playing, and getting fresh air!

All these activities will exercise your child’s brain over the summer months and help them return 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.
THERE IS AN IMPORTANT ‘FAMILY EVENT’ SURVEY AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS YOU CAN!

**Jog-a-Thon for Apple iPads!**
This year, our annual jog-a-thon will support Apple iPads for the classroom! Over the course of the next year, or two, we hope to raise enough funds to support the purchasing of Apple iPads to begin incorporating yet another digital resource into our teaching and learning “tool box”. Donation envelopes will be coming home on May 4 and are due no later than May 18, the day of the event. Please consider supporting Howard by sponsoring your child for the jog-a-thon.

**HOWARD TECHNOLOGY DAY a Great Success**
On April 11, 22 visitors spent the day touring our school and observing our staff and students in action. Guests, including several Howard parents, were in attendance to learn about instructional technology and how we infusion digital tools into everyday teaching and learning. As an Apple Distinguished School, since 2009, we are happy to share our accomplishments in hopes of transforming more and more classrooms into 21st century learning environments.

You may have noticed a Giving Tree in the main hallway, complete with apples for the picking. Each apple has a donation item that families are invited to gift the school. To help us sustain the great work we are doing with instructional technology, we encourage you, your business, neighbors, and the local community to pick an apple! Please share news of our Giving Tree with others who you think might be able to help.

**Summer Weather and Attire**
With warmer weather upon us, we thought a friendly reminder was in order. Please remember that halter-tops, spaghetti straps, see-through blouse, bare midriff, and shorts shorter than mid-thigh are examples of unacceptable attire while at school. For more detailed information regarding the school’s dress code, please refer to page 18 of the Howard Family Handbook, located on our school’s website at www.howardelementary.org.

**A Few Yearbooks Are Still For Sale!**
While the deadline for ordering yearbooks has passed, we still have a few extras for sale. If you are interested, act now by checking with the school office. The cost is $14.50. While we prefer cash, checks can be made out to Howard Elementary.

**This and That...Important Information!**
The May/June edition of our newsletter marks the final publication of the 2011-2012 school year. The office will close on June 22.

The last day of school for Howard Elementary is June 12, A HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS. Dismissal is at 11:05 for ALL students. Students return to school on September 5, 2012.

The last day for BEST will be June 7.

**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.
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. Meals are tentatively served from June 18 ~ August 24 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 18. All books are due back to the library no later than May 25, 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 11. 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 food item/meal at a local area restaurant. Thank you to the for the generous support of our local businesses and congrats to: Autumn (rm 7), Mariah (rm 13), Jayden & Crobin (rm 3), Kendra (rm 14), Marveya (rm 16) and Noah (rm 17).

Attached is a flyer for the Jane Higdon & O Heroes Run For Girls and Moms on Mother’s Day, Sunday May 13th! This could be a great way to kick off Mother’s Day for girls and women of all ages! Check out the attached flier if you might be interested in a fun run to both celebrate and honor girls and women! The Jane Higdon & O Heroes Fun Run for Girls & Moms

Track Meet
The annual North Region track meet will be held on Thursday, May 14 at North Eugene High School. All Howard 4th and 5th graders have been working hard in PE with Mr. Thornton 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 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.

NATIONAL BIKE TO SCHOOL MONTH: Mr. Thornton, our PE teacher, will be inviting students to participate in the National Bike to School initiative in May. He is calling the event "Olympic Training & Bike Riding month". The event starts May 1 and runs through May 25. Every student in school is encouraged to participate. Any student who rides their bike to school on the designated days will earn a coupon for a free food item/meal at a local area restaurant.
school during this time can see Mr. Thornton to pick up a colored slip where they will record their name and class. The slip should be placed in a bucket located in the gym. In addition, students may get credit for every hour of physical activity they do at home. Simply have an adult fill out and sign the white slips (distributed in PE) and return to school to be placed in the buckets. On May 29, 25 winning participants will be drawn. On Thursday, May 31 the winners are invited to a fun-filled evening, from 6:00 to 7:30, at Howard’s gym; details to follow.

**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 7, 1:00–2:00. Please join us! Thanks, again, for your never-ending commitment to Howard school!

**THANK YOU, PTO!!** On behalf of the entire Howard staff, we would like to say “thank you” to our PTO for the delicious appreciation luncheon they hosted on April 23 in honor of Staff Appreciation Week. The good food and special treatment meant a GREAT DEAL to all of us. We so enjoyed a relaxing meal with one another!!

**Reading Goal for the Month of May:**
- 300 minutes for Kinder & 1st grade
- 400 minutes for 2nd-5th grades

**Beep, Beep, Be Your Best and Be a Reader!**

**What To Read This Summer…**
The Howard Elementary library is working on collaborative projects with the Santa Clara/River Road Volunteer Library for next year. Over the summer, Santa Clara / River Road Volunteer Library will have a Saturday morning reading program for children. The program will run from July 7 through August 11, 10:00–11:30 every Saturday morning. Every third Saturday students can enjoy a Story-time. These are fun for kids and grown-ups alike.

If you are not enjoying family read-alouds yet, here are some ideas that might help you get started:

- Establish a regular time for reading aloud with your child(ren).
- Turn off computer, music, radio, and TV.
- Consider reading books of their interests such as, dragons, heroes, insects, or space.
- Read the books you loved as a kid.
- Dare to ham it up as you read. Try changing the volume or pitch of your voice.
- Talk about what you are reading.
- Ask questions like “What do you think will happen next?”
- Some restless children need to draw or play quietly while you read.

Attached, please find a link to a reading list for summer reading ideas! Happy reading ... all summer!!!
Summer Reading List: [http://howard.4j.lane.edu/2012/readinglist](http://howard.4j.lane.edu/2012/readinglist)

**Here’s the ‘Scoop’! From PTO…**

We would like to thank all the volunteers that made the “Staff Appreciation luncheon” a huge success!

Donations for the upcoming Community Garage Sale, scheduled for May 19 & 20, are still being collected. As you are doing your spring-cleaning, or if you would like to help at the event, give PTO a call! 541-933-5336

**Family Carnival** will be held on June 1. Please join us for some pizza, snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, face painting, bounce house and many more classic carnival games, and of course, the all too famous silent basket auction. Carnival tickets will be pre-sold at a discounted price ($5/$1 as opposed to 4/$1 on the day of the
event) Wednesday (5/30) and Thursday (5/31) after school, in the popcorn room. If you would like to help with the carnival, please give PTO a call.

Be sure to watch for a carnival basket donation flier. Each class will have a different theme in which they will build a basket to be auctioned off at the Family Carnival, June 1, from 5:30-7:30. Remember, any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated! Hope to see you at the Carnival.

The Howard PTO wishes you a great summer break and we all hope to see you again in the fall. We would like to thank you for your support, without which our fundraising events would not be possible. Thank YOU!!!

**Dates to Remember ~ May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Week of May 7: OAKS testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5th grade to OMSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Site Council nomination forms due to office</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4th/5th grade track meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Week of May 14: OAKS round 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>PTO (6:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>School library is open for families; 5:30-6:00 (just before the PTO meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Jog a thon for Apple LiPads!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>PTO Garage Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>PTO garage sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Site council (2:30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Roadrunner assembly (1:20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>ALL library books are due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dates to Remember ~ June**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>School Carnival (5:30-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Early dismissal (11:35KG/1:05)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Volunteer Appreciation (1:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Last day of BEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL: Grading day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Field day K/1/2 (8:30-9:30) 3/4/5 (9:45-10:45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5th grade celebration (10:00 – gym)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5th grade clap out (11:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Last day for students (11:05 dismissal)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**FAMILY EVENTS SURVEY**

We are in the process of planning monthly family events for next school year. To help in our planning, please fill out the survey and return to the office as soon as you can.

Child’s Grade Level(s): □ KG  □ 1st  □ 2nd  □ 3rd  □ 4th  □ 5th

Have you attended any of our family events this year? □ Yes □ NO

If you haven’t attended a family event, what is preventing you from doing so?

☐ Lack of awareness the event was happening
☐ Lack of time/didn’t fit in our family’s schedule
☐ Lack of interest in the particular family events being offered

What activities are you most likely to attend, if they were offered next year?

□ Author’s Night
□ BINGO
□ Family Library
□ Parent Workshops
□ Movie Night

□ Craft Night
□ Storytelling
□ Nutrition/Cooking Class
□ Other Suggestions: ____________________________