



# Howard Happenings

## November, 2012

[www.howardelementary.org](http://www.howardelementary.org)

June: Celebrating Your Success



### PE and Music Begins, Nov. 8th!



PE and music will begin soon for all students at Howard starting Thursday, **November 8th**, which will continue for nine weeks, ending on **January 30th**. Former Howard music teacher Marty VanWormer and her teaching partner, Jeanette Engel will be teaching music full-time and Jenifer Pleus, who also taught at Howard many years ago, will be teaching PE full-time during our nine weeks.

One reason for the change in how PE and music are being done this year is that over the past few years, due to budget reductions, most 4J elementary schools have had to cut their PE and/or music specialists. Some schools, like Howard, had been able to maintain one specialist, but there were virtually no schools that had been able to offer both PE and music. As a result, the school district made the decision last spring to program staff all elementary schools to receive at least nine weeks of both PE and music instruction taught by a trained specialist.

Another reason for the change is that one of the Eugene School District 4J board goals is to build staff capacity to perform at high levels. Collaborative practice is a strategy the district is using to build capacity and encourage teachers to work together toward improved student achievement. During the nine weeks of PE and music, each classroom teacher will engage in collaborative practice in order to become more effective instructors.

We are all looking forward to beginning our PE and music time, so please welcome Ms. Smith and Ms. Pleus as they join the Howard Family!

### PBIS Monthly Focus

Along with our Positive Behavior and Intervention Support main rules of Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible we also have a monthly focus that is taught to our students by our staff and posted in the hallways. This is a great reminder that helps children take their behavior up one more positive notch. Below is the list of each month's focus so that you can help draw their attention to these ideas at home. We encourage you to use these practices in any fun way you can incorporate them into your family.

- November: Appreciations
- December: Generosity
- January: Be Your Best
- February: Cooperation
- March: Safe Bodies
- April: Encouragement
- May: Positive Attitude

### Caring For Kids Curriculum at Howard

This year we are excited to introduce a program at Howard called Caring School Community (CSC). This program will help us expand the culture of kindness and respect at our school. Studies show that such a culture is important for many reasons. Children who feel part of a caring school community tend to do better academically over time and may be less likely to engage in problem behaviors such as cigarette smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, and violence.

The CSC program provides specific lessons and activities that build a caring community for children throughout the school day and the school year. These lessons include regular class meetings in which the teacher and students solve problems and discuss how they can make the class a place that is caring and safe for everyone. The lessons also include "buddy activities." Your child will be paired with an older or younger student "buddy" for activities once or twice a month that focus on developing friendships as well as academic skills.

We look forward to working with you to make our school a warm, caring place for everyone and to make this a great year for your child!



### It's Time to Fall Back

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on November 4<sup>th</sup>.



### Safety Patrol

Here at Howard we have some of responsible fifth grade students act as safety patrol officers. 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. We are excited about offering this leadership opportunity to our students; it's a win/win situation

## Student Tardies

Your help is needed in making sure that your child is in school on time. The first bell rings at 7:50 and students are expected to be in class by 7:55. The class activities start promptly with the morning announcements. This morning class time is one of the most important times of the day. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable class time, it is disruptive to his or her classmates. We understand that mornings can be hectic, but it is important to stress the need to be to school on time.



## Ill Students Need to Stay Home

When students are ill, they need to stay home. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send him/her to school:

**Fever of 100 degrees or more.** Children should stay home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications.

**Vomiting or severe diarrhea.** Children should stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours.

**Severe cold.** A little snuffle is not a reason to stay home, but a severe cold or influenza is.

**Severe sore throat or a persistent cough**

**Ear ache**

**Severe headache**

If your child has a communicable disease, she/he should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps, and whooping cough. Please call the school and tell them when your child has a communicable disease.



## Birthday Parties

Birthday parties are not celebrated at school. With teacher permission, parents may provide a store bought "treat" with the expectation that celebrations do not interfere with the instructional program. Please contact the teacher before sending or bringing any treats to school. In accordance to 4j's Wellness Policy, "sugary treats" are not permitted. A list of foods that meet these guidelines is available on line at [4j.lane.edu/nutrition/wellness/overview](http://4j.lane.edu/nutrition/wellness/overview). A positive alternative to treats are fun pencils, erasers, note pads, etc. Another suggestion would be to donate a book to the classroom, in the birthday child's name.



## 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. We are asking for your help by bringing your child at, or after, 7:25.

## A Few Notes from PTO

PTO is a great way to become involved in your child's school. You will become acquainted with other parents and teachers while having fun at the same time. Along with helping our students and school, you will be building connections that will last during your years here at Howard and beyond. PTO is responsible for the annual Cookie Dough Sale, "Popcorn Wednesdays", Papa's Pizza Nights, Scholastic Book Fair, and the carnival. We are always looking for new volunteers and fresh ideas. If you are able to contribute by attending meetings, working behind the scenes, or becoming a room representative we would love to have you get involved! If you have any questions you may email us at [howardelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:howardelementarypto@gmail.com) or call us at 541-933-5336.

- PTO would like to thank everyone who helped make our cookie dough fundraiser a success! Cookie dough will be delivered on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Our next fundraiser will be November 19<sup>th</sup> with Papa's Pizza on Coburg Road. Papa's Pizza will donate 50% of the value of food purchased when you bring in your flyer the date of the fundraiser. These flyers will be sent home with your child and also available in the office.
- If you are interested in purchasing popcorn for your child's classroom the price will be \$8.00.
- Our next PTO meeting will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the library with childcare provided in the gym.
- We are looking for Room Representatives. If this is something that you would be interested in please contact your child's teacher.
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Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to meeting you!

## Upcoming Events

11/01 - Conferences 8:00 am - 8:00 pm - No School  
11/02 - No School - Teacher Comp Day  
11/04 - Set Clocks Back 1 Hour to Standard Time  
11/06 - Election Day  
11/12 - Veterans' Day - No School  
11/19 - Papa's Pizza Night  
11/20 - PTO - 6:00 pm in the Library  
11/22 - Thanksgiving  
11/23 - No School - Holiday  
11/27 - Site Council - 2:20 pm  
11/30 - Picture Retakes  
12/18 - PTO - 6:00 pm in the Library  
12/24 - First Day of Winter Break  
1/07 - Professional Development Day - No School  
1/08 - Students Return to School