



Howard Happenings

October, 2014

www.howardelementary.org



FALL CONFERENCES

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 29 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Thursday, October 30 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. **There will be no school on Friday, October 31.** Scheduling forms have been sent home and need to be turned in no later than October 13.

Meeting with your child's teacher should help build strong parent – teacher partnerships. Partnerships that are needed if you and their teacher are to reach your common goal: helping your child get the best education possible.

Each teacher will come prepared with samples of your child's work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too. Be sure and talk with your child before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your child if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teacher. Make sure your child doesn't worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher are meeting together in order to help them.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about: personality, habits, problems, information about your child's home life, and hobbies that you feel are important for the teacher to know.

- Questions about your child's progress
- How you and the school can work together to help your child

Some good questions to ask are these:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- What strengths do you see in my child

WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL

Please remember that EVERY Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:05; 11:35 for Kindergartners. There is no one available to supervise children after this time. Unfortunately, children left waiting for a ride home spend a very long and uneventful hour sitting in the hall outside of the office. Please make note of this regular early dismissal to avoid a missed pick up of your child.

CURRICULUM NIGHT ~ TONIGHT!

Curriculum night has been scheduled to TONIGHT, October 2nd. The format is designed for parents to attend teacher presentations to learn about curriculum, classroom routines and expectations, and become acquainted with staff members. So that your full attention can be focused on the information provided, this evening is for adults only. **Childcare will be provided beginning at 5:45 in the cafeteria.** Session 1 will run 6:00 – 6:30 and Session 2 will run 6:35 – 7:05.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP REMINDERS

During student drop-off and pick-up, for student safety, we ask that visitors to the school use the parking lots and DO NOT PARK in the bus lanes located in the east lot. These areas are reserved for student loading/unloading by both school buses and families. Similarly, we ask that vehicles are not left unattended unless you are parked in a designated parking space. Please also remember that handicap parking is reserved for vehicles with authorized handicapped permits, only.

Additionally, we'd like to remind families to be good neighbors to the folks living around our school, making sure to not block intersections, use driveways as high speed u-turn lanes, and to also make sure any trash is not left in neighboring yards.

Thank you all for your cooperation making student drop-off and pick-up safe for students and families!



SCHOOL PICTURES ARE COMING

School pictures will be on October 17th. – SMILE!

DO YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you or any of your emergency contacts have recently changed numbers, addresses, or email accounts, please make sure that you have notified the school office. It is extremely important this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or your child becomes ill at school.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES

This is a reminder that you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch Form for your child/children every school year. **Even if you do not intend to use this service and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in.** As a Title 1 school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is very important to have every eligible family in the system. If you have not yet applied for this year's meals, please pick up an application in the reception area at the school or complete one online at 4j.lane.edu. The deadline to have these forms turned in is October 20.

HELP SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL!

There are a few easy ways you, your friends and relatives can help support Howard! See the list below for instructions how:

eScrip:

eScrip works with merchant partners to contribute to groups like ours each time you shop with your registered debit or credit cards - at no cost to you!

1. Go to <http://www.escrip.com> Enter the School or Group I.D. #500046355
2. Register your debit and/or credit cards.
3. Shop at eScrip merchants, including Safeway, Market of Choice and Amazon!
4. Use your eScrip registered cards for all your purchases.
5. A percentage of purchases will be automatically contributed by the merchant.

Fred Meyer Rewards:

You are now able to link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to your favorite nonprofit by following the link below. Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping Howard earn a donation from Fred Meyer. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store.

1. Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Howard Elementary School at <http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards>. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number # 88934
2. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Howard earn a donation!
3. You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
4. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

Target REDCard:

If you have a Target REDCard (credit or debit) Target will donate a percentage of all REDCard purchases made at Target and Target.com to Howard if you designate out school

1. Go to <http://www.target.com/tcoe>
2. Log onto your REDCard account
3. Fill in the information under "Sign me up" to designate Howard!

Howard also participates in the following programs. Click on each link to find out how you can help the school earn more money through each program. Many of the programs just require you to sign up and will donate through purchases you are already making. Some of the programs require you to clip a code or label of some sort; these can be sent to the school.

Box Tops <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>
Labels for Education www.labelsforeducation.com/
Ticondaroga & Prang <http://www.prangpower.com/>
Tyson <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>
Amazon Smiles smile.amazon.com/ (Howard Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization)



HEALTH SCREENING

Our Health Screening will be Tuesday Oct 7. Lions Club is coming to use a photo vision screener that gives us more complete results. A team is coming for dental screening. The results will take a week or so for the Lions Club to get back to us. If you have questions about the screening or need assistance with eye exams, glasses or dental care please call our school nurse Robin at 541-221-9850.

8 Health Screening Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, Oct 7 from 8:15 – 10:30. If you are able to be help with this please call Robin at 541-221-9850.

SAFETY WEEK

As we did last year, Howard conducted a Safety Week to practice all of the most common safety drills. This is a good way to bring awareness to staff, students and families about the various safety procedures that are in place to keep students safe if there were ever an emergency. Below are the drills that we practiced. Please take a few minutes and discuss these drills with your child. Your interest will allow them to share with you any of their concerns.

Monday, September 29- Directed Evacuation: Directed Evacuation is used to get students and staff out of the building by a route designed to protect their safety. This is the procedure we use for earthquake drills and monthly fire drills.

Tuesday, September 30- Room Clear: A Room Clear, issued by the teacher, is used to send students away from a potential threat in the classroom. The teacher directs students to leave the classroom and go immediately to a prearranged area, typically the next classroom over. This procedure would be used if a classroom incident threatened the emotional or physical safety of students, e.g. someone becomes very ill or unconscious; an intruder enters the room; a serious conflict erupts between students.

Wednesday, October 1 - Lock Down: Lock Down protects staff and student from a threat inside the building when it may be more dangerous to leave the building than to stay in a secured room. Teachers are notified to lock their classroom doors close window blinds. All students are accounted for and everyone stays secure until notified otherwise.

Thursday, October 2- Earthquake/Fire Drill: The Earthquake Drill is designed to keep students safe in the building until the earthquake stops. At that time the alarm will sound and students proceed with a Directed Evacuation. This procedure is used to get students and staff out of the building by a route designed to protect their safety.

INFORMATION ABOUT MEASURE20-222:4J LOCAL OPTION LEVY RENEWAL

Measure 20-222 on the November 4 election ballot asks voters in our school district whether to renew local funding for schools at the same property tax rate. The 4J local option levy funds school operations, such as teachers, programs and school days. It provides about \$8 million per year, paying for the equivalent of about 16 school days or 80 teaching positions. It is not a new tax or a tax increase, but a five-year renewal of the local option levy that has been providing additional local funding for 4J schools since 2000. To vote on the local option levy, 4J residents must be registered to vote by October 14. To learn more, go to www.4j.lane.edu/levy.

BEST IS STARTING SOON!

The BEST after-school program is back at Howard Elementary for the 2014-15 academic year. BEST will serve approximately 50 students beginning October 13 and continue through May 28, 2015. Students are selected to attend BEST based on academic need and teacher recommendation. If you receive an enrollment packet, please return it as soon as possible. The first round of invitations went out in September and invitations will continue to go out to selected students until the program is full. Parents may request they be put on a waiting list if they would like their student to attend, but have not received an invitation letter. There is a one time enrollment fee of \$20.00. Program hours are 2:10 to 5:10. Bus transportation home is available.

The BEST program will emphasize STEM (science, engineering, technology and math) this year. The schedule will include an extended academic program, along with enrichment activities and a meal. STRINGS Academy will be offered through BEST on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:10-3:10. All Howard students in 4 & 5th grades interested in playing violin, viola, bass or cello are welcome to participate in STRINGS. Information packets will be sent home. Our partnership with the Eugene/Springfield youth Orchestra makes STRINGS Academy possible.

BEST partners with many community organizations who provide staff and services to help make this program a success! Enrichment classes offered by community partners impart a lifelong love of learning and reinforce basic skills needed for school success. Partners include:

- City of Eugene Recreation
 - The Arts Umbrella
 - School Garden Project of Lane County
- Students enjoy enrichment activities such as:

- Strings
- Rock climbing
- Cooking
- Art
- Dance
- Sports activities

If you have questions about BEST, you can contact the program coordinator Kelly Henson at: henson@4j.lane.edu.



HALLOWEEN PARTIES

Individual teachers will determine if Halloween parties will take place in their classrooms. If teachers permit costumes during this holiday celebration, the following dress code will be enforced, as it pertains to costumes:

- NO weapons
- NO weapon-like props
- NO excessive bareness (no spaghetti straps, exposed bra straps, bare midriffs)
- NO "gang" attire
- NO masks
- NO especially scary or gory costumes

Our Halloween Parade will take place on October 29. Parents and guardians are invited to enjoy the parade. The time will be announced at a later date. Guests should gather on the playground at this time in the final leg of our parade route.



PTO CORNER

We are excited to begin an exciting year at Howard. Last year the PTO was able to contribute funds to teachers, programs and help fund the technology fee, we hope this year is even more successful! The PTO group consists of parents, teachers, grandparents and friends of Howard Elementary. We are all here for one goal and that's to support our kids!

We have a lot of special things planned this year and would like to invite all parents and friends of Howard Elementary to get involved. It doesn't mean that you need to spend hours helping during the day; we have many areas that we are in need of your skills and abilities. Please try to attend a PTO meeting to learn more about what is happening at Howard and how your skills can best be utilized. For example, if you have experience in writing grants, that would help with fundraising. If you own a business or know someone who does, we would like to highlight that business on our Facebook page in order to support our Howard families and community.

Important dates to remember:

- PTO Meetings: are held in the Howard Library at 6pm and child care is provided
October 14th, November 18th, December 16th
- October 1st – Cookie Dough orders are due – turn into your teacher
Popcorn Wednesday begins - \$.25 a bag (kids give the money to their teacher)
- October 14th – Pick up cookie dough orders. Anytime between 12pm – 6pm in Room 11
Volunteers are needed to ensure fast and smooth pickups (1 – 2 hour time commitment)
8am – 12pm; 12-2pm; 2-4pm; 4-6pm (email pto at: howardelementarypto@gmail.com)
- October 29th & 30th – Parent / Teacher Conferences
PTO supports the teachers during conferences by providing dinner on both nights.
Volunteers are needed to help setup and cleanup

You can find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Howard-PTO>

If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at

howardelementarypto@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/2 – Curriculum Night
- 10/3 – Professional Development, No School
- 10/10 – State Inservice – No School
- 10/14- Cookie Dough Pick Up
- 10/14 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 10/17- School Pictures
- 10/27 –Site Council, 2:30
- 10/29 – Parent Conferences 4 – 8, Normal Wednesday
- 10/30 – Parent Conferences 8 – 8, No School
- 10/31 – Teacher Release Day, No School
- 11/02 – Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 11/11 – Veteran's Day
- 11/18 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 11/24 – Site Council, 2:30 pm
- 11/27 -28 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/1- No School Professional Development Day



HIGHER STANDARDS STRONGER MINDS

WHAT ARE OREGON'S COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY STANDARDS?

These standards, also known as the Common Core, are a set of high learning expectations in math and English that are designed to better prepare K-12 students for success in college, work, and life. The standards offer a clear picture of what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. They have been voluntarily adopted by 46 states.

Until now, every state has had different learning standards. Common Core fixes that and raises the bar for learning. This is a big change in the way students learn and one that will take time to see results, but it's an approach that will help Oregon students compete for the quality jobs our state has to offer. They are higher standards for all students.

STANDARDS IN OREGON SCHOOLS

80% of Oregon teachers report what is taught in their school aligns with the new college- and career-ready standards.

TOP 3 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COMMON CORE

CONSISTENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Before these standards, all 50 states had different sets of expectations for what students should know and be able to do in each grade. Common Core provides a consistent set of learning standards and expectations for all students, no matter where they live.

STUDENTS FOCUS ON DEVELOPING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

The standards go deeper into fewer topics and focus on developing students'

understanding of key concepts. They build on one another, allowing students to apply the skills and knowledge learned in the previous grade to real-life situations.

BUILDING THE CRITICAL SKILLS STUDENTS NEED IN THE JOB MARKET

Common Core focuses on building and applying real-world skills students need to be ready for college and work -- so they can be more competitive in the new global economy.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the Common Core important to you and your child?

The Common Core provides benchmarks, or standards, for teaching and learning at every grade level. The standards are consistent across states and match the standards used by top-performing nations. Consistent learning expectations will help parents and teachers work together to make sure students have the opportunities they need to succeed in school and in life.

Why has Oregon adopted these college- and career-ready standards?

Oregon adopted the Common Core and the aligned test because these standards will help students be better prepared for college and work.

Currently in Oregon:

- Far too many of our students graduate unprepared for college and careers; and
- Approximately 66% of our students who go on to a community college need to take remedial courses in English, math, or both.

Will schools and teachers still have control over teaching materials and other local decisions?

Yes. The way in which the new learning standards are taught is up to each of Oregon's 197 school districts. Each school or district will continue to have the flexibility to select the teaching materials and resources that best meet the needs of its students.

Who developed the Common Core?

The development of these standards began in 2009. Hundreds of teachers, education researchers, mathematicians, and other experts across the country provided input and guidance and have collaborated in developing the learning standards. With the Common Core, nearly every state is now working together and sharing resources to help our kids get ready for life after high school.

If we're raising learning expectations, will the test be harder, too?

Initially, yes. But that's not because students will know less. It's because we'll be expecting more. Research shows that when you raise learning expectations, students will work harder to meet them. It may take some time for students to meet and exceed the standards, but most parents and teachers understand that a drop in test scores is temporary and that raising learning standards is important for our students' futures.

Where can I learn more about Common Core in Oregon?

Please visit www.corestandards.org.

COMMON CORE IN OREGON

2010: Oregon officially adopts Common Core

2011: State provides toolkits to teachers and schools to start implementing the standards

2012-14: Teachers receive professional development to support successful implementation of the standards

2014-15: Students take new tests aligned to the Common Core