



Howard Happenings

March 2015

www.howardelementary.org



Nominate "A Champion in Education" Today!

Who always makes a difference in your child's school day? An inspiring teacher? An encouraging school secretary? A dedicated volunteer? A principal who leads by example? A bus driver who always takes the time to listen? Now is the time to recognize their contributions through the annual ACE (A Champion in Education) Awards! To nominate a 4J employee or volunteer who demonstrates excellence in education, go to www.theaceawards.org. Every nominee will be honored at an awards ceremony in April, and one person in each category will win a \$1,000 cash prize toward a project or program in their school. Nominations must be submitted by March 8. The ACE Awards are a collaborative effort of the Eugene and Springfield chambers of commerce and the Eugene, Bethel and Springfield school districts. The program is presented by Oregon Community Credit Union and supported by others from the local business community.

Kindergarten Orientation – Tell Your Neighbors and Friends

Howard Elementary will be hosting our Kindergarten Orientation for all 2015-16 kindergarten age children on Thursday, April 9 at 10:00 am in the library. If you or someone you know has a kindergarten age child (5 by September 1, 2015) please join us for more information about our new full day kindergarten program. Exciting things are happening at Howard and it all starts in kindergarten.



Howard's Cell Phone Policy

Students are allowed to bring a cell phone to school with parent permission. However, the phone cannot be a disruption in the classroom, cafeteria or playground. This means that the phone should be stored in the student's backpack and turned off. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen phones.

Volunteer Sign In/Out a Must

As an added safety precaution at Howard, we require that all visitors/volunteers start their visit in the office. Please check 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 when you leave. 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.

Success and Student Attendance Go Hand in Hand

As you know, there is a direct correlation between student attendance and success in school. Late arrival, early dismissal, and absences interrupt the flow of instruction for both the student and the class as a whole. We realize there are often situations for which you have no control. Unfortunately, there are many absences from school that could have been avoided. Please understand that Oregon law requires children 5 – 16, to be in school except for illness and extenuating circumstances. Attendance letters are sent home if a student is absent the equivalent of 4 days during a 4 ½ week period. Please note that this threshold applies to excused/unexcused absences and tardies. Should a student's attendance record meet the criteria above, or if there has been a history of attendance problems, we are obligated to report our concerns to the district truancy officer. Their involvement is designed to ensure every child attends school on a regular basis. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the county attendance procedures, feel free to contact the school.



Literacy Night

Join us on March 12th to help us celebrate literacy. We will have pizza in the cafeteria starting at 5:30. After you have had a bite of pizza head to your child's classroom with them for a fun literacy activity. Every child that attends will get to choose a free book to take home with them. The book fair will also be open during this time. This is always a fun event for our students. We hope to see you there!

OBOB Updates

The OBOB games have concluded! All the kids did such a great job! The approximate number of total books read was 300. Not all of the students wanted to compete, but they read the books in their classrooms. That is just amazing! Way to go 3rd-5th grade!

The teams that moved on from pool play to semi finals were: The Flaming Doughnuts!, J.J.B.R.M.S.S., Pie G.E.E.K.K.S., and Troopers. J.J.B.R.M.S.S. and Pie G.E.E.K.K.S. moved on to the Championship round and the Troopers and the Flaming Doughnuts! battled for 3rd place at our school assembly on Wednesday, February 18th. The teams did such a fantastic job!

- 1st place went to the Pie G.E.E.K.K.S.
- 2nd place went to J.J.B.R.M.S.S.
- 3rd Place went to the Troopers
- 4th Place went to the Flaming Doughnuts

The Pie G.E.E.K.K.S will represent Howard at the Regional OBOB games held at Thurston High School March 14th. Wish them luck!

A big thank you goes out to our volunteers Priscilla Ing, Stacey Harris, and Kathy Butler who helped so much with the program. It was a big success this year thanks to you!

The Book Fair is Coming!

Mark your calendars for our "Under the Sea" Book Fair.

March 9th – 11th 9:00am – 6:00pm
12th 9:00am – 7:30pm Open During Literacy Night

Location: School Library

Something new we will be presenting is Grands Day, which will be held on Monday March 9th. During this event grandparents and/or special guardian(s) are invited to join their student(s) for lunch and have a chance to stop in and shop the book fair. The times for lunch vary upon grade levels, Kindergarten 10:55-11:10, 1st & 2nd 11:10-11:30, 3rd & 4th 11:40-12:20 5th 12:10-12:20.

Once again we will be raffling off baskets for children as well as adults. The best prize being an E-reader!

Also we are looking for volunteers to help us make this event successful. We will be offering incentives to those who can help, for more information on this please contact Terri Brazell at terribrazell@yahoo.com.

PTO News

Our next meeting will be March 17th at 6:00 in the library. Childcare will be provided.

Last month's member of the month was Robin Seno. She received a gift card from Dutch Brothers. You could be the next recipient of our monthly door prize drawing. All you have to do is come to our monthly PTO meetings.

Howard PTO will be holding our annual Tech Trot this year on May 20th (Wednesday). Symantec will sponsor the event with \$500 and 8 volunteers. Our Penny War will be held May 18th through the 22nd. These two events help support our students through helping to offset the required technology fee. The normal fee is \$30, but depending on the amount of money raised the fee amount can be substantially lower. This year the technology fee was able to be reduced by \$10 so families were only required to pay \$20 per student. Look for more information on these fund raisers as the date draws closer.

Planning is underway for our annual school carnival. The committee will be holding the next meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:15 pm in the staff room. If you are interested in volunteering with this fun event, please plan on attending or check out our Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Howard-PTO/459235684217267>



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8th. Remember to spring forward one hour!

Future Happenings

3/4 – Wacky Wednesday-Crazy Socks Day
3/9 – 3/12 – Book Fair
3/12 – Literacy Night, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
3/13 – No School, Professional Development Day
3/16 – Site Council, 2:30 pm
3/17 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
3/18 – Pride Awards
3/23 – 3/27 - Spring Break
3/30 – Classes Resume
4/4 – Wacky Wednesday – Mismatched Clothes Day
4/9 – Kindergarten Orientation, 10:00 am
4/22 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
4/27 – Site Council, 2:30 pm
4/29 – Pride Awards
5/1 – No School, Planning Day