



Howard Happenings

November, 2015

www.howardelementary.org

Meet the Superintendent

Parents invited to drop-in discussions with new superintendent

Our school district's new superintendent, Dr. Gustavo Balderas, is inviting parents and the public to stop in to get to know him and to share your thoughts and questions about Eugene's schools.

"Meet the Superintendent" drop-in sessions are offered in October, November and December, at different locations around the district. Please join us.

- Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:30–6:30 p.m. English-language, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Spanish-language
Kelly Middle School, 850 Howard Avenue, in the library
- Wednesday, Dec. 9, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Cal Young Middle School, 2555 Gilham Road, in the library

Community Meeting: New School Design and Construction

Monday, November 2 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Four of the Eugene School District's oldest, most inefficient school buildings will be replaced or renovated over the next few years, thanks to voters' approval of the 2013 school bond measure. Design is complete and construction is well underway on Howard Elementary and Roosevelt Middle School.

Families, neighbors, and Howard community members are invited to get an update on these school projects Monday, November 2 at Howard Elementary.

Participants will see the final designs, receive updates to the construction schedule, and have the opportunity to talk with our principal, Allan Chinn and the design team.

In May, 2013 voters passed a \$170 million school bond measure to provide funding for 4j school improvements, including replacing the four oldest schools with new buildings on the existing sites. The bond measure also will pay for improvements at every school, including student technology, updated instructional materials, security upgrades, building repairs, and more.

The new Howard Elementary and Roosevelt Middle Schools will open in the fall of 2016. The new River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School and Arts and Technology Academy will open in the fall of 2017.

For more information please check www.4j.lane.edu/bond



Fall Conferences

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 23 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Tuesday, November 24 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. **There will be no school on Tuesday, the 24th or Wednesday the 25th.** Scheduling forms have been sent home and need to be turned in no later than November 6.

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

Strings Program at Howard

If your 4th or 5th grade child has ever shown interest in learning to play the violin then you might want to consider enrolling them in the ESYO Strings Program here at Howard. Classes are taught here every Monday and Thursday from 2:10 – 3:10. If you have questions please contact Irene Arce at 541-954-3683.

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.

Notes from PTO

Fundraiser Town Hall 11/5/15 at 6:00 pm in the Library

There are a lot of opportunities to seek corporate sponsorship for our school that would relieve some fundraising pressure for our families. PTO has ideas on how we would like to proceed, but we also want to hear from you! Do you have ideas you would like to share or contacts you could reach out to? Please join us to discuss ways to meet our fundraising goals while not overwhelming our families. We would greatly appreciate your presence for the meeting. Childcare will be provided in the gym.

Howard PTO Holiday Bazaar 12/5/15

We are hosting a holiday bazaar from 9 am to 4 pm. If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor you can get an application from our website <http://howard.4j.lane.edu/parents/pto/>. You may also email howardelementarypto@gmail.com for more information or find the event on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/867102643404066/>.

Cookie Dough

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and support selling cookie dough! We want to give a special shout-out to our top three sellers:

1. Charlotte V. \$810, Mrs. Kreider
2. Emma H. \$506, Mrs. Groshong
3. Lilly B. \$379, Mrs. Strange

Foster Parents Needed

There is a critical need for stable, nurturing foster homes in our community. The greatest needs are for families that can take larger sibling groups (3 - 5 children) so they can stay together, homes for toddlers/preschoolers – not babies, but not in school yet, and homes for teens.

Without safe, loving foster homes in each community, children are forced to change schools and leave friends and familiar surroundings just when they need those things the most. Not everyone can be a foster family, but some can – if you are interested in more information call: 541-726-6644, ext. 2248 or e-mail: holly.a.steer@state.or.us. To learn ways your family can support foster families in our community, contact FAAPAlane@gmail.com

Produce Plus Program

**Where: River Road/El Camino del Río, Cafeteria
120 West Hilliard Ln.
Time: 3:00-5:30 PM**

The Family Resource Center has partnered with Food for Lane County to bring a wonderful opportunity to families. The Produce Plus program offers the families the opportunity once a month to receive free fruits and vegetables. Selection of produce varies at each distribution.

We will be operating on a first come, first served basis. Please bring your own bag or box.

Produce Distribution Dates

November 20
December 18
January 15
February 19
March 11
April 15
May 20
June 3

Annual Play in the Rain Day: Saturday, November 14 10 am-3pm, at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Spend the day outdoors with your family, rain or shine! Enjoy hikes, scavenger hunts, hay rides, nature art, campfire cookery, archery, tree-climbing, and more! Free parking courtesy of Lane County Parks and all activities, including campfire food, are FREE! Event happens at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, sponsored by the Youth in Nature Partnership. For more info see <http://www.youthinnature.org/PlayinTheRainDay>.

Upcoming Events

11/01 – Set Clocks Back 1 Hour to Standard Time
11/02 - Community Meeting about Howard's new building
11/03 – Election Day
11/04 – Wacky Wednesday – Sports/Favorite Team Day
11/04 - PRIDE Awards
11/11 – Veterans' Day – No School
11/17 – PTO – 6:00 pm in the Library
11/23 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 8:00
11/24 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00 – 8:00- NO SCHOOL
11/25 - Teacher Comp Day – NO SCHOOL
11/26 – Thanksgiving
11/27– No School – Holiday
11/30 – Site Council
12/02 - Picture Retakes
12/02 -Wacky Wednesday-Crazy Socks Day
12/05 – PTO Holiday Bazaar
12/15– PTO – 6:00 in the Library
12/21 – First Day of Winter Break
1/04 – NO SCHOOL – Furlough Day
1/05 – NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day
1/06 – Students Return to School
1/06 – Wacky Wednesday – Career Day