



Howard Happenings

February 2016

www.howardelementary.org

School Choice for the 2016-17 School Year

There is still time to spread the word to all of your friends that Howard rocks! With Howard's focus on technology we are an excellent school and a positive choice in your child's education. We're also excited about opening our brand new building in September! With in-district School Choice closing on February 29, please invite friends and acquaintances to visit Howard and seriously consider joining the Howard family. And if you have any friends or neighbors living in the Bethel School District, be sure to let them know that they too can apply to attend Howard, even if they live outside of our school district. Tours will be available any time during the week of February 21 – 27.

Families in 4J have a choice of schools. 4J's school choice policy means that families may send their children to any school in the district provided there is a place available. School choice request forms are available online at 4j.lane.edu and will be accepted until Friday, February 29 at 5:00 p.m. Families that reside outside of 4j boundaries will be able to apply online beginning March 1 and will be accepted until Friday, April 1. If you need assistance or computer access, please call Lisa Hollingsworth at 541-790-7553.



All School Reading Activity

It is time for our annual school wide reading program. This year the students and staff will be reading Diamond Willow, by Helen Frost which is also on this Year's OBOB list.

Twelve-year-old Willow would rather blend in than stick out. But she still wants to be seen for who she is. She wants her parents to notice that she is growing up. She wants her best friend to like her better than she likes a certain boy. She wants, more than anything, to mosh the dogs out to her grandparents' house, by herself, with Roxy in the lead. But sometimes when it's just you, one mistake can have frightening consequences . . . And when Willow stumbles, it takes a surprising group of friends to help her make things right again.

Using diamond-shaped poems inspired by forms found in polished diamond willow sticks, Helen Frost tells the moving story of Willow and her family. Hidden messages within each diamond carry the reader further, into feelings Willow doesn't reveal even to herself.

As we have done in the past, thought provoking questions will be asked during some morning announcements to promote class discussions about the story and various situations that arise. Classrooms may be displaying or presenting work tied to this story at our Family Literacy Night on March 17.

OBOB News!

Games begin this month, students are so excited!

Game Dates February 1st - Monday

5th - Friday

8th - Monday

12th - Friday

16th - possibly semi finals

17th - OBOB final assembly 10:45 in the gym

OBOB Friday fun & Root beer float party 19th - Friday

If you have any questions please contact Julie Hopkins at 541-790-4933.



Future Chefs Cooking Competition

The Future Chef Competition is back this year, and we are looking for your favorite breakfast recipe. This competition is open to 4th and 5th grade only. Entry forms will be available in early January.

The idea behind this event is to help educate the kids in HEALTHY EATING HABITS. Too often we hear about obesity in kids and kids not making the right choices in terms of their eating habits. That's why we want kids to submit recipes for their favorite healthy breakfast!

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- Originality
- Kid Friendly
- Ease of Preparation
- Healthy Attributes
- Plate Presentation
- Taste

A flyer and a blank recipe form were sent home with students describing the event in January. Those students wishing to participate must turn their recipes into the Howard kitchen no later than February 19th. After evaluating recipes, one or two finalists per school will be chosen and notified in early March. Those finalists will be formally invited to a Culinary Competition "Cook-Off" on April 16, 2016. All Finalists will receive a framed certificate, a recipe book of all of the finalists' recipes, apron and chef hat.

If your child has a talent for cooking we encourage you to help them enter their breakfast recipe and show off their cooking skills.

Sanipac Art Contest Winner

Kathrynne Reed, a 5th grade student in Mrs. Callihan's class won a local art contest sponsored by Sanipac. Her classroom will receive \$350 and a pizza party. Her art submission will be featured on a number of Sanipac trucks, their newsletter, and their website. Children's Miracle Network will also use her artwork in their 2016 calendar, which will be available for \$10 with all proceeds benefiting this organization in the local area.

Congratulations Kathrynne!

Bricks 4 Kids: Air, Land and Sea!

This is a hands-on class that uses LEGO® Bricks and Motors each Thursday, starting February 25 through March 17. The cost is \$48.

Step aboard to build some exciting ways to get from here to there. Take to the sky in our Bricks 4 Kidz helicopter, race across the beach in an ingenious land sail, or zoom through the water on a jet ski. Kids will learn what makes each machine unique and how it moves, exploring concepts such as buoyancy, propulsion, lift and g-forces! What other ways will you invent to travel through air, land, and sea? Whether you're a high-speed thrill seeker or just curious about how things work, this unit offers something for everyone. Grades K-5.

For more information and help registering, please contact Bricks 4 Kidz of Eugene & Springfield: sweugene@bricks4kidz.com (541) 600-6614.

Exclusion Day is Coming!!!

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 is immunization exclusion day for this school year. This means that your student's school immunization record **must** be up to date with all required immunizations in order to stay in school. You will receive a letter if your student is missing immunizations. Please return this letter with the dates of shots that were given. If you have questions about the immunization your student needs, please leave a message for the School Nurse or Health Assistant at school. A TDAP booster after age 10 is now required for 7th-12th graders. 2 Hepatitis A shots are needed for K-6th grade students.

Free or Low Cost Medical Clinics

Do you lack health insurance or financial resources to pay for needed shots? Please contact a high school clinic as they are available for immunizations, illness, and well care for all 4J students and their siblings. Always take your child's immunization records to medical appointments. Another option is scheduling an appointment at the immunization clinic at the Lane County Health Department 541-682-4041 or the Lane County Health Clinics.

As of March 1, 2014, if a parent seeks a non-medical exemption from immunizations, a Vaccine Education Certificate from a health care practitioner or a Certificate from the online vaccine education module at <http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption> must be completed and turned in to the school together with the Certificate of Immunization.

Questions? Contact Robin Wellwood, RN at 541-221-9850 or e-mail: wellwood@4j.lane.edu

Howard PTO Upcoming Events

PTO meeting 2/16 in the Library at 6 pm, free child care provided in the gym.

McTeacher Night 2/18 from 5 - 7 pm at the River Road McDonalds located at 55 River Avenue. McDonalds is donating 30% of all proceeds from sales between 5 pm and 7 pm. Please tell your friends, family and anyone else that may be able to come. There is a Facebook event to help remind you and to easily spread the word, you can find it here: [McTeacher Event](#)

Please email Howardelementarypto@gmail.com with any questions related to PTO or contact us through Facebook.

Dismissal Time Reminder

Students must be picked up between 2:05 and 2:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and between 1:05 and 1:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. After-school supervision is provided only during these times. Please make sure that your child is picked up from school by that time each day unless your child rides the bus or goes to an after-school program at Howard. Students still at school after the times listed above will be brought to the office to call home for pick up, and you or another person you have authorized will need to come into the school office to sign them out. **Our secretary IS NOT available to supervise children after 2:15 or 1:15 on Wednesdays.**

Please Keep Sick Children at Home

When children are sick, 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 fever reducing medication.

Vomiting or severe diarrhea. Children should stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours. **If the doctor confirms norovirus please keep your child home for 48 hours.**

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

Severe sore throat, ear ache, head ache, or persistent cough. If your child has a communicable disease, he/she should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps and whooping cough (pertussis). Please call the school and let them know if your child should contract any of these diseases.

Future Happenings

1/29 – No School, Professional Development Day
2/3 – Wacky Wednesday – Movie/Book Character Day
2/15 – Presidents Day, No School
2/16 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
2/17 – Exclusion Day
2/18 – PTO McNight Fundraiser, 5:00 – 7:00
2/22 – 2/26 - School Visitation Week
2/29 – Site Council, 2:30
2/29 – In District School Choice Closes
3/1 – Open Enrollment Begins
3/2 - Wacky Wednesday – Favorite Color Day

3/14 – 3/17 - Book Fair
3/15 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
3/18 – No School – Professional Development Day
3/21 – 3/25 - Spring Break
3/28 – No School, Howard Planning Day
3/29 – Students Return
4/1 – Open Enrollment Closes