



Howard Happenings

March 2016

www.howardelementary.org

Kindergarten Orientation – Tell Your Neighbors and Friends

Howard Elementary will be hosting our Kindergarten Orientation for all 2016-17 kindergarten age children on Thursday, April 7 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 kindergarten program and a tour of our new building. Exciting things are happening at Howard and it all starts in kindergarten.

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 14. 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.

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.

How to Reduce School Tardiness

Some kids have a hard time getting up in the morning, which makes getting to school on time a constant uphill battle. Irregular schedules, late nights, homework, and extracurricular activities contribute to your children having a hard time getting up, but you can take steps to get your kids on track in the morning. If you want to reduce elementary school tardiness, keep your kids on a tight schedule during the week, get them in bed early and create a regular morning routine.

Get your kids in bed early. Getting enough sleep is key for your kids to wake up on time without a long, painful struggle. Decide on an appropriate bedtime and stick to it during the week; do not make exceptions for special TV programs or visitors. You can make exceptions for particularly difficult homework, essays or long-term projects.

Wake your kids up at least one hour before you need to leave, more if they take long showers or are slow in the morning. You will never get your kids to school on time if you do not provide sufficient time to get ready and get them out the door in the morning. If your family eats breakfast in the morning, factor that in when you decide what time your kids should wake up. If you really want your kids to get out of bed, it helps if you are up and getting ready at the same time.

Keep a regular schedule during the week. It is essential to always wake your kids up at the same time and leave for school at the same time every day during the week. Eat dinner at a specific time, have a set time for homework and a set period for TV, if you allow it. Keeping your kids on a regular schedule will help them get up on time by programming their bodies to follow a rhythm.

Plan extra time for traffic or the drop off line. If you leave during rush hour or have to wait behind a multitude of other parents, include it as part of your morning routine and allot time accordingly.

Lay out clothes and book bags the night before. This can be a major time killer in the morning, so have your kids prepare by choosing their outfits and packing up their stuff at night. Use this opportunity to make sure homework is done and they haven't forgotten anything for field trips or projects.

Give your kids an alarm clock. Even though you will probably have to wake them up anyway, having their own signal will help kids start the process before you begin nagging. Have your kids set their alarm clock to 15 minutes before you intend on going in their rooms.

Literacy Night

Join us on March 17th 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!

The Book Fair is Coming!

We are excited to announce that our Spring Book Fair is just around the corner and this year's theme is Feelin' Groovy. The fair will run from March 14th to March 17th in the library. We will be open on Monday & Tuesday from 1pm to 6pm, Wednesday 12pm to 6pm, and Thursday 1pm to 7:30pm.

We will be offering books such as *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses*, *Pete the Cat - Scuba Cat*, *Secret Hero Society: Study Hall of Justice*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School*, *Plants vs. Zombies: Bully for You*, *My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish: Fins of Fury*, *The Hero Two Doors Down*, *Frog on a Log*, *Last Stop on Market Street*, *Whatever After: Beauty Queen*, *Princess in Disguise*, *Ranger in Time: Long Road to Freedom*, and many more.

Again this year we will have raffle baskets for children and adults, with the best prize being a Kindle Fire! We will also have the "Lollipop Pull", "Guessing Game", and new this year a "Spin to Win Wheel".

We are in need of volunteers to help us make this event a success. We will be offering incentives to those who can help. For more information please contact Terri Brazell at terribrazell@yahoo.com.

PTO News

March 15th at 6:00 PM, PTO meeting in the Library, free childcare in the gym

McTeacher's Night was a huge success! We are so grateful to everyone that supported this event. Thank you so much to all the families that came out and all the staff who worked so hard, came by, and helped spread news of this event. The energy was so amazing that night. We really enjoyed watching the Howard Family work, eat and play together. It truly was a special night. McDonald's was amazing to work with, kind, and incredibly generous. They said this was their most successful McTeacher's Night at that store ever! Yay Howard!!! Check out the Howard PTO Facebook page for pictures of the event!

Thank you McDonald's for not only donating the 30% of the proceeds during the fundraiser, but increasing your donation to \$1,000!!!

The PTO is starting to plan the end of the year carnival. This is our biggest event of the year. We would love fresh ideas on games and activities. Please contact us through Facebook or email Howardelementarypto@gmail.com or come to the March meeting to get involved!

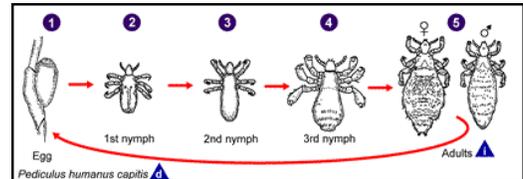
Future Happenings

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
3/17 – Literacy Night, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
3/18 – No School, Professional Development Day
3/21 – 3/25 - Spring Break
3/28 – No School, Howard Professional Development Day
3/29 – Classes Resume
4/6 – Wacky Wednesday – Crazy Hat/Hair Day
4/7 – Kindergarten Orientation, 10:00 am
4/19 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
4/20 – PTO Tech Trot
4/28 – Site Council, 2:30 pm
5/6 – No School, Planning Day

Lice Information

You may wish to monitor your child for head lice a little more frequently in the coming weeks, as there have been some recent cases among children at school.

Screen all household members close to scalp line for nits (lice eggs) and for live lice. Use really good lighting and pay close attention to area behind ears and at nape of neck. Pictures are available at the web site <http://identify.us.com> If in doubt, or you see nits, please consult with your health care provider, school health clinic, or school nurse. Look for tear shaped, yellowish eggs firmly glued to the hair shaft. See diagram below from the CDC website www.dpd.cdc.gov. Nits are tiny, smaller than the head of a straight pin.



OBOB Updates

The Human Bookworms will be representing Howard for OBOB regional competition

Date: March 12th at 9:00

Location: North Eugene High School

A shout out goes for all our 8 teams this year! I saw so much team work and some real positive and encouraging attitudes this year. We received compliments throughout OBOB season, from outside volunteers on how well our students did participating in the program. Each and every student should be proud of the work they did.

A big thanks goes out to Priscilla Ing, Alison Conner and Stacy Harris for volunteering their time to help our school with the OBOB program.

For those of you who would like to get a head start on next year's reading, here is a partial list for 3 – 5 grades.

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea
Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
Hook's Revenge by Heidi Schultz
Knucklehead by Jon Scieszka
Joshua Dread by Lee Bacon
Rescue on the Oregon Trail by Kate Messner
A Sicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd