



# Howard Happenings

May/June 2016

[www.howardelementary.org](http://www.howardelementary.org)

## Howard 2016-17 Staffing Updates

I'm pleased to announce that Howard has received more staffing for next school year, which means we will be able to lower some of our class sizes. Next year we'll have three class rooms at kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and now 3rd grade, which will make for some nice smaller class sizes at those grade levels. At 4th and 5th grade we will have two at each grade level, with some additional facilitating teacher time.

Most teachers are staying at their current grade level for next year, but we did have a few teacher changes and one new hire. An exciting announcement that is also a nice feather in Howard's cap is that two of our teachers have been selected to be Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs) to work at the school district level for half of their work day. Allison Kreider will be the Elementary Science TOSA in charge of helping train teachers across 4J in using the newly adopted science curriculum, and Erin Gaston will be the Elementary English Language Arts TOSA in charge of training and coaching teachers across 4J in how to be better reading teachers. At 3rd grade, Allison will teach in the morning and in the afternoon, Stephanie Peterson, currently one half of the 4/5 blend teaching team, will be Allison's job-share partner and will teach in the afternoon. Also joining the 3rd grade team will be Robin Vaughan, our current Title 1 Coordinator, who will be teaching with Carla, Allison, and Stephanie. At 2nd grade, Angela Larsen and Mellissa Swift will continue in their positions and Erin is moving into a Title 1 teaching position. Taking her classroom position will be a returning Howard teacher, Ashley Pond, who since leaving Howard has taught 3rd grade and ATA for three years and more recently taught 3rd grade for four years at Gilham. Ashley is a strong teacher who we are all very excited to have back at Howard! In the Title 1 classroom, AJ Hruby is taking over for Robin Vaughn as our Title 1 Coordinator. Lastly, this coming year we will be hiring for a full-time counselor and also for a part-time teacher to provide additional support for our large upper grade classrooms. Everyone else will be back next year and working in their same positions. It's very exciting to see Howard continue to grow and to see how many great teachers want to come to our school!

## 2016-2017 Class Lists

In the past, Howard has sent out student class placement cards at the end of June for the upcoming school year, but this year we are going to wait until the fall to post class lists. This is because there is a possibility we might receive more staffing between now and the fall, in which case we might be reconfiguring class lists, particularly at 4th and 5th grade and want to make sure that the class placements we announce are correct.

## Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child that will be 5 by September 1st or know of someone who does – kindergarten registration for next school year is underway! Please call our secretary, Lori at 541-790-4900 or stop by the school office for an enrolment packet.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

5<sup>th</sup> grade families – Make sure you add Tuesday, June 15th to your calendars. It will be on this day that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony will take place in Howard's gym at 1:00 pm. At the end of the ceremony, families will be invited back to the classroom to take photos and have a brief visit. Then at 2:00 pm, all families (as well as the entire school) will be asked to line Howard's hallway to give the 5<sup>th</sup> graders a proper send off ... a school wide clap out. We hope to see you there!

## Last Day(s) for Students

Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students' last day will be Wednesday, June 15th with dismissal at normal times. 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students' last day will be Thursday, June 16th, with an early release time of 11:10, with lunch being served.

## North Eugene Night at Swede Stadium

North Eugene is a special region to be part of and we want to show our pride with a community event!

You are invited to join other North Eugene region families in an evening of baseball, food, activities and fun at the North Eugene Baseball Stadium, Swede!

**Tuesday, May 3**

**4:45** in seats for raffle drawing to throw first pitch

**5:00** game start

### **Wear your school shirts or colors!**

Enter to throw out the first pitch of the game from your school, enjoy free popcorn and ice cream, inflatables and activities, take your photo on the pitcher's mound and run the bases after the game!

Be watching for a flyer with more information to come home with your student(s).

We look forward to packing the stadium and seeing you all there!

## School Library News

Week of May 9th - Last week for checkout

Week of May 16th - Book return week

**\*\*\*All library books due by Friday May 20th\*\*\***

May 23rd Library Closes - inventory and packing

May 31st & June 1st The library is moving to the new building

**\*\*\*Library closed\*\*\***

May 23rd - end of the year

## PTO Corner

### Tech Trot

The 3rd Annual Tech Trot was a wonderful event! The students and staff had a great time. Thank you all for your support. We want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to both Dan Herman Consulting, Inc. and Debora Coelho Gordon with Windermere Real Estate for sponsoring the shirts for the students and staff. Dan Herman Consulting, Inc. is an IT company that provides services to both home users and businesses. He is also located just up River Road! Debora Coelho Gordon has been a Realtor in Lane County for over 25 years. Her clients range from first time home buyers to investors. She has a special connection to Howard, both her children went here and her grandchildren are current students.

### The Penny War

The Penny War was a huge success in many ways. Together we collected nearly \$1,100 in change in a week. Mrs. Kirk's class had the most pennies and Mrs. Larsen's class had the most points. The best part was seeing kids counting their change, sharing with their friends that forgot theirs and just feeling the excitement of the event. Thank you so much to everyone for making the Penny War a HUGE success!

### Carnival

The Howard PTO Carnival is right around the corner. PTO members are in full planning mode. We already have several awesome donations from local and far away businesses. We are really excited for this year's carnival. We have a lot of wonderful things planned but we cannot do them without volunteers. We need over 100 volunteers for the carnival to be successful and for each parent not to have to work the entire time. Please sign up for even an hour to help make this event a success. Also, ask family members if they could help as well. This is our last carnival in this school before we move to the new building. The tradition of the end of the year carnival goes back a very long time, let's make the last one in the building awesome! **We will start showcasing donations in early June and thanking our sponsors.** Follow us on [Facebook](#) to find out who donated what and any exciting updates on the carnival. You can email us at [Howardelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:Howardelementarypto@gmail.com) or message us through Facebook.

If your business or your employers business is able to donate to the auction/raffle, we would be very grateful for the donation!

### Staff Appreciation Week

Be Part of Howard Elementary Staff Appreciation Week  
Monday, May 2nd - Thursday, May 5

MONDAY- Please bring a staff member a flower! It can be picked, bought, made, drawn, or colored.

TUESDAY-Make some yummy baked goods for our staff, a PTO member will be outside in the morning before school to take these and put them in the staff lounge.

WEDNESDAY-Bring a special gift for our staff it can be bought or made!

THURSDAY-Make or buy a card for our staff members.

FRIDAY-There is no school this day. The PTO will be making a special thank you letter with candy bars left in their boxes for them to enjoy anytime.

Participation is optional; you can select one day or multiple days to participate in.

\* PTO Staff has special surprises planned each day to help make all the staff feel loved and appreciated. If you would like to help with the things we have to get together for these special surprises please contact the PTO at 541-933-5336 or [Howardelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:Howardelementarypto@gmail.com). Thank you!

Important dates:

PTO meeting 5/17 in the library - Free child care provided  
Carnival 6/10, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

### OBOB News!

Here is a partial list for 2017, we are anxiously awaiting for the 4 books to be announced.

*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 Schulz  
*Knucklehead* by Jon Scieszka  
*Joshua Dread* by Lee Bacon  
*Rescue on the Oregon Trail* by Kate Messner  
*A Snicker of Magic* by Natalie Lloyd  
*Miss Spitfire* by Sarah Miller  
*Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio* by Peg Kehret  
*Upside Down Magic* by Sarah Mlynowski  
*Woof* by Spencer Quinn

It looks like it will be an awesome year for Oregon Battle of the Books next year. These books are available through Barnes and Noble, Amazon or the down town public library, if you would like to get a head start this summer. Happy reading!

Oregon Battle of the Books is a state wide reading program for grades 3-5, a team of librarians chose 16 books for the kids to read. For those students who would like to compete we hold games where 2 teams of 4 answer 16 questions about the books and we take our high ranking team to a regional competition to represent Howard Elementary. It's a fun program and the kids have a great time reading and learning to work as a team.

Have a great summer! Read - Play - and most of all have fun! I will see you in our new library next year. Can't wait!  
Mrs. Hopkins- Library Assist.

### BOGO Book Fair

We are having our annual BOGO book fair!

**June 1st - June 3rd**

**Wednesday 1:00pm - 6:00pm**

**Thursday & Friday 2:00pm - 6:00pm**

**Location - Gym**

This is a great sale, buy one book and receive a second book of equal or lesser value for free. This particular fair is not a fund raiser, it's purpose is to put books in students hands. Summer reading with fun new books :) Books to take on vacation, read in the park and fun sleep over books, too. We'll see you there!

### 4/5 Village-Music Happening Families of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students!

On Wednesday, **May 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:15-** Noon 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be performing in a music presentation featuring your children singing, dancing and playing instruments! This event will be directed by David Adey (Howard music teacher and master of *village-music happenings*). It is free! It is fun! Bring the whole family!

## Field Day

Howard will be holding our annual field day Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. This is always a day that our students look forward to, not only because it is a lot of fun, but it also signals summer break is at hand! In order to make this a success we need volunteers. If you are able to help please contact our 1<sup>st</sup> semester PE teacher, Rachel Farkas at [farkas@4j.lane.edu](mailto:farkas@4j.lane.edu) or call the office, 541-790-4900.

The kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade event will be held from 8:15 – 9:30 with 8 stations and 2 volunteers needed at each.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade event will be held from 10:15 – 11:30 with 7 stations and 2 volunteers needed at each.

## Howard's BEST Afterschool Program

**BEST** is wrapping up another successful and exciting year of academics, enrichment activities, and fun!! Many families may have heard about the **BEST** afterschool program, but aren't quite sure what we do or how your child can join. Here is a brief description to help answer some questions.

**BEST** is an academic and enrichment program supporting kids and families of Eugene since 2000. **BEST** Afterschool Program is funded in part by a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center and Oregon Community Foundation grants. Student's grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in need of additional reading and math support are recommended by teachers and academic staff to participate in school-based programs.

### Mission

BEST serves disadvantaged youth, boosts academic achievement and provides enrichment opportunities that change the lives of youth.

### Vision

BEST provides a safe and productive afterschool program in collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to provide afterschool programs for all students in need of these services.

Family frequently asked questions about BEST: <http://www.4j.lane.edu/instruction/best/frequently-asked-questions/>

Link to BEST Afterschool webpage:

<http://www.4j.lane.edu/instruction/best/>

For more information please contact Shawn Peterson, Best Afterschool Coordinator @ 541-954-3683

## Campbell's Labels for Education Update

Many of you have heard the sad news regarding "Soup Labels" of the Labels for Education with Campbell's products. If you've missed it, here is what they have recently released.

In the past few years participation in *Labels for Education*® has declined and as a result, Campbell has come to the very difficult decision to wind down the LFE program. The good news is nothing changes this program year. There will be changes for next year's program starting August 1, 2016. We will continue to support American kids through our *Grand Stand for Schools*™ sweepstakes and our community efforts which we annually contribute \$70 million in food and funding to tackle obesity and hunger amongst our country's most vulnerable families.

So, what does this mean for Howard? Please submit your labels for education labels before the end of the school year. I will make sure that we get all the points we can before the program ends. What will we do with these points? Well, we buy a lot of playground balls for use in the playground and gym. We go through a couple dozen of balls each year, and it is the best use of our points. I guess we will just stockpile them for a while! Thank you for all your support in helping collect soup labels. Box Tops **WILL NOT** be ending, so continue to collect those Box Tops and continue to send them in!!

Mrs. Kreider, 3rd Grade Teacher

## Future Happenings

5/4 – Wacky Wednesday – Mixed Up Clothes Day  
5/6 – No School, Teacher Planning Day  
5/17 – PTO Meeting – Library – 6:00 pm  
5/25 – Old Howard Building Farewell Event – 5:30 – 7:00  
5/27 – No School, Howard Planning Day  
5/30 – Memorial Day – No School  
6/1 – Wacky Wednesday – Hawaiian Day  
6/3 – Last Day for BEST  
6/8 – Field Day  
6/10 – School Carnival – 5:30 pm  
6/10 – No School – Grading Day  
6/15 – Last Day for Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
6/15 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation – 1:00 pm  
6/16 – Last Day for 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 11:05 Dismissal  
9/7 – First Day of School for 2016/17