



Howard Happenings

April 2017

www.howardelementary.org

Wednesday Early Release

Eugene 4J 6K AVID Strides for Education Run/Walk

Please read about this healthy way to support our school! Parents and friends, in case you didn't know, our school is one of many AVID sites in the Eugene School District. AVID is a college and career readiness system; it stands for "Advancement Via Individual Determination." Hundreds of 4J teachers have been trained to utilize AVID strategies to improve instructional practice. You can learn more about AVID at avid.org. On April 9, 2017, we are joining all middle and high schools to participate in the 1st Annual "Eugene 4J 6K Strides for Education" run/walk to celebrate AVID and raise funds to support this program in each of our schools. This will be a professionally managed 6 kilometer run/walk on the bike path along the banks of the Willamette River. The proceeds will support having college tutors at our school, sending students on college visit field trips, and more. On-line registration (\$20 for adults; \$10 for 4J students) is now available at the following link: <http://www.eclecticedgeracing.com/4j-6k-strides-for-education.html>

Future Chefs Cooking Competition Finalists

4J Nutrition Services is thrilled to announce that Harper Wagner and Alexia Dotson are the finalists from Howard for this year's Future Chefs Competition.

These two young chefs contributed recipes in February and the selection of their contributions was based on originality, kid friendliness, ease of preparation, healthy attributes, plate presentation, and taste.

Harper and Alexia will now move up to the "Cook Off" competition being held on [April 22, 2017](#) at Sheldon High School. All finalists will receive a framed certificate, a recipe book of all of the finalists' recipes, apron, and a chef's hat.

Congratulations!

TAG Referral Window Open Until March 27

Howard has two open TAG (Talented and Gifted) referral windows each year. If you believe your student is Talented and Gifted in the areas of reading, math, or intellectual ability, please submit a request to your child's teacher. Students must meet several criteria to be considered TAG including scoring at or above the 97th percentile on standardized measures of academic ability and performing beyond grade level in classroom work and assessments. Some students will be required to complete additional assessments as part of the TAG identification process. Parents and teachers are welcome to refer a student to the TAG team for review until March 27. Any student names submitted after that date will be held until the next window opens in the fall of 2017. To refer your student, please contact your child's teacher either in person or via email with your request. You can also email our TAG Coordinator, Erin Gaston, at gaston_e@4j.lane.edu.

It is important to remember that every Wednesday is early release. Students are dismissed at **1:05**. We ask that you be prompt in picking up your child/children. The office staff is not available to supervise students left waiting due to meetings that they are required to attend or other duties that they must attend to away from the office. Students that are left longer than 10 minutes after dismissal will be seated in the front hallway with little or no supervision.

Save Those Box Tops!

This year Howard Elementary has been collecting Box Top coupons to raise money for our school. Did you know that some local schools raise thousands of dollars for their schools each year, just from clipping and submitting Box Tops?

Box Top coupons are on the packaging of hundreds of participating products that you probably use every day. All you need to do is cut them off of the box they are on, stick them in a baggie or envelope and send them to school with your child. (It is very helpful if you can cut them along the lines and not tear them out since we need to send them in clean and organized.)

We will continue to collect Box Tops through the end of this school year, so start saving and sending them in today!

You can always track our progress at www.boxtops4education.com and Thanks for choosing to support our school by collecting Box Tops.

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

When you are ordering on Amazon don't forget that if you do it through our Amazon Smile account, Howard will receive a portion of your purchase at no additional cost to you. To support Howard, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, search for "Howard Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization," and connect your account to our school.

You Can Help Howard Earn Donations Just By Shopping with Your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Howard at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Howard earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today

If you do not have a reward Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store

For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Oregon Battle of the Books News

Cash and the Bee's Libby Groshong, Amelia Fruin, Harper Wagner, Cash Cannon and Charlotte Vandercar represented Howard at the regional competition on March 18th at North Eugene High School. They did an amazing job! We am so proud of them. Sadly we did not make it to the state competition. But, there is always next year!

Next year's partial book list is now available.

3-5 Division

Blast-off! By Nate Ball
The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity by Mac Barnett
Dash by Kirby Larson
The Door by the Staircase by Katherine Marsh
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980 by Lauren Tarshis
Masterpiece by Elise Broach
My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen
Poppy by Avi
The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney
We the Children by Andrew Clements
Wild Wings by Gill Lewis

3-5 will choose their final three titles by the end of March.

A Note from Mr. Matt, School Counselor

In 1557, English poet Thomas Tusser composed a collection of writings that he named, *A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry*. In the April Husbandry section he wrote:

**Sweet April showers
Do spring May flowers**

Growing up in New Jersey, the Garden State, we were no strangers to the relentless showers in April and I remember my mother would always recite Tusser's poem. As a kid, I thought it was just a fancy saying to ward off the rain but it seems not to work here in Oregon! Trust me; I've been trying since October! But it meant something different to my mother and at the time I didn't understand. Now that I am an old man, the saying has a renewed purpose: patience and a hope for a better tomorrow. Tusser reminds us that even when life gets tough, and often times unbearable, that there is something beautiful around the corner and that we just need to ride out the storm. This is something my mother learned to understand and why she was so excited to stumble upon a May flower. As we move into a new season, let's not hold onto the gloominess of life's storms and our windy pasts, but instead look forward to the renewed beauty ahead of us. So the next time you are gloomy and can't seem to find any flowers in your life, then perhaps try planting some; you never know who will stumble upon them.

Book Fair!

A big thanks to all the families who supported our Book Fair, we had a record turn out this year! It is fantastic to know that over 500 books were sold and that so many of our students love reading. Also, a big "thank you" to all of the volunteers that made the whole thing possible.

Contact Information Updates

Please make sure that your address, phone numbers, and other pertinent contact information is up to date. This is especially important for 5th grade students as we work toward transitioning them into middle school. You can send in a note to the office, or contact our secretary, Lori at henry_lo@4j.lane.edu, or 541-790-4900.

PTO News

Upcoming PTO Dates

- Popcorn Wednesday 25 cents a bag every Wednesday
- April 8th - Lularoe Event
- April 26th - Tech Trot

The Penny War was very competitive and all the class teams did a great job. The winner with the most pennies was Mrs. Krieder's class and the winner with the most points was Miss Corliss' class.

Please attend this month PTO on Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. At this meeting we will be planning our annual carnival and we welcome **everyone's** ideas and support. As a reminder child care is always provided.

The PTO is hosting a LulaRoe Pop Up Event on Saturday, April 8th, in the Gym. LulaRoe is a women and girls' clothing line that sells leggings, shirts, dresses, and many other items with a wide variety of prints.

Our Tech Trot is April 26th! The collection envelopes and instructions will be going home 2 weeks before the event. The cost of your child's shirt is fully covered. Thank you Debora Coelho Gordon, Dan Herman Consulting, Twin Rivers Plumbing!! We were able to eliminate the school's technology fee of \$30.00 with last year's successful event and hope to do it again this year.

The PTO would like to ask all families to try and contact the PTO through email, phone, or Facebook messenger with questions about anything PTO related. The office staff at Howard will not usually have an answer to those questions and it's much easier and faster for us if you contact us directly. Thank You!

Future Happenings

- 4/3 – No School, Professional Development Day
- 4/4 – Students return from spring break
- 4/8 – PTO LulaRoe Pop Up Event
- 4/12 – Wacky Wednesday - Mismatch Day
- 4/18 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 4/24 – Site Council, 2:30 p.m.
- 4/26 – Tech Trot
- 5/4 – Wacky Wednesday – Crazy Sock Day
- 5/16 - PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 5/19 – PTO Family Craft and Coney Night
- 5/22 – Site Council, 2:30 p.m.
- 5/26 – Howard Planning Day, No School
- 5/29 – Memorial Day – No School
- 5/30 – 6/1 BOGO Book Fair
- 6/6 - Site Council, 2:30 p.m.
- 6/16 – Grading Day – No School
- 6/16 – School Carnival, 5:00 p.m.
- 6/22 – Last Day of School