



Howard Happenings

November, 2017

www.howardelementary.org

Fall Conferences

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 20 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Tuesday, November 21 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. **There will be no school on Tuesday, the 21st or Wednesday the 22nd.** Scheduling forms have been sent home and need to be turned in no later than November 3.

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

Thanksgiving Baskets

This November, the Eugene Church of God (Seventh Day), in partnership with OneHope Lane County, will be delivering Thanksgiving meal boxes to families of Howard Elementary. If you would like a box delivered to your home, or know someone in need, please contact Michael Mancha (210) 863-6603 or Ken Knoll (541) 554-2310.

Attendance Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I let the school know my student will be absent?

Call: (541) 790-4940, Email: henry_lo@4j.lane.edu

2. Why do I still get automated messages even though I called the school this morning about today's absence?

Absences that are phoned or emailed in are entered as quickly as our office staff can get them entered. Sometimes there is a higher volume of emails and calls and although your entry is pending, it has not been made by the time the automated call goes out.

3. Does the school have a legal responsibility to alert me of my student's absences?

A phone call will go out each morning to keep you up to date on your student's absences. Oregon law (ORS 339.071) requires that schools notify parents/guardians of their child's unplanned absences.

4. What's the difference between an excused and an unexcused absence?

A parent can request to excuse an absence by calling, emailing or sending a note to the office. Doctor's notes may be submitted for a medical appointment or span of time off school. Preplanned absences of 5 days or less may be excused if approved by the principal and the student has otherwise maintained regular attendance. Multiple unexcused absences can lead to additional communication by a Howard staff member.

5. My student was sick yesterday. Can this still be an excused absence?

4J Attendance Policy states: Please report all absences within 48 hours of the student's absence. If you report an absence after this time period, it may not be excused.

6. My student has a medical appointment tomorrow. Do I follow the same attendance procedure?

Yes. You may call/email ahead to excuse medical appointments if you know exact timing, otherwise email/call the school within 48 hours of the appointment.

New distracted driving law under effect October 1st - bans use of handheld electronic devices while driving

Please be alert and cautious around our school when you're driving to pick up or drop off your child. The school zone is the most dangerous spot for children on bikes and on foot, including those who are driven in personal vehicles or the bus and dropped off. Leave enough time to get to your next destination without rushing, to give students walking and biking the right of way to cross at driveways and intersections, and to follow the new law that forbids holding or using electronic devices, like cell phones, while driving.

Ways to Support Howard!

There are a few easy ways you, your friends, and relatives can help support Howard! See the list below for instructions:

eScrip: eScrip works with merchant partners to contribute to groups like ours each time you shop with your registered debit or credit cards - at no cost to you!

1. Go to <http://www.escrip.com> Enter the School or Group I.D. #500046355
2. Register your debit and/or credit cards.
3. Shop at eScrip merchants, including Safeway, Market of Choice and Amazon!
4. Use your eScrip registered cards for all your purchases.
5. A percentage of purchases will be automatically contributed by the merchant.

Fred Meyer Rewards: You are now able to link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to your favorite nonprofit by following the link below. Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping Howard earn a donation from Fred Meyer. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store.

1. Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Howard Elementary School at <http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards>. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number #88934
2. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Howard earn a donation!
3. You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
4. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

Target REDCard: If you have a Target REDCard (credit or debit) Target will donate a percentage of all REDCard purchases made at Target and Target.com to Howard if you designate our school.

1. Go to <http://www.target.com/tcoe>
2. Log onto your REDCard account
3. Fill in the information under "Sign me up" to designate Howard!

Howard also participates in the following programs. Visit the links below to find out how you can help the school earn more money through each program. Many of the programs just require you to sign up and will donate through purchases you are already making. Some of the programs require you to clip a code or label of some sort; these can be sent to the school.

Box Tops <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>
Labels for Education www.labelsforeducation.com/
Ticondaroga & Prang <http://www.prangpower.com/>
Tyson <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>
Amazon Smile <http://smile.amazon.com/> (Howard Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization)

Howard Library News

OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) is underway! We have been reading for three weeks! Keep encouraging your kids to read their books and take some notes. Book talks by Mrs. Ing are held during lunch once, or possibly twice a week. We will be forming teams in the next couple of weeks and study questions will be available to teachers soon. Parents, you may read to your kids or listen to an audio book from the Eugene Public Library. OBOB books count as reading minutes for homework, too. The kids need to read as many books by mid-January as possible. Books are available through our school library.

Howard Library now has an ongoing wish list for books through Amazon. For your convenience Mr. Chinn has added this link to our Howard website with our announcements. We also happily accept gently used books and books that may be found at Costco or Target to add to our library collection. Our kids come to the library every week with their class. It is so exciting for them to have new books to choose from. This is a wonderful way to encourage reading with our kids! Thank you so much! **Amazon link** <http://a.co/8o7BNur>

Memos from Mr. Matt

Recently, I had to update my banking information and when doing so, the computer asked me for security questions in case I forgot my password. I don't have anything to steal, except for a ton of debt, so I think it's safe to share with you my response to my computer's question. The question asked, "Who was your favorite teacher from high school?" As I remembered all of the teachers who made a difference in my life, I couldn't help but think of one who stood out above the rest: Mr. Bova. Mr. Bova was my high school humanities teacher and I sat in his class 20 years ago. How cool would it be if he only knew that the class clown that he spent time getting to know and helping would end up using his name for his favorite teacher as a banking security question? I brought this up to a fellow staff member and she said, "You should tell him." That's exactly what I am going to do. I will tell him thank you for being patient with me during all the times that I called out answers. I will tell him that I will always remember how he took the time to explain the right answers when I seemed to get them all wrong. I will tell him that I admire him for taking the time to show me that he cared about me even when I gave him the worst attitude. I'll never forget Mr. Bova because he took the time to see me as not just another student, but as a person who is valuable. I encourage each of you to reflect on a teacher that made a difference in your life. Try reaching out to them and let them know. I am 100% certain that your child at Howard will remember their teachers for the rest of their lives. They are the hardest working and most caring people I have ever met. Maybe encourage your child to take the time to thank them now. Why wait 20 years? It may end up being the greatest gift your teacher could ever ask for.

Notes from PTO

- Upcoming PTO Dates
 - Popcorn Friday 25 cents a bag every Friday
 - November 14th - PTO Meeting @Howard 6pm to 7pm
 - November 17th - PTO Family Night @ Howard 6pm to 8pm
 - December 2nd - Holiday Bazaar

The Annual Fall Fundraiser has ended.. We raised \$7,200! Congratulations to our class winners: 1st place Mrs Vaughan - Kinders, 2nd Place - Mrs. Groshong - 4th Graders, and 3rd Place Mrs. Sugar - Kinders. We did not reach our goal of \$10,000 so we are not able to do the school wide prize.

Howard Elementary PTO will host our first family night on Friday, November 17th from 6 to 8 pm. The planning committee is currently lining up a fantastic, fun event. Look for the informational flyer to be sent home in backpacks soon!

The PTO Annual Holiday Bazaar is right around the corner, December 2nd. The bazaar vendor tables will be located in the gym and cafeteria. We are advertising at all the local event sites and plan on hanging posters around town. If you know of anyone who would like to purchase a table to sell goods at this event please have them email us and we will send them the necessary information to get signed up.

The PTO has board and officer positions still open. Howard Elementary could not be the great place it is without all of the outstanding family and community members we have. If you are interested in helping, please consider applying for one of these positions. The descriptions of these positions are available in our bylaws posted on the PTO website. You may also email us if you would like to receive a copy.

PTO Officers still needed:

Volunteer Coordinator
Fundraiser Coordinator
Staff/PTO Liaison
Communications Manager

If interested email the PTO at
howardelementarypto@gmail.com

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

Parent Involvement Policy, Fall 2017

Howard staff recognizes the important role that parents play in the education of their children. Every day, we make a concerted effort to recognize parental contributions and foster relationships with parents and families.

We have developed the following Parental Involvement Policy as part of our Title 1 school-wide Action Plan.

1. Howard will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of our Title 1 program at the fall Open House.

2. Parents will be involved with planning, reviewing and improving the school-wide program and the parental involvement policy through participation in Site Council. Parents will be informed of the school-wide program and the parental involvement policy through the classroom newsletters, the school newsletter, auto-dial, the school website, and PTO meetings.

3. Parents are informed about the school performance profiles and assessment results, the curriculum used, the assessment formats and proficiency levels expected through school and classroom newsletters, Open House, Oregon State Assessment Profiles, Student Progress Reports, and Family Literacy Night.

4. Through Open House and parent teacher conferences, parents are assisted in understanding the assessments and how to monitor and work with their child to improve their child's achievement.

5. Our Student/Family/School compact is presented and signed by teachers, students and families at the beginning of the school year or at conferences. This compact is reviewed and updated annually through Site Council.

6. Teachers, families and students will be involved in transition activities into Howard, including Head Start transition meetings, and transition activities out of Howard, including visits to Kelly Middle School.

These items were discussed and approved by the Howard Site Council in October of 2016 and will be annually reviewed by the Site Council each year.

Upcoming Events

11/05 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
11/07 – Election Day
11/08 – Wacky Wednesday – Sports/Favorite Team Day
11/10 – Veterans' Day – No School
11/14 – PTO, 6:00 in the Library
11/17 - PTO Family Night, 6:00
11/20 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 8:00
11/21 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00 – 8:00- NO SCHOOL
11/22 - Teacher Comp Day – NO SCHOOL
11/23 – Thanksgiving
11/24– No School – Holiday
11/27 – Site Council
11/29 - Picture Retakes
12/02 – PTO Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 – 4:00
12/14 -Wacky Wednesday-Mismatched Clothes Day
12/18 – First Day of Winter Break
1/02 – NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day
1/03 – Students Return to School