



Howard Happenings

February 2018

www.howardelementary.org

What a Difference Attendance Makes. **Every Minute Counts!**

According to multiple studies, missing several days of school over the course of a year significantly reduces the likelihood that students will graduate from high school. With attendance a crucial factor to keeping kids on the right path to graduation,

Attendance Works

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/mapping-the-gap/> has substantial information on attendance and the impact on student achievement. Below is some of the research below on why attendance matters.

Start Strong

Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict frequent absences later in the school year. Nearly half of all students that missed more than two days of school in September went on to miss almost a month of school.

Chronic Absences

An estimated 5 to 7.5 million students in the United States miss almost a month of school every year. This adds up to over a year missed by the time of graduation.

Early Absences Lead to Attendance Issues in Later Grades

Absenteeism starts early. One in 10 kindergarteners and first graders are considered to be "chronically absent."

Chronic Absence = Missing two or more days per month

Research shows students who miss 10 percent of school, or two days per month, show negative academic progress. In some schools, that adds up to 18 days a school year and is considered to be chronic absence.

Third Grade Reading Level

Poor attendance can keep children from reading proficiently by the end of third grade, which is shown to negatively affect their chances of graduating on time.

Dropout Indicator

By sixth grade, a chronically absent student is shown to have a significantly higher chance of dropping out of high school.

Excused Absences Hurt Too

Excused absences are just as negative as unexcused ones. Suspensions add additional missed time in the classroom, which in turn increases the dropout risk.

At Risk Students are at Risk for Absence

Students from low-income families are four times more likely to be chronically absent. Reasons for this are often out of the student's control, such as unreliable transportation, unstable housing, and a lack of access to quality health care.

Every Minute Matters

If a student is 10 minutes late to school each day, this adds up to missing more than 33 hours of class time. A student with a 90 percent attendance average for Kindergarten through 12th grade will miss over a year of accumulated time in the classroom.

Calling all (Future) Kindergarten Students!

We are reaching out to all Howard families to ask that you contact us now if you will be enrolling a kindergarten student for next year. If you have a child who will be 5-years old on or before September 1st, please contact us at the school to begin the enrollment process by calling 541-790-4900. Knowing the students that will be coming in advance helps us to plan effectively for the fall. We will be holding a kindergarten orientation night on February 27th at 6:00 pm where we will be able to go over enrollment procedures and answer any questions you may have. Also, if you have friends or neighbors with a school age child, pass this information on to them.

Literacy Night! Save the Date!

Our 14th Annual Literacy Night is approaching!
Thursday, March 1, 2017 from 6:00-8:00
Dinner will be provided!

Join us (in your PJs) for a night focused around literacy to celebrate our recent school wide reading of the book The One and Only Ivan. There will be literacy activities and projects students have been working on. Each Howard student that attends and visits the classroom will receive a FREE book!



Book Fair is coming!

Dates: February 26th – March 1st
Hours: M&T 2:00 – 6:00, W 1 -6:00, Th 2:00 -7:30 (Literacy Night)
Location: Howard Library

The book fair is coming to the Howard Library!

Scholastic is sending us an even larger fair this year, so that means more books! Spanish books, early reader books, chapter books and specialty tables like LEGO, Star Wars, Value books, Preschool and Science. Our fair is going to be amazing this year.

Also, look for our Spin to Win game, Guessing game and Raffle Ticket book baskets.

OBOB News from the Howard Library

Games will be held on Feb 5th & 12th with our final assembly on Feb 14th @ 9:00. Our leading team will move on to the Regional games representing Howard Elementary at Thurston High School on March 10th.

Please continue to encourage your OBOB student(s) to read their books and study their names and authors.



All School Reading Activity

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

Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all.

Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line.

Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

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 1.

Due Date for Complete School Immunization Records

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 is immunization exclusion day 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. Letters were mailed at start of December if your student is missing immunizations.** Please return these letters with the dates of shots that were given. For questions or a duplicate letter, please leave a message for the health assistant at your child's school.

Do you lack health insurance or financial resources to pay for needed shots? Here are some options to check in with....

Lane County Public Health 541-682-4041

North Eugene Clinic 541-790-4445

Churchill Clinic 541-790-5227

Questions? Contact Robin Wellwood, RN at 541-852-6734 or e-mail: wellwood@4j.lane.edu

Flu Vaccines – Not Too Late

Influenza typically continues through April. It isn't too late to benefit from Seasonal flu vaccines. The vaccine is available at pharmacies, your health care provider and Public Health Clinic, 541-682-4041. We encourage all children to be vaccinated.

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.

Memos from Mr. Matt

As we head into the second half of the school year, I keep thinking about the word patience. It's in fact a topic of discussion that I have with our students each year and our kiddos do an excellent job. They use phrases like, "Hold your horses" or "A watched pot never boils" to describe what has been told to them when they are not patient. I get so used to teaching about patience that as an adult I tend to use phrases like that instead of practicing it myself. Don't we all? Waiting to hear back about a college acceptance, or hearing about results of an exam, or waiting in line at the coffee stand are amongst the hundreds of tests of patience we face each day. We often hear the voices of our own grandparents or parents saying, "Hold your horses." Maybe I struggle with this lately here in Oregon because rushing around and having things done quickly has been the status quo from where I grew up on the east coast. I have to remember what I teach our kiddos. Patience is our attitude and behavior while waiting. We need to constantly keep that in check and it's often really difficult. We can find ourselves disgruntled waiting in a gas line, honking because someone didn't drive through a yellow (which in Jersey means speed up!), or arguing with others in the pause parking line because someone took a spot or didn't properly follow the rules. If we are to tell our kiddos to "Hold your horses" we must first model appropriate attitudes and behavior while waiting as adults. Take a deep breath, count to three or a thousand, and remember to "hold your horses" when you face a test of patience.

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 pickup, and you or another person you have authorized will need to come into the school office to sign them out. **The office staff IS NOT available to supervise children after 2:15 or 1:15 on Wednesdays.**

25 Questions to Ask Your Child About Their School Day

If you are having trouble getting your child to talk about their day at school, check out the article below from Positive Parenting Connections.

https://www.positiveparentingconnection.net/positive_parenting_25questions_school/



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.

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. After evaluating recipes, one or two finalists per school will be chosen and notified in February.

Those finalists will be formally invited to a Culinary Competition "Cook-Off" on March 10, 2018. All Finalists will receive a framed certificate, a recipe book of all of the finalists' recipes, apron and chef hat.

Treasure Island Production

Rose Children's Theatre proudly presents their production of *Treasure Island*. The story of *Treasure Island* is a classic. Originally written by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1883, this adaptation by ArtReach Children's Theatre Plays' Kathryn Schultz Miller encompasses all the elements needed for an entertaining story. Rose Children's Theatre invites you to join them on a slightly different adventure, as Jim Hawkins, after having his worst day ever, dreams of a better life as a pirate. He meets pirates Billy Bones and Long John Silver, as well as beautiful mermaids, dancing crabs, and some very vocal parrots.

Performances are February 16 and 17 at 7pm. and February 17 and 18 at 2pm at The Wildish Theater, 630 Main St, Springfield, OR. This cast showcases the talent of 51 actors in grades 3 through 10, under the expert direction of Judy Wenger and Rebekah Hope. Please join them on this adventure and cheer them on as they set sail on the wild seas.

Tickets for Rose Children's Theatre's *Treasure Island* may be purchased online at <https://rosechildrenstheatre.org/> or one hour prior to showtime at the Wildish Theater box office. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children and students.

PTO Updates

- Upcoming PTO Dates
 - Popcorn Friday 25 cents a bag Friday
 - February 9th Valentines Craft Night 6pm
 - February 20th PTO Meeting 6pm - 7pm
 - March 12th - 16th Annual Penny War

The Howard Elementary Valentines Craft night will be February 9th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. We will have several Valentine related crafts and be serving coffee, cookies, water, and lemonade. This is a FREE event to just come and hang out with your kids and do crafts.

The PTO annual Spring Bazaar is right around the corner on April 7th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The bazaar vendor tables will be located in the gym and the cafeteria. We are advertising at all the local event sites and plan on hanging posters around town. If you know anyone who would like to purchase a table to sell goods at this event please have them email us and we will get them the necessary information to get them signed up.

We are also still selling "Buttons for Books" and Smencils for the Second Grade zoo trip every Wednesday after school. Only a \$1 a piece!

The current PTO board will be stepping down at the end of this school year. We encourage any interested parents to run for office this April. We would like our PTO to be able to continue operating and offering great support to our students and staff. If you are interested in becoming more involved please consider applying for one of these positions.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Fundraiser Coordinator
- Staff/PTO Liaison
- Communications Manager

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

Nearby Nature No School Day Adventures

Time Travelers: Friday, February 2, 830am-3pm Unravel the mysteries of Alton Baker Park! Discover 20 million-year-old fossils, explode a volcano, and create your own fossil imprint. Trek to the Talking Stones and play Kalapuya games! \$45 members/\$50 non-members. Scholarships available. Ages 6-9, max 12 kids. Outdoors in Alton Baker Park and at our Yurt. To register, call 541-687-9699 or visit nearbynature.org/events.

Wild Wings: Monday, February 19, 830am-3pm Discover who's zipping, zooming, and looming in Alton Baker Park. Play Fill the Bill, check out our nest collection, and hike to a heron rookery. Make your own bird wings and tasty bird seed treat. \$45 members/\$50 non-members. Scholarships available. Ages 6-9, max 12 kids. Outdoors in Alton Baker Park and at our Yurt. To register, call 541-687-9699 or visit nearbynature.org/events.

Future Happenings

2/2 – No School, Grading Day
2/7 – Wacky Wednesday – Favorite Character Day
2/9 – PTO Valentine Family Craft Night, 6:00 pm
2/19 – Presidents Day, No School
2/20 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
2/21 – Exclusion Day
2/26 – Site Council, 2:30
2/26 – 3/1 –Book Fair
2/27 – Kindergarten Orientation, 6:00 pm
3/1 – Literacy Night
3/2 – No School, Howard Professional Day
3/12 – 3/16 – Penny War
3/14- Wacky Wednesday – Funky Sock Day
3/20 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
3/26 – 3/30 - Spring Break
4/2 – No School, Professional Development Day
4/3 – Students Return from Spring Break