



Howard Happenings

November, 2018

www.howardelementary.org

Fall Conferences

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 7 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Thursday, November 8 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. **There will be no school on Thursday, the 8th, Friday, the 9th, or Monday, the 12th.** Scheduling forms have been sent home and confirmation forms will be sent by teachers.

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

Attendance Matters, Even on Fridays!

Too many absences, excused or unexcused, can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track and put them behind.

Leaving early on a Friday, even though it's the early release day can negatively impact your child's education. Students who miss too much school score lower on tests in every state and city tested. Chronic absence affects all kids, and not just the absent ones. Learn how to get kids in #SchoolEveryDay here: bit.ly/1oqfID7

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. The district does not excuse absences due to recreational travel. If a child misses more than 3 consecutive days a doctor's note will be required.

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.

7. What time is a student considered late?

Students are expected to be in their class no later than 7:55am. All children need to check into the office prior to going to class if they arrive after 8:00 am. Per district policy late arrivals are only excused when they are due to a medical, counseling, or dental appointment. **ANY other reason will be unexcused.**

8. If I need to pick my child up early from school, is that excused?

Children are only considered excused when they will be attending a medical, dental, or counseling appointment.

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.

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 Educationwww.labelsforeducation.com/
Ticondaroga & Prang<http://www.prangpower.com/>
Amazon Smile <http://smile.amazon.com/> (Howard Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization)

News from the Howard Library

I would like to start out by saying "thank you" to all the volunteers who came in and helped in the library during my unexpected absence.

If you happen to have a student participating in Oregon Battle of the Books, please encourage them to keep reading. We will begin putting teams together very soon.

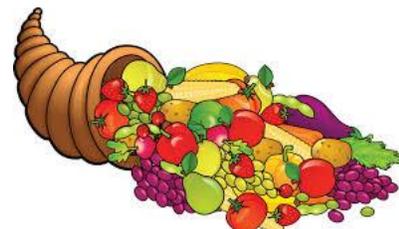
Starting in November we will be selling Buttons in the library, as a continuing fundraiser to help purchase good quality used books for our school library. Buttons are \$1.00 each. This has proven to be a wonderful fundraiser for our library. Students love collecting buttons and in return I have purchased many, many gently used books for our library.

Memos from Mr. Matt

It's hard to believe November is already here. It seems like 30 seconds ago I found out that the due date for our first baby was November 21st. I do remember thinking at the time we found out our baby is a girl that I had plenty of time to get her new room ready. I was always a procrastinator, one of my many flaws, but Becky, my wife and who is now in her nesting phase, has been reminding me incessantly to get to work. Well, just last night as I was installing hardwood flooring in her room, I couldn't help but think of all the plans I had for her. With each nail I would think of all the songs on piano and guitar that she will learn. With each board I would go over in my mind how her vocal lessons would go or what elementary school and college she would go to. My wife came down and lauded the amount of work I got done and I was so caught up in my mind about my dreams that I didn't even realize how much I actually got done! But then it occurred to me as I snapped back to reality that these were my hopes and my dreams for my daughter and not hers. I had to remember that she gets to choose her own path, have her own dreams, and blossom into who she wants to be. In this story, I am not the writer or the director, but merely a supporting actor; one who is willing to make selfless sacrifices in order to raise a confident, strong, and brave human. I have worked with thousands of parents and some do get caught up in running their kids' lives as though it is their second chance at life. Often times their kids end up stressed, depressed, suppressed, anxious, and fearful they will never live up to their parents' expectations. Their confidence ends up at an all time low and these same parents will come to me asking what to do. I will often tell these parents to let the flower bloom. The flower may not have the colors you want, or the shape, or height, but the flower will be beautiful the way it is, especially if it's rooted in love. When storms come, and they will, hold onto the roots, but don't cover the pedals. Our children will fail and that's okay and they need to know that. Play a supporting role in your child's story, don't try and take the spotlight because when you do, they will feel left in the dark and flowers don't grow well in the dark.

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 cog7eugene@gmail.com no later than Friday, November 9th.



Parent Involvement Policy – Fall, 2018

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, audio, 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 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 conferences and when students enroll throughout the year. 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 2018 and will be annually reviewed by the Site Council each year.



Wednesday, November 7th – Walk & Roll with School Spirit!

Did you know kids need one whole hour of physical activity each day to stay healthy? Walking, biking and rolling to school helps!

Wednesday, November 7th is our monthly Walk & Roll to School Day: Walk & Roll with School Spirit Day! We encourage you to have your child walk, bike, skate, scoot, carpool or ride the bus to and from school and wear a school shirt or our school colors, **blue and white**. If you live a long way from school, try parking a 10 minute (or more) walk away from school and walking the rest of the way with your child.

In the Know with PTO

Howard PTO met for our October meeting on Tuesday the 16th. For those that were unable to attend our meeting minutes can be found on the Howard PTO Facebook page. Our next PTO meeting will be held November 19th at 6pm and free childcare is provided for those that need it.

There was some confusion due to a misprint in a flyer that came home about the cost of popcorn. To clarify, popcorn is .25 cents for 1 bag, or \$5 to buy for the entire class. It is also \$5 if you'd like to purchase ahead for the entire school year for your child. If you are interested in helping volunteer with popcorn from 7:45-9:15 on Friday mornings then please contact us by email at HowardElementaryPTO@gmail.com

Our first Family night will be on November 14th. Get ready to enjoy an evening of fun and freaky Science Experiments! Watch for a flyer to come home at the beginning of the month with more details. We are still in need of a couple volunteers for this event, if you are interested in helping please notify us at HowardElementaryPTO@gmail.com

Our annual Winter BAZAAR will be held December 1st, 2018. It's a great time to buy local for the Holiday season while supporting our community of talented crafters, artists, and small local business owners. We still have openings for vendor tables. If interested in becoming a vendor please email Julea McKinney at howardelementaryPTO@gmail.com. You can also sign up to volunteer at our Bazaar by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c45a9ab22a2fe3-holiday>

Upcoming Events

- 11/04 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11/06 – Election Day
- 11/7 – Walk and Roll to School Day
- 11/7 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 8:00
- 11/8 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00 – 8:00- NO SCHOOL
- 11/9 - Teacher Comp Day – NO SCHOOL
- 11/12 – Veterans' Day – No School
- 11/14 – Wacky Wednesday – Sports Day
- 11/14 - PTO Family Night, 6:00
- 11/20 – PTO, 6:00 in the Library
- 11/22 – Thanksgiving
- 11/23– No School – Holiday
- 11/26 – Site Council
- 11/28 - Picture Retakes
- 12/01 – PTO Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 – 4:00
- 12/12 -Wacky Wednesday-Pajama Day
- 12/24 – First Day of Winter Break
- 1/07 – NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day
- 1/08 – Students Return to School

To the Parents of Lane County School Bus Riders

Lane County Public Works maintains more than 1,400 miles of roads from the coast to the mountains. Part of keeping our roads safe is removing plants and trees that grow too close to the road in the right-of-way.



We remove most plants by hand or machine, but if there are areas where our machines can't reach or it is too dangerous to have people in the roadway – like guardrails – we may use herbicides. This may also include the control of noxious weed species. All of the herbicides we use are reviewed and approved by the Lane County Public Health Advisory Committee.

As part of our commitment to being a good neighbor, we want to make sure parents have a voice in potential herbicide use near school bus stops. Please remember, this program is not associated with your school or school district. All questions or concerns should be directed to the county contact information listed below.

Bus Stop No Spray Areas

You can enroll your child's bus stop into the No Spray Area program by filling out a short form. Once enrolled, we will use GPS to ensure there is 200 feet between your child's bus stop and any herbicide use by Lane County. Bus stops can be at your driveway or a road intersection.

Who Can Apply

The No Spray Area program is only for Lane County residents not living within city limits.

- bus stops must be on county roads (in front of homes or at intersections)
- you must be a parent/guardian of a child who rides a school bus

How to Enroll

Please visit www.lanecounty.org/vegetation and follow the link for the No Spray Area application. Enrolled bus stops are valid until December 2020. When this period ends, you will receive a reminder letter to re-enroll.

Please visit our website to learn more about how Lane County maintains roads, including herbicide notifications and monthly reports.

You can also call 541-682-8521 to request a paper application.

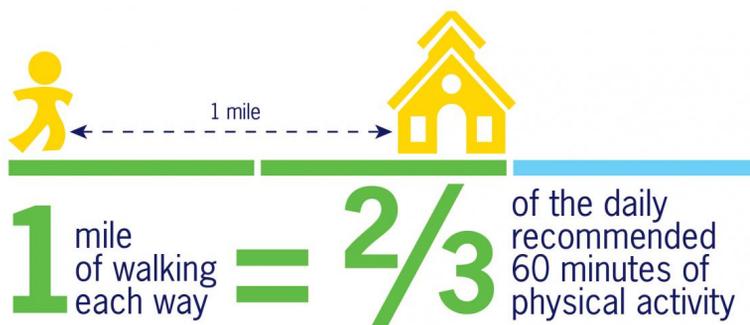
If you have any questions or concerns please call our Natural Resource Specialist at 541-682-8521.



Lane County Public Works
No Spray Area Program
3040 North Delta Hwy
Eugene, OR 97408

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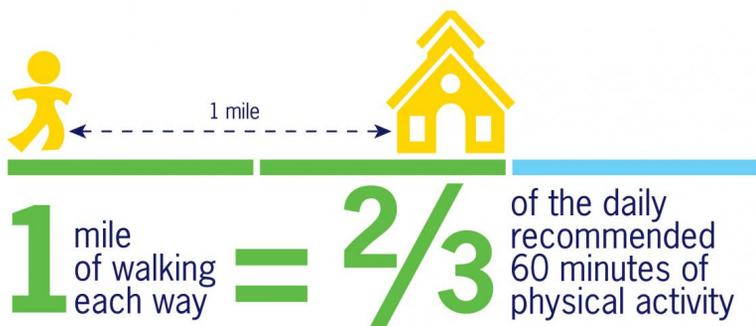
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¡El miércoles, el 8 de noviembre, Caminar y Rodar con Espiritu Escolar!

¿Qué Ud. sabía que los niños necesitan una hora entera para quedarse sanos? Caminando, andando en bicicleta, en patineta, o en escúter les ayuda muchísimo!

¡El miércoles, el 7 de noviembre, será nuestro evento mensual de Caminar y Rodar a la Escuela: Día de Caminar y Rodar con Espiritu Escolar! Les animamos a apoyar que su hijo participe por usar los colores de la escuela, que son azul e blanco, o por usar una camiseta de la escuela.



Pueden ayudar por viajar en autobús, caminar, andar en bicicleta, o compartir el viaje en coche con otras familias. ¡Si manejan ustedes, pueden estacionarse a unas cuadras de la escuela y caminar!