



Howard Happenings

December 2018/January 2019

www.howardelementary.org

Lost and Found

Please be sure to check our Lost and Found in the cafeteria before winter break. Any items not claimed will be donated to charity on **December 21st**.

School Choice for the 2019-20 School Year

Spread the word to all of your friends that Howard rocks! With Howard's focus on technology we are an excellent school and a positive choice in your child's education. With School Choice coming soon, please invite friends and acquaintances to visit Howard and seriously consider joining the Howard family. If you have any friends or neighbors living in the Bethel School District, be sure to let them know that they too can apply to attend Howard, even if they live outside of our school district.

Please watch the 4J website at www.4j.lane.edu> parents > school choice for information on upcoming visitation opportunities and the upcoming lottery applications timeline.

Due Date for Complete School Immunization Records

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 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

Winter Walk & Roll to School Day!

Wednesday, December 5th is our December Walk & Roll Day! We're encouraging all students to bundle up and walk, bike, carpool or ride the bus to school. If you live a long way from school, try parking a ten minute walk from school and walking the rest of the way. With clothing to keep us dry and warm, it's still healthy to move our bodies outside! Older students can walk on their own; younger students will need to walk or bike with an adult.

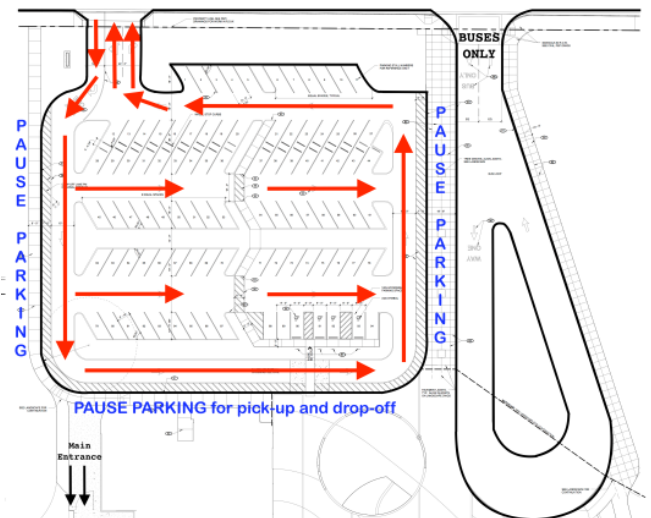
Our goal is to reduce traffic and pollution around our school and to promote physical activity for our students. Students who ride the bus are doing their part by participating in the biggest carpool of all! Teaching your child to use their body to get to school and other places builds their confidence, keeps them physically fit, and can be fun for the whole family!

Parking Lot Reminders

Thank you to families who are helping keep our busy parking lot safe for students. In the mornings, students may be dropped off along the sidewalk that encircles our parking lot. At the end of the day, drivers can pause-park along the curb to pick up their student(s) when they come out at dismissal. Please note the following rules for pause parking:

- Drivers must remain in their cars at all times.
- Drivers should pull forward as space becomes available.
- Drivers should **NOT** stop in the crosswalk
- When getting in or out of a car, students must use the door on the sidewalk side. Getting in or out of a car on the driver's side is unsafe for students and it stops traffic.
- Student should **NOT** get in and out of cars in the driving lane. It's unsafe and it's inconsiderate for stopping traffic.

Drivers must remember to **ALWAYS** yield at the painted crosswalks and sidewalks.



The parking lot is for families who want to walk their students into the building during arrival or who wish to meet their students at the main entrance at the end of the day at dismissal. Please note the following rules for the parking lot are:

- **ONLY** cross the driveway area using the crosswalk. Students and families should never cut across the driveway.
- Before using the crosswalk, students must stop and look for cars.

The bus turnaround is for buses only. Drivers should at no time enter the bus turnaround area.

Artist in Residence in January

Thanks to support from ArtSpark Eugene, a collaborative initiative led by the Rotary Club of Eugene, Lane Arts Council, the Eugene Education Foundation, and Eugene School District 4J, Howard Elementary School students will get to have two professional artists visit all classrooms this year. Our first artist, Nicole Hummel, will teach ceramics the month of January, working with each classroom for four consecutive sessions. Nicole has asked for parent volunteers to help with these sessions, particularly for younger grades, so if any parent or guardians are interested in helping with these projects, please connect with your child's teacher about dates and times. Our second artist in residence, Noah McLain Philpot, will teach Puppetry and Storytelling beginning in early May. Please visit the ArtSpark Eugene website for more information about this fabulous program. <http://www.artsparkeugene.org/>

Winter Is Coming: Snow Day Decisions and Notifications

When winter weather arrives, schools may be closed or delayed or buses may use snow routes. These decisions are made districtwide and are the same for every 4J school.

How the decision is made:

Typically, weather-related school schedule decisions are made in the early morning, before school, when current weather conditions can be assessed. We believe students and families are best served when we are open. Our main concern and the reason for any school closure is the safety of our students and staff.

How to find out if there is a change:

If the district decides to make a change to the school schedule or bus routes, it is communicated as quickly as possible in several ways, all well before 6:30 a.m. If schools and buses are on their regular schedule, there will NOT be an announcement.

- [Sign up](#) for text-message alerts via Twitter.
- Check the district website homepage: www.4j.lane.edu
- Follow district social media channels:
 - Facebook: [facebook.com/4Jschools](https://www.facebook.com/4Jschools)
 - Twitter: twitter.com/4jschools and twitter.com/4Jweather
- Tune in to local news media

What does the announcement mean?

School Closure: There is no school for students, although some staff will be at work. The district will decide by noon about whether any after-school student activities or community use of buildings may take place.

Two-Hour Delay: School will start two hours late and end at the usual dismissal time. If a delay occurs on an early release Friday, school will still be dismissed at the early release time. Buses will drive cautiously, adjusting to conditions, so pickup and return may be delayed.

Snow Routes: Some school bus routes have alternate "snow routes" that may be used when snow and ice make road conditions hazardous at higher and steeper elevations. This helps limit the need for school closures in harsh weather. When school buses operate on these snow routes, some students will have a different bus stop location and time than on the regular route. More information is at www.4j.lane.edu/transportation/snowroutes.

Parent Choice: When school is in session during wintry weather, families are encouraged to consider the road conditions in their areas, make their own decisions based on safety, and notify the school if their student will be staying home. Parents' decisions about student absences for hazardous weather safety reasons will be honored.

For more information, please see www.4j.lane.edu/weather.

Library News!

I am so happy to be returning to work after a short leave of absence. We only have a few short weeks before winter break. It's hard to believe. I wish everyone a warm and safe vacation while snuggling in and reading their favorite book.

December happenings

- OBOB book talks are Wednesdays during lunch time 4th & 5th grade
- Buttons for Books, our library ongoing fund raiser are available for sale in the library for \$1.00 ea.
- New books will be added to the library. Yay!!
- Look for more new displays in our library.
- New books were added to Howard's library wish list on Amazon.

January happenings

- OBOB study groups, practice games will start mid-January,
- Preparations for our upcoming book fair in February
- Preparations for OBOB games starting the first week of February

News from PTO

Upcoming PTO Dates:

- **December 1st** - Winter Bazaar starts at 9:00 AM
- **January 15th** - PTO Meeting (No Meeting in December)
- **January 25th** - Harry Potter/Science Community Night
- **March 1st to March 29th** - Read-A-Thon

Winter Bazaar – December 1st from 9 AM to 3 PM

Join us for our annual Winter Bazaar. You can shop for handmade items, support small home businesses and get some of your holiday shopping done. There will also be concessions available.

Duer's ATA Martial Arts Fundraiser

We partner with Duer's ATA Martial Arts year round to offer this fundraiser and with holidays approaching this makes a wonderful gift. For \$49 you receive 1 month of classes and a uniform. Not only does your child learn a fun sport but they also build confidence and learn what it means to respect themselves and others.

Bottle Drop Fundraiser

We accept bottle and can donations year round and now through December 9th Bottle Drop locations are matching anywhere from 10% to 40% of donations. We will be posting a Signup Genius on the Howard Elementary PTO Facebook page if you would like to request a Bottle Drop donation bag. There will also be extra bags available at the school.

Can't drop them off at the Bottle Drop facility? Don't have a Bottle Drop bag? No problem. Let us know you will be bringing them by the school and we will be ready to take them. If you need us to pick them up from your home we can do that too. Email us at howardelementaryPTO@gmail.com or message us on Facebook at @Howard4JPTO to set up a time that works for you.

The Howard Elementary PTO will also be set up to receive bottles and cans on December 1st during the Holiday Bazaar. Leave them with us and we will take them to the Bottle Drop for you.

Want to get involved?

We have many committees that are looking for more helping hands. If you are looking to get involved please reach out to us by email at howardelementaryPTO@gmail.com or message us on Facebook at @Howard4JPTO to find out where we could use

your help. We will also post Signup Genius on Facebook so you can sign up for upcoming events.

PTO Meetings

The PTO values the community that we serve and we want to hear from you. Help us to be the true voice of the families at Howard Elementary School. Please join us every third Tuesday at 6:00 PM to share your ideas. Hope to see you there! Child care is provided.

Attendance Matters - Chronic Absence = Missing two or more days per month

According to multiple studies, missing several days of school 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 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." 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.

See more research on the importance of attendance here:

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/>

Holiday Assistance for Families

See the link on the Howard website and below for the 2018 Holiday Resource Guide, which can provide holiday food boxes, gifts, and other assistance for families. There may be additional resources, so families are encouraged to contact 211 as well (online, phone, text, or email). Some of the deadlines are coming soon!

<https://bit.ly/2A2VCs8>

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

As the holidays approach don't forget that when ordering gifts online 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. Now that's an easy way to spread holiday cheer!

Upcoming Events

12/1 – PTO Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
12/5 – Monthly Walk & Roll to School Day
12/12 – Wacky Wednesday – Pajama Day
12/24 – First Day of Winter Break
1/7 – Professional Development Day-No School
1/8 – Classes Resume
1/16 – Wacky Wednesday – Silly Socks Day
1/15 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
1/21 – MLK Day – No School
1/25 – PTO Family Night, 6:00 pm
1/28 – Site Council, 2:40 p.m.
2/1 – Grading Day – No School
2/6 – Monthly Walk & Roll to School Day
2/13 – Wacky Wednesday – Super Hero Day
2/18 – President's Day – No School
2/19 – PTO Meeting, Library 6:00 pm
2/25 – Site Council, 2:40 pm
2/25 – 3/1 – Book Fair