Howard Happenings
October, 2019
www.howardelementary.org

Open House, Wednesday, October 9th

Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th. This is an excellent chance for families (both kids and adults) to visit classrooms and connect with teachers. After families visit classrooms, you’ll be given a class passport your family can redeem for a pizza dinner in the cafeteria. Classrooms will be open from 5:45-6:45 and pizza will be served in the cafeteria 6:00-7:00. Howard hosts a school-wide Title I Program. As such, this evening will also provide families with an opportunity to learn more about the academic services provided through Title I. A presentation will be offered at 6:00 in the library and families are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

Crosswalk Safety

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, children ages 16 and under are the most at-risk for getting hit while crossing the street. In order to protect students from dangerous and life-threatening accidents, it’s essential that drivers yield to pedestrians crossing the street at intersections, even when a crossing guard is not present.

Pause Parking Lane

Thank you to families who are helping keep our busy end-of-day dismissal safe for students. We appreciate families who are remembering to stay in their cars while in the pause parking lane and continuing to move forward as space becomes available, which helps to keep traffic moving.

And since we know there are limited parking spaces in our parking lot, outside of arrival times (7:15am-8:10am) and dismissal time (1:30pm-2:35pm), families and volunteers are welcome to park in the pause parking lane.

Sign up for Strings! For 4th and 5th graders!

String Academy is a fun and exciting opportunity for your child to learn to play the violin, viola, or cello! The teachers are wonderful, and the Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestras (ESYO) offers classes right here at school. Classes meet from 2:30-3:25pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and scholarships are available for any family that needs one. And they provide the instruments!

Everyone is a beginner, and classes are taught at a relaxed pace. By the end of the year children who had never even held a violin before can play songs and read music. There are so many benefits to learning an instrument! Students gain self-confidence, learn responsibility, and experience the joy of making music. They perform for their schools, and twice a year, all of the classes come together to play in one grand orchestra with over 100 players! It is a unique and wonderful experience.

Check with the office for the schedule and find out more here: https://esyorchestras.org/programs/string-academy-ij/ or call ESYO at 541-484-0473.

String Academy opens the door to the joy of making music, with benefits that can last a lifetime!
Mr. Matt’s Memos

Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt is noted for saying, “In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.” This quote comes to mind often at the start of a new school year when I feel like I am juggling a ton of requests and having to make a lot of new decisions. Like most teachers who care about their jobs, I find it difficult to shake off making mistakes that I make in my decision-making. I find myself up at night asking all the “what ifs” and wondering had I not messed up if things would have been better. I sure would be able to have a better night’s rest. Dwelling on mistakes for some of us can be debilitating and we often avoid situations where we perceive we may fail. I know I have. Teddy understood this and his message reframes my thinking when I am wide-awake at 2:00am. I have to start remembering that what I perceive as a failure is an opportunity to learn and grow. Taking the time to reflect on my decision, whether right or wrong, gives me the opportunity to better myself. By doing nothing, it takes away this growing opportunity and this is what I believe Roosevelt was trying to say. For all of us, keep trying, keep working hard, keep reflecting on the decisions we make, learn from our mistakes, learn from the mistakes of others, and most importantly don’t just sit back and do nothing! So the next time you catch yourself awake at night and frustrated with a mistake or wrong decision, remember Teddy, and get the best night’s rest.

Student Attendance

Early Arrival Supervision in Cafeteria & Playground - 7:25 - 7:50
Classes begin - 7:55
Regular Dismissal - 2:25, Friday Dismissal - 1:10

We recommend arriving at least 10 minutes before 7:55. The parking lot becomes very crowded as 7:55 approaches. Students arriving after 7:55 are considered late and must report to the office prior to going to class.

Reporting an Absence:
To leave a voice message - 541-790-4940

For an absence to be excused, parents must contact the school within 48 hours of an absence. Pre-planned absences for family trips, etc. may be excused if arranged in advance and the student has otherwise maintained regular attendance.

Office Hours: Regular Office Hours - 7:30 - 3:00, Friday - 7:30 - 2:00
Contact information: Main Office Phone: 541-790-4900, Fax: 541-790-4905

Reminder of Student Pick Up Time

Students must be picked up between 2:25 and 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday, when school dismisses at 1:10 students must be picked up by 1:15. After-school supervision is not provided after dismissal. Please make sure that your child is picked up from school by these times 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 2:30 or 1:15 on Fridays.

Thank you for your attention to this schedule to help ensure your child is safe and supervised at all times. If you have any questions, please contact principal, Allan Chinn at (541) 790-4900. Working together, we can provide your child with a successful and safe school experience.

Messages for Students

Please make sure that your child knows what they will be expected to do when the school day is over before they leave home in the morning. Staff is not available to hand deliver messages throughout the day and when the bell rings at the end of the school day it becomes quite difficult to reach individual children that we have taken messages for. It is also very disruptive to the teachers and students when phone calls are made to the class at the end of the day. We will be happy to deliver messages in an EMERGENCY situation. Below are the direct lines to the classrooms if there is an urgent situation and you need to leave a message. Please keep in mind that the teachers leave their phones on voicemail and may not check messages until after the school day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelly Silver</td>
<td>541-790-4919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Vaughan</td>
<td>541-790-4920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah Consolo</td>
<td>541-790-4956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessy Corliss</td>
<td>541-790-4930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Braud</td>
<td>541-790-4903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Ward</td>
<td>541-790-4911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Kerins</td>
<td>541-790-4959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Larsen</td>
<td>541-790-4906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Pond</td>
<td>541-790-4907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charissa Sharpie</td>
<td>541-790-4922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Niccum</td>
<td>541-790-4908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Kreider</td>
<td>541-790-4913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Lawson/Stephanie Peterson</td>
<td>541-790-4914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justine Chunn</td>
<td>541-790-4916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Groshong</td>
<td>541-790-4917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Zimmerman</td>
<td>541-790-4926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imelda Cortez</td>
<td>541-790-4927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupe Callihan</td>
<td>541-790-4915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzy Rock</td>
<td>541-790-4918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Be Safe, Feel Safe, Bookmark SafeOregon

To help students feel safe and be safe, 4J schools are offering the SafeOregon tip line as another way to report any student or school safety concern. The tip line is always open and tips can be submitted either online (https://app.safeoregon.com/), by email (tip@safeOregon.com), text or call (1-844-472-3367), or through the Apple or Android app. Learn more at http://www.safeoregon.com

Nearby Nature’s Haunted Hike

Celebrate night creatures! Enjoy a pumpkin-lit hike in Alton Baker Park and meet an entertaining costumed bat, frog, spider, owl, and more. Also enjoy fun crafts, snacks, games, and a raffle -- plus a display of cool raptor claws and wings from the Cascades Raptor Center, Rain or moonshine, Friday, October 18, 5:30-9 pm, Alton Baker Park. Members free, non-members $5/person. Pre-registration REQUIRED online: nearbynature.org/registration. Questions? 541-687-9699
**Library News!**

Welcome back to books :) Our students were so excited to start participating in library again. You may start seeing library books coming home soon :) Please encourage your child/children to keep their library book(s) in a safe place away from small siblings, pets and food & liquids. Our check out period is 1 week, as a school wide policy books are asked to be returned before another maybe checked out. If your child would like to "read their book again", we have 'renew' slips in our classrooms. I will send notices out via email for overdue books as requested by several of our parents.

When does my child have library class?

Monday Classes: Lawson/Peterson, Charpie, Kerins, Vaughan
Tuesday Classes: Pre-K, Cortez, Gates, Rock
Wednesday Classes: Groshong, Life Skill, Consolo, Callihan
Thursday Classes: Kreider, Zimmerman, Braud, Larsen, Friday Classes; Niccum, Chun, Silver, Pond, Ward, Corliss

**OBOB**

Oregon Battle of the Books [https://www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org/](https://www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org/) has started in our school library. Please see the link for details of this state wide reading program. I am also currently reaching out for a few parents who might be willing to help coach grade level teams and also help me organize the program this year. The program runs through February, and the kids love it. Please feel free to stop by the library or send me an email if you are interested in helping :) hopkins_j@4j.lane.edu.

**3rd to 5th Grade Division**

- The Ark Plan by Laura Martin
- Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi
- Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia
- Fablehaven by Brandon Mull
- Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos
- Just Dance by Patricia MacLachlan
- Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls' Rights by Malala Yousafzai
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- Out of Left Field by Ellen Klages
- Paper Wishes by Lois Sepahban
- Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary
- Riding Freedom by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- Stef Soto, Taco Queen by Jennifer Torres
- Wishtree by Katherine Applegate
- The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell

**CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Howard Elementary Tech Trot
Wednesday, October 9

PTO sponsors this annual jog-a-thon to help offset the technology fees that have been charged to students in the past. The money raised through this event is used to pay for technology repairs, software subscriptions and apps, as well as replacement equipment.

Families and friends are encouraged to pledge a specific amount per lap or a flat amount to support their student. Visit pledgestar.com/howard97404/ to set up your student's account and start requesting pledges via email, text, or social media. You can also gather additional cash donations using the envelope that has previously been sent home. Extra envelopes will be available in the office if you should fill up the one provided.

The classroom with the most pledges, of any dollar amount, will win a superhero party!

The PTO needs heroic parent volunteers to help the day of Tech Trot. Shifts are from 8-10 and 10-noon. Join in this fun event—you can dress up too if you want! [Sign up to volunteer](https://www.facebook.com/Howard4jPTO/).

**PTO meetings**

PTO meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Howard cafeteria. All parents and guardians are welcome! Everyone who attends the meeting can enter their names in a prize drawing that takes place at the end of the meeting. Meetings are livestreamed at [https://www.facebook.com/Howard4jPTO/](https://www.facebook.com/Howard4jPTO/).

**October PTO events:**

October 8, PTO meeting in Howard cafeteria, 6:00
October 9, Tech Trot (jogathon)
October 24, Noodles and Co. restaurant fundraiser—eat at Noodles and Co. and earn money for Howard! Flyer coming soon.

**School Pictures are Coming!**

School pictures will be on October 17th. – SMILE!

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>PTO Meeting, 6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Open House, 5:45 – 7:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Professional Development, No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>State Inservice, No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>School Pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>Site Council, 2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>PTO Noodles and Co Fundraiser 4:00 – 9:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Halloween Parade, 8:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/03</td>
<td>Daylight Savings Time Starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/06</td>
<td>Parent – Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 8:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/07</td>
<td>Parent – Teacher Conferences 8:00 – 8:00 – No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>Conferences Comp Day for Teachers – No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day – No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>PTO Meeting, 6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Site Council, 2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/28-29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
If children don’t show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it’s as high as 1 in 4.

2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They’re also more likely to suffer academically.

2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.

4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.

What families can do

- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.
- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.
- Don’t permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Keep a chart recording your child’s attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.
- Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

Who is affected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kids Affected</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 in 10</td>
<td>in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it’s as high as 1 in 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 in 10</td>
<td>low-income kids miss too much school. They’re also more likely to suffer academically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 in 10</td>
<td>homeless kids are chronically absent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 in 10</td>
<td>transient kids miss too much school when families move.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why it matters

If children don’t show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2. Chronic Absence in Early Childhood: Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.
Bike Rodeo

Bike obstacle course!
Bike smoothies!

Bring your own bikes or use ours!

Tuesday, October 8th, 2:25-4:00 at Howard’s playground
Prepare for a Successful Conference

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE
- Find out your child’s questions and concerns about school.
- Check progress reports, report cards and work your child has brought home.
- Write a list of questions you want to ask the teacher. Start with the form in this brochure and add to it. Bring your list to the meeting with you.
- Write down information about your child that the teacher should know, such as a family death, divorce, changed finances, illness or a new home.
- If English is not your first language, have someone contact the school before the parent-teacher conference and request an interpreter to assist you during the meeting.

AT THE CONFERENCE
- Let the teacher begin the meeting but be sure to ask the questions on your list before time runs out.
- Ask the teacher what your child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year. Make a plan for how you and the teacher will work with your child to reach those goals.
- Find out the best way (notes, phone calls, e-mail) and the best time to communicate with the teacher throughout the school year.

Continue the Conversation Through the Year

AFTER THE CONFERENCE
- Talk with your child about what the teacher told you, especially the positive comments. Talk about learning goals and make a plan to reach them together.
- Follow up on the plan you made with your child and the teacher every few weeks.
- Check your child’s backpack daily for materials sent home from school, and make sure to read all of it. If English is not your first language, ask a relative or friend to read the school information to you in your language.
- Contact the teacher whenever you have questions. If your child is not doing well, set up a regular check-in schedule with the teacher to monitor progress. If English is not your first language, get a friend to help you contact the teacher or to ask the school office for an interpreter.
- Send the teacher a thank you note when something good happens in the classroom.
- Make sure your child knows that school is important. Talk with your child every day about school, attend school events, offer to help from home, volunteer in the classroom, and/or join the parent organization.

Make the Most of Parent-Teacher Conferences

A Guide for Families of Elementary School Students

Eugene 4J District Office
541-790-7700

Elementary Schools
Adams- 541-790-5000
Awbrey Park- 541-790-4050
Buena Vista Spanish Immersion- 541-790-6500
Camas Ridge Community- 541-790-8800
César E. Chávez- 541-790-5300
Charlemagne French Immersion- 541-790-7080
Chinese Immersion- 541-790-3700
Corridor- 541-790-4600
Edgewood Community- 541-790-8700
Edison- 541-790-8900
Family School- 541-790-3700
Gilham- 541-790-6200
Bertha Holt- 541-790-6100
Howard- 541-790-4900
McCormack- 541-790-5800
River Road/El Camino del Rio- 541-790-7200
Spring Creek- 541-790-4870
Twin Oaks- 541-790-3417
Willagillespie- 541-790-7100
Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion- 541-790-4606

Conference date and time

My child’s teacher

Room #
Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences

Most schools invite every family to a parent-teacher conference once a year. A conference is a time for parents and teachers to share information, solve problems, and form a relationship that will help the student succeed. You don’t need to wait for a special invitation though. You can request a meeting with your child’s teacher to discuss academic progress at any time.

The teacher needs to hear from you and you need to hear from the teacher. You know more about your child than anyone at school. Talking with the teacher about your child will help pave the way for your student to do well in class and will help you understand what is being taught in the classroom.

Conferences are usually short and to the point. These tips will help you make the most of your time with your child’s teacher.

Parent-Teacher Conference Notes

Mark the questions that are most important to you, and add others. Take this form to your conference.

QUESTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

☐ Can you show me some of my child’s work?
☐ Does my child finish assignments in class and turn in homework?
☐ Does my child join in class discussions?
☐ Are you pleased with my child’s progress?
☐ What does my child do well? What is my child having a hard time with?
☐ Where can we go for help?
☐ How does my child behave in the classroom and on the playground?
☐ Have there been changes recently that I should know about?
☐ How do you handle discipline?
☐ What are your expectations of my child?
☐ What tests will you give this year? How does my child need to prepare?
☐ Are any big projects coming up? How can I help my child?
☐ When do you send report cards?
☐ What are grades based on?
☐ What is the best way for us to stay in touch about my child’s progress through the year?
☐ How many students are in this class?

☐ Do you have a teacher’s aide or other adults who work with my child? Do you use parent volunteers in the classroom?
☐ What suggestions do you have for me to get involved with school and help my child succeed?
☐ May I have a schedule of parent meetings and open houses during the school year?
☐ How is my child’s culture reflected in the classroom learning time?

Space for notes

☐ Things to tell the teacher
☐ How my child learns best.
☐ Any big changes in the family—a new home, new people in the home, death or divorce.
☐ Medical conditions that affect my child.
☐ What has helped my child learn successfully in the past.
☐ What my child enjoys about school and the classroom.
☐ What is most challenging for my child in this class.
☐ Aspects of our home/cultural life that would help the teacher.

Space for notes

☐ Follow-up plans
Teacher contact information

Things to do -
WANT TO JUMPSTART YOUR CAREER?

- Health Professions
- Early Childhood Ed
- Baking & Pastry
- Manufacturing
- Additional options available with individual plans

PASS Lane
Enrolling now!

Earn a short-term certificate with academic support
Part-time or full-time options

www.lanecc.edu/pathways/pass-lane

CONTACT US:
Marcia Koenig
koenigm@lanecc.edu
(541) 463-5818

Rosa Lopez
lopezr@lanecc.edu
(541) 463-4726

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:
• Improve reading & study skills while earning college credit
• Receive coaching in academic success and career development
• Earn a Career Pathways Certificate

ATTEND AN INFO SESSION:

Tuesdays at 1 pm
Main Campus, Bldg 11 Rm. 255
4000 East 30th Ave, Eugene

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 pm
Downtown Campus, Rm. 202
101 W. 10th Ave, Eugene
After School Enrichment With Play-Well TEKnologies
at Howard Elementary

STEM Challenge with LEGO® Materials

Master your engineering skills with Play-Well TEKnologies and tens of thousands of LEGO® parts! Apply real-world concepts in physics, engineering, and architecture through engineer-designed projects such as: Catapults, Pneumatic Cranes, Arch Bridges, and Battletracks! Design and build as never before, and explore your craziest ideas in a supportive environment.

Fridays: September 27th - December 13th (No Class 10/11, 11/8, 11/29)
1:15-2:45pm
Open to Girls and Boys in Grades 1-5
$132 for 8 weeks

Questions? Jennifer Gaona, jennifer@play-well.org or 602-317-7448

Please register at www.play-well.org