Fall Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 6 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Thursday, November 7 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. There will be no school on Thursday, the 7th, Friday, the 8th, or Monday, the 11th. 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/1oqfdD7

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

8. If I need to pick my child up early from school, is that excused?
   Children are only considered excused when they are excused by a medical, dental, or counseling appointment.
Learn more:
required to show a pass or app to board the bus.
they are a student. At a future point students will be
identification card or just tell the bus driver where
now, students can ride free if they show their school
now ride Lane Transit District (LTD) buses for free.

Memos from Mr. Matt

Monday, November 11th at 11:00am will mark 101
years since the end of World War I, which ended at
11:00am on November 11th, 1918. The following
year, on November 11th 1919, the first anniversary of
the end of World War I was celebrated and
became known as Armistice Day. In 1926, Congress
passed a resolution to allow an annual observance
of this day. Twelve years later in 1938, Armistice Day
came a national holiday. Fast forwarding to
1954, President Eisenhower changed the name to
Veteran’s Day, in an effort to honor all living and
deceased American veterans who served
honorably during war and peacetime. My own
father served honorably during the Korean War and
I was taught as a little one to always respect our
great American flag. I was taught about the
incredible sacrifice so many made on my behalf
and how it shouldn’t only be a single day of the
year that we celebrate our veterans but rather
daily. I remember asking my dad as a kid what I
could do to thank all the veterans and he said,
“Start with putting your hand over your heart for the
Pledge of Allegiance.” He taught me that when I
do that, it’s the biggest thank you could give. To
this day, when I hear the Pledge come over the
loudspeaker, I stop where I am and put my hand on
my heart. It’s my daily reminder and thank you to
all those who sacrificed so much so I can have the
freedoms I have as an American. When I say the
Pledge I need to keep reminding myself that it’s not
for me, it’s for them and when I honor them, I honor
my country. My challenge for all of us this Veteran’s
Day is to thank a veteran and to remember the
sacrifices so many made for us and continue to
make for us.

Students Ride Free on LTD

All students in kindergarten through 12th grade can
now ride Lane Transit District (LTD) buses for free. For
now, students can ride free if they show their school
identification card or just tell the bus driver where
they are a student. At a future point students will be
required to show a pass or app to board the bus.
Learn more: www.ltd.org/student-pass.
TAG (Talented and Gifted) testing occurs every fall and spring. Students can be referred for TAG testing by their families or their teachers. Once a student is referred, the TAG team reviews the student’s test scores, coursework, and asks for teacher and parent feedback. To be invited to test, the student should have test scores above the 95th percentile on district assessments and have coursework that demonstrates abilities beyond their peers.

Students who meet the above qualifications can be referred for the Fall testing window (Dec. 2-6). Please email your child’s teacher or the TAG coordinator, Charissa Charpie (charpie_c@4j.lane.edu) to request a permission slip and other documents. The deadline to submit a student's name for testing is Friday, November 22nd. All paperwork must be returned by Wednesday, November 27th.

**Library News**

We have had a great start for the year! The number of books being checked out by our students has increased from last year. Our library is open to students all day!

Thank you for supporting our book fair last spring which is allowing us to purchase the new books. Seeing the excitement on our students' faces when they get to check out a new favorite book is a wonderful thing! EEF has also given the library a grant to help purchase new non-fiction books to add to our collection. If you would like to help add to our library, I have created a wish list on Amazon. Our wish list represents requests from our students, staff, and myself. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/31OXPUC54AP50?ref_=wl_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/31OXPUC54AP50?ref_=wl_share)

Oregon Battle of the Books update: Our kids are reading, reading, and reading. A big thank you goes out our PTO who purchased study questions for us. Students will be collecting beads on necklaces to show how many books they have read. Teams will be decorating posters with their team names and also completing book reports and other fun projects to help with book studies.

As you complete our district survey regarding our new SSA funds, I am asking for encouraging words for school libraries. Many of our elementary libraries are only open for a short time during the day. Quite a few of our libraries are not district staffed and are dependant solely on volunteers. Wouldn’t it be amazing if every elementary school could enjoy what Howard offers?

Thanks so much for all of your support - Mrs. Hopkins

**PTO Corner**

**First Annual Howard Elementary Soup Contest — Nov. 6**

Parents make delicious soups, and teachers decide which one’s the best! This is an opportunity to feed our teachers during conferences and showcase your culinary skills. **The best soup chef will win a $30 B.J.’s Restaurant gift card. [Sign up now](#).**

**November PTO meeting—Nov. 12**

New in November: **Food and a prize drawing at PTO meetings**! Each meeting you attend, your family will be entered in a drawing for **DISNEY TICKETS** at the end of the year! At this meeting we’ll talk about what’s coming up next and unveil our final Tech Trot fundraising total. Mr. Chinn will also be there to give an update about what’s happening at Howard and answer any questions. All are welcome, including kids! Smaller kids can stay in the meeting with quiet activities, while older kids can play in the gym. If you let us know ahead of time that you’ll be coming and you’d like childcare, we can arrange that.

**November restaurant fundraiser: Mod Pizza, Nov. 14 (all day)**

When you purchase your meal mention Howard Elementary and receive 20% of your meal’s price donated back to Howard Elementary PTO! [Let the restaurant know you're coming](#).

**T-shirt update**

We are working with sponsors to have Howard Elementary t-shirts made for students! If you know of a business that would like to be a sponsor and have their logo appear on the t-shirts, please email [howardelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:howardelementarypto@gmail.com).

In the meantime, you can fill out this form to let us know what size of t-shirt your child will need. T-shirts will be free for students, and there is an option to buy t-shirts for family members.

**Tech Trot**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Tech Trot! The students had such a great time running around the track in their superhero capes. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who braved the cold, the awesome Howard staff, the superheroes from Poolie’s Angels who came to cheer the kids on, and Organically Grown Company for fruit!

**Students Explore Glass Fusing with Professional Artist**

This month, Howard students will participate in an ArtSpark residency with Lane Arts Council Teaching Artist Rachell Jarvis to create a fused glass piece made from clear, colored and accessory glass that can be taken home or kept in the classroom.
The Rotary Club of Eugene, Lane Arts Council, Eugene Education Foundation, Eugene School District 4J and other community sponsors have raised funds through the annual ArtSpark initiative to ensure that every elementary school in Eugene has at access to two artist residencies each school year.

Lane Arts Council’s artist residency programs provide students with high-quality arts education through professional artists who engage students in projects that align with academic learning objectives. Students will learn about the incredibly diverse material of glass in all its forms and stages. They will fuse pieces of glass together to create a permanent bond and understand its relationship with temperature and ‘stress’. Students will walk away with pieces to take home such as a magnet, necklace and/or small dish.

Research shows that participation in the arts increases student engagement and graduation rates. In addition, students gain important life and career skills such as persistence, innovation, and learning from mistakes. For more information about the ArtSpark initiative, including ways you can help ignite opportunities for kids to make art at school, visit http://www.artsparkeugene.org/, and to learn more about Lane Arts Council’s teaching artists and other arts education programs, visit http://lanearts.org/artist-residencies/.

**Parent Involvement Policy – Fall, 2019**

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 school newsletter, 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, the Annual Title 1 Meeting at Open House, Oregon State Assessment Profiles, Student Progress Reports, and Family Literacy Night.
4. Through parent teacher conferences and ongoing communication, parents are assisted in understanding the assessments and how to monitor and work with their child to improve their child’s achievement and success at school.
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 September of 2019 and will be annually reviewed by the Site Council each year.

**Wednesday, November 6th – 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 6th 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.
Upcoming Events

11/03 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
11/6 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 8:00
11/7 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00 – 8:00- NO SCHOOL
11/8 - Teacher Comp Day – NO SCHOOL
11/11 – Veterans’ Day – No School
11/12 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM
11/13 - Picture Retakes
11/14 – MOD Pizza Fundraiser (Coburg Rd)
11/15 – Fun Friday – Sports Day
11/28 – Thanksgiving
11/29– No School – Holiday
12/07 – PTO Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 – 4:00
12/10 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
12/20 – Fun Friday – Pajama Day
12/23 – First Day of Winter Break
1/06 – NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day
1/07 – Students Return to School
Native American Boarding schools
- The historical trauma impacts on contemporary Native American education-

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW & PANEL DISCUSSION

THURSDAY, November 7th
Eugene SD 4J District Office - Auditorium
200 North Monroe Street., Eugene 97402

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m. | Presentation at 5:40 p.m.
Spanish translation provided via headsets system.

FREE EVENT!

Presented by: Eugene School District 4J | Office of Equity, Instruction & Partnerships | equityevents@4j.lane.edu
COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
6:00 PM-8:00 PM
CESAR CHAVEZ ELEMENTARY
(1510 W 14TH AVE, EUGENE, OR 97402)

EVENT IN SPANISH!
FREE EVENT!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMUNITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU!

- DELICIOUS FOOD
- FREE CHILDCARE
- RAFFLE PRIZES
- INFORMATIONAL TABLING
- 25+ COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Event moderator: Alex Reyna

PAST PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

For more information, please contact Beatriz Hernandez at 541-682-5048 or brhernandez@eugene-or.gov