

September, 2011



Howard Elementary

An Apple Distinguished School

Volume 3 Issue 1

www.howardelementary.org

"We seek to maintain a spirit of joy in learning, cooperation in doing, and optimism for success and the future. Our goal is to have every student exceed state standards in all academic areas."

Principally Speaking.....by Suzanne Price

Welcome back to school! As you know, setting the stage for a successful year is important. The start of a new school year is a good time to re-establish routines and set the tone for a positive and productive year. Here are some practical ideas for parents from *Parents Make the Difference* at *The Parent Institute*.

Review safety lessons, like how to walk/ride to school safely or ride the bus; classroom and school rules for respectful behavior;

Set the scene for homework. Match the environment to your child's work style. Some children need quiet. Others are helped by a little sound, like instrumental background music;

Start your morning at night. Help your child choose the day's clothes. Pack lunch. Gather homework and sign school papers. Line up breakfast;

Establish bedtime and homework routines. Pick a time that your child will do homework and go to bed. Then stick to it;

Don't over schedule your child. Give him/her time to unwind after school, especially during the first few weeks of adjusting. Make sure s/he has free time to just play every day;

Meet your child's teacher. Ask how can you help both the teacher and your child?

Teach respect by showing respect. Say "please" and "thank you" to your child.

Be genuinely interested in your child's schoolwork. Ask about school every day. Ask him/her to teach you what s/he's learning.

Say at least one positive thing to your child each day;

Insist your child try hard to be a good student. If school is important to you, it will be important to him/her.

Road Runner News



HOWARD ELEMENTARY MAKES AYP!!

Adequate Yearly Progress ~ What is It? Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, is a measurement defined by the United States federal No Child Left Behind Act that allows the U.S. Department of Education to determine how every public school and school district in the country is performing academically according to results on standardized tests. In Oregon, this test is called the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS), given to every 3rd-8th, and 11th grade, student. Each year, the state issues School Report Cards that reflect how well a school is performing in meeting academic standards.

During the 2010-2011 school year two changes converged, resulting in fewer schools meeting AYP. The first change was the increase in the AYP targets from 59% in math and 60% in reading in 2009-10 to 70% in both subjects this past year. This means that 70% of our students must meet standards, in both reading and math, to make AYP. Under No Child Left Behind, the expectation is that ALL students meet standards (...pass OAKS) by 2014. The second change was a seven-point increase in math achievement standards, which went into effect this past school year. This meant that students needed to score seven points higher, on their OAKS math assessment, in order to meet state standards.

We are please to share that Howard has, once again, MADE ADEQUATELY YEARLY PROGRESS for both math and reading.

Below are some AYP Resources and Links you might find interesting and/or helpful. **AYP Resources and Links:**

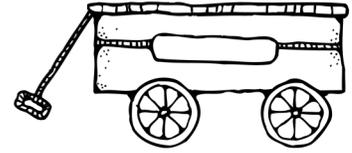
- For an audio clip of Superintendent Castillo, go to:
<http://video.orvsd.org/ode/AYP-2011.MP3>
- For an FAQ on AYP and Schools in Improvement, go to:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/priorities/2010-11-adequate-yearly-progress-faq.pdf>
- For AYP reports on districts and schools, go to:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx>
- For the preliminary list of 2011-12 Title I Schools in Improvement, go to:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1942>
- For more information on AYP, go to:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=1193>

HOORAY ~ FREE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ALL YEAR!!!

Our school has been selected to participate in the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program* (FFVP) during the 2011-12 school year. The program is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthy snack options and provides children in participating schools a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school year.

The program works by providing selected schools reimbursement for the cost of preparing fresh fruits and vegetables and having them available to all. A few things to note about the FFVP:

- These fresh fruits and vegetables are provided separately from lunch and breakfast program.
- They are prepared on site and delivered to each classroom daily.
- They are available to all the children who attend your school and are not intended for community residents or adults who are attending school functions.



Goals of this program are to help create healthier school environments, expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption, and make a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health. Some nutrition education and classroom activity may be incorporated at the teacher's discretion to help students learn about the new kinds of produce that they are trying and the importance of eating a variety of fruits and vegetables every day.

Variety is the key to success and a main goal of the program. Students will be offered anything from grapes to red bananas to parsnip sticks throughout the year. Be sure to encourage your student(s) to try the day's selection and ask them what new produce they were offered each week! For more information please contact Nicole Zammit, RD at nzammit@4j.lane.edu

HOWARD FAMILY/STUDENT HANDBOOK!!



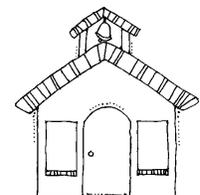
To further assist families in ensuring a successful school year by learning more about at Howard Elementary School, you are encouraged to visit our website at www.howardelementary.org. Here you will find a great deal of helpful information, staff contact information, and our **Family Handbook**, which contains a comprehensive review of our practices and procedures. As always, please free to contact me with questions, concerns, or praise.

CURRICULUM NIGHT ~ Mark your Calendars!

You can look forward to Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 29 from 6:30-7:45. The format is designed for parents to attend teacher presentations to learn about curriculum, classroom routines and expectations, and become acquainted with staff members. So that your full attention can be focused on the information provided, this evening is for adults only. **Childcare will be provided**. More information will be sent home in the weeks ahead.

HOURS OF SUPERVISION

School hours are from 7:55-2:05 (1st-5th) and 7:55-12:05 (KG). Supervision is provided from 7:30-7:55, in the cafeteria. Students arriving during this time should report to the cafeteria. Students arriving after 7:55 should check in to the office before going to class. School begins at 7:55.



ART for Both You and Your Child!!



Young Rembrandts would like to invite you to a free parent-child drawing class on October 5th. We're a local art program with a passion for helping students develop the fundamental skills of visual arts that will serve them in every aspect of their lives. This free class will give parents and students an opportunity to have fun drawing together, as well as learn about why drawing and the Young Rembrandts technique are so important to learning and development. Please see the attached flier for details about enrollment- we hope to see you there!

TECHNOLOGY USAGE & FEE

At Howard Elementary, technology is used to support learning and to enhance instruction. It is a general policy that all technology is to be used in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner. At Howard, all students have access to a laptop. In addition, each student in grades 1-5, is issued a laptop for use in the classroom and, on occasion, at home. Prior to laptop usage, students are required to review laptop expectations including the treatment of the equipment and the proper usage of the laptop. Laptops are issued for educational purposes, only. Each student is expected to sign a *Howard Technology Contract* in order to use the technology available at our school. In order for students to take laptops home, parents are required to attend training (every other year), sign a technology contract, and pay a \$30 supply fee. If paying in increments is most convenient for your family, this is an option. Please understand, however, that until the full fee is paid, students will need to keep their laptops at school. Please contact the school office if paying the fee presents a hardship for your family.



**PARENT TRAININGS for laptop use are Sept. 14 @ 1:30, 8:30 on 9/22, and 6:00 on 9/29.
Translations are available at all the trainings. More to come...**

ATTENTION VISITORS

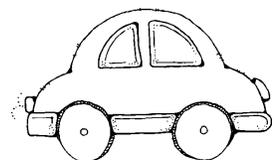


As a safety precaution, we require that all visitors/volunteers start their visit in the office. Please sign in and receive a visitor's badge so that staff members and students know you are a "safe" visitor. If you do not have a badge, don't be surprised if a staff member asks you to please stop by the office to check in. Equally important is that you sign out in the office when your visit is complete. By doing so, we know who is in the building in the event of an emergency. Thank you, in advance, for honoring this important safety procedure.

On a related note, **community members often use Howard's track/field** for exercise and to walk their dogs. For safety reasons, pets should be kept on leashes if Howard's facility is used during school hours or school-sponsored events. Sharing this important information with neighbors would be much appreciated.

STUDENT PICK UP

Please remember when picking up your child from school that you need to park your car in the designated areas. For safety reasons, Do NOT block or park your vehicles in the bus lanes or bike paths, or behind other marked parking spaces. These areas must be kept



clear so that children can safely navigate to busses and cares. And remember, disabled parking spaces are for individuals with permits, only. Finally, so that a driver's full attention is on student safety, we would ask for your cooperation in keeping arrival/dismissal times a CELL FREE time.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – If there is a change in your child's regular PM "pick up" routine, a written note is required.



MEDICATIONS

We do not dispense medications of any type (prescription, cough medicine, aspirin, etc.) without a parent's signature. In the interest of efficiency, physician's signatures are not required when PRESCRIPTION medications are brought to school IN THE PRESCRIPTION CONTAINER with directions and a current date. The written instructions on the container must correspond with the instructions parents give the school. We will still need to have a MEDICATION FORM filled out by the parent to retain on file for the school year. If there is a change in the directions then you will need to get that change in writing, from the physician, or ask your pharmacist to make up a new container reflecting the updated directions. We will not accept any medication brought to the school in baggies or any container other than the original prescription bottle. CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY MEDICATION TO SCHOOL WITH THEM. PARENTS MUST BRING ANY MEDICATION (EVEN OVER THE COUNTER MEDS) TO THE OFFICE.

BREAKFAST REMINDER ~ Note new breakfast time of 7:30!

Breakfast is served daily from 7:30 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. and is FREE to all students. It is VERY important that your child gets a good breakfast in order to have a successful day. If you choose to take advantage of Howard's Breakfast Program, we ask that your child(ren) are in the cafeteria no later than 7:40 a.m. This will ensure that they will be able to arrive in class on time.



SCHOOL TO INFORM PARENTS IF THEIR STUDENT RECEIVES A THREAT

"Oregon law requires schools to inform parents if their son or daughter's name appears on a targeted list (i.e. a "hit list") that threatens violence or harm from another student." We will be using the following procedure to inform you if your student either receives or makes a serious threat of violence or harm.

If your son or daughter's name appears on a list threatening violence or harm by another student, we will attempt to meet with you personally, or talk by telephone, within 12 hours of learning about the threat. We will tell you about the threat, who made it (if we know) , and the action we are taking to respond to it. We will also send you a notice within 24 hours, stating that your son or daughter received a threat. Our number one priority will be to make sure that school is safe for your children.

If your son or daughter made the threat, we will let you know that he or she made it and the action we are taking, including informing the parents of the student who received the threat that your student made. We are also required by the district's "Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook" to inform the police.

DISTRICT NOTIFICATION REGARDING Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment, Discrimination, Hazing and Retaliation

Eugene School District 4J has policies and programs to prohibit and prevent bullying, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, hazing and retaliation. Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, socioeconomic status, source of income, cultural background, familial status, physical characteristic, or linguistic characteristic of a national origin group, in any instructional program, extracurricular activity, or in the provision of any other service or benefit.

The district encourages students, parents and other patrons to share their concerns with district officials if they believe they or someone else has been the victim of bullying, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, hazing or retaliation. They can be assured that no reprisal or adverse action will occur as a consequence of initiating a complaint. Complaint forms and information about the complaint process are available in all 4J school offices and at the 4J Education Center, 200 North Monroe Street, Eugene, OR 97402. For more information, contact your school principal or the superintendent's office, 541-790-7707.

DO NOT FORGET!

WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL

Please remember that EVERY Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:05; 11:35 for Kindergartners. There is no one available to supervise children after this time. Unfortunately, children left waiting for a ride home spend a very long and uneventful hour sitting in the hall outside of the office. Please make note of this regular early dismissal to avoid a missed pick up of your child.

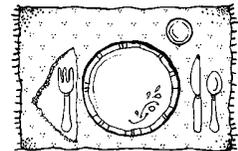
STUDENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

Howard Elementary is able to provide all co-custodial or non-custodial parents a duplicate copy of all district labeled mailings. Please let the school office know if you would like the name of a co-custodial or non-custodial parent added to the student's enrollment information."

FREE REDUCED LUNCHES

This is a reminder that you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch Form for your child/children every school year. **Even if you do not intend to use this service and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in.**

As a Title 1 school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is very important to have every eligible family in the system. If you have not yet applied for this year's meals, please pick up an application in the reception area at the school or check your "Back to School" packet. The deadline to have these forms turned in is October 19.



NEW Meal Prices!

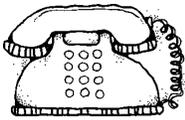
There will be a slight increase in meal prices for both breakfast and lunch. The amended lunch price is \$2.50 (↑ of \$.25). The reduced meal and milk prices will remain the same at \$.40 and \$.50, respectively. Breakfast continues to be FREE for everyone!

CHOCOLATE MILK HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ELEMENTARY LUNCH MENU!

Lunch menus can be found at www.4j.lane.edu/nutrition/menus.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES

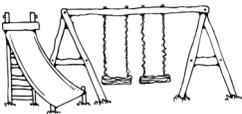
One of the most reliable predictors of school success is regular attendance. Absences for any reason result in lost instruction time. We know that students who fall behind often become discouraged learners. It is our hope that we can work together to encourage your child's regular attendance and success at school. We understand that there are many factors in your lives that make it difficult, at times, for your child to be in school or on time. However, it is important that we work with you to reduce these to an absolute minimum. **Please remember that your child is expected to be in his or her classroom at 7:55 a.m.** The first bell rings at 7:50 a.m. giving your child 5 minutes to hang up their coat, retrieve homework, etc. Class activities start promptly with morning announcements. This morning class time is one of the most important times of the day. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable class time, it is disruptive to his or her classmates.



When your child is going to be late or absent from school, please call the office at 790-4900, before 8:15 a.m. and inform the office staff. You may leave a message on the voice mail, if calling before office hours. Please leave the name of your child, their room number, and the reason for the absence. It is extremely important that this be done, as every child must be accounted for on a daily basis. As a friendly reminder, according to **Oregon Truancy Regulations**, if your student has eight unexcused half-day absences in any four-week period, you will receive a letter from the school notifying you of our attendance concerns. Please understand that if irregular attendance continues, we will be obligated to make a referral to a truant officer for further investigation

RECESS REMINDER

Physical activity and free play is an important part of the school day. All children are expected to participate in recess, unless a doctor's note is provided. Appropriate dress for the weather is strongly encouraged, along with shoes in which your child can run and play.



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. We will be happy to deliver messages in an EMERGENCY situation, but if at all possible please make sure that your child(ren) knows who will pick them up, if they should walk home, or ride the bus before they leave for school.



ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS! Are you interested in volunteering at Howard? Are you an active volunteer but have no idea how to operate the machines often used by teachers? If so, this is the workshop for you! To help accommodate busy schedules, the workshop will be offered on two different dates and will cover the following:

- Copy machine
- Die cuts
- Laptops (logging in, etc.)

- Book binding
- Emergency procedures
- Working with small groups of students
- What to do if you encounter a difficult situation with a child

WORKSHOP DATES/TIMES: October 4 @ 1:30 PM & October 5 @ 9:00AM. After signing in at the office, please meet in room 12.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

In the spirit of conservation, and in the age of technology, Howard Elementary publishes an electronically mailed newsletter the first Friday of every month. So, **it is important that we have your most current email address (it can even be a work address)**. If you haven't given us your email address, and you would like a copy of our school newsletter, please do so right away by simply calling the front office at 790-4900. This email will be placed on a newsletter list serve. For those families who do not have access to the Internet, we will still be printing a few hard copies so that everyone can stay informed.



FAMILY RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Alicia Longoria is the 4J Family Resource Coordinator and she will be working with the families and staff at Howard Elementary. As the Family Resource Coordinator, she will be at the Howard **every Thursday from 8:20-3:00pm**. Services provided by the Family Resource Coordinator will include family activity nights, parent education, open library, referral to community resources, and translation. If you have any questions please call me at 790-4900, or stop by and visit, I'll be located in the front office.

Parent Notification- General Newsletter Announcement of Reading & Math Services:

Every fall, winter and spring Eugene 4j School District administers reading and math assessments to each of our students. If a student scores below the 20th percentile she/he may be recommended by the building team to receive instructional interventions in reading and/or math with their progress monitored. At our school, all students receive 90 minutes of reading instruction and 70 minutes of math instruction each day. If your child will be receiving additional reading or math instruction, his or her classroom teacher or the title I coordinator will notify you.

What is Site Council?

The School Site Council assists in the development, guidance and monitoring of our School Improvement Plan. This plan serves as a guide for refinement and improvement of the educational program at our school. The Council is comprised of parents and school staff. Council members are elected for a two-year term and meet monthly. Meetings are scheduled on the following afternoons from 2:30-3:30: 9/27/11, 10/25, 11/29, 1/24/12, 2/28, 3/27, 4/24, and 5/22 (sorry, childcare is not provided). Additional meetings may be added, depending on need. The public is invited to attend all School

Site Council meetings. Agenda and meeting minutes are posted in the school office. The Council provides valuable input to the staff regarding Howard's programs and activities. Please join us!

MEMBERSHIP: While we have two parent nominations for membership, the opportunity to nominate yourself (or someone else) to be a part of Site Council is still available. Forms can be found in the front office and are due no later than October 6, 2011. Site Council members will be elected during the October 18 PTO meeting.

PTO CORNER

PTO contact email address: howardelementarypto@gmail.com

PTO Phone#: (541) 933-5336.

Here's what PTO has up their sleeves this year:

Our COOKIE DOUGH fundraiser starts September 19 and ends October 3. We will also have several Papa's Pizza nights, a Scholastic Book Fair, a School Carnival, and more! Please stop by our *PTO Corner* bulletin board, in the main hallway, for dates and lists of all our activities. Also, please fill out our *Volunteer Signup* sheet; we need you!

PTO Monthly meetings are at 6pm in the Library and FREE childcare is provided. Our meeting dates are:

September 20, October 18, November 15, January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17 and May 15

Dates to Remember

September

12-13	Easy CBM math fall benchmark testing
14	Parent laptop training (1:30-2)
19	Cookie dough sale begins
19-23	Easy CBM reading testing
20	PTO meeting (6-7)
21	Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
22	Parent laptop training w/translator (8:30-9)
27	Site council (2:30)
28	Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
29	Parent laptop training (6-6:30 pm) Curriculum night/Latino information night (6:30-7:45); more info. coming!
30	Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price

October

4	Volunteer training (1:30-2)
5	Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05) Parent/student Young Rembrandts class (6:30-7:30)
7	NO SCHOOL: Howard Professional Development
12	Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)
14	NO SCHOOL; Statewide Inservice Day
18	Parent laptop training (2:30-3) PTO meeting (6-7)
19	Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05)

20	Parent strategies training (6-7)
21	School pictures
25	Site council (2:30)
26	Early dismissal (11:35 KG/1:05) Cookie dough delivery
28	Birthday lunches w/Mrs. Price
31	Halloween parties and parade