



Howard Happenings

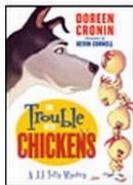
February 2015

www.howardelementary.org

School Choice for the 2015-16 School Year

There is still time to 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. We're also just a year away from opening a brand new building! With School Choice coming soon, please invite friends and acquaintances to visit Howard and seriously consider joining the Howard family. And if you have any friends or neighbors living in the Bethel School District, be sure to let them know that they too can now apply to attend Howard, even if they live outside of our school district. Tours will be available any time during the week of February 24 – 28.

Families in 4J have a choice of schools. 4J's school choice policy means that families may send their children to any school in the district provided there is a place available. School choice request forms are available online at 4j.lane.edu and will be accepted until Friday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. Families that reside outside of 4j boundaries will be able to apply online beginning on March 2 and will be accepted until Wednesday, April 1. If you need assistance or computer access, please call Lisa Hollingsworth at 541-790-7553.



All School Reading Activity

It is time for our annual school wide reading program. This year the students and staff will be reading The Trouble with Chickens, by Doreen Cronin which is also on this Year's OBOB list.

J.J. Tully is a former search and rescue dog who is trying to enjoy his retirement after years of performing daring missions to save lives. He is not excited when 2 chicks and their mother show up demanding that he help them find their missing siblings. The chickens promise him a Cheeseburger if he will help and J.J. Tully is soon back on the job.

This is a humorous book that seems to be a favorite of all ages. As we have done in the past, thought provoking questions will be asked during some morning announcements to promote class discussions about the story and various situations that arise. Classrooms may be displaying or presenting work tied to this story at our Family Reading Night in March.

New Bi-Lingual Office Assistant

We are pleased to let you know that we have hired Bianca Fandino as our new bi-lingual office assistant. She will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 – 2:30 to help our Spanish speaking families with any communication needs that they may have with the office, their students' teachers, or other staff members here at the school. She can be reached at 541-790-4900 or by email at fandino_b@4j.lane.edu. Please help us welcome her to Howard!

O.B.O.B. Happenings

Oregon Battle of the Books 2015 has started! This state wide reading program for students in the 3-12th grade is a wonderful way for kids to discover the joy of reading and discussing books with their friends. Teams are assembling, students are racing to read and study their books. Games will officially begin the week of **February 2**. The games are being held in the library Monday the 2nd, Friday the 6th, and Monday the 9th from 12:30 - 2:00 and Thursday the 12th from 10:40 -11:40. Our final game and awards ceremony assembly will be held in our gym, **February 18th**. Our top team will go to regional playoffs on **March 14th** at Thurston High School in Springfield. Wish us luck!

Coordinator/Coach: Julie Hopkins, Library Assist.
hopkins_j@4j.lane.edu



New School Construction Updates

Construction of the new Howard Elementary School is well underway. The new building is scheduled to open next school year over spring break, which means we will be moving into the new school in just over a year from now. One fun new addition to the design is a slide from the second floor down into the library, which we know students are going to love! If you'd like to hear more updates, come to our monthly PTO Meeting and/or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/4jhoward>), Twitter (@howardschool) and Instagram (4jhoward).

Parking & Construction Zone

We have lost many of our parking spaces in the east gravel parking lot due to construction, but we did clear it with Todd Construction for families to park along the fence during afternoon student pick-up. We realize pick-up has been difficult with fewer parking spaces and Todd Construction has agreed to limit activity around the site entrance during our dismissal time

Exclusion Day is Coming!!!

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 is immunization exclusion day for 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. You will receive a letter if your student is missing immunizations. Please return this letter with the dates of shots that were given. If you have questions about the immunization your student needs, please leave a message for the School Nurse or Health Assistant at school. A TDAP booster after age 10 is now required for 7th-12th graders. 2 Hepatitis A shots are needed for K-6th grade students.

Free or Low Cost Medical Clinics

Do you lack health insurance or financial resources to pay for needed shots? Please contact a high school clinic as they are available for immunizations, illness, and well care for all 4J students and their siblings. Always take your child's immunization records to medical appointments. Another option is scheduling an appointment at the immunization clinic at the Lane County Health Department 541-682-4041 or the Lane County Health Clinics.

Churchill Clinic 541-790-5227
North Eugene Clinic 541-790-4445

As of March 1, 2014, if a parent seeks a non-medical exemption from immunizations, a Vaccine Education Certificate from a health care practitioner or a Certificate from the online vaccine education module at <http://www.healthoregon.org/vaccineexemption> must be completed and turned in to the school together with the Certificate of Immunization.

Questions? Contact Robin Wellwood, RN at 541-221-9850 or e-mail: wellwood@4j.lane.edu

Howard PTO Events

PTO is beginning to plan our annual end of the year carnival and we will need many volunteers to make this event successful. We are also looking at the possibility of hosting a date/craft/movie night this month. In May we will have our famous Penny War and Tech Trot.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 17 in the library. Child care will be provided in the gym. Everyone attending will be entered into our monthly door prize drawing. Our November winner was Linda Kirk and our December winner was Jenny Groshong. Linda won a gift card from Global Delights Coffee Kiosk and Jenny received a 10 punch swim pass from River Road Park and Recreation District. If you are new to the school or would like to become involved with PTO, now is the time!

For current information and events like our Facebook page!
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Howard-PTO/459235684217267>

Wednesday Early Dismissal

It is extremely important to remember that every Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:05; 11:35 for kindergarteners. No one is available to supervise children after this time. Office staff and teachers frequently have meetings or other obligations that they are required to attend to. If you are unable to be on time please call one of your child's contacts for assistance with pick up.



Perfume Precautions

Howard's school community has staff and students who are very sensitive to fragrances. Several of these people may have life threatening responses. Please do not wear heavily fragranced perfumes, hair sprays, gels, body sprays, etc. to school. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.



Do You Have New Contact Information?

If you or any of your emergency contacts have recently changed numbers, addresses, or email accounts, please make sure you have notified the school office. It is extremely important that this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or child becomes ill at school.

Please Keep Sick Children at Home

When children are sick, they need to stay home. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send him/her to school:

Fever of 100 degrees or more. Children should stay home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

Vomiting or severe diarrhea. Children should stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours.

Severe cold. A little snuffle is not a reason to stay home, but a severe cold or influenza is.

Severe sore throat, ear ache, head ache, or persistent cough.

If your child has a communicable disease, he/she should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps and whooping cough (pertussis). Please call the school and let them know if your child should contract any of these diseases.

Flu Vaccines – Not Too Late

Influenza typically continues through April. It isn't too late to benefit from Seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines. There is a "Flu Vaccine Locator" button on the website www.flu.gov that has information on clinics, also you may check with the Public Health Department at 541-682-4041. We encourage all children to be vaccinated.

Future Happenings

1/30 – No School, Professional Development Day
2/4 – Wacky Wednesday – Movie/Book Character Day
2/16 – Presidents Day, No School
2/17 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
2/23 – 2/27 School Visitation Week
3/4 - Wacky Wednesday – Crazy Socks Day
3/10 – 3/12 Book Fair
3/13 – No School – Furlough Day
3/17 – PTO Meeting
3/23 – 3/27 - Spring Break