Late Breaking News, October 30, 2009

Celebramos Dia de los Muertos!

Dress festively and come enjoy our annual DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION, on Saturday, November 7, from 5-8 pm. The Latin American holiday is marked by festivities and joyous remembrances in honoring the dead. Our festival, which takes place in the cafeteria, begins with a social hour and Latin-inspired potluck, followed by performances and art by the children. There will be a Remembrance Table, children's crafts and a Remembrance tree where special messages can be written to honor a deceased loved one. Both hot and cold beverages, as well as Mexican wedding cookies, will be for sale.

Many special activities in the classes are preparing the children for the celebration. Some will be visiting Maude Kerns Art Center to see their annual Dia de los Muertos exhibit. All classes are learning about the meaning of the holiday, and some classrooms have a Remembrance Table. They are also baking a special pan de muerto, making paper flowers, decorating candles, making clay skulls, and cutting papel picado. These special activities require helping hands. Please check with your child's teacher to see how you can help with these projects.

Our Village School Latin Potluck will feature main dishes and salads to share. Please attach ingredient labels to serving dishes as these are always appreciated by all! Por favor, bring your own dishes and silverware. As beverages and wedding cookies are available for sale, please bring only salads or main dishes. Que delicioso!

Por favor, bring fruit, gourds, bamboo, grapevines, pumpkins, Indian corn, cornstalks, and flowers in orange, yellow and red to decorate the Remembrance Table. Please leave these items outside of the cafeteria on Thursday, November 5. Any photographs or objects of a loved one that you wish to place on the Remembrance Table needs to be labeled with your name so that it can be returned to you. (It is a good idea to make photo copies of the photographs instead of using the originals.)

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed! Mexican Wedding Cookie bakers and festival clean-up help are especially needed! Sign-ups are located outside of the office and classrooms. Muchas gracias!!

The last day to order your beautiful limited edition, 10 year anniversary t-shirt will be 11/10. ORDER YOURS TODAY! We will not do another order later! The shirts are on display in the office if you want to see what they look like.

Photo retakes instructions: if you haven't returned your first package, interstate will not mail out your retakes. You can send your package to Interstate Studios, 11910 NE Sumner, Portland, OR 97220. If you have questions about the process or want to see the proofs first, you need to contact them directly at 1-800-952-6450.

H1N1 is going around still. If your child is sick, please keep them home until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours...

Whooping Cough has been confirmed in a sibling of students in grades 2 and 6. Please let the office know if your child is sick with this or other illnesses.

Head Lice in a 2nd grader, please check your children carefully!

The City of Eugene has developed a new leaf-program web site that will make it easier for cyclists to report problems with leaves in bike lanes and also to know which bike routes recently have been swept. To use the new online service, go to www.eugene-or.gov/leaf. To report problems with leaves in bike lanes, go to the tab or button marked "bike lane service request" and fill out the easy-to-use, map-based form. The information is fed into the Public Works maintenance management system so crews can quickly evaluate and respond to problems. The tab marked "priority bike lane cleaning history" shows

where priority bike lanes have been cleaned in the past several days.

The 2009-2010 Village School Yellow Pages and Family Directory are in the family mailboxes. The directory only goes to families, but the Yellow Pages are also on the website, check it out!

Title 1 program

Every fall, winter and spring Eugene 4j School District administers a reading and math test to each of our students. We now have the results from the fall tests, so if you are interested in seeing those, please talk to your child's teacher. If a student scores below the 30th or 20th percentile she/he may be recommended by the building team to receive instructional interventions in reading and/or math with their progress monitored. If your child will be receiving additional reading or math instruction, the Title I coordinator will notify you.

District Assessment Results

The Results of the fall District assessments in reading and math are available. Teachers have likely shared this data with you during recent teacher/parent conferences. If you are not aware of how your child did on this round of assessments, ask your teacher(s) for this information.

Playground Supervision Issue

Last week, we ran the School's playground supervision procedures in the Village Voice for your information. There is mention in the procedures of a ratio of one supervising adult to every 20 children as required for optimum safety. It was pointed out that such a ratio is simply not possible given the level of staffing here at the school. As things stand, there is one teacher for every 25 students during any recess. Here is a great volunteer opportunity. We welcome parents to our playgrounds, especially during the lunch recess which lasts about 30 minutes. Grades 1 – 4 are out for lunch recess at 12:15 to 12:45. Grades 5 – 8 have recess between 12:45 and 1:15. Please contact Ashleigh Baumgartner in the school office for more information. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

After School Pick-up

Over the past month, there have been several complaints about unsafe drivers near our crosswalk. Please take an extra minute to gain eye contact with our students crossing the street. We need your vigilance to ensure the safety of our students.

After School Behavior

Lately there has been a lot of unsafe play outside the school offices at the end of the school day. Children are not allowed to climb on the railings, hang from the top railing on the wheel chair ramps, or slide down the banisters. Please – all parents, help us prevent these unsafe behaviors by reminding your children that they are against school rules. Again, this would be a time of day when a parent volunteer supervisor would be a huge boon to the school. Please contact Ashleigh Baumgartner in the school office if you would like to spend 15 minutes between 2:45 and 3 PM, supervising the flow of children from the school.

CAR POOL ANYONE? A Village School student who commutes from Cottage Grove is looking for a ride in every morning and a ride home after school. If you commute from Cottage Grove or know someone who does, please contact Ashleigh Baumgartner in the school office.

Also, a Ridgeline Montessori family is wondering if anyone is interested in carpooling. They live near Hi-way 99 and Roosevelt in the Bethel/Whitaker area. Please call Dahrmika at 870-0680 if you can help this family.

And finally, have a happy and safe Halloween!