

# The Village Voice

Celebrating our 10th year!

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March 5, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 12

## Calendar Events

### March 2010

- 9 Tues—Jill Schwimmer in the Cafeteria; 7 PM
- 10 Wed—Grade 1 Parent Meeting; 6-7:30 PM
- 10 Wed—8th Grade Play; 7 PM
- 11 Thurs— 8th Grade Play; 1:15 PM
- 12 Fri—No School; Teacher Work Day
- 16 Tues—Enrollment Lottery for the 2010-2011 School Year
- 16 Tues—VS Board of Directors; 5:30 PM
- 17 Wed—Grade 6 Parent Meeting; TBD
- 18 Thurs—8th Grade Play at Cosmic Pizza; 7-9 PM
- 22 Mon— Spring Break begins

### April 2010

- 6 Tues—School resumes
- 16 Fri—No School; Teacher Work Day
- 22 Thurs—6th Grade Play; TBD
- 23 Fri—6th Grade Play; TBD
- 30 Fri—May Day Festival

### May 2010

- 4 Tues—All School Panoramic Photo; 10:15 AM
- 5 Wed—3rd Grade Play; 10:20 AM
- 6 Thurs—3rd Grade Play; 6 PM
- 8 Sat—Site Clean Up (Grades 6, 7, 8)

## Caught Doing Good!



Iain in Grade 6 always remembers to take down the flag! Thank you, Iain!



The 2nd grade class worked quietly in Handwork and did an overall fantastic job! Thanks!

## Thank you



7th graders Addie, Morgan, and Emma for their entrepreneurial skills and donating part of their proceeds to our school during the Heart of the Village Celebration.



Everyone who helped set up the computer lab in the eighth grade! Thanks for helping move the tables from the storage unit and making the computer lab a more efficient space.

## Helping Struggling Readers Become Successful Readers

Well-known reading specialist, **Jill Schwimmer** will be presenting to parents and teachers of Village School, Ridgeline Montessori School, and the Eugene Waldorf School on **Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** in our cafeteria. Jill's talk is an overview of "...the why (theory), the what (method), and how (application) to nurture successful readers."

Learn how to help children in grades three and up become great readers by using an appropriate mix of vocabulary, visual cues, their knowledge of the world, and language structure.

Jill's presentation will begin at **7 PM**,

Donations for this event will be appreciated.

**Oregon Department of Education** requires all charter schools to participate in this annual survey. This survey is used to collect information that is reported to the USDE. The information reported is combined to reflect all charter schools in the state, not individual schools.

Each charter school can access the school level results – and many charter schools use this information as part of their annual report to the sponsoring school district and board and for renewal data.

There are three parts to the survey – a staff survey, a parent survey and a student survey. No log in is needed and the survey is online. It is located at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/surveys/default.aspx>

The survey will remain open until June 15, 2010 in order to facilitate your schedules. Please notify the office after your family has completed the survey -Tel: (541) 345-7285, Fax: (541) 242-6874, Email:

[village@4j.lane.edu](mailto:village@4j.lane.edu). It will remain anonymous, but we would like to track that each family is completing it. We would like to demonstrate a high percentage of participation and, as always, we value your feedback. If you are unable to access the Internet, pencil and paper copies are available in the School office. Please stop by and complete the survey and a volunteer will input the data on to the website.

# Letter from the Administrator

March 5, 2010

Dear Village School Parents:

*The Village School exists so that children engage their heads, hearts, and hands to learn in a holistic environment at a cost comparable to other public schools that is made possible only through the investment of time and personal energy by each member of the Village School community.*

So states the opening lines of the Village School Ends Statement adopted by the school's Board of Directors in 2008. The teachers and staff are inspired by and daily dedicate themselves to meet these standards.

Many of you are likely aware of the challenges to our budget that are the result of changes in the national economy. Because of the turbulent financial times and in order to balance our budget, we made several difficult decisions concerning our budget for the current school year.

- We cut the per student dollars (\$35/student) that help to defray costs for field trips.
- We reduced the funding available for teacher professional development by 50%.
- We reduced the budget for student supplies by 5 %.
- Teachers and administrative staff went without increases to salaries this year.

By making these adjustments, we arrived at a balanced budget, albeit less than optimal. While we cannot ignore the sacrifices being made by teachers and staff members, the loss of field trip funding is an area that directly impacts the children. The loss of this funding will mean that either students will not benefit from the learning experiences that take place during curriculum related trips or families will be asked to subsidize the costs of the trips to a greater extent than ever before. Here is where your generosity can have a direct and positive impact on your children's educational experience.

Help us "Bridge the Gap." We are seeking to raise \$10,000, approximately \$6500 of which will go into the field trip budget. The rest of what our campaign raises will serve to replace funding for school supplies and to purchase desks for a lower grade classroom that has needed them for some time.

An even more important goal for our campaign is to raise community awareness. We are poised on the verge of securing a permanent home for the Village School. As our Board of Directors and Site Committee lead the school toward this huge commitment, it is very important that we can demonstrate that our community – you – stand behind the school in a visible way. We are looking for 100% of your participation in this campaign. No contribution is too small in helping us achieve this very important goal.

Thank you in advance for making a contribution to the 2009 – 2010 Village School "Bridging the Gap" Annual Giving Campaign. Please consider making your gift or pledge before March 19, 2010.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Martha Collins  
Administrator

# Notes from Parent Council

The Parent Council is seeking advice in underwriting for upcoming events. Do you have experience contacting businesses for sponsorships? Have you organized a community event that local businesses helped support? The Parent Council is excited about our upcoming events, but to make these successful, we need your help! We would like to learn from you and would greatly appreciate any advice you can offer!

Please contact Ashleigh in the office or Parent council chair, Heather Cyrus: [cyrus@uoregon.edu](mailto:cyrus@uoregon.edu)

On another note, Parent Council will not be holding a regular scheduled Parent Council Meeting **Tuesday, March 9th**. Instead, we will be hosting guest speaker: **Jill Schwimmer at 7 p.m.**

For anyone that has Parent Council business to discuss, please contact Parent Council Chair, Heather Cyrus at [cyrush18@yahoo.com](mailto:cyrush18@yahoo.com) to place items on next month's agenda. Also, look for updates from Parent Council on the Village School website and on the bulletin board outside the office.

Parent Council is looking for **volunteers** to staff a **small refreshment stand** at Jill Schwimmer's presentation Tuesday, March 9th. This will consist of **30 minute shifts** and free coffee and goodies!

Parent Council is also looking for **baked goodies** (breads, muffins, desserts etc.) to be donated for the event. Please contact Heathir Brown via email [heathirbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:heathirbrown@yahoo.com) if you would like to help. Baked goods can simply be brought the night of the event as well.

Finally, the Village School warmly welcomes two **University of Oregon interns** to our community!

**Tara Gremillion** is a junior, studying Advertising and Communication Studies in the Journalism Program at the U of O. She is from Vancouver, Washington, and has worked for two years as a summer camp group leader planning events and entertaining children from ages 7-11. Tara is also the Social Event Chair for her sorority, Delta Gamma.

**Kevin Kennedy** is a junior studying Public Relations in the school of Journalism with a minor in Business Administration. Kevin worked for Radio Disney in Portland, Oregon, for three years with promotions, DJ work, filming, hosting, and blog writing.

The new interns will be helping the Parent Council and Development Committee with events and fund-raising such as Jill Schwimmer's upcoming presentation. We would like to encourage those of you interested in helping our school with event planning to join the team. Contact Ashleigh in the office at [ash.baum@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:ash.baum@eugenevillageschool.org) to find out how! Tara and Kevin will be doing a large part of their work off Village School campus, but please help us make them feel welcome!

Thank you!

# Announcements

With the rainy season upon us, it is a **good idea to have an extra set of clothing in the building.** Please bring in an extra set of clothing for your child for emergency use.



## Online Resource for our Community

Please check our website for ongoing community opportunities:

<http://eugenevillageschool.org>

## Fundraising

We have a very active fundraising community at the school. We sell **Café Mam Coffee** (order Tuesday, have your coffee Wednesday), **Student Art Greeting Cards** (beautiful Village School artwork for \$1.00), and **Escrip**. Our Group ID is # 9130886.

We also have weekly bake sales and pizza sales for our eighth grade graduation field trip.

Please join us in our fundraising efforts.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate fundraising efforts for the school or being part of a committee, see Ashleigh in the office.

Your **Territorial Seed Company** orders are now in! Come pick up your seeds! Thank you for supporting our school!

## March 13, 2010 Statewide Prescription Drug Turn-In Event

### WHAT TO BRING TO THE COLLECTION?

- Expired or unwanted prescription medications
- Drugs that didn't work for you, a family member, or pet
- Drugs that are no longer used
- Medicine from deceased family members
- Unknown tablets and capsules

\* Leave all medicines in their original containers if possible

\* Please do NOT bring thermometers, needles, or medical waste of any type.

### Drug Take Back Event—March 13, 2010

#### Eugene

Eugene Water and Electric Board

500 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Contact: Nancy Toth, Eugene Water & Electric Board

541-685-7438 [nancy.toth@eweb.org](mailto:nancy.toth@eweb.org)

#### Springfield

Springfield City Hall

225 Fifth St

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Contact: Bill Hamann, City of Springfield, Environmental Services Division

541-726-3693 [bhamann@ci.springfield.or.us](mailto:bhamann@ci.springfield.or.us)

## Village School Volunteers Needed

**Crossing Guards:** Mon-Fri: 8:10-8:30 AM & 2:30- 2:50 PM. Please contact the office to sign up!

**Crosswalk Cones** have been purchased! We need someone to put them into place before school and to bring them into the building after school - if you are willing to do this one day a week, please let Ashleigh know- it would be a HUGE help!!

**New Nurse's Bed** needs to be assembled...please let Ashleigh know if you can help out with this!

### Help Raise Money for the Village School!

Register your debit/credit cards with eScript and a small percentage of your purchases go to the Village School! Registration can be done either online or by mail. Pick up a form outside the office today!

### Don't Forget About Campbell's Soup Labels!

We are collecting soup labels from Campbell's again this year; the container is placed above the family mail boxes.

### Repairs needed for Desk Chairs

We need someone with some extra time to screw on new seats to some of our student desk chairs. We'll supply the screw driver if you can supply the hands and time!

### Playground Helpers Needed

Supervision on the playground during lunch time is needed for both the upper wing and lower wing. This is a great time to get some volunteer hours and you don't have to commit to a certain time or day! If you've got some spare time over the lunch period and would like to help out, let Ashleigh know when works best for you! Lower grades have recess from 12:00 – 12:30 PM and upper wings have recess from 12:45 – 1:15 PM.

### RECYCLING BINS

The large BLUE recycling bins that sit outside the wings entrance doors need to be brought out to the curb each FRIDAY afternoon and returned to their spots MONDAY afternoons...if you take notice of them; please feel free to take them to their designated spots!

### AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

There has been a consistent pattern of unsafe behavior outside the entrance doors after school. When picking up our child(ren), please remind the children that students are not to hang from the hand rails, play tag in front of the doors or stand on the ramp ledges. This reminder is mainly needed from 2:45-3:00 PM.

Don't forget to log your time on your Volunteer Hours Card!

The Village School's student work is on display at the Eugene Library in the children's section!

