

The Village Voice

Celebrating our 10th year!

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Calendar Events

October 2009

- 5 Mon—2nd Grade Parent Mtg
- 7 Wed—Walk & Bike to School Day***
- 8 Thur—3rd Grade Parent Mtg
- 9 Fri—NO SCHOOL—State In-service Day
- 13 Tue—Parent Council, 6:30 All parents invited***
- 15 Thur—3rd grade farm field trip, 8:30-11:30
- 16 Fri—NO SCHOOL—Grading Day
- 19 Mon—NO SCHOOL—Conferences
- 20 Tues—NO SCHOOL—Conferences
- 24 Sat—Site Clean Up, Grades K, 1st and 2nd
- 27 Tue—Photo Retake Day
- 29 Thur—Kinders Trip to Farmer John's

Ongoing Events:

- After School Homework Help—every Wed, 3-4***
- Village Café, 8:30-9:30 EVERY FRIDAY***

***See Article in this *Village Voice*

PAPERWORK DUE ASAP!

Please return all enrollment and back to school paperwork to the office, as well as supply donations and hot lunch payments. Some families have received Forms in their box with their student's name on it to complete. Please return to the office asap.

Student Directory Information—All families will be included in the directory unless they request otherwise by Sept. 30.



The Village School Tweets!

We tweet! Twitter is the new communications phenomenon, and the Village School has joined in on the fun. If you would like to receive tweets from us, follow us at VillageSchool. This is a great way to receive quick reminders of school events, instant news, and important information. All tweets will be timely and relevant, we'll bypass the celebrity gossip and comment about the weather. Hope you join us! Sign up is free and very easy at twitter.com. Tweet You There!

Walk and Bike to School Day!

Beginning Oct. 1, enter into a raffle for great prizes every day that you bike, walk or use public transportation to arrive at school. Find raffle tickets and a raffle jar in the office. Be sure to put your full name on each ticket. One ticket per child, teacher, staff or parent volunteer per day of alternative commuting.

Prizes include a Keen backpack, Nutcase helmet, t-shirts and other goodies. Tickets will be drawn the morning of **Wed. Oct. 7th WALK AND BIKE DAY.**

Ways to Get Involved: Participate in a **Bike Bus**. Stayed tuned for meeting locations where you can meet and ride en mass with other Village Schoolers to school on **Wed. Oct. 7. Park and Stride**. Meet at a central location, leave your car and walk together as a critical mass of walkers to the Village School. Locations to be announced. Arrive at school for fresh fruit snacks, information booths and raffle drawing. **OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Keep your eyes and ears open for more great activities such as sprucing up the bike rack and surrounding area, a Walk and Bike Poster Contest, an action plan with Safe Routes to School for improving safety around our school, commuter safety information, and more!

Why Bike and Walk to School? Kids need 60 minutes of physical activity each day to maintain health. Many Oregon kids simply do not get enough. Walking and biking to school helps them to meet this goal. It can improve strength and endurance, **decrease anxiety and stress**, and help maintain healthy weight. Walking and biking also helps reduce pollution and congestion. It encourages well-maintained routes to school which calms traffic and reduces accidents by increasing driver awareness of the school zone. As well, it improves neighborhood livability. Studies show that more people walking and biking in a neighborhood makes people feel better about their community. It helps make public streets lively and friendly and encourages community interaction.



Parent Council Is Back!

All parents are Parent Council members, and we need you more than ever! Please come to this upcoming meeting, where Parent Council will be given the important task to help decide about the how to use Parent Council funds and the proposal to use it to allocate it to field trips. Last year PC momentum began to build, and this year we want to make it better than ever. And to do that, **WE NEED YOU!** Have interest and ideas? Bring it to the Parent Council. More details to follow, but for now, mark your calendars!



Caught Doing Good!

Sri Priya, Molly, Jake, Alice, Tivon
Big Kid helpers who were so important in helping us watch all of the younger children during the All School Meeting.

Thank You So Much!

Announcements

Come Home to a Beautifully Clean House! As well as making tea each day for the children at school, I also, with joy and great care, clean houses. I have a couple of openings in my schedule for weekly or bi-weekly cleaning. I use all natural cleaners, and have reasonable rates and excellent references. Please call Krishnangini at 687-1093 or 743-3630.

Carpool sign-up is posted outside office.

School Day out at Alvord Farm—Fri. Oct. 16, 9-12:30. Kalapuya Harvest with Matt and Anna of ReWild Eugene. Cost is \$15/child, pre-reg. required, call Karen at 683-8271 or see www.alvordmuseum.org. Carpools leave Village School at 8:45am.

Looking for escrow agent and home inspector—Village School family would like to find people within our community. If you can help them, call right away, 689-5508.

Red Cross Certified babysitter, age 12, available for childcare, \$5/hour. Call 343-7882.

Piano lessons offered—Beginning piano for ages 8-88, call Ann Richer, 844-2101.

Village Voice Submissions must be in the office by 10am Thursday morning before the next bi-weekly issue. Bonus points for emailed submissions (village@4j.lane.edu). Announcements will run for 2 issues in a row unless otherwise arranged. All submissions may be edited for length or content. The VV will be posted on our website every Friday afternoon; paper copies available in the office by request.

Upcoming Events

Ophelia's Place 1577 Pearl St, 284-4333, www.opheliasplace.net is a drop-in resource center for girls 10-18. It is our goal to empower young women to make healthy, informed decisions. We offer support groups, a positive environment, resources, information, and a listening ear. Drop-in hours Mon-Fri, 3-6. Workshops include: Making Money, Keeping Money!; Self-Defense!; Nourish Yourself Workshop Series; Holiday Spa Day; and Bike Maintenance Workshop.

Elemental Play Clay Classes: Visit www.erikaselementalplay.com for complete listing, here's a sampling of the fall classes: Parent Child Hand-building; Wheel Throwing; "Explore Yourself Through Art" for kids; Craft Sampler; Holiday Gift Workshop; and more!

8th grade end of year trip fundraising—Bake sale every Monday, Cozmic Pizza sale every Wednesday after school. Call Karen (510-9521) or email her austink@peak.org with questions or offerings.



FYI & Other Tidbits

Communication from the school: Check your mailbox regularly, and if your student has 2 households, let us know so we can put duplicates of important forms in your box. Village Voice and Late Breaking News Newsletters will be e-mailed out weekly. If you are not receiving these emails, let the office know. As well, they will be posted on-line.

Whooping Cough—FYI: there is a confirmed case in one of the Ridgeline classrooms upstairs. Please let us know if your child has symptoms.

District Assessment tests in Reading and Math are happening now through Oct. 2nd.

Interested in extended Kindergarten? Pick up enrollment forms in the office.

You can help our school win \$20,000—Vote for our school: it's quick, fun and it can make a difference! The [America's Favorite School](#) contest is a simple way to rally around our school. If you're a parent, then this is your chance to brag about your school and help your school win money! If you're a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or community member, here's a really easy way to pitch in to support a school. **Here's how it works:** Go to www.AmericasFavoriteSchool.com and vote for our school; you can also spread the word on Facebook, Twitter, or email.

Parking Etiquette—Please remember to drive and park safely and courteously, both on the street and in the parking lot. We have seen some problems with parents parking in the crosswalks above the cafeteria. Although the city has refused to paint the crosswalks properly, they are still heavily used, and it is everyone's responsibility to look out for the safety of the children. There's lots of parking in the lower lot now, and plenty of space for your bikes! Use the lower bike racks if the ones outside the upper wing are too crowded.

Office Hours—The office door is open from 8-9am and from 2-3pm. Please try to take care of as much of your business in the office during this time. From 9-2 our door will be closed to help with noise control from the hallway. If you need to talk to us or use the office during this time, please come in quietly and remember that there are people working in this room. We are trying to create a quieter work space with less interruptions for office staff this year. There is a table in the hallway outside the office for your convenience if you need it. Thank you, your support is appreciated!

Volunteer Corner

- ♥ Volunteers needed for Bike & Walk Day events. Call Colleen, 302-8008 or colleen@homemidwiferycare.com. All volunteers are entered into a raffle for a Zigo bicycle, an extracycle and a few other great prizes!!
- ♥ Fundraising Coordinator Wanted! This is a fun and creative volunteer project. We are looking for an energetic person who is interested in working with others to facilitate fundraisers such as escarp, bulb sale, seed sale, etc. This is an essential volunteer position that has a huge impact on our school and programs. Please consider it!
- ♥ Assistance still needed in handwork (reading & knitting) and Spanish class.
- ♥ Thursday flower pick-ups needed from Trader Joe's.
- ♥ Regularly scheduled office helpers appreciated.
- ♥ The office has new curtains, we'd love someone to come hang them up, involves drills and ladders!
- ♥ We need someone with a truck to bring things to & from our storage unit.
- ♥ After school monitor needed daily—this is a great job for parents while you wait after school for your kids. This would be 2:30 or 2:45-3:00 daily.
- ♥ Someone could put up the orange fencing near the upper crosswalk.
- ♥ Crossing Guards are always needed!

See Ashleigh if you're interested in helping out.



Poem by Perrin, Artwork by Morgan, both 7th graders

Letter from the Administrator Page 1

From time to time, I will be including important information about School policies and other issues in the Village Voice. Today, there are a few issues that I want to touch on. First of all, as a Title I school, we have a responsibility to communicate a clear plan for how parents can engage in their children's educational process and general school life.

Village School Parent Involvement Plan

At The Village School all families are warmly invited to become involved in the life of the School. In our August mailing to you, we provided important information to you that and requested essential information from you. Recently, the School Board of Directors and the Administration hosted a general meeting to which you were all invited and which many of you attended. School Meeting. At the individual class meetings you learned about the many ways you can be connected to your child's educational experience as well as to the School community life. There will be a similar meeting in the spring.

The School's weekly newsletter, The Village Voice, regularly posts the dates, times and locations for class parent evenings, committee meetings, Board meetings, Parent Council meetings, and various other groups that meet to plan School festivals and events. Information about the activities of the School's various committees is posted on clipboards across the hall from the School's office.

The Village School receives funding from the Federal Government through the No Child Left Behind Act. The amount of this funding is contingent on the number of children attending the School who qualify for free or reduced lunches. The funds are used to hire teaching staff including a half time Title I Coordinator and three Instructional Assistants who work with struggling learners in grades one through five. A School Wide Planning Committee that includes the Administrator, Board members, teachers and parents has set goals for school improvement in the areas of writing, reading, mathematics and science. Professional development for teachers, improved student conduct, and extended learning opportunities for students are other areas that are supported by the Title I School wide Plan. The School Wide Planning Committee meets quarterly to check on progress made toward these goals.

As parents, you have annual opportunities to inform the school improvement process by giving feedback to the School during the late fall when the school administration surveys parents, students and staff to gather input regarding progress toward the School's goals as stated in the School Improvement Plan.

Each Village School family is asked to contribute 40 hours of volunteer service to the school per year. Single parent households are asked to contribute 20 hours per year.

There are a number of fun family events during the School year the success of which depends on your involvement:

- 🌀 November – Dia de los Muertos Festival
- 🌀 November – Family Math Night – math games galore
- 🌀 November – School Wide Talent Show, sponsored by the 8th grade
- 🌀 December – Winter Concert
- 🌀 February – HeArt of the Village Celebration
- 🌀 March – Authors' Night – students share samples of their writing

These events present ample opportunities for parents to volunteer as well as to join in the varied and fun activities.

In addition, you are all members of the Village School Parent Council. In addition to being a forum for parent discussion and education, the Parent Council fundraises for and supports a variety of projects throughout the school. Some examples of Parent Council projects are:

- 🌀 The bicycle shelter for Village School students who bike to school, located at the end of the upper classroom building
- 🌀 The Parent Resource Library that is located in the School office
- 🌀 The comfort of hot tea delivered to each classroom every morning
- 🌀 Teacher appreciation event every spring
- 🌀 Advocacy for timely arrival at school through peer to peer communication
- 🌀 Various fundraising activities

At your first class parent meetings this month, you were asked to sign a Village School Compact. This compact outlines what teachers, students and parents can do to provide optimum support for student success at The Village School. Please be sure that you have signed your compact and returned it to your student(s) teacher(s).

It is important for you to be closely connected to your children's progress. To this end, teachers provide information on how the School's unique curriculum is aligned with State Standards. A wide range of opportunities exist that allow parents to review progress and interact with their children's teachers through such opportunities as:

- 🌀 Home visits from teachers
- 🌀 Regular progress reports
- 🌀 Semi-annual parent/teacher conferences.
- 🌀 District and State Assessment results
- 🌀 Recommendations for students to attend Wednesday After School Study Hall where they can get assistance from Title I Instructional Assistants as needed
- 🌀 Recommendations for students to attend additional study halls offered by class teachers
- 🌀 Comprehensive reports and recommendations at the conclusion of each school year.
- 🌀 Calls home from teachers as needed
- 🌀 Recommendations that students attend Summer School as needed



Letter from the Administrator Page 2

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms

Again, as a Title I school, the Village School receives funding from the Federal Government for the sole purpose of supporting struggling learners. The basis for this funding is a correlation that the government has made between low income families and the potential for academic success. The measure used by the federal government for determining the amount of funding to be granted to the School is the number of children in our School who qualify to receive free or reduced meals under the National School Lunch Program. At the beginning of this year, you should have received an application form for this program. Regardless of whether or not you think your family will qualify for this program, every Village School family is required to complete the form. The forms are due in the School office by October 14. The funding that we will receive based on your response will enable us to purchase materials and to maintain our skilled and capable Title I staff including the program coordinator and the instructional assistants who serve the children.



Village School Cyber-bullying Policy

The School is committed to providing a positive and productive learning and working environment. Any form of harassment using electronic devices, commonly known as "cyber-bullying," by student, staff or third parties is prohibited and will not be tolerated in the school. "Cyber-bullying" is the use of any electronic communication device to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio, or video) that defames, intimidates, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated or hostile and unwanted manner under a person's true or false identity. In addition, any communication of this form which disrupts or prevents a safe and positive educational or working environment may also be considered cyber-bullying. Students and staff will refrain from using personal communication devices or district property to harass or stalk another.

The school will take any report of cyber-bullying seriously and will investigate credible reports promptly. Students are encouraged to report an incident immediately to a teacher or principal, who will take appropriate action. Students who make a report are expected, but not required, to preserve evidence of cyber-bullying. For example, a student may save or bring a copy of an email, text message, picture or other electronic transmission that the student believes was intended harm, insult or humiliate.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to loss of privileges, discipline, up to and including expulsion. Staff whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Third parties whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the school administrator or Village School Board of Directors. The district may also report individuals to law enforcement if necessary.

H1N1 Flu Virus Update

As you may know, flu can easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu at The Village School. We want to keep our school open and functioning normally during this flu season. But we need your help to do this. Public health officials recommend four main ways to help keep you and your family from getting sick :

Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand cleansers also are effective. Avoid as sharing personal items (e.g. drinks, food, utensils).

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.

Keep children at home if they are sick with flu-like illness. Stay home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine. Symptoms of the flu are a fever (over 100 degrees Fahrenheit) along with symptoms such as cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. A little snuffle is not a reason to stay home, but influenza is! Keeping sick students at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others. PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS THESE SYMPTOMS SO WE CAN TRACK IT.

If you are considering vaccination, seasonal flu vaccines are available now, and H1N1 flu vaccines are expected to be available to priority groups beginning in October. Watch for flu clinics at your doctor's office, clinic, pharmacy or elsewhere. If you are not sure about whether or not you should get the vaccine, call your healthcare provider for advice.

Other recommended steps to prepare for the possibility of flu include: update your emergency contact information at your schools; have a plan for child care at home if your child gets sick or their school is dismissed; and identify if you have family members who are at higher risk of serious disease from the flu and talk to your healthcare provider about a plan to protect them during the flu season.

We are working closely with Lane County Public Health and the Oregon Public Health Division to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available, our website and the district's website www.4j.lane.edu will be updated regularly. If you want to learn more about influenza, visit flu.oregon.gov or www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu.

Once again, we welcome you all to an inspiring year of learning and community building.

I welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely, Martha Collins Village School Administrator

Introducing.... Ms. Pat!

Hi, I'm Pat Anderson, School Counselor at the Village School, grades K-8. This is my third year at the school after many years of teaching and counseling in Eugene schools. I have a Masters in counseling Psychology from the UO and an Oregon teaching license.

I will be at the school Tuesdays and Thursdays this year. My box is in the office if you want to ever leave me a message or you can call the school and leave a message. I see students individually, in small groups, or sometimes as a whole class. We have nationally recognized Social Skills programs for classroom use (Second Steps for the younger grades and Owning Up for grades 7 & 8). I'm glad to be back again this year at this wonderful school!



Village School Artists Wow the Mayor's Teen Art Show at Maude Kerns

Last year's graduated 8th graders, and this year's current 8th graders' Dia de los Muertos kite projects are on display at Maude Kerns Gallery, see <http://www.mkartcenter.org/events.htm> for more info. Congratulations to all of our student artists, with special recognition to Kelsey Rose for receiving the 2009 Certificate of Recognition and a gift certificate for her work, "What Would Beneville Do." Great Work Everyone!



The Village School is Excited to Announce the following After School Academy* classes to be held at our site:

Survivor Kids After School Program with ReWild Eugene—Expand your child's learning experience outside the classroom. We give kids hands-on opportunities with survival skills, tracking, edible and medicinal plants, and outdoor awareness. Participants are guided into developing a personal relationship with the living world. Join us once a week as we have adventures around Morse Ranch Park or even on the playground. Program runs Mondays from 2:50pm - 4:30pm and is currently open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. **Runs Oct. 5 – Dec. 7.** Tuition \$120 for term. Please turn in applications by Sept. 30th. Enrollment forms available in the office. Matt & Anna, 517-9098. ReWild Eugene www.ReWild.com.



ReWild Eugene

Strings Classes—After school group classes for 4th & 5th graders on Tuesdays \$12; K-8 private lessons after school \$20; K-8 chamber music groups for advanced students (cost TBA)—quartets, trios, duets, small string orchestras all are possibilities. Taught by Pat Braunlich, who has advanced degrees in strings pedagogy and performance. Call her at 240-743-7127 to sign up or for more details.

Music for the Brain Piano Instruction is being offered by Irina Wilborn of Harmony Road Music —This is a unique learning program that provides a holistic approach to musical training, with the hope that music will become a natural part of the student's daily life. Neuroscientists have discovered the relationship between early music training and spatial reasoning abilities in young children. We are happy to be able to host classes by Russian trained Irina Wilborn, who will guide students toward total musicianship through ear-training, rhythmic activities, singing, composing, playing, and note reading. Students are grouped by age, and classes are appropriate for ages 3-10. Information and sign-up is in the office. Irina will contact you with start dates and times as people sign up and she groups students appropriately. Group classes will be held after school at the Village School, and she is also available for private lessons from her home. Cost is \$12/child for group classes and \$20 for a private lesson. Contact Irina at irina_wilborn@yahoo.com or 747-7416. Classes start soon.



**After School Academy is a new project offering after school activities to our students taught by members of the Eugene Community. The Village School provides a room for the activity and advertises free of charge to our students through our newsletter, however the classes are independent of the curriculum and management of the Village School. All instructors must pass a criminal background check and all classes are approved by the administration, but instructors operate as independent contractors. If you have suggestions for other classes, let Catia or Martha in the office know.*