

The Village Voice

Celebrating our 10th year!

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February 19, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 11

Calendar Events

February 2010

- 19 Fri—Deadline for New Sibling Applications
- 19 Fri—3rd Grade Trip—Eco-village
- 19 Fri—6th Grade Dance; 6:30-9 PM
- 22 Mon—**Safety Committee**; 3:30 PM
- 24 Wed—New Parent Information Meeting; 6-8 PM
- 25 Thurs—4th Grade Play; 10 AM, 6:30 PM
- 27 Sat—New Parent Information Meeting; 10 AM-12 PM

March 2010

- 1 Mon—Grade 2 Parent Meeting; 6 PM
- 2 Tues—Middle School Orientation; 6-7:30 PM
- 3 Wed—Authors' Night; 6-8 PM (Dinner will be served)
- 3 Wed—Annual Giving Campaign Kick-off at Authors' Night
- 9 Tues—8th Grade Play; 1:15 PM
- 9 Tues—Jill Schwimmer in the Cafeteria; 7 PM
- 10 Wed—8th Grade Play; 7 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

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

Caught Doing Good!

During the EWEB field trip, seventh grader Perrin straightened the chairs before the class left the room!

Thank you so much!

Thank you: Everyone who donated to our **Help for Haiti Penny Drive!** Our school collected **\$184.66** during the drive! Thank you KPFF Consulting Engineers for matching our donation!

Come join us for Authors' Night, Wed., March 3 from 6-8 PM

You are cordially invited to the Village School's 4th Annual Author's Night to be held Wed., March 3, 2010. The event will start in the cafeteria at 6 PM with a FREE Mexican dinner of veggie burritos.

At 6:30 PM we will adjourn to the upper wing to listen to the 1st-4th graders read the pieces of writing they have prepared. We ask that everyone join one of these classes and support our young author's with respectful listening. At 7:15 PM, all students and parents will make their way to the lower wing to listen to the 5th-8th graders.

We think you will be impressed at the thought and heart our students bring to their writing. It is such a joy to watch our younger and older students support each other in their authorship. Please join us and enjoy!

This event is sponsored by the Title I Program and is intended for all Village School families.

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 to the USDE is aggregate data (which means it 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 is open today and 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. 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.

Letter from the Administrator

February 19, 2010

Dear Village School Community:

As some of you know, just like all other public schools, our school is required to administer various assessments to our students including the state's standardized test, the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS). The testing is now underway in all grades. Also, the 4th and 7th graders are already engaged in taking the state writing test as part of the annual cycle of state testing.

There are many aspects involved in meeting our charter contract requirements. Successfully completing these tests is one means of fulfilling those requirements. The test scores along with attendance rates determine whether or not we have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Meeting AYP is one way the school, the District and the state can see that progress is being made toward the goals outlined in the school's School Improvement Plan. The School Improvement Plan provides the basis for year to year planning and is reviewed annually by the teachers and by a team that includes teachers, the administration and parents. In order to meet AYP, at least 95% of our students must meet the state benchmarks for OAKS and we must maintain at least a 92% school attendance rate.

Go to <http://www.ode.state.or.us/initiatives/nclb/pdfs/aypkeypoints0809.pdf> for more information if you are interested.

Up until last year, Village School students had access to a paper and pencil version of the state test while most other public schools took it online. We favored the pencil and paper option which was available through a waiver because of our Waldorf orientation and our intentional deferment of using electronic technology until students reach the upper grades. However, the school is now required to take the test online. Thanks to the generous donations of computers the school has received, we have been able to set up a modest computer lab in the back of room 10. Through careful scheduling, we are currently cycling all students in grades one through eight through our twelve station computer lab.

The OAKS test is one of the many ways in which we assess the academic progress of our students. At the same time, we recognize that it measures a very limited range of what your children know. The test represents an example of the dynamic tension that lives between what we are trying to do at the Village School and the greater sector of public education. Knowing this, our teachers have worked hard to create an academic scope and sequence for the school that aligns Waldorf curriculum with the state academic standards. While the teachers do not "teach to the test," we feel we are doing a good job of preparing our students to be successful on them. Last year's test scores indicated that overall, Village School students scored higher on average than the District and State averages.

During this testing time, you can support your children in being successful by ensuring that they get ample rest, plenty of exercise and are well-fed. If you have any questions about the testing, please feel free to contact me or our Title I Coordinator, Sally Grimsrud. We would be happy to share more information with you.

On another note, I'd like to announce:

...Bridging the Gap...

Maybe you noticed that you have not yet been asked to participate in a direct donation campaign this year. Never fear! Your chance is coming. On March 3, during the opening dinner at Authors' Night, the Village School will kick off its "2010 Bridging the Gap Annual Giving Campaign." The economic downturn created a significant gap in our school's available revenue. In order to balance the budget, we cut out funding for field trips. On March 3, we will be looking for your support in closing this gap. As always, our primary goal is to achieve 100% participation from you. Our next priority is to raise \$10,000 to support the curriculum related field trips your students have taken or will be taking before the school year ends. Watch for more information of the "2010 Bridging the Gap Annual Giving Campaign" in next week's "Late Breaking News."

Sincerely,
Martha Collins

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.



Lost and Found

Lots of nice clothes and jackets are getting left out in the rain on the playground. Please remind your students to bring their belongings home! Also, the Lost and Found is getting very full. Please check it regularly.

Family Directories were handed out at the beginning of the year! Please be sure to pick up a new one if you're currently using an old one...we have been getting phone calls regarding wrong numbers for families that attend the Village School.

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

Thank you!

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 9th**.

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 talk will begin at **7 PM** and will take place in the school **cafeteria**.

Donations for this event will be appreciated.

New Online Resource

Please check our website for ongoing community opportunities: <http://eugenevillageschool.org>



The Village School's Student Work will be on Display at the Library

For the months of February and March, the Eugene Public Library will display samples of The Village School students' artwork and handwork in the children's section! Check it out!

Robert and Bindi Irwin: Kid Empowerment

Thurs, February 25th from 3:30-4:30 PM
University of Oregon, EMU Ballroom



Robert and Bindi Irwin, son and daughter of Steve and Terri Irwin, are hosting a Kids Empowerment event in Eugene on February 25, 2010.

Bindi Irwin has been the star of several Animal Planet television programs, including *Bindi the Jungle Girl*, *The Crocodile Hunter* and *The Wiggles*. She has also recorded a children's environmental hip-hop album and will be starring in the upcoming movie *Free Willy 4: Escape from Pirate's Cove*.

In addition to being fun, this **interactive session** with Bindi and Robert **will educate children about conservation and things they can do to make a difference in this world.**

This event is **FREE**, but guests **MUST register in advance**. A limited number of seats are available, so register today:

www.pielc.org/2010/bindi.htm



Announcements Cont'd

All Oregon Children Now Have Access to Health Care under Healthy Kids Plan: Governor Kulongoski announced that all Oregon children now have access to comprehensive health care under the state's Healthy Kids plan, KidsConnect.

Healthy Kids provides access to health care in three ways: 1) No-cost option through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP); 2) Low-cost options through cost-share models; and 3) Full-cost options through newly-created state-sponsored private insurance plans - depending on family income.

No Cost: The plan provides free coverage through the Oregon Health Plan for children in families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$44,100 for a family of four).

Low-Cost: The program offers a cost-share model to assist Oregon's middle-class families earning between 200 -300 percent of the federal poverty level (between \$44,100 - \$66,000 a year for a family of four). These families earn too much to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, but too little to purchase private insurance on their own. On a sliding scale, these families share the cost with the state or can receive a subsidy to help pay for their child's coverage through an employer-sponsored insurance plan.

Full Cost: For children in families with incomes above 300 percent of the federal poverty level (or \$66,000 for a family of four), the program provides access to a new state-sponsored private insurance plans collectively called Healthy KidsConnect. These families pay the full premium.

To date, the state has enrolled more than 30,000 children in Healthy Kids. The goal is to enroll 80,000 children by the end of this year.

Parents can learn more about Healthy Kids and apply online at www.oregonhealthykids.gov

The Children's Program Initiative to Bring Dental Services to Uninsured Students

ODS and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) are launching a joint effort, The Children's Program, to provide access to basic dental services for uninsured 6-12 year olds at no charge once they have been enrolled in the program.

Please call Ilana for more information at 541-345-7285.

DIZZY GRANT, Harlem Globetrotters' Guard, started playing basketball after he attended a Harlem Globetrotters game at the age of seven. He joined us to present the Globetrotters' **C.H.E.E.R.™ For Character** program. **C.H.E.E.R.™** extols the benefits of character development and leading a positive lifestyle. Please register/sign-in to view the album: http://www5.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=1036636028/a=2125008028_2125008028/ots=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=snapfish/



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!

Practice Safety, Grace, and Courtesy

- Be Safe • Solve Problems • Include Everyone • Respect Others •

BEFORE SCHOOL – ARRIVAL TIME

- Arrive no earlier than 8:15 AM and be in the classroom by 8:30 AM.
- Bicycles must be walked to the bicycle racks on the school grounds. Skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, and other wheeled devices must be carried on school grounds.

IN HALLWAYS, BREEZEWAYS, CAFETERIA, OR BATHROOMS

- Feet must be on the ground. Sliding and climbing on railings and running are not permitted.
- Use quiet voices in hallways at all times. Show your respect for classes in session.
- Follow procedures for obtaining the appropriate pass upon leaving the classroom.
- Enter/Exit through appropriate doors.

RECESS TIMES

- Respect the space and feelings of others. Keep unkind words to self, play gently, and keep touch appropriate.
- Conduct all outside activities within sight and hearing of a teacher at all times.
- Use appropriate language.
- Stop all play when the bell rings and line up in the area designated by your teacher.
- Be respectful in the use of specific playground equipment:
 - Go down the slide one at a time, feet first and only on your bottom.
 - Keep your hands on the “fire pole” when descending.
 - Do not jump off the platform while using the play structure.
 - Do not dig beneath play structures – please be sure that wood chips remain under the climbing structures.
 - Do not throw chips, rocks, sand or inappropriate objects.
 - Notify an adult immediately of any safety issue you observe on the playground such as broken glass, broken play ground equipment, or unsafe people.

AT THE END OF THE DAY – DISMISSAL TIME

- If you are waiting to be picked up, you are expected to wait quietly in the designated area and follow school rules.
- If you came to school on a bicycle or other wheeled device, remember that you may not ride it on school grounds. Collect your wheeled device and walk it to the public sidewalk before mounting it.
- Students who have not been picked up within 15 minutes of dismissal will go to the school office to wait for their ride.
- The school day ends at 2:45 PM. There will be no supervision provided after 3 PM.

Don't delay! Get your H1N1 flu shot today!

To find the site nearest you visit: www.google.com/flushot or call 1-800-978-3040

In Eugene/Springfield:

- Lane County Public Health, (541) 682-4041 (FREE!)
- Eugene Urgent Care, (541) 636-3473
- The Travel Clinic, (541) 343-6028
- Peace Health RiverBend Hospital - Urgent Care, (541) 222-6005
- Cascade Health, (541) 228-3095
- UO Health Center (students, faculty & staff only), (541) 346-4444

In Cottage Grove:

- Cottage Grove Community Hospital, (541) 942-6614
- Prime Med Medical Clinic, (541) 942-7000

In Junction City:

- Junction City Medical Clinic, (541) 998-6750

In Florence:

- Peace Health Siuslaw locations, (541) 907-6057

In Blue River:

- McKenzie River Clinic, (541) 822-3341

For a complete list of providers, visit: www.lanecounty.org

Village School Dress Code

The Village School Dress Code exists to assure that students are prepared to safely and comfortably participate in all the activities of a normal school day. A typical day at the Village School will include many different kinds of physical activities for which it is necessary that children are appropriately clothed. Therefore, clothing should always accommodate the active child and should include outerwear appropriate for prevailing weather conditions. We ask that families consider the following:

- Outside play is a part of the daily school routine. Students who come to school properly attired for outdoor activities in all kinds of weather and in clothing that allows for freedom of movement will be best able to fully participate in and enjoy outdoor activities in all kinds of weather.
- Footwear that allows for freedom of movement and protects the whole foot is essential. Sneakers or athletic shoes best accommodate Movement classes as well as the many indoor and outdoor activities that occur throughout the school day. Flip-flops and shoes that do not cover the back of the foot are strongly discouraged. **Shoes with wheels in the heels are not permitted.**
- Village School students enjoy outdoor activities regardless of the weather. Warm and/or waterproof clothing for cold or rainy days as well as proper wet weather shoes are a must.
- Moderate jewelry may be worn. Dangling earrings can pose a safety hazard. Students will be asked to remove large earrings during Movement classes or during any other activity where they might pose a safety or health hazard. For similar reasons, we ask that students do not wear chains or spikes to school.
- It is a good idea to keep a change of clothes at school for your child.

In the interests of the School's intrinsic aesthetic values, we make the following requests regarding choices of attire:

- We appreciate neatness!
- We seek to avoid clothing that is distracting or provocative. Positive imagery on clothing in the form of logos or other graphics and that is minimally commercial is acceptable. **We will not allow violent imagery or advertisements of illegal substances on campus.**
- While sleeveless shirts may be worn to school, skimpy tops that expose waists, cleavage, and backs such as halter or cropped-tops are unacceptable. All underwear must be completely covered. Transparent/see-through clothing may not be worn to school.
- Skirts, shorts and skorts are acceptable as long as they allow freedom of movement without exposure. A good rule of thumb is that the hemline be no higher than the tips of the fingers when the student is standing with arms down at their sides.
- Pants and shorts should be in good condition and should fully cover underwear. Baggy, saggy trousers that expose the top of one's undergarments are unacceptable.
- Natural looking make-up may be worn in moderation by 7th and 8th grade students.

Consequences for Non-compliance with the Dress Code

- Children who arrive at school dressed inappropriately will be asked to change into alternative clothing that is available in classrooms and in the office.
- Children who fail to arrive at school with athletic shoes / sneakers for movement classes will be loaned spare shoes provided to them by the Movement Teacher.
- In cases of repeated non-compliance, parents will be contacted and asked to bring a change of appropriate clothing to school for their student(s).

We acknowledge that dress is an expression of style and culture. To the extent that they do not inhibit a child's free and safe engagement in school activities, cultural practices around dress and jewelry will be honored.

Further, we invite community engagement in upholding behaviors that are expressions of respect, and non-discrimination. We ask that parents and students consider the impact that discriminatory language or imagery may have on others and that we all pledge to respect the highest level of sensitivity when it comes to belief systems.

We ask that families honor and respect the Village School Dress Code. The need for continuing and frequent reminders to students to act respectfully and to comply with the Dress Code can have a negative and erosive effect on student-teacher relationships, ultimately undermining the educational process. Parents please discuss the Dress Code with your student(s) and check in with them before you leave your homes in the morning to be sure that their choices of attire are in line with the School's aspirations to ensure a safe, respectful and comfortable learning environment.