

The Village Voice

Celebrating our 10th year!

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March 19, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 13

Calendar Events

March 2010

- 22 Mon— Spring Break begins
- 30 Tues—Village School Board of Directors Meeting; 5:30 PM at the Village School

April 2010

- 6 Tues—School resumes
- 16 Fri—No School; Teacher Work Day
- 22 Thurs—6th Grade Play; TBD
- 22 Thurs—Earth Action Day (see page 5 for more details)
- 23 Fri—6th Grade Play; TBD
- 28 Wed—7th and 8th Grade Track Meet
- 30 Fri—May Day Festival

May 2010

- 4 Tues—All School Panoramic Photo; 10:15

Caught Doing Good



Kindergarten After-Care was caught washing windows in the hallways!



Rowan is the best lunch line sentinel Jackie has had to help her in the cafeteria!



Heron, Harbor, Leland, and Hunter helped roll out the recycle bins!

Thank you

Thanks to all those who participated in another stellar Author's Night! Despite the late arrival of the burritos, a good time was had by all. The students were the stars of the evening with courageous sharing of their excellent writing. Thanks go especially to the 4th grade class for helping to organize the event and to all the classroom teachers for their efforts in teaching our children to be authors.

Dear Parents and Students:

The Yearbook group needs photos from this year's events. We're hoping to get supplies of photos from school wide events and class-related activities, plays and outings.

Media

It would help if you can put your photos on a CD or can temporarily lend us a thumb drive. Please, to the extent possible, provide us your original electronic files, and not compressed, low resolution, thumbnail versions. The small, compressed files do not enlarge well for printing. If you can, include a note of what you have on your CD or thumb drive, and your contact info.

Where to bring files

Please bring the files to the office or give them directly to Andy Traisman.

What Photos are Needed?

Class photos:

Misc photos from activities in the class or on class-specific events.

Events to date:

- Class Plays
- Eugene Celebration
- Day of the Dead
- Talent Show
- Winter Concert
- Author's Night

Events to come:

- May Day
- Greek Games
- Class plays

Thanks to you all,
Andy Traisman



All **Lost and Found** items will be outside of the office entrance. Please take a look and claim your child's misplaced clothes.

All unclaimed items will be donated on the 19th before Spring Break.

Letters from the Administrator and the Board

March 19, 2010

Dear Village School Families:

As we roll toward the close of this tenth year of the school's history, we can take stock in all the good work that has been done to get the school to this point in its development:

- We have renewed our charter for another five years.
- We received an overall rating of "outstanding" on the state report card for 2009 - 2010. This means that our state assessment scores were strong as was our performance in a number of other areas.
- Our student population has grown and most grades consistently have waiting lists.
- We have a longstanding, committed, and dedicated teaching staff.
- Our Board of Directors is dedicated to finding and moving the school into a permanent home of its own. (They will need your help to make this happen, by the way.)
- Our active and committed parents make significant contributions on a day to day basis to the successful operation of the school.
- Our students are healthy and happy to be in school.
- We are in very good standing with the members of our district sponsoring team.
- We have been able to balance our budget without compromising our programs even in these tough economic times.

The list goes on and on. I am sure that many of you could contribute additional accomplishments to this list as well. For this point in its development, I think the school is in pretty good shape.

The one thing that will not go on and on is me. It is with some regret that I have made the decision to resign as the Village School Administrator effective June 30. While I do not take this decision lightly, I am looking forward to returning to Washington and living under the same roof with my husband once again. Some of you may not know about the long distance relationship that he and I have nurtured over the past five years. When I first moved here from Washington, he had planned to join me within a year or two. As life would have it, his career took an unexpected turn and now, he is doing what he loves in Washington and has no intention of giving it up. So, I yield.

I will miss all of you and this blossoming school. You will forever occupy a special place in my heart – parents, children, teachers, staff and all who work to make the Village School a very special school. It has been a privilege to work with and for you. May the story of the school continue to unfold in the most excellent way. I trust that it will. And may your days be filled with love, light and laughter!

Warmly,
Martha

March 19, 2010

To The Village School Community:

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank Martha Collins for her five very full years of service as our School Administrator. The school has grown and has been re-chartered during her tenure. She has steered the school through many challenges and has dedicated herself fully to the success of the school. Please join us in wishing Martha and her family well in all of their future endeavors and showing our appreciation for her unwavering commitment to the school and pledge to help with a smooth transition to new leadership.

The Board would also like to assure the Village School Community that we will work diligently to search for and hire the best candidates to lead our school. This is uniquely creative school. It deserves the best person we can find -- someone who can enhance that vision and effectively lead us toward our brightest potential.

Sincerely,

Steve Holmes, Board President

Summer School Info.

The Eugene Village School

March 19, 2010

Dear families,

Summer school is important for the maintenance of educational gains made by students throughout the school year. Every summer we do pre and post assessments, in addition to comparing these scores to each child's spring, and then fall, district assessments. Our evidence overwhelmingly shows that when struggling students attend summer school, there is no drop, and in most cases an improvement, in their academic performance. For this reason, Title I is once again providing your child with this opportunity for extended learning.

The Village School Title I program will sponsor a 4-week summer school. This program will run from July 5-July 30, five days a week, from 9:00-12:00 at our school site. School will be held Monday through Friday. The program will provide students with book club reading experiences, hands-on math, art and a movement class. Village staff members will support all components of this program. This program is being offered to students exiting first grade through students exiting fifth grade. A summer breakfast and lunch program may also provide meals before and after class.

In preparation for this program, we need to know how many students will participate. Students who are currently in the Title One program will be given priority, but usually everyone who wishes to attend is able to do so. I do encourage all students to apply, however, please do not sign up unless you can commit to excellent attendance. Poor attendance has proven to be disruptive to the learning process, and our main priority with this program is to provide learning experiences.

Please fill out the enrollment form, below, and RETURN (metal mailbox in the office) NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 16th. You will be notified no later than April 23rd.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sally Grimsrud, Title One Coordinator

SUMMER SCHOOL 2010 REQUEST FOR ENROLLMENT (one per child)

Student: _____ Gr. ___ Parent(s): _____

Questions (if any): _____

Announcements

Bridging the Gap

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.

You can make a donation to the Village School's Annual Giving Campaign with the following options:

Check – to give by check, make it payable to "The Village School" and mail it to The Village School, 2855 Lincoln St, Suite B, Eugene, Oregon 97405 or drop it off at the school office.

Matching Gifts – Don't forget that some employers match gifts. If your employer has a form, it can be mailed to the same address as direct donations (see above).

Credit Card – To donate using your credit card you will be forwarded to the website of the non-profit *Network for Good*, where your gift (and any earmarks you make) will be recorded.

Direct Donation from your bank account – You can set us up in your Bill Pay preferences through your online banking institution. Once you set up Bill Pay just select a one-time payment or a recurring automated monthly payment for your donation. If you have questions please call your bank and ask which is the best option for you. Information about all of the above options can be found on the pledge form that was placed in your family mailbox this week.

Your gift is fully tax-deductible to the degree allowed by law.

Thank you in advance for making a contribution to the 2009 – 2010 Village School "Bridging the Gap" Annual Giving Campaign.

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. 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.

Announcements

Safety First!

March 19, 2010

The Village School administration, staff, Safety Committee members and concerned parents are working together to raise awareness about traffic safety on Lincoln St. during student drop off and pick up times. As you have probably noticed, the curbs adjacent to heavily used crossings at 27th Place and 28th Avenue have recently been repainted yellow. A yellow zone on a curb indicates that there is no parking at those points on the street. It is hoped that this action on the part of the City of Eugene along with some of the following reminders will improve pedestrian and vehicular safety during student drop off and pick up times – before and after school.

The following are reminders of the relevant traffic safety laws in the school vicinity. Your adherence to these laws will help us to create a safe environment at school. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. **Please do not park in the clearly marked yellow zones, even if only for a few seconds, as doing so blocks the view of the street and potential on-coming traffic for pedestrians in or near the crosswalks.** Conversely, parking in these zones diminishes the view of the crosswalks and their entry points for approaching cars. Orange safety cones are being placed along the painted curbs as an additional reminder about these safety factors. Stopping or parking in the traffic lanes adjacent to these cones to let students out of vehicles is even more dangerous than parking along the curb in the yellow zones as doing so causes the aforementioned problems while additionally blocking a lane of traffic, which may contribute to rash and unsafe decisions by other potentially impatient drivers.
2. **Please be aware of the presence of the crosswalks on Lincoln St at the intersections of 27th Place and 28th Ave.** Neither crosswalk is very well marked.
3. **Be prepared to stop at crosswalks and yield the right-of-way when pedestrians are present** (remember that pedestrians have the right-of-way at all times).
4. **Drive at or below the 20 mile per hour speed limit that is prescribed for school zones.**
5. **Enter and exit intersections with caution and vigilance.**
6. **When parking in the vicinity of the school, please refrain from parking on the wrong side of the street.** This action is unsafe for pedestrians and drivers alike, adding unpredictability for other drivers and pedestrians, and greatly reducing the ability of the illegally parked driver to see approaching cars or nearby pedestrians when entering traffic. In addition, parking on the wrong side of the street requires the driver to cross the lane of on-coming traffic in order to enter the proper lane.

Please contact the Village School administration if you have questions – 541-345-7285. Again, we thank you for your help in creating a safe school environment.

Announcements

Earth Action Day

Earth Day is just around the corner and the Village School will be doing our part to clean up the environment and make a positive impact in the community. We are launching Earth Action Day on **Thursday, April 22nd** (Earth Day). This exciting day will be dedicated to service and fundraising to benefit the school and local community. Each year, Earth Day is celebrated in order to promote and acknowledge the fight for a clean environment. It's a day dedicated to reminding the world of the importance of caring for the land in which we live and sustaining it for future generations. We encourage you to educate your family and friends about Earth Action Day over the next few weeks leading up to the event and help by collecting those pledges. It's sure to be an exciting and extraordinary event! **Note - Children will be going home with packets and complete information today, March 19th.**



Fundraising: Help Raise Money for the Village School

Register your debit/credit cards with **eScrip** and a small percentage of your purchases go to the Village School! You can register either online or by mail. For more information on E-Scrip please pick up a flyer and registration form outside the Administration office. Our Group ID is # 9130886.

Order **Café Mam Coffee** through us (order Tuesday, have your coffee Wednesday).

Buy **Student Art Greeting Cards** (beautiful Village School artwork for \$1.00).

Donate **Campbell's Soup Labels** to get some free items for our school; the container is placed above the family mail boxes.

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

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

Please join us in our fundraising efforts!



The Village School's student work is on display at the Eugene Public Library in the children's section! Come see it during Spring Break!



The Annual Parent Survey results are now in and available for anyone who would like to see them!



With the rainy season upon us, **it is a good idea to have an extra set of clothing in the building.** Please keep this in your child's classroom.

Village School Volunteers Needed

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.

Crosswalk Cones have been purchased! We need someone to put them into place before school and to bring them into the building after school.

Crossing Guards: Mon-Fri: 8:10-8:30 AM & 2:30- 2:50 PM.

Flower Pick Up: We need someone to pick up flowers from Trader's Joe's and bring them to our school.

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! 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!

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!

Trash Police: Please keep your eye out for people illegally dumping their trash in our bins and on our lawns. We would like to keep our school clean! If you see a license plate, please write it down. Thanks.

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

Please call Ashleigh at 541-345-7285 to get involved today.