

The Village Voice

Celebrating our 10th year!

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April 9, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 14

Calendar Events

April 2010

- 13 Tues—Parent Council (see Page 5 for further details); 6:30 PM
- 13 Tues—Earthquake Drill (see Page 3 for more information)
- 14 Wed—3rd Grade Parent Meeting; 6 PM
- 16 Fri—**Deadline for Summer School Applications** (Application on Page 6)
- 16 Fri—No School; Teacher Work Day
- 20 Tues—8th Grade Mentorship Project Presentations and Evening Potluck Dinner
- 22 Thurs—6th Grade Play; 10:15 AM
- 22 Thurs—Earth Action Day (see Page 3 for more details)
- 23 Fri—6th Grade Play; 7 PM
- 28 Wed—7th and 8th Grade Track Meet; 10-3
- 28 Wed—1st Grade Parent Meeting
- 30 Fri—May Day Festival; 1 PM

May 2010

- 4 Tues—All School Photo; 10:15 AM
- 4 Tues—8th Grade Class Trip Meeting; 7-8 PM

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 information.

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

Thank You!

We would like to wish our deepest thanks to our Village School U of O interns, **Kevin and Tara**, for helping to facilitate our Annual Giving Campaign!

Also, this month is **National Volunteer Appreciation Month**. Thank you everyone who has helped make our school a better place with all that you do.

We appreciate you!

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th Graders:



**Emma Bales
Kai Delap
Ellie Scheu
Tyler Sykora**



for receiving
Semi-Finalist Recognition in the
Letters About Literature
2010 Letter Writing Contest!

Annual Giving Campaign Update— We'd like to thank the parents, teachers, alumni, grandparents and friends of the Village School who have given so generously to this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

As of now we have accrued \$1,197.00 of our \$10,000 monetary goal. We are seeking 100% participation from our community.

Grade	<u>K</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	Board	Total
% Participation	25%	0%	0%	13%	20%	0%	15%	13%	0%	20%	8%
Totals	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$430.00	\$0.00	\$182.00	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,197.00

Letter from the Administrator

April 9, 2010

Dear Village School Families:

Even with our extremely fickle weather lately, I think it is safe to say that spring has sprung. The "wave of green" and all the blossoms herald the fast approaching end of the school year. And before we reach the end of the year which is, by the way, a mere 45 ½ school days away, we can look forward to sharing many very special school events together. Coming up this month are...

- Earth Action Day – April 22 (see the article in this Village Voice)
- 7th/8th Grade Annual Track Meet – April 28 (more in the near future...)
- May Day Festival – April 30 (watch for details in the next couple of weeks)

Approaching the end of the school year also means looking ahead toward and planning for next year including confirmation of next year's teaching staff. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some changes in the Village School staff.

Some of you already know that recently, our lower grade Spanish teacher, Cybele Higgins, resigned her position. In addition to teaching at the Village School, she has for a long time been working for three other employers using her language skills. Recently one of those employers has been Lane Community College where she has taught adults for many years. She was offered additional teaching duties at LCC that made it possible for her to reduce the complexity of her work schedule, thereby having more time to devote to family life. We wish her well and miss her very much.

The cloud created by the loss of Maestra Cybele has a silver lining, however. We are fortunate to welcome Maestra Beatriz Robles Loper to our teaching staff. A native of Mexico, Beatriz comes to our school with excellent qualifications and many years of teaching Spanish to children and adults.

Recently, our Upper Grade Math Tutor, Ann Richer, resigned her position. Ann was much appreciated by the children she coached. And while we miss Ann very much, we are fortunate to be able to welcome Kaitlynn Heflin who is taking over the Upper Grade Math Tutor position. Kaitlynn comes to us with a strong educational background in math and science and a good deal of experience tutoring students in math.

Our long standing third/fourth grade teacher, Alyson Byas, will be taking a sabbatical beginning next school year from her teaching position at the Village School. Alyson has been with the Village School for nine years. Her life circumstances have presented her with the opportunity to spend more time at home nurturing her family and herself. Alyson will be sharing more with our community about her plans closer to the end of this school year.

The other long standing Village School teacher in the third/fourth grade loop and also our current Title I Coordinator, Sally Grimsrud will also be heading in a different direction for next school year. Sally has for a long time, dreamed of working in a school overseas. Recently, she was offered the opportunity to teach in a brand new school in Viet Nam. Sally is very excited and will be giving us all more details about her adventure in the coming weeks.

There will be a change in our Handwork program. Stephanie Niedermeyer is leaving her position as of the end of this year. Her artistry and skill and her many years of service have instilled a love of the fiber arts in the hands and hearts of so many Village School children. She will be sorely missed. Stephanie is helping Susanne in the search for someone with the special skills this work requires to join the Handwork program in the fall.

In the kindergarten, Erika Coyer has notified us that she will not return as Sarah Wetzel's Assistant. Erika has been commuting to her work from Oakridge every day. It is a long journey and part of her reason for leaving her post. Erika brought many excellent qualities to her work with our youngest students. Her warmth, patience, sense of humor, and playfulness have been appreciated by the children, their families and Sarah. We will all miss her.

Finally, our 4th/5th grade Choir Instructor, Jennifer Searl, also has plans that do not include teaching at the Village School next year. Jennifer has become increasingly involved in children's choral groups around this community and recently became the Director of the Oregon Children's Choir.

While this seems like a lot of change at once, we are happy that there are many very qualified people interested in teaching at the Village School. You can look forward to learning about the results of our hiring processes over the next couple of months.

Finally, on a very different note I want to make a correction to one of the points I made in my most recent letter to the community. In the letter, I noted that the School had received a rating of "outstanding" on the 2009 – 2010 Oregon State Report Card. This rating was actually tied to our overall performance as a school for the 2008 – 2009 school year. The results of our performance have not yet been recorded for the current school year.

REMEMBER!!!! EARTH ACTION DAY IS ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY!

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Martha

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!



April Earthquake Awareness Month

April is Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness Month. This month we will practice an Earthquake Drill, so that students can respond quickly and without panicking when it really counts.

To access more information and resources, please visit the Oregon Department of Education's "Quake-Safe Schools" page at www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2061.

The **Annual Village School Parent Survey** (not to be confused with the ODE Survey below) 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.

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.

8th grade Class,

It was an honor and a privilege to work with you on our class play this year--truly one of the most extraordinary experiences of my teaching career. Where we went, from brainstorm to performance is the template for how I could only have imagined this project. In truth, what we produced exceeded my imagination.

Truth be Told, your work, in the classroom, in school and Cozmic performances touched more people than you can know, in the deep and lasting way that art can touch us. Thank you for this, thank you for all your good works.

Peace,
Mr.T

Announcements, cont'd

Fundraising

Please join us in our fundraising efforts!

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.

Bridging the Gap

Help us "Bridge the Gap" to raise \$10,000 for the Village School field trip budget, school supplies, and to purchase student desks.

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

Check – Make your check payable to "The Village School." Mail it to The Village School, 2855 Lincoln St, Suite B, Eugene, Oregon 97405 or drop it off at the school office.

Matching Gifts – 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.

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

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 on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays.

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 dumpsters, 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.



Parent Council Agenda

Village School Parent Council Agenda April 13, 2010

Meet and Greet: Introductions	5 minutes
Share Rudolf Steiner / Waldorf article of the month	
Financial Report	5 minutes
Grant Requests:	15 minutes
Second Sand Box Request: Should Parent Council allocate funds to pay for half of the construction of a new sandbox? Annual Giving Campaign would pay for the other half.	
Parking Cones: Should Parent Council pay for the parking cones already in use (and paid for)?	
Update on Earth Action Day (previously called Trash-a-Thon)	10 minutes
Discuss End of the Year Village School 10 th Birthday Celebration	30 minutes
Share ideas discussed at Fridays meeting	
Brainstorming session and create list of wanted vision	

Summer School Info.

The Eugene Village School

April 9, 2010

Dear Village School 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): _____

Address: _____ home phone: _____ cell: _____

Questions (if any): _____

Safety First!

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.