

The Village Voice

Celebrating our 10th year!

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June 17, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 19

End of Year Activities

- 17 Thurs—All School Picnic, 10 Year Celebration & Volunteer Recognition Event; 5:30-8:30 pm
- 18 Fri—Kindergarteners will walk to Lafferty Park for a picnic. Parents are invited to join the class for the day; 11:45 dismissal, no After Care.
- 18 Fri—Last Day of School; 1 pm dismissal
- 18 Fri—8th Grade Dinner and Graduation; 5-8 pm

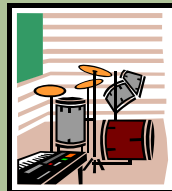
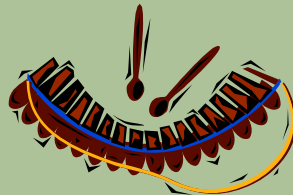
The Village School Celebrates Ten years!



Please join us at our Annual Year-End Picnic and Volunteer Recognition Event!

We hope everyone can join us in celebration tonight, Thursday, June 17 from 5:30-8:30 pm.

There will be musical performances from members of the Sugar Beets, Gypsy Moon Band, past and present Marimba students and the Village School's own, the Yurden Sturts. There will also be a juggling performance from Village School parent, Kris Manaois, followed by juggling lessons for all ages, and art projects.



This year's volunteer acknowledgments, founders and long time staff acknowledgments, door prizes, and more will also take place! We will be giving our wonderful administrator, Martha Collins, a warm farewell along with some other departing staff members. We will then welcome our new administrative team, Bob Kaminski and Andy Peara to our school.

Don't forget your picnic dinner and blanket! We hope to see all of you there!



Schedule of Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5:15 pm | Gypsy Moon Band |
| 5:55 pm | Matthew Bigongiari: Welcome, School History & Founders Recognition |
| 6:05 pm | 4th Grade girls, Psychic Lemons, play recorders & 6 th Grade Marimba plays "Guabi Guabi" |
| 6:10 pm | Kris Manois: Juggling Act (with lessons afterward on the side) |
| 6:20 pm | Volunteer Recognition and Happy Birthday V.S. (cut cake) |
| 6:35 pm | 7 th & 8 th Grade Marimba and Alumni Marimba Showcase |
| 6:50 pm | Staff and Board Members Recognition and Farewell |
| 6:55 pm | Introduce New Administration Team |
| 7:05 pm | Members of the Sugar Beets |
| 8:10 pm | Yurden Sturts (Village School Band) |

Letter from the Administrator

June 17, 2010

Dear Village School Community:

Leaving the Village School is bitter sweet for me. On the one hand, it is hard to say good-bye to all the dear people I have come to know over the past five years. The sweetness is in the memories of all the times and special events we have shared over the years. At the same time, I am very much looking forward to going off to an as yet unknown new adventure – sort of like having a blank canvas on which I can paint anything I want.

Along with its many challenges, being the Administrator of the Village School has presented me with many opportunities to learn new things. I am deeply grateful for the valuable lessons I have learned here. In these days of wrapping things up and making way for the new Principal, I have the opportunity to reflect on all that has occurred over the past five years. I am pleased with the progress the school has made. High on the list of indicators for the school's success are:

- Strong enrollment and retention of students
- Solid academic performance by the students
- The long term commitment of many staff members
- Improvements in the organization and articulation of the school's academic programs
- The good will of the many parents who feel welcome and encouraged to participate in the life of the school
- Strong sense of community
- Improvements in the organization and coordination of administrative roles and services
- Fiscal strength – even in the face of the extreme economic challenges around us
- Growing strength of the school's identity and place in the Eugene community
- Strong, positive relationship with the school district

There are plenty of additional ways the school has grown and improved over the years. It is a little gem. I leave my best wishes for continued growth and success. I have no doubt that those wishes will come true.

With appreciation,
Martha Collins

Letter from the Board

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new principal, Robert Kaminski. Mr. Kaminski comes to us after six years serving as Principal and two years as Vice Principal of Grant Elementary School in San Lorenzo, California. Prior to that experience, he served as a classroom teacher for nine years and as a professional puppeteer and storyteller for fifteen years, a career which included a residency at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Mr. Kaminski has authored several books about games and storytelling for children and puts great importance upon integrating art, music and drama into classroom curriculum.

We would also like to give a big welcome to Andy Peara, the new Executive Director of the Village School. Mr. Peara will be primarily responsible for financial matters as well as finding us a permanent site. He is fifth grader Emma's dad and has been involved with our school since its birth. Recently he served as co-director of Network Charter School and was the Executive Director of Nearby Nature. He has extensive experience with financial management and planning, grant writing, budgeting and bookkeeping.

Please welcome our new administrative team.

Farewell Letters

Dear Village School Community,

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that I write this farewell letter.

As many of you know, I will not be returning to The Village School next year, but, instead, will be teaching at the International School Saigon Pearl in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where I have a two year contract. International teaching has been a long-term dream of mine, and now that my son is graduated from high school and off to college, I am going to spread my wings and fly to S.E. Asia! I will be teaching second grade to English-speaking Vietnamese children.

Even though I will physically be on the other side of the world, my heart will always be here. I feel honored and grateful to have been a part of this community for nine years. My experience here has allowed me to grow both professionally and personally in ways I could never have imagined!

If you would like to follow my adventure, you can check out my blog spot:

<http://sgrimsrud.tumblr.com>

Thank you all for being a part of my amazing journey here. As I have ended my weekly letters to many of you---one last time---

Fondly,
Miss Sally

Dear Village School Community,

Here we are at the end of another fabulous school year. For me, it also marks the end of ten years of teaching and learning with amazing individuals. I have many fond reflections and memories of working, learning and growing in such a magical environment.

I remember first hearing about the Village School shortly after the charter was approved. I thought my love of gardening, hands-on-activities, music, environmental stewardship and art would make the school the perfect place for me to jump into teaching as a beginning teacher. As a new educator I was blessed to find a place where teachers were encouraged to learn and grow along with the students. As the school grew, I too learned many countless lessons.

Some people say that teachers make the worst students, but I want you to know how much I have learned from being a part of the Village School community. Of course I have immersed myself in the Waldorf philosophy and this approach has been priceless in strengthening my teaching skills. Being expected to sing(!) with my students, tell stories, plan lessons and teach without the crutch of computers, overheads or T.V. pushed me out of my comfortable "educator box" and spurred me to change and grow along with the children.

As I became more comfortable as a teacher, I realized I too was learning some important life lessons from my experience. I learned how to collaborate and cooperate with others from watching the children participate in many collaborative activities from gardening, textiles and cooking in third grade to group energy experiments in fourth. I learned endless amounts of patience. I learned how to be a flexible thinker and to always be "on my toes". I learned to expect the unexpected but also to be structured and organized enough to support a sense of rhythm to the day. I learned that a sense of humor goes a long way – it is important to be able to learn and laugh at the mistakes I make along the way. From the festivals and plays to the countless volunteers who give their time to enrich each child's education I have learned the value of a community in which everyone feels welcome and honored.

Most of all I have learned that The Village School is truly a unique community. I will forever be grateful to every student who has shined their light in my life, each parent that helped that light grow within the children, and every colleague who has helped my light shine brighter because I have had the pleasure and privilege of spending the last decade teaching with all of you. It is with the utmost respect and gratitude from the bottom of my heart that I say for the last time "Goodbye and thank you Village School".

Love always,
Alyson Byas

Fundraising

Bridging the Gap: Annual Giving Campaign

Our Annual Giving Campaign's aim is to raise money for our field trip budget, school supplies, and the purchasing of student desks. You can make a donation via 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.

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 \$5,599.00 of our \$10,000 monetary goal. If we could make another \$5000.00 by June 30th, we will meet our goal for the fiscal year! Thank you.

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>	<u>Total</u>
Participation	53%	63%	50%	50%	58%	19%	36%	29%	13%	41%
Totals	\$382.50	\$942.00	\$257.50	\$372.50	\$1560.00	\$252.50	\$342.00	\$360.00	\$1035.00	\$5,599.00

Please visit Cornbread Café for an opportunity to support The Village School.

For every purchase you make, a percentage of your total sale goes to support our school program.



Please Visit
 Tues - Thurs 11 am-3 pm
 Friday Evening 6 pm - 9 pm
 Sat - 12-4 pm
 112 E. 13th (& Oak) Eugene, OR
cornbreadcafe.com 541-505-9175

Total Sale: \$_____ Date: _____

Amount Donated to School: \$_____

Valid thru Sept. 1, 2010

Please bring this flyer

Food Services Information

Federal School Lunch Program: If your child(ren) participated in the Federal School Lunch Program last year or if you would like to apply for this year, here is what you need to know:

Returning students to the program must complete a NEW form at the beginning of the school year. Complete one form per family including all your children enrolled in 4J schools, no matter what other program you have been accepted to.

If a NEW form is not complete, you will be dropped from the program and charged full price for all meals, beginning October 18, 2010.

Those new to the program must also complete one form per family, including all your children enrolled in 4J schools. Please be aware that applications can take up to 10 days to process.

You are considered approved when you have received a letter from Food Services stating that you are now a part of the program. Until that time, you are responsible to provide meals for your child either from home or paying full price for them at school.

While on the Federal Lunch Program, your student is not allowed to purchase only a milk or juice. They must either purchase the whole meal or bring cash from home to purchase only the beverage to accompany a sack lunch from home.

Account Balance:

Lunch slips are sent home every Friday for those student's with a balance of less than \$9.50. Please check your child's backpack! This should give you enough time for a payment to be posted before your child needs to charge. If there is a minus sign in front of the dollar amount, you have a negative balance that needs to be made current.

Pay for meals on-line, with a major credit card. Signup by using your child's student ID number, which is available by calling Food Service office @ 541-790-7656. There is a 5% processing charge for all on-line payments that goes directly to the credit card company.

Pay for meals with cash or check payments directly to the kitchen in the morning before classes begin. Make checks payable to: 4J Food Services.

Each student is allow only 3 charges. If your child exceeds this limit he or she will be offered an Emergency Meal, free of charge, until their account balance is brought current.

(Emergency Meal consists of: cheese sandwich, milk or juice and salad bar.)

All account balances (negative or positive) are carried over to the following school year, even if the student is moving onto middle school.

Meal Prices:	Breakfast (full price)	\$1.20
	Breakfast (reduced price)	Free
	Lunch (full price)	\$2.25
	Lunch (reduced price)	\$.40
	Milk	\$.50
	Adults	\$3.00



Any questions, please feel free to call Debby between 7:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. @ 541-790-4050

Middle School Matters

Working together to keep your student on track for success

Middle school is a crucial time in your student's development. Students enter middle school as children and leave as young adults. They have a lot to learn, both academically and socially. You can help.

Every Year Counts. Is Your Student on Track?

What is expected of middle school students, both academically and behaviorally, has increased significantly. The skills students build in middle school will be key to their success in high school and beyond — so they can't afford to not take it seriously. Every year, every class, is preparing them for their future.

Your middle schooler should be developing the academic skills that he or she will need in high school and beyond: successfully completing credits and earning passing grades, completing homework on time and to standards, meeting or exceeding achievement standards on state assessments. If your student is falling behind, or if you have other questions or concerns, don't wait — talk to your child's teachers, the school counselor, or the principal.

What Your Student is Learning:

- **Social and emotional growth:** Middle school is a crucial time in adolescents' social development, as they begin to shape who they will be as adults. Social experiences and peer interactions are intensely important to students at this age.
- **Strong study skills:** Teacher expectations are changing. Middle schoolers are learning independent study skills, responsibility, initiative, and how to be accountable for deadlines on their own, without prompting from adults.
- **Grades and credits:** Middle school is the first time students encounter grades and credits, which will be vital to their success in high school and college.
- **Literacy development:** By middle school, students should be reading to learn, not learning to read. Students who are not reading at grade level find it harder to learn new concepts and content, and may need extra help to improve their reading skills.
- **Math and science:** Students at this stage are learning about scientific inquiry and math concepts that will prepare them for high school-level courses.
- **Critical thinking:** Students these days aren't just expected to learn facts and figures. They learn critical thinking, analysis and synthesis — how to put it all together and come up with a conclusion.
- **Research skills:** In middle school and beyond, students need to know how to research, verify, and fact check.
- **Integrating technology:** Students nowadays learn how to gain skills and demonstrate knowledge using technological tools.

How You Can Help:

- **Stay involved!** Middle schoolers may become less welcoming of parent involvement, but it's important not to disengage.
- **Keep communicating.** The best way of knowing what is going on with your students is to talk to them.
- **Work with your student to track assignments.** Many teachers post course material and assignments online; others use a paper syllabus. Using these tools and talking to the teacher or other parents can help you stay aware of what coursework your student should be completing. If your child says he or she doesn't have any homework, probe further.
- **Stay in touch with teachers.** Take advantage of parent nights and parent-teacher conferences. Schedule one-on-one appointments with individual teachers as needed to talk about your student's progress.
- **Know your student's grades and test scores.** All middle schools send progress reports. If your student is falling behind, there are opportunities to get extra help before the term is over.
- **Ask for help.** Talk to the teacher, counselor or principal right away if you believe your student may need extra support.
- **Set boundaries.** You can help your student learn important time management and study skills by setting and sticking to rules for homework completion, television and other screen time, and so on.
- **Volunteer.** It's a great way to stay connected to your school.
- **Take every opportunity you can** to learn more and communicate with your school.

Middle School Matters, cont'd

High School Requirements at a Glance

•• Class of 2014 ••

www.4j.lane.edu/graduation

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

English/Language Arts	4
Mathematics (Algebra 1 and above)	3
Science	3
Social Sciences	3
Physical Education	1
Health	1
Second Language, Arts, Career & Technical Education	3
Electives	6
Total Credits	24

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Read & Comprehend a Variety of Text	√
Write Clearly & Accurately	√
Apply Math in a Variety of Settings	√
Additional Essential Skills:	<i>To be phased In over time</i>
• Listen actively; speak clearly and coherently.	
• Think critically and analytically.	
• Use technology to learn, live, and work.	
• Demonstrate civic/community engagement.	
• Demonstrate global literacy.	
• Demonstrate personal management, teamwork.	

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Education Plan & Profile	√
Career-Related Learning Experiences	√
Extended Application	√

Note: Students who are eligible for alternative completion options will be informed as part of their individual planning process. Eligibility criteria are set by state law.

An important message to middle school parents:

Prepare Now for High School Success. The path toward high school graduation begins long before 9th grade. *Middle school is a critical stage in your child's educational journey, and it's essential to stay on track. With Oregon's graduation requirements becoming more rigorous, that is true now more than ever. Your student needs to complete 8th grade ready for the challenges and opportunities offered in high school.*

Get Ready for Credit Requirements

The State Board of Education has strengthened requirements in English, math, science, and career and technical skills, making the Oregon high school diploma more rigorous and meaningful.

What does this mean for your student? Students now need to enter high school with the skills they need for rigorous coursework, and stay on track by successfully completing the correct mix of classes each year.

Get Ready to Demonstrate Essential Skills

In order to earn a high school diploma, students must demonstrate proficiency in certain essential skills that are needed for success in college, the workplace, and civic life in the 21st century.

What does this mean for your student? Middle school students should be developing skills in reading, writing and math; meeting standards on state assessments; and becoming familiar with producing quality work samples.

The state tests your student takes in middle school really do matter — they're an important way to monitor how your child's learning is progressing. When students perform well on the state tests of reading, writing and math skills in middle school, and stay on track developing skills in these areas, they are more likely to also perform well a few years later on the assessments they need to earn a diploma.

When students don't meet achievement standards on one or more of these middle school assessments, it's a sign that they may need targeted assistance and extra effort to ensure their skill development is on target to succeed in high school.

Get Ready for Personalized Learning

The personalized learning components of Oregon's graduation requirements are helping ensure that today's students graduate from high school with a full toolkit of skills, ready to walk into college or the workplace well-prepared for success. To help prepare for their post-graduation goals, all students now must develop an education plan and profile, participate in career-related learning experiences, and apply and extend their knowledge in new and complex ways.

What does this mean for your student? In the first year of high school, staff will help your student develop an education plan and profile that maps out a path to graduation. We can help.

Announcements

Race & Ethnicity Form Reminder

The federal requirements about recording race and ethnicity data have changed, and so we are updating all student records using the new categories.

If you have not yet done so, please complete both the race/ethnicity form and the home language survey and return them to the school office. We believe that self-identification is the only way to gather this information accurately and respectfully. We would like to have all students' forms in by the end of the school year. For more information please see this link: www.4j.lane.edu/communications/recordsupdate.

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 either the Village School office: village@4j.lane.edu or Parent Council Chair, Heather Cyrus: cyrush18@yahoo.com

The Village School Board of Directors is actively recruiting volunteer members!

The Board consists of the School's administrator, teachers, parents, and community members. It meets every third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public. Parents and community members are welcome to attend.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please complete an application. If you are not interested in becoming a member, but know of a family or community member who might be, please let them know we are recruiting by sharing this information.

Board of Directors Job Description at a Glance

The Village School Board of Directors has ultimate legal and financial responsibility for the school. The Board is composed of teachers, parents, and community members. Primary Board responsibilities include maintaining the legal and financial security of the school, long-range planning and development, and creating and overseeing the implementation of policies and procedures of the school that are consistent with the school's pedagogy, community vision, and its charter. The Board elects a President, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members. All Board members are encouraged to participate in the major committees of the school.

Announcements, cont'd

LTD Service Changes Effective Sunday, June 13, 2010

Beginning Sunday, June 13, Lane Transit District summer bus service changes will go into effect. These changes are adjustments to the level of service during the summer when the UO, LCC, and 4J enter their summer session, and they include phase one of a four-phase plan that reduces service hours in order to balance the District's operating budget.

The following routes will be eliminated effective Sunday, June 13:

3x River Road Station 8x Thurston Station Breeze 60 Cal Young

The following routes will experience changes effective Sunday, June 13. Visit ltd.org for service details.

1 Campbell Center	32 West 1 st Avenue	81 LCC/Harris
24 Donald	55 River Road Connector	91 McKenzie Bridge
27 Fairmount	66 VRC/Coburg	95 Junction City
28 Hilyard	67 Coburg/VRC	96 Coburg

The following routes will be eliminated effective Friday, June 18, at the end of the school session:

422 AM SEHS and PM Crest Drive	435 AM CHS and PM City View
426 AM SEHS and PM UO/Brae Burn	451 AM and PM NEHS

The following routes do not operate during the summer effective Sunday, June 13. Service will resume in the fall.

76 UO/Westmoreland, Weekday	78 UO/Oak Patch, Weekday
79x UO/Kinsrow, Weekday	81 LCC/Harris, Saturday

Visit LTD's website, stop by LTD Customer Service at the Eugene Station, or **call 541-687-5555** (1-800-735-2900 TTY-Oregon Relay) for more details or if you have questions about the service changes.

LTD 2009-10 Student Pass is Good through June 2010

The 2009-10 LTD Student Transit Passes remain valid for students in grades 6-12 through June 30, 2010.

LTD Summer Youth Pass

This year Lane Transit District (LTD) will sell a Summer Youth Pass covering July and August to help families bridge the gap created when their students' 2009-10 pass expires and before their 2010-11 pass becomes effective on September 1, 2010. The two-month pass will cost \$35 and will be available for purchase in late June at the LTD Customer Service Center, located at the corner of E. 11th Avenue and Willamette Street. Call LTD Customer Service at 541-687-5555 for more information.

LTD 2010-11 Student Pass

LTD will offer the 2010-11 student transit passes beginning September 1, 2010, for students in grades 6-12. Interested families should look for program information in their back-to-school materials.



Calendar Highlights 2010-2011

School Hours:

Kindergarten 8:30-11:45 Monday-Thursday

Grades 1-3 8:30- 2:30 Monday-Friday

Grades 4-8 8:30-2:45 Monday-Friday

Month	Date	Day	Event
September	8	Wednesday	First Day of School
			New Parent Orientation at 10:00 am
September	29	Wednesday	Picture Day
October	8	Friday	No School, Teacher In-Service Day
October	15	Friday	No School, Teacher Grading Day
October	18	Monday	No School, Parent Teacher Conferences
October	19	Tuesday	No School, Parent Teacher Conferences
October	29	Friday	Halloween Carnival
November	6	Saturday	Dia de los Muertos
November	11	Thursday	No School, Veteran's Day
November	17	Wednesday	Picture Retakes
November	18	Thursday	Lantern Walk
November	23	Saturday	Site Clean Up
November	24	Wednesday	Math Night
November	25	Thursday	No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
November	26	Friday	No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
December	3	Friday	Talent Show
December	9	Thursday	Winter Concert
December	14-31	Tuesday-Friday	No School, Winter Holiday
January	3	Monday	No School, Teacher Work Day
January	4	Tuesday	School Resumes
January	17	Monday	No School, Martin Luther King Day
January	22	Saturday	Site Clean Up
January	28	Friday	No School, Teacher Work Day
February	7	Monday	No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences
February	8	Tuesday	No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences
February	12	Saturday	Heart of the Village
February	16	Wednesday	Parent Information Meeting
February	19	Saturday	Parent Information Meeting
February	21	Monday	No School, President's Day
February	23	Wednesday	Middle School Orientation
March	2	Wednesday	Author's Night
March	11	Friday	No School, Teacher Work Day
March	15	Tuesday	Lottery
March- April	21-1	Monday-Friday	No School, Spring Break

Calendar Highlights, cont'd 2010-2011

School Hours:

Kindergarten 8:30-11:45 Monday-Thursday
 Grades 1-3 8:30- 2:30 Monday-Friday
 Grades 4-8 8:30-2:45 Monday-Friday

Month	Date	Day	Event
April	4	Monday	No School, Teacher Work Day
April	5	Tuesday	School Resumes
April	15	Friday	No School, Teacher Work Day
April	29	Friday	May Day Festival
May	7	Saturday	Site Clean Up
May	12-13	Thursday-Friday	Greek Games
May	23-24	Monday-Tuesday	Medieval Games
May	30	Monday	No School, Memorial Holiday
June	10	Friday	No School, Teacher Work Day
June	16	Thursday	All School Picnic
June	17	Friday	Last Day of School, Early Release, 1:00 8th Grade Graduation

