

Beverly Cleary K-8 Family Newsletter

Academic Excellence in a Caring Community

April 17, 2009

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Words of Thanks

• Thanks to our parents who have spent a lot of time selecting a new childcare provider for our school for the 2009-10 school year. At our community meeting Wednesday evening, we decided to invite Camp Fire to be our new providers. We are very excited about their program opportunities for our children. Camp Fire will hold an open house later this spring. We also thank the YMCA for all that they have done with our children in the past.

Congratulations

• The past two years **Crystal Hering** has won the Award of Merit (2nd place) for her musical compositions for the middle school level. This year she won the Award of Excellence (1st place) for her musical composition entitled, "Just Like a Dream." It will be forwarded on to the National level contest.

An aside, Melanie, a Fernwood alum, also won at the high school level. She received an Award of Excellence (1st place) for her photography submission, "Independence Day," which will go on to the National level. She also received the Award of Merit (2nd place) for her musical composition, "Moonlit Escape."

They will be honored, along with other winners, at the PTA annual luncheon on April 18 in Salem.

Beverly Cleary School News

• Information shared with our staff at a voluntary staff meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009:

We have temporary teachers in our school who aren't able to apply for open positions until the second part of Phase Two.

Our staffing allocation for this year is:

26.94 FTE

- 3.0 FTE for administrators

23.94 FTE

- 1.0 FTE for two secretaries (one in each building)

22.94 FTE

- 1.0 FTE for counselor

21.94 FTE

(The above is included as part of our Administrative Package and we are not able to change how this FTE is used.)

21.94

- 1.5 FTE for kindergarten

20.44

- 19.0 FTE for 1st-8th grade classroom teachers

1.44 FTE remaining for enrichment

- 0.5 FTE for Library

0.94 FTE

- 0.4 FTE for PE

0.54 FTE

- 0.4 FTE for Music/Drama

0.14 FTE

- 0.2 FTE for 7th/8th grade Band

(-0.06) FTE

- 0.2 FTE for 8th grade Spanish

(-0.26) FTE (Foundation)

We requested a 0.5 FTE to cover enrichment classes for our Hollyrood students. We heard late Monday afternoon (4/13) that this has been approved.

We will have PE and Music as our two enrichment classes. Our Foundation carry-over is estimated to be \$29,870. We used \$16,850 to cover our 0.26 FTE shortfall for enrichment. Our Foundation add-back plan begins with bringing back our Librarian full-time. Next would be adding Basic Skills instruction, giving specific support to 4th grade during their literacy and math block as they are projected to have the largest class sizes.

We have built into the schedule a common 60 minute math period for grades 4-8. This allows us to move students up a grade level if they have met the assessment criteria set by our cluster/district. Having the 60 minute time also allows students to stay in their grade level science/wellness classes if they are moved for math.

We will have 90 minute reading blocks, allowing approximately 30 minutes for whole-group instruction and then 60 minutes of small group instruction. We will begin Walk to Read for 1st-3rd grades. We will also look at moving kinders who are identified on a case-by-case basis to be included in Walk to Read. Our reading blocks were designed so that our Learning Center teachers may be part of this rotation (in grades K-5).

The state's financial picture is getting worse. Last week, Governor Kulongoski and State Superintendent Susan Castillo wrote to school superintendents across the state and urged schools to budget based on a \$5.4 billion-\$5.9 billion state funding level for education – relying on projections of state revenue losses a year from now.

What does this mean for our schools, students and staff?

1. We must prepare for possible additional cuts to the proposed PPS budget:

The state revenue picture is changing rapidly for the worse. We need to prepare for state school funding lower than what we projected in March when the proposed budget was released.

\$5.4 billion in funding to K-12 means a \$52 million cut to PPS.

\$5.9 billion for K-12 would result in a \$33 million cut to PPS.

Options for cuts that may be considered after the legislature proposes a state budget in mid-May (depending on the severity of state cuts to education):

Additional central office reductions.

Delayed textbook adoptions.

Cutting staff positions and raising class sizes.

Use of reserves.

Cutting non-instructional and instructional days from the school calendar.

Across-the-board salary reductions.

Changing the District's contribution to employee health benefits.

All matters related to compensation are mandatory subjects of bargaining.

2. State K-12 funding has not been determined – staff and parents can have a voice:

Legislative leaders are not expected to release specific budget proposals until May 18th, including plans to fund K-12 education. Until then, staff and parents can express their concerns about the impact of state cuts to schools.

On April 21st, legislators will hold a public hearing in Portland to hear budget concerns. The meeting will be held at:

Portland Community College -Cascade Campus
Auditorium, Moriarty Building
705 N. Killingsworth Street
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

3. Changing budget timelines:

The school board will revise its budget calendar, based on the evolving budget picture. The board will schedule additional work sessions and budget hearings in coming weeks. The budget is scheduled to be approved on June 8th.

Staffing will continue based on Superintendent Smith's proposed 2009-2010 budget. If adjustments to the staffing ratio are required, they will be made in June after the school board approves a final budget.

• Beverly Cleary Learning Garden Work Party is looking for volunteers!

On **Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th** - The Beverly Cleary Garden Committee plans on a two full day work party to remove asphalt, install irrigation, build eight raised beds, edging and gravel paths. We need volunteers to help! Sign-ups are posted at Hollyrood and Fernwood. We will have two sets of 10 volunteers each day. You can view the landscape layout and sketch posted on the Beverly Cleary School bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Lynn Raube at 503-680-3390 or lynnraube@integra.net.

Thank you,
The BCS Garden Committee!

• Please remember that students may not be in the halls at Fernwood until 8:30 am and if they enter at 8:30 they may go **only** to the cafeteria. Students are allowed to go to their lockers and classrooms at 8:40 am.

• School offices at both sites open at 8:00 am and close at 4:30 pm.

TAG News

• **Oregon Writing Festival:** The date for the Oregon Writing Festival is May 2, 2009. We plan to send at least one team of interested writers.

• **April 30, 2009: Grade Advancement** applications and paperwork due to the TAG Office.

Beverly Cleary School PTA News

- The PTA Board met recently and approved a slate of nominees for next year's PTA Board. The candidates are:

President:	(Open)
Vice President Position 1:	Kathie Eastman Tell
Vice President Position 2:	Craig Williams
Volunteer Coordinator Position 1:	Barbara Smith-Warner
Volunteer Coordinator Position 2:	Bonnie Edwards
Volunteer Coordinator Position 3:	Maya Petersen
Secretary:	Christine Putnam
Treasurer:	Kristine Caldicott
Membership:	Darren Singer
Members at Large:	Anita McKey Nancy Drinnon Sam Shiffman (Open)

The Nominating Committee recommended these PTA members after a long process of recruiting and interviewing prospective candidates. This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Board Members Jenny Shea and Doug McMahon.

All PTA Members and prospective members have approximately 30 days to consider these candidates AND to nominate additional/alternative candidates. The Election of members to next year's PTA Board will take place at our final PTA General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 13th at 6:30 pm. At that meeting, the aforementioned slate of candidates will be read aloud to the assembled membership and members will have an opportunity to nominate additional candidates. More details about this process will be provided in the coming weeks.

• COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPPER GRADES

Beverly Cleary students in grades 5th-8th need to fulfill community service requirements each trimester. This is a reminder that there is a Community Service Opportunities bulletin board located upstairs at the Fernwood building, in the SE corner of the building, by the elevator. Please remind your child to check the bulletin board for options. Right now posted opportunities include:

1. Helping construct the school garden area at the Fernwood site on the weekend of April 25 & 26 (parents needed too - your sign up sheet is next to the school office),
2. Helping at the local Loaves and Fishes center, and
3. Monthly clean-ups of the Hollywood business district hosted by the Hollywood Boosters (which includes free ice cream as a reward from Baskin-Robbins).

Teachers and parents are encouraged to post other community service opportunities for the benefit of our 5th-8th grade students. If you have any questions, please contact PTA 6th-8th grade volunteer coordinator Lori Faha.

Beverly Cleary School SUN News

Beverly Cleary SUN School will be offering four great opportunities for adults this spring, located conveniently at the Fernwood campus, 1915 NE 33rd Ave.

AM Adult Yoga

Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 am, April 7th-May 12th. Vinyasa Style Yoga is a flowing style of yoga where the postures are linked together creating continuous movement. Breathing techniques are also used with each movement to focus the mind, relax and find lightness in each pose. The class is suitable for all levels. The cost is \$40.

Adult Spanish II - Intermediate Beginner

Mondays from 6:15-7:15 pm, April 6th-May 28th. This Spanish class will be taught by Nina Frayne, a native speaker with over 15 years experience teaching Spanish to Americans. The cost is \$40.

Adult Tae Kwon Do

Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 am, April 6th-May 28th. Learn a martial art that teaches dynamic kicks, self control, self defense, flexibility, and strength. Come learn traditional Tae Kwon Do forms from Eli, an impressive 2nd degree black belt from the School of Traditional Tae Kwon Do. The cost is \$100.

Adult Dodgeball with Recess Time Sports

Thursday Nights, April 8th-May 28th; Tournament: May 30th. Kids don't have all of the fun, join the Beverly Cleary Adult Dodgeball Team! Join Recess Time Sports and learn the art of Dodgeball. Play in a league and enjoy fun adult games throughout Portland. To register visit www.recesstimesports.com. There is a 10% discount for all Beverly Cleary parents!

Family Kickball - Friday, May 29th, 3-6 pm

Students vs. Parents! Come spend a Friday afternoon playing Kickball on the Fernwood Field. This is a family friendly event, all ages are welcome to come play and watch. It will be a great day to spend outside playing and enjoying the sunny weather! Hope to see you there.

We are also always looking for support from the local community. There are so many ways to get involved, just give us a call or send an email. For more information or to register for a class, call Corrie Heselius at (503)916-5314 or email: cheselius@impactnw.org

Beverly Cleary School Calendar

Tues, April 21	Career Fair @ Fernwood for 8 th grade only
Wed, April 22	Middle School Band Festival
Thurs, April 23	Third grade field trip Sixth grade to StarBase
Fri, April 24	Run for the Arts funds and sponsor sheet must be turned in to the school. Third grade to Symphony Fourth grade field trip
April 25-26	Beverly Cleary Garden Work Days!
Mon, April 27	PTA Clothing Center Volunteer Day
Tues, April 28	PTA / Principal's Coffee Chat @ Fernwood, 8:45 am
Thurs, April 30	Sixth grade to StarBase Seventh grade girls to Equity Conference
May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
Mon, May 4	Site Council Meeting @ Fernwood, 3:30-5:30 pm
Tues, May 12	Kindergarten field trip 9-12
Wed, May 13	General PTA Meeting @ Fernwood, 6:30-8:00 pm Bochinche K-2 Assembly @ Fernwood, 1:00 pm
Thurs, May 21	Art Night @ Hollyrood, 6:30-8 pm
Mon, May 25	Memorial Day – School Closed
Thurs, May 28	Art Night @ Fernwood, 6:30-8 pm
Wed, June 10	Last Day of School for Students! (Changed from June 9 due to snow day)

Portland Public Schools Nondiscrimination Statement

Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. All individuals and groups shall be treated with fairness in all activities, programs, and operations, without regard to age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

Board of Education Policy 1.80.020-P

District Title VI & Title IX Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503-916-3183)

District 504 Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503-916-3183)

American Disabilities Act Contact: Maureen Sloane, HR Legal Counsel (503-916-3025)