

Beverly Cleary K-8 Family Newsletter

Academic Excellence in a Caring Community

May 15, 2009

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Words of Thanks

• You have always been very generous with Teacher Appreciation Week treats, but the make-over to the Fernwood work room is incredible! Thanks for organizing treats throughout the week to recognize our teaching staff. Thanks to all of the families who have served our school throughout the school year. It's dangerous to begin naming, because I know I will leave someone out, but thanks to those who've worked diligently all year as part of our Site Council, PTA, Foundation, school volunteers, office helpers, We wouldn't be the school we are without all of you behind us. Saying thanks doesn't seem adequate!

Beverly Cleary School News

• **We would like to recognize all of our FABULOUS volunteers at a Volunteer Recognition breakfast on Tuesday, May 26th.** Since we already have a Coffee Chat scheduled at Hollyrood that morning, we will combine these two events. Please come and let us recognize each of you for all that you do to make our school successful.

• Our school counselor, **Cynthia Thomas**, has planned a **1st grade transition activity for June 1st.** Our 1st graders will walk over to Fernwood and be given special tours of the building. If you're able to help supervise our 1st graders on their walk over, please contact one of our 1st grade teachers or Annie. Thanks.

• As spring arrives, **please remember that doors in both of our buildings MUST NOT be propped open at any time.** Our school safety committees recently met and this concern was raised once again.

Please, please make sure that you do not prop or hook open any school door. This is happening at both Hollyrood and Fernwood and it significantly impacts our security.

Thanks for your cooperation!
Linda

• **Margie is asking that all library materials be turned in by May 27th.** We have scheduled textbooks to be checked back in through the library June 4, for 8th graders and June 5, for 6th and 7th graders. All students who haven't turned in books by May 29, will receive an email stating, "It is now time to return the textbooks listed below. The replacement charge listed will be waived if the textbooks listed are returned to your school library in usable condition." Most of our textbooks are \$70. We're choosing NOT to have texts returned by the May 29, date set by the district because we still have another week or more of school! Please know that the charges will be cleared when textbooks are returned in June.

• One of our parents, **Susan Crabtree**, asked me to speak at a local **Stand for Children** meeting. Susan asked me to address how an individual school might be impacted by additional budget cuts.

Since I met with our **Student Leadership Team** right before the Stand meeting, I asked these kids what they expected their school should provide them. **I believe you will be interested in their responses:**

Pre-tests for the PSAT, SAT, and other college admission tests

Our kids want to know if they are prepared and ready to pass these tests in high school

Two enrichment classes per day

Ideas for enrichment classes:

Shop

More foreign languages

Opportunities to be active (PE twice a week isn't enough)

Art, or other uses for the art room

Geography

Chemistry

Locks on the lockers for the 3rd and 4th graders

Recess breaks- their brains and bodies get tired

Room with animals

The Arts

Pathways

From our 8th graders looking ahead: more provisions for advanced subjects, i.e. math

Opportunity to read to younger kids each day

TAG News

- How much more can we reasonably ask our families to cover??? Our kids deserve so much more. We pride ourselves as a family and community school. **Please help us, though, by making sure that younger siblings and friends are not on our playgrounds during school hours.** We have very limited supervision staff and have our hands full supervising all of our students. Our Risk Management Department does not allow us to have younger students present, as this makes us responsible for their supervision.

- **We will hold school all day on Wednesday, June 3rd.** In the past, we have dismissed early due to the Junior Rose Festival Parade. If you would like to take your child to the parade, please just follow our usual check out procedures.

• COMMUNITY CARE DAY

Mark your calendars! **Community Care Day** will take place on **Saturday, August 29, 2009**. Community Care Day is Portland Public Schools' annual event where volunteers in local communities come together to clean and clear school grounds before the start of the school year. Portland Public Schools is very excited to be partnering with **Hands On Greater Portland** to coordinate this important event. **Anyone interested in coordinating this event for our school???** If so, please notify either Annie, Melissa, or Linda.

• Year End Cafeteria Account Balances

Any remaining account balances (positive or negative) on students' meal accounts at the end of the year will be automatically held for students at their current school or transferred to students' new schools within the district.

If your student is leaving the district, then you may call Kathi Lauinger, Cafeteria Lead at (503) 916-6766 to arrange for a refund.

- We hope to begin using flatware in our Fernwood cafeteria next fall. We need to gather donated spoons and forks NOW so that we're ready to go in September. Our goal is to collect 400 spoons and 400 forks. Please turn any donations into each office. Thank you!

- Our next family newsletter will be on Friday, June 5.

- 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 101: Meeting for Parents of Newly-Identified Students – Wednesday, May 20, 2009 from 7-8:30 pm at the BESC Board Room, 501 N. Dixon St.**

Meet district TAG staff to have your questions answered regarding the identification process and programs and services available for your child. We're online at tag.pps.k12.or.us

• Creative Language Arts Resource—Storyline Online

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation sponsors [Storyline Online](#), an online streaming video program featuring SAG members like James Earl Jones and Elijah Woods reading children's books aloud. Each book also includes accompanying activities and lesson ideas.

Another Creative Language Arts Resource—Primary Summer Reading

Letter P.A.L.S. Summerfest 2009, a new *free* 6-week online summer reading event, has been created to help grade 1-3 students offset summer reading loss/setback and show up next year ready to read. Learn more at www.letterpals.org. Teachers can sign up their classrooms now. Letter P.A.L.S. Summerfest 2009 will start on June 22. [Summerfest 2009](#) features the [Pet Shop Pen Pals](#), a group of pets who love to write letters to students and tell them about all of their adventures.

University of Oregon Summer Enrichment Program for TAG Students

The Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) is a campus-based residential program offering a wide range of exciting academic course options and social activities for gifted students currently in grades 6-10. Visit <http://www.uoyouth.org/> for this year's specific schedule and application information.

Do Students Have to Play Dumb to Be Cool?

[This article](#) from London addresses the issue of intelligence and popularity. Sociologists have observed the tendency for girls to act less intelligent than they actually are in order to fit in, and this article looks at how boys sometimes also face a similar peer pressure.

Announcements

- **SEPTAP General Meeting
Tuesday, May 19th 6:30-8:30PM
Beverly Cleary Fernwood
1915 NE 33rd Ave. Portland, OR**

Please join us for our last meeting of the school year, where you'll hear updates from our committees, learn more about local resources and organizations, and how you can get involved! Guest speaker Roberta Dunn, FACT Coalition Director (www.factorogon.org), will discuss the new Family Information and Support Center in Portland.

Refreshments will be provided. No on site childcare is available. As we build our membership and find funding sources, we will be making every effort to decrease barriers (transportation, child care expenses, membership dues, language barriers) to participation for all families. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your participation.

SEPTAP members represent students who run the full gamut of placement, from special programs, to self-contained classrooms, to partial and full inclusion. We welcome all families -- even if your needs fall outside of our current scope (K-8 students receiving Special Education services) we want to hear from you! There is potential for us to all work together and benefit from one another, but to do that we need members who have a diversity of experience to get involved. Please visit us at our website at www.septap.org for more information! Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Alicia DeLashmutt
Membership Committee Co-Chair

• WELLNESS COMMITTEE LOOKS FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Portland School District is committed to creating a health school environment that promotes lifelong healthy eating and physical activity patterns.

To help us reach our vision, the Superintendent appoints representatives from district teachers, students (high school juniors or seniors), staff, and parents and individuals from Portland-area businesses, health care, and community partners to serve on the Wellness Advisory Committee.

The District is currently looking for 10 new members. If you are interested in being considered for appointment to this committee or wish to nominate an individual to be appointed, please e-mail Kristy Obbink R.D. at kobbink@pps.k12.or.us.

The Advisory Committee meets at least once every three months and serves a two year term. Their role includes:

- 1.) Assist in the implementation of the Wellness Policy and Administrative Directives by providing recommendations based on best practices and research-based efforts on issues related to student wellness.
- 2.) Advise the District on issues concerning nutrition, nutrition education, physical education and physical activity programs and practices.
- 3.) Make written recommendations through the submission of an annual report and provide updates to the Board as may be requested by the Superintendent.
- 4.) Provide input to the District to assist with the District's efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of wellness implementation

5.) Promote and represent the wellness initiatives of the District not those of any individual or organization.

Kristine Obbink, Nutrition Services Director, x63393,
kobbink@pps.k12.or.us

• May is Walk + Bike Challenge Month

The Safer Routes to Schools folks are sponsoring Walk + Bike Challenge month in May. The purpose is to encourage everyone to walk or bike to get to school, work and errands as much as possible. It's great for kids, great for the community and great for the environment. Check www.walknbike.org for helpful tips to get kids and families moving in the non-car way. While Beverly Cleary will not be tabulating results, encourage your child to keep track of how they got to school each day this month - make it a challenge for your family to walk and bike more.

Beverly Cleary School PTA News

• On Wednesday, May 13th, the PTA held its final General Meeting of the year. Our annual elections were conducted and we are pleased to announce our new officers for next year:

President	Julie Jetton
Vice-President	Kathie Eastman-Tell
Vice-President	Craig Williams
Volunteer Coordinator (Position 1)	Bonnie Edwards
Volunteer Coordinator (Position 2)	Maya Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator (Position 3)	Barbara Smith-Warner
Secretary	Christine Putnam
Treasurer	Kristine Caldicott
Membership	Darren Singer
Legislation	Bonnie Gee Yosick
Member-at-Large Position 1	Nancy Drinnon
Member-at-Large Position 2	Anita McKey
Member-at-Large Position 3	Sam Shiffman
Member-at-Large Position 4	Amy Baskin

The new officers will officially take their posts on the Board on July 1st. And a special "Thank You" goes out to the Nominating Committee (Doug McMahon, Jenny Shea, Andrew Briggs) for fielding and interviewing the candidates.

• Many thanks to all the families who donated books to our book drive for the **Children's Book Bank**. **With your help, we collected more than 1,200 books!** These books will be packaged for students in the **Albina Head Start** program who will receive them just as school is ending, to jump start their summer reading program. Thanks everyone for your support and participation. And look for another book drive next school year.

Gratefully,
Julie van Amerongen, Book Drive Coordinator

• **A Career Interest Area Day for 8th Graders!**

Last Friday our 8th graders took part in a long-standing Fernwood tradition, the “8th Grade Career Fair”. Our children got to picture themselves beyond the school building and out in the work force. Based on their earlier responses to a survey on potential careers, students gathered in small groups to hear speakers from a wide variety of professions. The energy in the room was palpable as students and speakers shared stories, questions, and interests. It was, as Mr. Streckert likes to say, “like lightning in a bottle!”

Any successful event takes a lot of commitment and volunteer help. Thank you to parent volunteers Madeline Kokes, Cheryl Hering, and Anita McKey; school staff Tom Streckert, Carly McKenzie and Rob Gibson, for details in planning, student management and room set-up; student volunteers Anna Learn, Lizzy Schuberg, and Portia Seater. Your enthusiasm was much appreciated.

Finally, a most sincere thanks to our speakers, many of whom are parents of students at the school – we loved your energy and professionalism. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy day, to share your expertise and insights with our 8th Grade Students.

- Doug Drinnon** (Account Management)
- Jelly Helm**, (Advertising)
- Ellen Fortin** (Architecture)
- Geoff Roberts** (Airline Pilot and Mechanic Careers)
- Ronn H. Elzinga** (Legal Profession, Elzinga & Associates)
- Dr. Noel Larson** (Dentistry, Pediatric Dentistry)
- Aaron Watzig** (Electric, Energy Trust, Westside Electric)
- Bill Edmonds** (Environmental Policy & Sustainability, NW Natural)
- Alice Ann Wetzel** (Government & City Planning, City of Portland)
- Peg Goldie** (Interior Designer, Ash Pierce Design)
- Scott Learn** (News Reporting, Journalism, The Oregonian)
- Rosemary Ragusa** (Photographer, Mon Amour Photography)
- Dave Pearson, Jake Vaughn** (Product Testing – Nike footwear)
- Brian Silcott** (Sports, Portland Lumberjax)

Peggy Thatcher, 2009 Career Fair Coordinator

• **The PTA Clothing Closet is seeking gently used clothing donations.** They have had a 22% increase in usage this year, and in April they had an average of 45 students per day visit. They are running low on clothes and could use more donations. So, as you are doing your spring cleaning and clearing out some clothes from your closets (infant to adult sizes), please consider donating to the BCS clothing closet.

At Hollyrood you can drop clothes in the blue bin (labeled clothing closet) in the lobby and in Fernwood you can find a collection site in the Main Office. Rosanne will direct you to the location.

Beverly Cleary School Foundation News

• **Let’s Raise \$\$ for Art Supplies!**

Let’s face it...you can’t make art without art supplies! The Arts Committee is currently taking monetary donations for art supplies to be used next year. The collected funds will allow the teachers to take advantage of bulk pricing over the summer, and be better stocked once the school year begins. The money will help purchase items such as paper and paint to be shared across the grades.

Checks can be made out to Beverly Cleary School with “Art Supplies” written on the memo line. Thanks for supporting the creativity in our kids!

• **All donations made out to the Beverly Cleary School Foundation are tax deductible.**

Beverly Cleary School Calendar

- Wed, May 20 Friendship Lodge School Citizenship Award 7:00 pm
- Thurs, May 21 Art Night @ Hollyrood 6:30-8 pm
- Mon, May 25 Memorial Day – School Closed**
- Tues, May 26 Coffee Chat 8:30 am at Hollyrood
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- Wed, May 27 All library materials are due
- Thurs, May 28 Honor Roll Recognition 6:00 pm
Band Concert 6:30 pm
- Fri, May 29 Family Kickball, Students vs. Parents
- Mon, June 1 1st grade transition activity at Fernwood
Site Council
- Tues, June 9 8th grade promotion 6:00-6:50, family
reception until 7:30, dance/party 7:30-9:00
- 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)