

Beverly Cleary K-8 Family Newsletter

Academic Excellence in a Caring Community

December 18, 2009

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Well, it has been a hectic week, not only because teachers and students have been working hard to finish last-minute projects, but because children (and teachers) are anxious for time they will be spending with family away from the pace that comes with school.

I hope you all had a chance to read the letter on our two Family Arts Nights that went home last week. We will welcome Rainbow Dance Company and Trashcan Joe to Beverly Cleary in January and February, respectively. I hope you will be able to enjoy one of these evenings with your family. There is no fee for the tickets, as we are using funds families and friends donated to our Run-for-the-Arts last spring. You can pick up your tickets in either of our two school offices.

This past Wednesday during our late opening, the staff was involved in professional development in writing, which is the focus of our School Improvement Plan this year. On Wednesday, we developed a plan for a morning of writing when we return from break. For a thirty minute period, our students will be writing, K-8, on the same topic. We will focus on the trait of "Ideas and Content" as we examine their work. We will look at expectations at each grade level for meeting benchmark criteria in that trait area using either the State Scoring Guide (3-8) or the Developmental Writing Scale (K-2). We will all be using the same writing process and developmentally appropriate prompt. We are anxious to see the students' work and to discuss our observations of their strengths and needs at our next late opening.

Last Saturday a team of students, under the leadership of Martin Jetton won first place in the "Teamwork" category at a Lego Robotics competition held at Catlin Gabel School. We are proud of their efforts and thank Martin for his leadership.

I'd like to ask your assistance if you pick up children in the back of the school on the Fernwood campus. Please remember there is no stopping or parking once you enter the driveway. Cars have been stopping and/or parking in the drop off/pick up area, which has resulted in other drivers being unable to enter the driveway so they have been backed up on to Hancock. That, as well as cars parked illegally on the north side of Hancock have meant the school bus has, at times, been unable to get by. Please heed our pleas for safety and avoid

stopping or parking in the back unless there is an empty designated parking space.

I also need your help on another matter. As you know, families and students are to wait outside until the bell rings *unless it is raining*. Last week, however, because of the "arctic blast" students were able to wait inside the foyers and the cafeteria on the Fernwood campus. We will continue to allow parents and students to wait inside in the foyers and cafeteria (BCF) on both campuses if it is raining or we get another blast of frigid temperatures. On days when it isn't freezing or raining, however, we ask everyone to wait outside on both campuses. The reason we have instituted this policy is because we do not have adequate supervision on either campus. When we need to let people wait in the foyers and cafeteria, we have to pull staff from other duties to supervise. Additionally on the Hollyrood campus it is difficult, if not impossible, for Kelly to hear on the phone when we have a group of people waiting inside on the Hollyrood campus.

At this time of year when we stop to reflect on the passing of one year and the beginning of a new one, may you and your family experience good health and happiness in 2010.

With unending thankfulness for all that you do for us,

Teri Geist

Beverly Cleary School News

New Phone System Coming to Beverly Cleary: Parent surveys available in the Office

PPS is currently in the process of updating the telephone system at Beverly Cleary. They would like your feedback on how well the current phone system has worked for you. After the new system is in place, a follow-up survey will be conducted.

Family Arts Nights

As a result of your generosity and support of our Run-for-the-Arts last spring, I am excited to offer an opportunity I'm hoping will be an annual event. On January 14th and February 11th

two local artists will be performing at Beverly Cleary, and we are offering families the chance to attend. There will be no charge to families as we are using some of the proceeds from last year's Run to fund the evenings.

Each performance will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last about one hour. Both performances will be held in the cafetorium on the Fernwood campus. To guide you in your decision about participation, listed below are descriptions of the two artists. We worked with Young Audiences to provide some variety between the artists in order to appeal to our school community.

In order to open up the Family Arts Nights to as many families as possible, families may attend only one of the performances. This is particularly important because we anticipate having a large number of families wanting to be a part of these evenings. Tickets for the two performances will be available on a first come, first-served basis in the front offices on both campuses beginning the week of December 7th. If you do take tickets for one of the evenings, we ask you keep your commitment to attend since it is likely more families will want to attend than there are tickets available.

I hope you will find this invitation appealing. I know I am excited to offer the performances and look forward to seeing each evening reach its capacity. If these two evenings are successful and our proceeds from the Run in 2010 allow, it will be my desire to offer similar opportunities every year. Thank you for the generosity you have shown each spring in the support of Run-for-the-Arts.

**January 14th 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Dance Company
"The Roots of Hip Hop"**

This ensemble of dancers take students on a high-energy adventure in cultural history, tracing the popular African-American dance style hip-hop back to its roots. The program begins with a new dance featuring the latest hip-hop and break-dance steps. Then, using authentic African instruments, audience participation, costumes and vignettes such as "hamboning" and "voguing" they recount the journey of African-Americans from their homes in Africa through slavery to the present.

**February 11th 6:30 p.m. Trashcan Joe
"Music Is All Around Us!"**

Led by James Cook, this energetic quartet brings to life classic American jazz from the 1920s to the 1950s. They share original compositions as well as familiar children's folk songs, using a homemade trashcan banjo, trashcan bass, kazoo, accordion, cornet and more. Students accompany the musicians with singing and rhythmic clapping and volunteers join the band on stage to create a trashcan orchestra.

Auction Parking Spots

Please remember the parking spots on both campuses that were purchased at the auction last year are reserved solely for the families who purchased them. We seem to be experiencing an increasing number of instances when the

families who purchased the spaces are unable to use them because others have chosen to park in them. We thank you for your cooperation.

**PPS High School System Design:
Stay informed, one more meeting in December**

For more than a year, Portland Public Schools has been working on plans to design a high school system that will deliver better results for students: increased graduation rates, more engaged students, greater equity and higher success as graduates move on to college or career.

Last summer, Superintendent Carole Smith endorsed a high school system model that includes community schools of 1,100 to 1,400 students with a comprehensive program (where students would be assigned based on their address) and smaller focus schools that would allow students to go deep in an interest area or educational approach (open by lottery to all students).

Implementing this model – with major changes to take effect in September 2011 – will affect every one of our current high schools, whether through changes in programs, the transfer policy, size of the school or enrollment boundaries. Some current schools may no longer be neighborhood schools, and might close or become focus schools.

Thousands of parents, students, high school staff and neighbors have joined the conversation at meetings at each high school campus in November and December. Some of you may have been involved already.

The Franklin meeting was broadcast live on TV28, streamed live at www.pps.k12.or.us and the re-broadcast will be run at various times during the following weeks. You may learn more about the entire High School System Design effort at www.highschools.pps.k12.or.us. If you have questions, please feel free to ask me, or you may e-mail the project leaders at highschools@pps.k12.or.us. We will work to keep you informed as this process moves forward!

Lego Robotics

"The Beverly Cleary Lego Robotics team of 6th, 7th and 8th graders took home a Teamwork Award at the qualifying robotics tournament Saturday December 12th held at Catlin Gable Middle School. The Lego Robotics qualifying tournament is judged upon 4 areas; teamwork, robot performance, research project and technical knowledge. The teamwork award is given to the team that can coordinate and solve, in 5 minutes, a problem given to them during the judging at the tournament. These guys had to think on their feet and work together!!

The team consisted of 8th graders Cole Jetton and Elan Ballash (recruited from diVinci MS by Cole), 7th graders Robbie Goldie, Joe Kilty, Hunter Crips, Cannon McMahan, and 6th grader Davis Almgrin. Peg Goldie (coach/mentor) and I

(Martin Jetton, coach/mentor) are very proud of the effort these kids have gone through in getting ready for the competition and the award for teamwork caps off the work.

We will be displaying the trophy at the Fernwood Campus near the office. We will include in the display their very good research project on Traffic Safety at the intersections of 33rd Avenue and Hancock (and 33rd Avenue & U.S. Grant Place).”

Cascadia Yulegrass Sunday, December 20th 7pm

Looking for an alternative to traditional holiday entertainment this season? Acoustic holiday bluegrass visits Portland December 20 with the inaugural Cascadia Yulegrass celebration. Produced by parents of Beverly Cleary School students, the event features world-renowned musicians and regional favorites including Darol Anger, Sharon Gilchrist, Billy Nershi, Hollywood local Matt Butler, and others. Cascadia Yulegrass is a contemporary, family-friendly, and affordable holiday alternative that doesn't involve cracked nuts or ballerinas.

All buyers using the promo code CLEARY2009 will generate valuable funds for the Beverly Cleary School arts programs. In addition, a portion of the profits generated by the Cascadia Local Goods Gift Gallery, open during the show in the Wonder Ballroom art gallery, will be donated to the cause.

The show starts at 7pm on Sunday, December 20th, but there's no school for BCS students on the 21st so bring the whole family. The event is general admission. However, there will be seating available on a first-come first-serve basis. Questions? Email Jason Mastrine at hello@cascadiayulegrass.com, or visit cascadiayulegrass.com to listen to music and watch an introductory video.

Safe Routes to School

Family Friendly Maps for 29 schools in Portland identify recommended walking and biking routes. They show parks, low-traffic streets, off-street paths, and bikes lanes. Difficult intersections, high traffic streets and traffic signals are also identified. Go to the link below, navigate to Services tab, transportation, getting around, maps and click on Safer Routes to Schools. <http://www.portlandonline.com/index.cfm?c=43193>

8th Grade Shadow Opportunity at Grant

The date for your students to participate in shadowing a Grant student is Tuesday, February 9th 2010. Permission forms must be returned to Grant by January 29th.

Shadow Opportunity days at Grant High School are restricted to 8th grade students interested in attending Grant High School as freshmen next year who have completed all appropriate paperwork by the deadline. Current 8th graders will be matched with a 9th grader. If you would like to request a 9th grade host, you may do so; however the 9th grader must be a student in good standing for both academics and citizenship.

Students must report to the Library on the main floor of Grant H.S. at 7:45 a.m. to sign in and meet their 9th Grade

host student. Parents must check their students in; please allow up to an hour for check-in. Students will not be allowed to shadow if we have not received the appropriate paperwork. Parents/Guardians will receive an email confirming receipt of paperwork by the Friday preceding their student's scheduled visit.

Please remind your 8th grader to bring a brown bag lunch or money for the cafeteria. 8th graders and their 9th grade hosts will be encouraged to remain on campus for lunch. Options to turn in the form:

- 1) Pony the forms to Grant
- 2) Fax 503-916-2695 Attn: Kelley
- 3) Mail to 2245 NE 36th Ave. Portland, OR 97212
- 4) Or drop by Grant

8th Grade Information Night is February 10, 2010 @ 6:00PM in the Auditorium.

Beverly Cleary-Fernwood Drama Club this Winter!

In the Young Players after-school drama club, kids take a journey into their imaginations. Students develop literacy skills, self-confidence, and creative problem solving abilities and form a greater sense of connection to their world. During every class, students write their own plays and perform skits for each other. Fernwood Campus for grades 2-5, Wed. Jan. 27th-Mar. 3rd, \$69 per student. Flyers coming home soon. Visit the YP website for more information or to register. www.theyoungplayers.com

Many Thanks

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 cleaned and packaged for students in Portland's Head Start program, just in time for the holiday break! Thanks everyone for your support and participation. Julie van Amerongen
Book Drive Coordinator

Beverly Cleary School PTA NEWS

Your **online holiday shopping** can do double-duty, making it an effortless way to help your PTA raise classroom funds.

On the left side of beverlyclearyschool.org, you'll find our four ongoing PTA fundraisers: Amazon.com, Powell's Books, magazine subscriptions and scrip sales.

Any Amazon.com purchases you make will bring your BCS PTA a 7% referral commission, Powell's will give us a 7.5% commission and magazine subscriptions allow us to keep 40% of the proceeds. Please keep this in mind as you do your holiday shopping and please let your friends and family know!

Also, on our website is information about our scrip program that scrip orders are due every Tuesday morning at both campuses. Filled orders will be returned to you on

Thursday afternoon - either when you pick your child up or sign a backpack release form and have your child bring the order home for you. Please be thinking about how you can use scrip and help your PTA at the same time. Remember, scrip is really just another way of saying "Gift Cards" - gift cards that you can use yourself or give away as a gift. Groceries, restaurants, household goods and much, much more are all available on the Scrip order form and when you shop with those merchants using Scrip, they make a contribution to our school PTA for you. It couldn't be easier. Any questions about Scrip? Please contact either [Anne Pearson](#) or [Nancy Drinnon](#). And thanks for supporting your PTA!

Giving Tree

Just to let you know, the timing of the Giving Tree is going to happen around Valentine's Day instead of around the winter break this school year. This was decided after consulting with the director of the PPS PTA clothing center and the PTA volunteer coordinators at BCS. Hopefully by spreading out some of the requests for donations it will be even more successful.

Snow Buses to Mount Hood

The Grant Community Ski bus, and NE Snowriders Ski bus will offer day trips in January and February for skiers, and snowboarders interested in going to Mt. Hood Meadows. Any Grant H.S. students, parents or community members may sign up now for the Saturday or Sunday programs.

For pricing options and program Information Contact:
Saturdays: Kim Howard grantskibus@comcast.net,
Eliza Coblenz /Alameda Snowblasters, ecoblenz @q.com or
Sundays: Alice Hunt /Paul Leverton
nesnowriders@yahoo.com

Beverly Cleary School Foundation News

Auction News

**Support Your School and Promote Your Business –
Beverly Benefit Auction Opportunity!**

As you'd all agree, our greatest asset is our children!

Are you a business owner or decision maker at your company? To help make this year's (March 5, 2010) auction even more successful than the last, please consider having your business sponsor the BCS Auction or advertise in the catalog. Your generosity will reach more than 500 families, as well as the 300 guests we expect at the auction. It's a great chance to leverage the visibility of your business while helping to raise funds for key programs like art, music, PE and language.

We are offering a variety of sponsorship options this year: Community (\$1000), Supporting (\$750), Neighborhood (\$500) and Wine Sponsor (\$100). Each level includes different benefits (contact us to learn more)! Ads range from half a page (\$400), quarter page (\$250) to business card size (\$150). For more information, please contact Kirsten Chambers (chad.kirsten@comcast.net) or Stacy Stokes (stacystokes@realtytrust.com). We appreciate your consideration!

We know you already support BCS in so many ways, but unfortunately, we always need more help in order to provide the very best education for our children.

The 2010 Beverly Benefit Auction will be held Friday March 5, 2010. The Beverly Benefit Auction's proceeds support the Beverly Cleary School Foundation, and provide our children with important educational enhancements, such as PE, Music and Movement, Foreign Languages and Visual Arts.

Look for updated information on the Beverly Benefit Auction website (<http://auction.beverlyclearyschool.org/>), coming soon!

Beverly Cleary School TAG News

Important Dates for TAG

January 2010 – Testing will be scheduled by the district TAG office. School teams have two weeks after testing to meet with their Leadership team and make recommendations.

February 2010 – PPS sends a notification letter to families approximately 30 days after testing.

Beverly Cleary School Calendar

Mon, December 21

Holiday begins

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Mon, January 4

STUDENTS RETURN

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: Suzy Harris (503 916-3152)