

Beverly Cleary K-8 Family Newsletter

Academic Excellence in a Caring Community

February 12, 2010

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By the time you read this newsletter we will have had our second Family Arts Night. I have heard positive comments from those who attended the first one with Rainbow Dance Company and expect to hear more after Trashcan Joe performs on Thursday evening. At the end of the year I will be asking parents to let me know whether they would like to see these opportunities continuing next year. If families have found them enjoyable and a good utilization of a small piece of our Young Audience dollars I would like to know that. If families do not feel they are a good use of our Run for the Arts funds we will discontinue them. I value your input and will use it as we plan for next school year.

Another timely use of our Run proceeds occurs on February 24th and 25th when several of our sixth, seventh and eighth graders will be performing in the play, "Ramona Quimby." They have been rehearsing since December, and I am looking forward to seeing their production. I hope you will join us at their evening performance on February 25th and 7:00 p.m.

Speaking of Young Audiences and Run for the Arts, our students are so fortunate to have had such a successful Run last spring. It is thanks to the sponsorship of our students' friends and families that we are able to offer not only the evening performances, but enriching arts residencies and other opportunities for our students. Before we have the run in April I will send home a letter that will outline exactly how our funds have been utilized this school year so that you will have a sense of how important the earnings from the Run held in April are to our efforts to enrich our students' experiences in the arts. I know you will be amazed at the richness of experiences we have been able to provide for your/our students. Shortly after receiving my letter your child will bring home a pledge sheet, which we hope s/he will bring back with sponsors who will be willing to support our efforts to provide as enriching, if not more enriching, experiences next school year.

Third through eighth grade students have completed the first round of State testing in reading and math. Fourth and seventh graders also took the Direct Writing Assessment over a three day period this week. Teachers are now in the process of analyzing the data and making decisions about how the data informs their instruction. Most students will complete a second

round of testing in reading and math and in the case of fifth and eighth grade, science by spring break.

Next Wednesday is our fifth late opening of the year. We will be looking at the components of Writer's Workshop and will have the benefit of several of our staff sharing how they implement several of the components into their weekly schedules. We have incredibly talented teachers and support staff at Beverly Clearing and having the opportunity to learn from each other is invaluable.

I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with several parents at our two Coffee Chats this week. We will have the last ones in May, so check your school calendar to find out the exact dates. If the Chats are something that scheduling does not allow you to attend, please feel free to call Rosanne to find a time to meet with me to discuss concerns or to have the opportunity to ask questions. I am enjoying learning from parents, teachers and students in my first year here and value what I'm learning from everyone as I work to maintain the excellent reputation Beverly Cleary has established for itself while at the same time evaluating and remaining open about how we can improve.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the auction on March 5th, which will be a time for all of us to "Dream Big" as we work to create an enriching program for our students for next school year.

Until then,

Teri Geist

Beverly Cleary School News

Kindergarten Round-Up

Thursday, February 18, 2010

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

We are pleased to announce our 2010-2011 Kindergarten Round-up for children turning five on or before September 1, 2010. One session will be at 9:00 a.m. and another session will be at 6:30 p.m. Because of space constraints and fire code restriction, Kindergarten Round-up is for adults only. Meet the

Principal, Assistant Principal and teachers and learn about our Kindergarten program. Please tell your friends and neighbors so they can learn about our program and register their kindergartners for 2010-2011. Registration packets will be available at the Round-Up. To complete registration forms families will need; Proof of birth date, two proofs of address, immunizations and names of emergency contacts. For your convenience, we will be accepting registration packets at the B.C. Hollyrood Campus between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. beginning February 19, 2010. For more information call (503)916-6766.

Help for Haiti

Our fifth through eighth grade students had an opportunity to purchase Val-O-Grams this week, with all proceeds going to relief efforts in Haiti. Our seventh and eighth grade students are currently planning a school-wide campaign to raise additional funds for a relief organization in Haiti. You can expect to hear soon how you and your family can help.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIPS

By Cynthia Thomas, School Counselor

Perhaps one of the most important things for school success is a quality friendship. Students who begin the school year with a friend at their grade level are far less likely to suffer from emotional distress or academic difficulties than their lonelier peers. Surprisingly, according to research done at the University of Maryland, 25% of middle-schoolers said that they did not have a best friend in their grade.

Even for pre-schoolers and kindergartners, friends can provide a sense of security and confidence. As children grow, friends can teach empathy and help develop problem-solving skills. Having one or two close friends is more closely correlated with staving off depression and loneliness than overall popularity.

In his book, *The Friendship Factor*, Dr. Kenneth Rubin states, "Having companionship and affection teaches kids how to trust outside the family. These skills help in the later development of adolescent relationships."

Research shows that friendship plays a powerful role in preventing bullying and protecting children from the effects of bullying. Children with at least one friend are less likely to be bullied and are better able to cope with bullying once it has occurred. Children without healthy friendships do not seem to do as well academically.

Parents can help children foster healthy friendships by:

- Helping children develop interests that can be shared with new friends. Think about activities that require at least two people, have easy to learn rules, and allow time for the participants to talk with each other

- Thinking about places your child could find new friends.

Team sports, art classes, after school Camp Fire classes, participation in the school play or yearbook may give them a

chance to develop new interests and meet others who share those interests.

- Helping your child to find time to spend with friends. Some children are involved in so many activities that they do not have "down time" to spend with new friends

- Practicing good conversational and listening skills with your child. One of the most common traits of well-liked children is that they smile and make eye contact.

In my weekly visits to each of the classrooms, we have discussed these topics:

Kindergarten and First Grade: Identifying Feelings, Developing Empathy for Others, and Appreciating Individual Differences

Second Grade: Identifying small and large problems and how to handle a conflict with a friend

Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade: Conflict Resolution, Bullying (defined as unfair and one-side, meant to hurt, frighten, threaten, or exclude), and the Responsibility of Being a Bystander

Seventh: Empathy, Communication, Goal Setting, Media Literacy, Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Career Pathways, Internet Safety and Cyberbullying

Eighth Grade students began their counseling rotation on February 1st.

Thank-you

I would like to thank the volunteers that helped with the health screening at Beverly Cleary Hollyrood/Fernwood on January 22nd. I would especially like to thank Linda Lewis for enlisting the volunteers. Everyone did such a great job and we could not have done the screening without you. Cindy Schlatter, RN.

High School Redesign Update and Meeting Schedule

Superintendent Smith presented a resolution to the School Board on February 8. The resolution can be viewed on the PPS website.

The following are upcoming meetings related to high school redesign:

Students are invited to a work-session on Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 4:30-7:30 P.M., in the board room at 501 N. Dixon Street.

Portland Council PTA is hosting a meeting to discuss K-8 next week Feb. 16th @ 6:30 P.M. This will be at Harrison Park.

The Portland School Board will hold a work session as part of its regular board meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, to discuss the resolution (501 N Dixon @ 7:00 P.M.).

The Portland School Board will hold a public meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7:00 P.M. (location to be announced) to take testimony on the main elements of the proposed high school system and the criteria to be used in selecting the locations for community high schools.

The School Board is scheduled to vote on the resolution on March 8. According to the resolution as drafted, the Superintendent would present a proposal that reflects the goals and elements of the proposed school system (including specific plans for individual campuses), within the following 45 days.

Close the Gap...Not the Schools

"The Grant Cluster Parents for a Thoughtful High School Redesign group are offering for sale yard signs and window signs that state "Close the Gap...Not the Schools!" The signs sell for: \$5/yard sign; \$1/window sign. Larger donations are welcome to help defray other costs!

These signs are being sold to bring awareness, support, and alliance to those eastside neighborhoods that are at risk of losing their neighborhood community school (Grant included!) as part of the PPS High School Redesign Process. To order, please email badmanr2000@yahoo.com with the number of signs you would like. Signs will be available the weekend of February 14th.

Celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday

Tuesday, March 2nd we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday in the cafeteria!

We will be serving strawberry shortcake as a treat with lunch, made with local strawberries... YUMMY! Join us for lunch to help celebrate!

Beverly Cleary School PTA NEWS

Help Get Our Technology Out Of The Dinosaur Age!!

Sunday, February 28, 1:00 p.m.

Rose Quarter

Tickets are just \$30 each

There are a LOT of great things going on at BCS but let's face it, much of our technology is outdated. The PTA has been able to purchase some Smart Boards and other technology equipment this year, but we'd like to do more. This is where you come in. For every *discounted* ticket we sell to **Walking with Dinosaurs** our **PTA Technology Fund** earns **\$10**. This is how you can help us get our technology out of the dinosaur age!

Beverly Cleary School Family Day at the Rose Garden Arena is Sunday, February 28th, at 1pm. Tickets are just \$30, which is over 40% off the full retail price of \$55 (including service fees). Only tickets bought through us qualify for this special pricing and donation to our Technology Fund. We could earn up to \$2000 if we sell enough tickets! So...spread the word! Tell your friends...tell your extended families...Facebook it... tell everyone you know!! We have a block of seats so you'll get to sit with your friends!

Tickets must be ordered by Friday, Feb 19th. However, if you order your tickets by this **Friday, Feb. 12**, you'll have a chance to win **one of 10 deluxe gift bags**. Gift bags are official

memorabilia from the *BBC Walking with Dinosaurs Arena Spectacular* including deluxe cinch sack, official child's t-shirt, pencil bag and lots more! They are on display at each campus so check 'em out!

Checks made out to Beverly Cleary School PTA can be dropped off in either office. To pay via credit card/PayPal, please visit the BCS website: www.beverlyclearyschool.org and scroll down to the "Help our technology get out of the dinosaur age" section (a 3% service charge will be added for PayPal transactions). Don't miss this opportunity to see a great show *and* support our school! For further questions, please contact Christine Putnam at gcpur@yahoo.com or 503-206-4552.

About Walking with Dinosaurs

After years of planning, the award-winning BBC TV series, *Walking with Dinosaurs* comes to life in a stunning theatrical event. Internationally renowned designers have worked with scientists to create 15 life-size dinosaurs, including the terror of the ancient terrain, Tyrannosaurus-Rex! Be amazed and thrilled as the greatest creatures ever to walk the earth return before your eyes. It's a dazzling \$20-million-dollar arena spectacle of unprecedented size and quality set to captivate young and old alike. Marvel at the story of their 200 million year domination of life on earth. Watch them walk. Hear them roar. Be there as they fight for survival and supremacy. From the ripple of their skin to the glint in their eye, you will know the dinosaurs really have returned! So make sure you have your seat to see the return of the dinosaurs! Want to see more? Visit www.dinosaurlive.com

Beverly Cleary School Foundation News Auction News

Dream Big!

Beverly Benefit Invites You To...Dream Big!...March 5th Families, mark your calendars for a celebration of our school and benefit for our children! Enjoy an evening with a cause we can all support. Join friends and neighbors for Beverly Cleary School Foundation's annual fundraising auction on March 5th 2010 from 6-10pm, at the Bison Building in Northeast Portland at 419 NE 10th Avenue.

We invite you to "Dream Big" for your neighborhood school and your kids' future. What will our school look like next year and the next? What do our children dream of for themselves? What do you dream of for your kids?

Our Dream Big benefit offers fun and fellowship for everyone. The evening's festivities will include a light buffet, complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks and music by the Tabor Jazz Trio. Try the "Dream Big" signature cocktail for \$5.

The auction features both a silent auction and spirited live auction – kicking off with an auction of a dozen delicious desserts. Get a peek at the fun auction items already posted on

the auction website's online catalog. There will be auction items for everyone: fun family vacation packages, delicious treats, student artwork and more. Check it out at: www.auction.beverlyclearyschool.org.

Tickets are \$35 each or reserve a table for eight for \$400 (includes 8 tickets). Register on-line now – it is quick and easy by visiting the website registration page at: <https://beverlycleary.schoolauction.net/2010/register>

Beverly Cleary School Foundation's annual auction is the primary fundraiser for the Foundation, which raises money to

fund extra teachers at Beverly Cleary School. It is the only source of funds for extra staff. Faced with ever-shrinking budgets, the Foundation funds allow our school to maintain a full range of specialist teachers, giving our children a richer school experience. Your support of the auction will directly benefit our school and our children's education and give us an opportunity to Dream Big together. We hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact Doug Young, Auction Chair, at douglas1961young@gmail.com!

Beverly Cleary School Calendar

Mon. February, 15	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
Wed. February, 17	Late Opening
Thurs. February, 18	Kindergarten Round-Up 9:00 am-10:00 am or 6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Thurs. February 25	"Ramona Quimby" 7:00 pm at BC-Fernwood Campus
Fri. March, 5	BCS Foundation Auction
Mon. March, 15	Teacher Planning Day - NO SCHOOL
Wed. March, 17	Late Opening
Mon. March, 22-26	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
Tues. April, 6	Run for the Arts

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 (503 916-315)