

# Beverly Cleary K-8 Family Newsletter

*Academic Excellence in a Caring Community*

May 14, 2010

Beverly Cleary School Website: [www.beverlyclearyschool.org](http://www.beverlyclearyschool.org)

Principal's Email: [tgeist@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:tgeist@pps.k12.or.us)

Assistant Principals' Email: [mdragich@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:mdragich@pps.k12.or.us) [atabshy@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:atabshy@pps.k12.or.us)

Secretaries' Email: [kepley@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:kepley@pps.k12.or.us) [rmalmstrom@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:rmalmstrom@pps.k12.or.us)

Fernwood Phone: (503) 916-6480 Fax: (503) 916-2626

Hollyrood Phone: (503) 916-6766 Voice Mail/Messages: (503) 916-3638 Fax: (503) 916-2635



As I write my last article of the year (Melissa, Annie and I rotate this responsibility), I, like most of you, am exhausted with the frenetic pace of the past few weeks and the thoughts of everything that awaits us prior to June 15th. Between the final rounds of OAKS testing, music performances, Art Night, a dance, Field Day, promotion and a variety of other activities we have been and will be kept quite busy wrapping up this school year.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to the School Satisfaction Survey. We will have it available until school ends, so please take the time to respond, if you have not already done so. As I mentioned to some parents earlier this week, I have taken a lot of feedback and suggestions and have put them in my summer planning folder to see how we can implement them. Please take the few minutes it will require to respond anonymously to our survey. I will be sharing the preliminary feedback with the Site Council next week and again in August. They will help me review it as we shape our program and determine how we can put your suggestions into practice for 10-11.

I thought you might enjoy hearing about some of the learning activities that are taking place in these last few weeks of school. Our kindergarten and first grade students are getting ready for a music performance next week. They have been under the leadership of our music teacher on the Hollyrood campus, Kristina Larson. I have had the good fortune of sitting in on several of her classes this year and have loved seeing how she engages the students in music. Our second graders proudly showed off their art work on Wednesday before their music performance. If you have never taken the opportunity to visit the second grade wing, it is a "must -see." The artistic talents of the three teachers are displayed beautifully through the work of their students. Our third graders are completing their social studies curriculum by building models of our city's bridges. If you don't know which bridges are bascules or suspension, ask a third grader. Our fourth graders just finished their Pioneer Days celebration by spending a day in a simulated wagon train moving on the Oregon Trail. They wore period clothing, danced to music the pioneers played and will spend the rest of their year completing their Oregon Trail journals. Fifth graders are ending the year in colonial times, assuming the roles of family members and writing as if they lived during the Revolutionary period. William Shakespeare has had a dominant presence here this spring with two of our middle grades. Under Mrs. O'Brien's direction our sixth graders performed masterfully in "The Taming of the Shrew." I hope you had the chance to see them last month. Our seventh graders are now in rehearsals for "Much Ado About Nothing", and we are anxiously awaiting their performance. Josh Tabshy, gave us this idea and we are grateful for his and Ms. Edler's leadership in this project. We're all working to help our eighth graders "hang in there" when they're really focused on how many days are left until promotion. The past two weeks they have been working with Mark Brody, a local artist, who is helping them design and create

a mosaic, which will be displayed in the cafeteria and serve as their legacy gift of art to our school. I can hardly wait for you all to see it.

At our two Coffee Chats this week I shared with parents that for the first time, students will learn who their teacher will be for next year before leaving for summer break. From 9:00-9:30 on June 15th our students will be participating in Move-Up Day. Our kindergarten teachers will walk the first grade students over to this campus to meet their second grade teachers. That will allow our first grade teachers to spend time with their "new" first graders. Our seventh graders will serve as tour guides and escort students to their new classrooms. Although it is a fast-paced thirty minute visit to their new classroom, Move-Up Day gives students the opportunity to start the new-year with a little more familiarity than the way we used to introduce students to their new teacher and classmates.

I can not "sign off" this column without sending a HUGE thank you to all of you for honoring our staff last week during Teacher Appreciation Week. I think we all gained at least five pounds from all of the food and treats! The flowers and notes from the students were heart-warming and thoughtful. I'd like to send a special thank you to Julie Heath and Abby Rankin for their organization and efforts to make all of us feel special and appreciated.

Thank you for welcoming me to this wonderful community and for your support this year. I am very blessed to be the principal of a school whose supportive families send such eager learners to school every day.

With warm wishes for a happy and safe summer,

Teri Geist

## **Beverly Cleary School News**

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: IT MATTERS MORE THAN YOU MAY THINK!!!**

**By: Cynthia Thomas, School Counselor**

Oregon education law requires that children attend school regularly. Making sure that they are here each day is the parent's responsibility. However, the importance of school attendance goes beyond meeting the letter of the law. In order for students to be successful, they need to be in school and on task every day. This is more important now than ever before.

**Attendance and Academic Achievement go hand-in-hand**  
The coursework in today's elementary schools is simply more challenging than it used to be—and students who are frequently absent are setting themselves up for academic concerns. Starting in

3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students take a series of important state tests that measure their abilities in Reading, Math, and Science. Attendance has a dramatic effect on these test scores. Students who attended class 95% of the time were two times as likely to pass the reading test as students who had attendance rates of 85%. This also builds the foundation necessary to do well in high school where the stakes are even higher. Making sure your child is at school every day is one of the most powerful ways parents can ensure success in elementary, middle, high school, and beyond.

### Other Benefits of Good Attendance

Making school attendance a priority can also help your child learn good work and study habits. Getting to school each day, whether they feel like it or not, also prepares children to meet future responsibilities. Imagine, for example, what would happen if your son or daughter regularly skipped college classes or was a frequent “no show” at a future job. The same holds true for getting to school on time. Frequent tardiness would not be tolerated in the workplace; parents teach a valuable lesson when they teach the importance of arriving to school on time every day.

### Things Families Can Do to Ensure Students are in School and Learning

1. Make academics a priority. Let your children know that you expect them to go to school every day and do their best while there. At this stage in their lives, learning should be “job one”. Young, healthy children rarely need to take more than a few sick days each year.
2. Help your child get organized. Create a space in your home for children to store backpacks, coats, and other supplies. Develop a routine where children help pack their own lunches. Getting organized can also help create a calmer atmosphere at home, leading to better attitudes and openness to learning when students arrive at school.
3. Set reasonable bedtimes. Students need seven to nine hours of sleep to be healthy and alert.
4. Make medical and other appointments during non-school hours whenever possible. Schedule family vacations during school holidays or the summer so that students are not missing important lessons and struggling to make up for lost ground.
5. Keep track of your child’s absences. Excessive absences might be a sign of other physical or emotional problems. These might be personal, such as a poor relationship with another student or fear of being bullied. Or they might be academic, such as a fear of failing. If absences become common, talk with your child and enlist the help of the teachers, counselor, and pediatrician. Working as a team, we can help provide a clearer picture of what is really at the source of an attendance problem.

### News from the Cafeteria

At the current time, our students have cafeteria debts that total over \$300.00. The end of the year is rapidly approaching and we will be instituting a new policy for students who have negative balances on their lunch accounts at the end of each trimester, **beginning with the trimester that ends in a few weeks**. From this point forward, if a student has a negative balance at the end of the trimester, his/her report card will be held in the office until the lunch account is cleared. At the last trimester, students must also have returned all library books, or, if lost paid for them in full. In order to participate in promotion eighth graders must have the negative balances cleared **and/or** overdue library books returned. Our cook, Kay, has been sending home overdue account reminder notices with students on a regular basis. Additionally, an auto dialer message is sent to home phone numbers to remind parents.

As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be twenty-two days left in the school year. At \$2.20 per lunch (K-5) and \$2.45 (6-8) this totals \$48.40 (K-5) and \$53.90 (6-8) for school lunches everyday until the end of school. Please check your child(ren’s) lunch account balances regularly at

[www.mylunchmoney.com](http://www.mylunchmoney.com) . Keeping a little extra money in the account is a great idea; it will provide a buffer and will carry over to next year, if not used by the end of this school year.

Thank you for helping our cook clear up the negative balances.

### 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. **Please see a related article about negative balances for Beverly Cleary students.**

If your student is leaving the district, then you may call the Cafeteria Lead to arrange for a refund. Donations to the district’s Pay It Forward Fund to help families who are not eligible for free meals are also welcome. Contact Patti Shafer at 503.916.3398 to make donations.

Shannon Stember, Assistant Director, Nutrition Services,  
503.916.3365  
[shannons@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:shannons@pps.k12.or.us)

### Spring Music Program Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

There will be a music performance on Thursday May 20, at 6:30pm in the Fernwood Cafeteria. Students please arrive by 6:15pm. Please walk if possible as parking will be limited. **Questions? You can email [KLarson@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:KLarson@pps.k12.or.us)** or call BC-H at (503) 916-6766 and leave a message for Kristina Larson.

### Run for the Arts

Congratulations on a successful Run for the Arts! On that rainy Tuesday, our whole school ran a total of 1,192 miles. That’s from here to San Francisco and back! 341 students out of Beverly Cleary’s 540 total filled out RFA pledge sheets this year. With 86% of those students returning the promised pledges, Beverly Cleary collected a total of \$22,918.26 in pledges. Minus the \$7.50 we are charged per t-shirt and the Young Audiences fee, which comes to \$20,091.76 or approximately \$2,230 for each grade level to spend on the arts next year. Special congratulations to the whole first grade, who raised almost \$5,000, more than any other grade level. Nice Work! Prizes for pledges returned by the due date will be delivered soon. Be sure to ask teachers and principals about plans for the arts next year.

Thanks to all the volunteers, motivated teachers and students, and generous community members who made this happen. And thanks for caring about art! End of the Year Library and Textbook Information

### Library Books

Kindergarten: May 18th is the last day to check out books. All books are due June 1st.  
First Grade: May 11th is the last day to check out books. All books are due May 25th.

Second Grade through Eighth Grade: The week of May 24th is the last week to check out books. All library materials are due June 4th.

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Textbooks:

ALL TEXTBOOKS ARE DUE JUNE 4TH. To avoid paying between \$45 and \$70 for a textbook, all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students must have their textbooks at school by June 4th.

Attention Eighth Grade Students and Parents: All textbooks and all library materials must be accounted for in order to participate in promotion ceremonies.

Students who have overdue books should be receiving email notices from the Professional library with titles of the books due. Printed notices will also be sent home with students beginning May 14th. Please help your student find these books and return them to the library. There are no fees for overdue books, but bills for library books and textbooks that are not returned by June 4th will be sent home with students. Bills are payable by June 15th. If you have any questions about overdue or lost books, please talk to Margie in the library.

### **Attention Parents of 5th-7th Graders**

Your child will soon be coming home with a letter explaining the options available for enrichment and electives next year. Please look for it, and if you have questions feel free to speak with either Mrs. Geist or Ms. Dragich. The form is time-sensitive as there is a May 14th deadline for its return to the classroom teacher. If your student will not be attending Beverly Cleary next year, please return the form with that notification written on it.

We are excited about the range of opportunities available for our middle level students for next year. We have listened to our students and to you and feel we have created an enrichment/elective offering that will be a wonderful complement to our academic program.

### **Mrs. Hickey's Summer Art Camp**

This is a great opportunity for your child to explore, use and celebrate their creative abilities.

June 28 - July 1 (Mon.-Thur.)

- Session 1 (-12 yrs.) 9:00-12:00  
\$135.00
- Session 2 (5-7 yrs.) 1-2:30  
\$65.00

\*Price includes all materials and a daily snack

Place: Beverly Cleary Fernwood  
Mrs. Hickey's classroom 139A

Enrollment is limited, so sign up NOW. Call 503-312-1214 or e-mail [gigahickey@yahoo.com](mailto:gigahickey@yahoo.com)

\*\*Non-discrimination Statement: All individuals shall be treated with fairness and respect in all activities without regard to age, color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

### **Beverly Cleary Gardens**

Spring is here... and with your help we hope to make some more progress in the Beverly Cleary School Fernwood campus gardens! Many of you share our wish that the students will benefit from direct experiences with nature and a more natural environment in which to play and learn. We are already getting great use out of the raised beds that were installed last spring.

Our main focus this spring is the bioswale, on the north side of the building. Many of you use the path along the bioswale as a shortcut from the front of the building to the playground. The BCS Garden Committee received a \$10,000 matching grant last year from the

EMSWCD to "activate" the bioswale by disconnecting the downspouts and helping to improve its functionality and appearance.

The project will promote natural drainage and remove polluted runoff from the sewer system and our Willamette River watershed. This is an exciting project because it will benefit the community, enhance our school's greenspace and allow our students to learn about ecological systems in their own "living laboratory."

To provide the required match for our grant we need help from BCS families.

On Friday, May 14 from 1:30 - 6:00 pm we are hosting a family work party. We will transplant three trees, remove invasive plants, remove dirt for French drains, create French drains, and sand and prime the garden shed. We need lots of volunteers as well as the loan of pruners, shovels and wheelbarrows. Don't forget to wear gloves. Come for the afternoon or just for whatever time you can spare.

To complete these tasks we are seeking donations:

- dump box fees
- round rock
- landscape cloth for French drains
- primer
- benches
- cash donations are welcome, checks can be made out to Beverly Cleary School

If you have any questions or would like to offer assistance please contact the staff listed below.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

Rob Gibson, Gabrielle Tanner, Blake Robertson, Lisa O'Brien and the Garden Committee

### **Thank you CampfireUSA**

A big thank you to the Camp Fire group at Hollyrood for beautifying the garden shed and painting over the graffiti. Stop by the garden sometime to admire their work!

### **Alameda/Beaumont Pre-School**

For Beverly Cleary children of preschool age, Alameda/ Beaumont Prekindergarten is enrolling for school year 2010-2011. For information visit [www.alamedaprek.com](http://www.alamedaprek.com)

### **Beverly Cleary PTA News**

#### **BCS Rummage Sale**

Have you got some extra clothing cluttering your closets? Or a few too many tennis rackets in your garage? Or maybe your husband's college art piece needs a new home?

You have five weeks to gather your sale items for the second annual Beverly Cleary School 2nd Annual Rummage Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 18 this year. Your donations will be tax deductible, and all proceeds from the sale will go to the Beverly Cleary PTA. You will be able to bring your items to school the week of the sale. More information about how to help with the sale and donate will be provided in future emails. Start cleaning house this weekend!

The Rummage Committee

Many thanks to our nominating committee -- Barbara Smith-Warner, Sam Shiffman, John Tapogna, Susan Crabtree-Eades and Christine Putnam. The list of nominees is below and has also been posted on our website and on both campuses. *Thanks also to those volunteering to serve next year!*

President -- Julie Jetton  
 Co-Vice President – Kathie Eastman Tell  
 Co-Vice President -- Barbara Smith Warner  
 Secretary -- Tricia Nimelman  
 Treasurer -- Kristine Caldicott  
 Foundation – Christine Putnam  
 Co-Volunteer Coordinator -- Jennifer Shuping  
 Co-Volunteer Coordinator -- Christine Jeschke  
 Co-Volunteer Coordinator -- open  
 Legislative Representative -- Bonnie Gee Yosick  
 Membership Chairperson -- Amy Baskin  
 Members at Large -- Jean Latenser, Mianne Vadya, Jill Lee, 1 open position

We still have vacancies next year for a 3rd Volunteer Coordinator and a 4th Member-at-Large. All PTA members are eligible for these positions and if you are interested please come to the May 13th meeting and nominate yourself or ask another member to nominate you.

**Beverly Cleary Site Council**

The Site Council and Beverly Cleary Foundation seek your input into our School Satisfaction Survey, which will be available online beginning May 3rd. To participate, go to [www.beverlyclearyschool.org](http://www.beverlyclearyschool.org) and click on the link to the survey. We will use your feedback as we shape our program for the 2010-2011 school year. Please visit the site, starting Monday to give us your input.

We need you! Beverly Cleary School **Site Council is in need of parent representatives** to serve in the coming school year. The Site

**Beverly Cleary School Calendar**

Tues., May, 18	Site Council Meeting 3:15 BCS Fernwood
Tues., May, 18	Band Concert 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 in the BCS Fernwood Gym
Wed., May, 19	Late Opening BC-H 10:30am BC-F 10:45am
Thurs., May, 20	K-1 Music Program 6:30pm in the BCS Fernwood Cafeteria
Mon., May, 31	Memorial Day-School Closed
Mon., June, 14	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion
Tues., June, 15	Last Day of School

Council is an opportunity for parents and community representatives to have valued input in the planning and implementation of the **School Improvement Plan**. The time commitment is not immense as the Site Council meets only once a month for about an hour.

If you are interested in serving your school in this way, please **contact Dana Barbarick** at [dbarbarick@cu-portland.edu](mailto:dbarbarick@cu-portland.edu) or 503-701-4034.

**Summer Enrichment Program  
 University of Oregon**

SEP is a campus-based residential academic enrichment program for gifted and talented, 6th-10th grade students. In each of our two-week program sessions, students attend six academic classes of their choice during the day and participate in a variety of social activities at night. Core classes are held in the university’s academic and research facilities, and are usually taught by University of Oregon graduate students who have demonstrated strong teaching skills and a mastery of their instructional content area. Our courses cover a wide range of topics, traditionally including English, Mathematics, Science, Law, History, Journalism, Visual and Performing Arts, Anthropology, Classical Studies, Film Studios, New Media Studies and Foreign Languages.

Student applicants must be in grades 6-10 during the 2009-10 school year. Generally, SEP students are highly motivated young people who love to learn, exhibit the ability to explore topics in great depth, are working above grade level and desire enrichment beyond that provided by their school system. Formal gifted identification or educator nomination is required for admittance to SEP. For more information about this two-week summer enrichment program go to [www.uoyouth.org](http://www.uoyouth.org). Applications are also available at the Beverly Cleary School.

**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)