



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 9, 2008

Phone: 252-6900

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September

09 - PTSA Board Meeting

15 – Leadership Council Mtg

18 – PTSA General Mtg & Potluck

22 – After School Programs Catalogs sent home

24 – Professional Development

26 – After School Programs Registration Due

7 pm Orca library
time TBD

6:00pm potluck, 7:00pm mtg

1:15pm – Early Dismissal

October

02 – Curriculum Night

06 – Open Mic at Starbucks

06 – After School Programs Begin

07 – PTSA Board Meeting

10 – Professional Development

7 pm Orca library

NO SCHOOL



THOUGHTS FROM BEN

Once again opening school was a mad dash of unpacking classrooms, orienting new staff, and even moving into a new building. Then students arrived, and our magic starts to take shape. Excited children begin to form classroom communities, parents and principals peer in doorways, and Orca begins to emerge.

As last year, we are opening with changes and unknowns. However, we have gathered an amazing staff, and with the support of our families we will continue to build an exceptional school. In the first day packet letter I neglected to welcome Anthony Warner, our new Environmental Coordinator. He will lead our garden program and support environmental science programs at Orca. Although not able to move into his new digs yet, he has already started working with some classes. Because of last minute changes, we are starting the year with two PE openings--a full time opening in our regular PE program, and a .5 opening in what we are calling "Alternative PE." We have hopes of using the cafeteria to support the development of dance, yoga, and other non-traditional PE activities. It is not clear at this point whether or not we will be able to advertise and interview for either of the positions. Seattle Public Schools still has a number of displaced teachers needing assignments, and they have the first priority for any openings. We are also moving to a referral system for our family support worker. Due to cuts in Medicaid funding that used to supplement the Family Support program, several schools lost school-based family support workers. This year we will refer family support needs to a central team that will provide assistance.

We are also still waiting to have full access to our greenhouse and garden. A last minute push opened the main entrance and finished work in the main building. Middle school students are doing experiments in the science annex, but the greenhouse and garden are getting final touches. Everything will be open by the September 18th PTSA potluck kickoff. Hope to see you there!

An important reminder--there is no playground supervision before 8:45AM and after 3:20 PM. Please help us keep your children safe. Also, note that the parking bay on 46th needs to be a load/unload only zone. We are trying to keep pick ups and drop offs out of the bus traffic on Dawson. When people use it for longer parking, it makes pick up and drop off challenging.

Ben Ostrom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Safety Notice Regarding Drop Off and Pick Up Location

Morning drop off and afternoon pick up are very busy times surrounding any school. With a mix of buses, personal vehicle traffic, and children moving, safety is of prime concern. Your Safety Committee would appreciate your cooperation in honoring the following change to help make our arrival and dismissal times much safer for everyone.

Parent drop off and pick up will be on 46th Street (the East side of the building). In the morning, for safety reasons, students should walk around the outside of the building to the playground and wait outside unless they are having breakfast or are with an adult.

Several reminders:

- Buses will remain on Dawson Street. The bus unloading and loading zone on Dawson Street is reserved for buses between the hours of 8:30am and 9:30am and again from 2:45pm to 3:45pm.
- Students should not arrive until 8:45am as there is no supervision until that time.
- Parents who pick up their child should continue to park on 44th Ave. S., 45th Ave. S., 46th Ave. S., or Bowen St. and escort their children into or out of the school building.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

One of the many things that makes Orca unique is the amount of volunteers we have supporting our programs. Check the weekly newsletter for volunteer opportunities or just get in touch with me if you have an interest and want to know how to get connected. There will be committee sign-up sheets at the first PTSA meeting (September 18) and those will also be posted in the 2nd floor hallway for a week or two after the meeting. Any time you can give, whether it is a little or a lot, makes a difference!

An immediate volunteer need is for ROOM COORDINATORS in each classroom. This person keeps a classroom contact list, helps organize volunteers to support the teacher's classroom needs, channels communication to and from families and works with me to fill school-wide volunteer needs. If this sounds like something you'd like to do or if you have questions about this role please get in touch with me!

PLEASE NOTE MY EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!

My new email address for Volunteer Coordinator business is debkoon@comcast.net. I can access this at school and is less cluttered than the school address so it will make my life a bit easier!

JUMP RIGHT IN!

The yellow forms are pouring in and its exciting to see how many people are eager to volunteer! Volunteer opportunities will appear in the school newsletter, email announcements, from your classroom coordinator or (when I get my act together) on the website. When you see something that will work for you just jump right in! You can contact me or the person listed for the individual event. There will be committee sign-up sheets at the first PTSA meeting (September 18) and those will also be posted in the 2nd floor hallway for a week or two after the meeting. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, connect with old friends, make a difference in your child's school and have fun! Whether you can give a little time or a lot, every bit helps!

When you volunteer, please record your hours on the sign-in sheet located on the counter in the main office. Soon I will have sign-in sheets in each classroom.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERING

Up-to-date background checks are required when volunteering at the school and it's easy to do!

Forms are located on the same clipboard as the volunteer sign-in sheets. Just complete BOTH sides of the application, attach a copy of your driver's license and return it to Cynthia or Patrice in the main office. I will complete the background check and it is good for two years. If you are unsure if yours is up-to-date just let me know and I will check for you. Also, if you have a current background check elsewhere (nursing, coaching etc.) just leave a copy for my and that will suffice.

Deb Koon, Volunteer Coordinator debkoon@comcast.net/723-7444



From the After School Programs Coordinator

After school classes, including Powerful Schools, Middle School OST and Athletics will all begin the first week in October. Please look for registration info to go home with your child in Mid-September.

We are seeking both coaches and instructors for our Middle School after school program. If you or someone you know would like to teach and/or coach for our Middle School program please let me know.

Lily Hotchkiss, After School Programs Coordinator, lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org

CHESS CLUB COMING BACK TO ORCA!!!

Starting this fall, Orca will be offering an after school K-5 chess club which will run through the Powerful Schools After School Program. Chess Club is tentatively scheduled to be offered on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 and will be taught by an instructor from Chess Star. Additional opportunities to play chess will continue to be offered during lunchtime, thanks to parent volunteers Elizabeth Rifer and Mike King. More information about lunchtime chess coming soon. Middle school chess club is still being organized. If you have any questions, suggestions, or some time to volunteer to help make the great game of chess a part of Orca, please contact Terri Lovins at tlovins@aol.com or 206.722.6852.



LEARN MORE ABOUT E-SCRIP AND MAKE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL!

Thursday September 11 from 1:00 to 2:00pm our school will be hosting a training for Southend schools to learn about the E-scrip program. If you would like to learn more about E-Scrip and how you can use it to benefit Orca, please stop by! It is an easy way to help support programs at our school when you do your everyday shopping by just registering your Safeway card and/or debit card. While you are there, talk to some folks from our Finance and Budget Committee and see if you'd like to join them this year.

Also, on Saturday September 27th you can sign up for E-scrip in person at Rainier Valley Safeway from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up and designate Orca as their school of choice. You don't have to be a parent at Orca to help support our programs!

Questions? Contact Sabranie Coyne at sabranie@hotmail.com

10th Annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour 2008 in King County

Date: September 27, 2008, 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

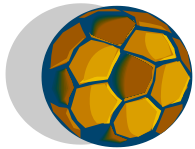
Location: Farms in Vashon and in South and East King County

Information: Tour is FREE!

Visit our website : <http://www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/HarvestCelebration.html>

Farms across King County will be open to the public on September 27th, 2008. WSU King County Extension is pleased to announce the *10th Annual Harvest Celebration Farm Tour* in King County, Saturday, September 27th, 2008. Since 1999, this event has provided an opportunity for citizens of King County to experience the vitality of our local agriculture, to learn the importance of supporting farmers, and to realize the value and joy of eating locally grown and prepared food. This year 27 farms are participating—including five new farms to the tour. We encourage people to come by carpool, van or bus or by bicycle! Contact us or check our website for some ideas for alternative transportation or group trips.

- Meet local farmers—the people who grow your food!
- Taste local food: Farm-fresh produce, samples and chef cooking demonstrations!
- Walk the fields of local farms and pick your own vegetables, flowers and pumpkins!
- Activities Galore: live music, corn and bamboo mazes, hay rides, alpaca fiber spinning, cider pressing, butter churning, farm skills demos, composting workshops and so much more!
- Contact Kara Martin at 206-205-3185 or wsutemp1@kingcounty.gov for more information



Girls Soccer: Mount Baker U-8 girls' soccer team coached by Orca parent with several Orca kids needs one or two more players. If your daughter is 7 or turned 8 after July and would like to play soccer this fall, please sign up at www.mblsoccer.org or call Janet Helson at 322-6817 for more information. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 to 7 p.m. at Thurgood Marshall. Games are on Saturdays at varying times. Scholarships available.

ABOUT THE BULLETIN: *The Weekly Bulletin is distributed on paper and electronically every Tuesday. Archived Bulletins are available at www.orcapta.org. This is our first issue for the 2008-2009 school year, and e-mail announcements will still go out: send information to announcements@orcaptsa.org. Thanks for reading the fine print, and have a fabulous year!*