



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 23, 2008

Phone: 252-6900

Fax: 252-6901

Website: www.orcapta.org

September

22 – After School Programs Catalogs sent home

24 – **Professional Development**

26 – After School Programs Registration Due

1:15pm – Early Dismissal

October

02 – Curriculum Night

03 – School Picture Day!

06 – Open Mic at Starbucks

06 – After School Programs Begin

07 – PTSA Board Meeting

10 – **Professional Development**

13 – Leadership Council Mtg

16 – PTSA GM/Race Forum Kick Off

13-17 – 6th grade Camp to OPI

23 – Grant Writing Workshop

24 – Harvest Festival

Order forms are due

7pm Orca library

NO SCHOOL

7pm

6pm Orca library

THOUGHTS FROM MATT CARTER



Room 207 4th/5th Grade Fall Camping Trip

School is in full swing! We're trying to get some camping in before winter hits. On Thursday and Friday, September 25th and 26th, the students of room 207 are going wild! Specifically, they are heading out into the woods for an overnight camping trip to the Cascade Mountains. They are kicking off their yearlong study of watershed ecology, as well as growing together as a community. Their teacher/guide for this expedition is Matt Carter, who has decades of experience camping with kids. See you when we get back!

🌟 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🦋

Hiring Committee Info

Orca is going to be busy with hiring committees at the end of September and beginning of October. We have three openings that have worked their way through the complications of the fall hiring process and are now being advertised for open hire. First up is our 2nd grade opening. We will be screening 2nd grade applications on Friday, 9/26 from 3:15-5:00. Interviews will be held on Monday, 9/26 from 3:25-8:30 PM. Next up after that will be the full and half time PE positions. As soon as we have times

established for those committees, we will announce them. If you have taken the SEA hiring committee training and are interested in participating on one of the hiring committees, please let Cynthia know in the office.

BUS CONCERNS ADDRESSED

Ben, Seattle Public Schools Transportation, and I are well aware of your frustrations and concerns with late buses, stop issues, long routes, buses that don't arrive, and new drivers on certain routes on a daily basis. We have been in regular contact with SPS Transportation and they, too, share our concern and have been working diligently to solve these problems. Be assured what has been occurring is not acceptable to SPS Transportation. SPS transportation officials have been highly responsive, apologetic, and working hard to resolve our concerns and problems both on a short and long term basis. The good news is addressing our problem is a priority. Complicating this good news is that because our routes may need to be totally rerouted and serve two schools, this is a very complicated situation. They need time to do a quality job. The individuals working on the problem are not the ones who created the problem and your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated by all. They expect to have improved routing in place on October 8, 2008. Expect more information to come shortly. You are welcome to contact me if you have further questions at 206/252-6870 or dksakaue@seattleschools.org.

-Dan Sakaue, Head Teacher

**SAY
CHEESE!**

Picture Day
has been
rescheduled
to **October
3rd** due to a
special
musical
event.

A Letter from our Art Teacher, Emily Nagel



Dear Orca Parents-

My name is Emily Nagel and I am a parent/artist/teacher and the long term art sub for Orca. My children are Andy in "Tanisha's" room, and Nicholas in Marletta's. I have been classically trained as an artist at MICA in Baltimore with a year in Paris. My major was drawing which meant that I had a smattering of everything: pottery, printmaking, painting, fiber arts, etc. Switching gears to teaching art has been fun and challenging all rolled into one. I look forward to visitors and if anyone wants to help hang the children's beautiful work-that would be an immense help. I have compiled a brief wish list and hope that you might have some extra stuff sitting around that you might want to donate for the art room.

Thanks much!

WISH LIST:

1. rinsed used styrofoam to go containers
2. water color paper
3. colored sharpies
4. boom box with CD player
5. india ink
6. shoe boxes
7. buttons
8. frames for children's auction pieces
9. masonite pieces larger than 18"x24" for drawing boards.
10. charcoal paper
11. spot lights or lamps
12. chamoises
13. plug in tea kettle
14. feathers
15. old maps
16. pipe cleaners
17. old towels



SPACE TEAM (AKA ORCA-FICATION COMMITTEE)

Get ready, everyone -- the Orca Space Team is gearing up for another year of beautifying the Whitworth building! Our goal is to make the school look like a welcoming, inviting, joyful place -- to reflect the creativity and learning that go on inside the building every day. Last year, thanks to many wonderful parent volunteers, we made some progress -- wave wall mural, signage, etc. This year we have a list a mile long of fabulous potential projects -- arty benches on the playground, mosaic wave wall, giant vegetable mural, orca skeleton made out of cafeteria sporks -- and more are coming in all the time. (If you've got an idea, let us know and we'll figure out how to fit it in and make it happen!)

Right now we've got several projects lined up that we need your help with:

1. **Murals**: We have some beautiful murals the kids painted last year that are ready to be mounted on the exterior of the building. We need a few people to help us weatherproof them before they go up. Also, Michael Miller is planning to paint a giant vegetable mural in the lunchroom and could use some assistants -- this would be evenings, probably. Contact Mikala Woodward if you want to help with either of these.
2. **Stencils**: Phyllis Daniels is painting stencils on the doors throughout the school and would love some help!
3. **Chain Link Fence Removal**: Anyone else tired of looking at this stuff? We will be removing chain link fence on the west side of the school on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th and SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th. We'll have coffee & snacks. Bring tools, shovels, & gloves if you have 'em. Special prize to anyone who comes up with a backhoe we can borrow. Contact Mikala Woodward if you'd like to join us.
4. **Fence Flowers**: The chain link fence around the garden in front of the building is about to bloom with wooden flowers painted by our students. We need some parents to help with cutting out the shapes and working with kids to paint them. Contact Lily Hotchkiss if you can help.
5. **Mosaic Wave Wall**: Turn pottery shards into an oceanic landscape... location TBD. Lily is heading this one up too!

Look for more updates soon! And please let us know if you have ideas, suggestions, concerns, or questions. Contact info for our three co-chairs is listed below.

Orca Space Team

Mikala Woodward: 722-5177 or jojoma3@aol.com

Phyllis Daniels: phyllisadaniels@yahoo.com or 708-9936

Lily Hotchkiss: lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

WE STILL NEED CHAIR(S) FOR THIS YEAR'S HARVEST FESTIVAL!

The Harvest Festival is about one month away and we still need someone to chair the event. It's a great event to celebrate the harvest and the kids really look forward to it! Last year's chair, Emily Nagel, is right here at school so she'd be easily accessible for questions. Sound like something you'd like to do or just have questions, then contact me: Deb Koon, Volunteer Coordinator, debkoon@comcast.net or 723-7444

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Remember, if you are planning to volunteer, you need to have a current background check on file. Stop by the main office and you'll find the form on the main counter under the volunteer sign-in sheet. Just complete BOTH sides of the form, ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, and put it in my mailbox in the main office hallway. If you are not sure if yours is current (they are good for two years) just leave me a note and I will check for you. Also, if you have done a check through another agency you can get me a copy and that will suffice.

MATH CHAMPIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Math Committee would like to recruit a dedicated math champion for each classroom. This person will be liaison to the classroom and coordinate math needs with their teacher – math-time volunteers, creating games, distributing pre and post tests to parents, etc. Be a champion for your classroom and contact **Julie McCann** at julie@softlabour.com!

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

The Safety Committee is looking for volunteers to help out on the playground each day during the lunchtime recess, approximately 11:35 to 12:30pm. Our playground is big and it helps to have extra eyes out there to keep our kids safe! Whether you can commit to one day a week or everyday please contact **Beth Scott** at bethscott5@hotmail.com or **Tanya Vanderwey** at tvanderwey@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO....

- **John Unangst & Melissa Purcell** for the great "Welcome to Orca" sign and its installation!
- **Michelle Perkins** and helpers for polishing and delivering all those yummy plums to the kids!

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR YELLOW FORMS!

If you have not turned in your yellow form yet, please do so. It is time to get those forms to the directory makers (thanks **Darla** and **Laurie!**). Don't get left out!

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



From the After School Programs Coordinator

Catalogs and registration forms for all our after school programs will go out this week. Please remember that classes fill up on a first come, first serve basis. Please turn in all forms to Lily Hotchkiss by Friday, September 26th.

Powerful Schools:

Powerful Schools will again take place on Mondays and Wednesdays this year. We are excited to have so many wonderful teachers and parents from Orca join us as instructors this year including Padma Panchapagesan, Melanie Moor's awesome intern Eli, Joan Engelmeier and Kristin Wood. Powerful Schools, traditionally a K-5 program, will be offering classes to our middle school students on Mondays.

Middle School Programs:

Our OST or Out of School Time Programs for our Middle School students will offer classes Monday through Friday for fall. Donte Felder will again be heading up Homework Club while Orca parent and author, Heidi Raykeil, will be on hand to help create our first ever Orca Zine!, an all school zine that our middle school students will create and publish throughout the year. In addition, we are excited to begin what we hope will be an ongoing relationship with Bike Works in Columbia City who will be offering an on-site class in bike mechanics this Fall. Our middle school programs are open to grades 6-7.

Middle School Athletics:

This fall we will be offering Flag Football on Mondays and Wednesdays and Ultimate Frisbee on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Curtis Brown. We will also be having a visiting coach from Northwest Ultimate join us for a few weeks. In addition, we are excited to partner with The New School for intramural games throughout the year. Our middle school athletics are open to grades 5-7.

*Please note that Homework Club will be cancelled for the week of OPI, October 14th and 16th.

After School Activity Bus:

Our After School Activity Bus, which serves our middle school students, will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. The bus will begin service on Tuesday; October 21st. Sign-up forms will go home with your student and are also available in the office. Please turn in to Lily Hotchkiss and keep in mind that it takes about five days from the time you sign-up to begin riding the bus.

Seeking Help!

We are looking for someone to help with snack for Powerful Schools on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00pm-3:30pm. You will be compensated!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lily Hotchkiss at lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org

AND! Check out TechStart... <http://www.techaccess.org>

TechStart is a free, yearlong after-school program for students in kindergarten through 8th grade. The focus of TechStart is providing technology and academic enrichment to underserved children of color through project-based learning. Classes begin the week of October 13, are held 2 days a week, and continue until June 11, 2009. Students are required to make a full year commitment to the program. Please see the TechStart schedule for details about when and where classes are open for your student's grade range. The curriculum for each grade range is available on our website. Classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis, so you are encouraged to apply immediately.



FUNDRAISING NEWS...

A message from the Annual Fund Chair...

Please be on the look out for the Annual Fund Mailing list request forms that will be sent home with the students on Tuesday, September 23rd to be returned by Friday, October 3rd. The first classroom to get all forms returned will win an ice cream social!

The Annual Fund is seeking a volunteer to design the brochure that is sent out with the Annual Fund letter. We have several examples of what was done in the past as reference! Call **Susan King** at 206.683.8431 or email kingsusanl@gmail.com if you can help!

Grant Writing 101!

A Workshop for Orcans Interested in Learning How to Write a Grant

Learning how to write a grant request is easier than most people realize. We'll go over the basic components of putting a grant together:

- Developing a clear mission or focus
- Researching appropriate funders
- Writing a compelling narrative
- Gathering the necessary data
- Books and online resources for grant writers

Taught by Joanne Kelly (owner of Muse Indigo in Columbia City) a local communications consultant who's been working with non-profits and education for 20 years.

Workshop will take place on Thursday, October 23 from 6-7:30 PM in the library at Orca.

For more information please contact Lily Hotchkiss at lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org



ORDER YOUR PCC SCRIP CARDS!

We are placing an order for PCC Scrip Cards in the next few days. If you would like to purchase a refillable card, please send your name & phone # to Sabranie@hotmail.com. This is another program that you can request participation from family and friends who shop at PCC!

Earn money for your organization with PCC Scrip.

Now, it's easier than ever to raise funds for your school or non-profit organization while you shop for delicious, all-natural groceries at PCC.

If your organization is a participant in PCC's Scrip program, you can purchase a convenient, rechargeable Scrip card and use it at any PCC. Five percent of the card's or key tag's value will benefit your school or non-profit.

You can even recharge your Scrip card at PCC. Every time you do, the organization you're supporting earns 5 percent of the amount applied to your card.

HELP NEEDED SATURDAY, SEPT. 27th

Seeking 2 volunteers to help register community members to the Escrip Safeway Club Card Program this coming Saturday, September 27th 10am-3pm at the Mt Baker Safeway on Rainier Avenue. There are two shifts available 10-12:30 and 12:30-3.

Please send friends and neighbors into the store on Saturday to register and remember that this month a full 10% of your purchases will be donated to Orca if you:

- a. Have a Safeway Club Card registered with Escrip
- b. Save and return your register receipts to me by October 15th.

Remember, you can collect receipts from Friends and neighbors too! Contact Sabranie 206-721-7998 or Sabranie@hotmail.com

CORRECTIONS:

ORCA HANDBOOK: Contact information for some of the PTSA officers were listed incorrectly in the Orca K-8 handbook (pg 15). Updates will be made to the website and a corrected page is attached. Here is the corrected information:

- Koichi Kitazumi's email is: kkitazum@starbucks.com
- Sauda Porter's phone # is: 206.484.0354
- Pam Jones' email is: pamelaj4651@msn.com
- Deb Schaaf's contact info is: 206.323.9023 and d.schaaf@comcast.net

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM: Completed enrollment forms for the Instrumental music program are due, **Tuesday, September 23rd**.

ABOUT THE BULLETIN: *The Weekly Bulletin is distributed on paper and electronically every Tuesday. Archived Bulletins are available at www.orcapta.org. If you have something to add, please send information to announcements@orcapta.org. Thanks for reading the fine print, and have a fabulous year!*