



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 30, 2008

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October

02 – Curriculum Night	7pm
03 – School Picture Day!	Order forms are due
06 – Open Mic at Starbucks	6pm, Columbia City
06 – After School Programs Begins	
07 – PTSA Board Meeting	7pm Orca library
10 – Professional Development	NO SCHOOL
13 – Leadership Council Mtg	7pm
16 – PTSA GM/Race Forum Kick Off	
13-17 – 6 th grade Camp to OPI	Olympic Park Institute
23 – Grant Writing Workshop	6pm Orca library
24 – Harvest Festival	
29 – Professional Development	1:15, Early Dismissal
30 – Race Forum Mtg	

THOUGHTS FROM DEB KOON...



What a gorgeous Fall we are having! Even though I love the cozy, rainy days (yes, I'm one of those people!) it is fantastic that we get a bit more time with the sun before it goes into hiding.

This Thursday October 2nd is Curriculum Night. This is when the teachers present to parents and guardians what they will be teaching this year, what they expect from their students and answer our questions. Each teacher will have two mirror presentations, one from 7:00pm to 7:45pm and the other from 7:45pm to 8:30pm, in order for those with two children to attend sessions in both classrooms. Childcare is provided. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents/guardians to meet the teacher and hear their plan for the year, see the classroom and get to meet other families in their child's room! Getting involved and knowing what is taking place in the classroom is one of the best ways we can nurture our child's love of learning.

Note to 6th grade parents: There will be a Camp meeting at 6:30pm, just before curriculum night begins. Please plan to be there to learn about Camp and ways that you can help make it a great experience!

Hope to see many of you on Thursday! While you are there, please take the time to look over the committee sign-up sheets in the 2nd floor hallway and see which committee just calls your name. (You didn't really think I'd pass up an opportunity to encourage volunteering, did you?)!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P.E. Hiring Committee is being formed

Orca is beginning the screening and interview process for our full time PE opening. We will be finalizing criteria, questions, and screening applications on Thursday, Oct 2 from 3:30-5:00. Interview will be held on Monday, October 6 from 3:30-8:30. If you have had the SEA hiring training and are interested in participating, please let Cynthia know in the office.

Auction overnight DVD's are available in the Office

Anyone who participated in last fall or last spring's auction overnight at Orca, your DVD was finally duplicated. Copies are available in the office. Special thanks to **Cesar Landeros** for his assistance.

IMPROVED ORCA TRANSPORTATION CHANGES BEGINS 10/1/2008

As many of you know, Seattle Public Schools Transportation officials have been working diligently to resolve our bussing issues. With a shared sense of urgency, our much appreciated SPS Transportation Coordinator Katie Hairston has been working tirelessly and with great accuracy to implement a comprehensive schedule revision effective Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Beginning Wednesday, you and your child(ren) will likely experience new pick-up and drop-off times, new bus numbers, and/or new stops.

Your child should have brought home a ROUTE CHANGE NOTICE on Monday or Tuesday. The effective date, route number, pick-up and drop-off times, corner and stop designation are all listed. We will have practiced the new routing with all students on Tuesday.

It was Ms. Hairston's goals to shorten the overall commute time to and from school and provide all students the same bus stop and number to and from school if students were departing from and arriving at the same address. Please keep in mind though your child's pick-up and drop-off times may be slightly longer, all adjustments will result in overall efficiency. If you have further questions, concern, or praise, please route those to me at dksakaue@seattleschools.org and I will pass those on to Ms. Hairston. Your patience and understanding is appreciated by all.

SAY
CHEESE!

Picture Day
is Friday,
October 3rd

We're off to a great start with math this year at Orca!

Our Everyday Math curriculum (EDM) is being used throughout the primary levels, with teachers who are enthusiastic about approaching the curriculum this fall with a year of learning behind them. This year, they have the advantage of a more realistic, district-provided pacing guide – with more built-in flexibility – to keep them on track to meet learning targets. We have dedicated staff time scheduled throughout the year for team planning, training, practice and collaboration. In some cases, this will mean we have half-day subs supporting teachers for math meetings; an invaluable gift of time!

Research demonstrates that it could take 2-3 years to accurately measure the success of the new EDM curriculum adoption. However, we'll be conducting a series of assessments throughout the year to gauge our success:

- Unit-specific pre- and post-tests
- District baseline assessments for beginning, middle and end of the year

We're investigating a pilot program to distribute students' individual preview and post-test results to families to keep them apprised in their child's math progress. Watch for more information about that. You can learn more details about your child's math program for the year from your teacher at curriculum night.

We're in the process of setting up passwords for each student to access EDM resources online. They should come home with your child in a few weeks. In the meantime, to learn more about the EDM curriculum, visit <everydaymathonline.com>.

In the coming weeks, we'll try to provide you with more information about the philosophy of EDM and its spiral curriculum, algorithm examples, and opportunities to help our parent/staff math committee. We are pleased to be able to offer two after-school math clubs again this year for students through partnership with Powerful Schools and Explorations in Math. Watch for information on the Powerful School registration forms to come home soon.

We are trying to identify parent math champions for each classroom. See the volunteer opportunities for more information, or contact [Julie McCann at Julie@softlabour.com](mailto:JulieMcCann@softlabour.com) to become your classroom's math champion or join the math committee. And, finally, we're still looking for an enthusiastic coach for a Math Olympiad team. Let us know if you're interested.

Look for math updates in the newsletter, highlighting math happening in the classroom, useful math learning sites, and student celebrations.

Jeffrey Riley, jsriley@seattleschools.org

Please join us for....
A Very Special and Important meeting for Middle School Parents!!!
Thursday, October 2, 2008
6:30-7:00pm (prior to Curriculum night)
In the Science Annex (Ms. Katherine's room)
Topic: Olympic Park Institute Class Trip
(for 6th grade parents only)



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

COMMITTEE SIGN-UP SHEETS - PLEASE KEEP SIGNING UP!

Thanks to all of you who have signed up for the various committees; there is still time for those of you who haven't quite gotten around to it! The committee sheets are still hanging in the second floor hallway; wander through, take a look and see which one looks like just the committee for you. If you're not quite ready to sign up, you can still join the fun later! Always keep an eye on the newsletter for volunteer requests as events get closer, then contact the chair and get involved! Getting involved is a great way to meet new people, have fun and make a difference at your child's school!

MANY THANKS TO.....

- The **Safety Committee** for working diligently on signage, curb painting and other factors to keep our kids safe!
- **Sabranie Coyne, Susan King** and **Jared Koon** for working the table at Safeway last Saturday to register shopper's Safeway cards for E-scrip. About 100 people registered with our school; we will receive 10% from their shopping trips through mid-October and then 4% after that and it is free to the shoppers! Have you signed up? If not, contact Sabranie at sabranie@hotmail.com.
- **Mikala Woodward** for organizing the "free of the trees" work party on Saturday and her crew that put in a hard days work taking down that chain link fence. I think there was an audible sigh of relief heard from the trees and bushes!

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



THANK YOU FENCE BRIGADE!

The fence removal was a success!! Thanks to everyone who helped out! The result is fantastic – to see more information about the day, check out Mikala's unofficial report at: <http://kiddewoodward.blogspot.com/2008/09/fence-b-gone.html>

Orca Space Team

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

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

Lily Hotchkiss: lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org

See you at Curriculum Night!

Date: Thursday, 10/2

Time: K-5 7:00-7:45pm b 7:45 to 8:30pm
6th/7th 7:00-7:45pm or 7:45 to 8:30pm

Where: Parents of K-5 in their respective classrooms
6th/7th graders will have combined middle school sessions

Place: Orca

ART WORKSHOPS at Thrive Art School! "Kids Art Forever" is a workshop running both Saturday October 18th and Saturday November 1st. Students complete two holiday themed artworks, which parents can have printed on a product of choice! Perfect for a holiday gift! Ravenna location.

Call 206-522-1659 for more information. www.drawingschool.com

***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!*