



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 7, 2008

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October

07 – 6th Grade family Potluck

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

29 – Professional Development

30 – Race Forum Mtg

6pm Science Building

7pm Orca library

NO SCHOOL

7pm

Olympic Park Institute

6pm Orca library

1:15, Early Dismissal

THOUGHTS FROM BEN...



The 2008-2009 school year is off to the races. With the various demands and curveballs of the opening month behind us, we're starting to gather our stride.

We have a new teacher in Room 208! **Jenessa Wight** was hired at the end of last week. She brings a strong background in drama and education to Orca. She has been actively involved at Alternative School #1 as a parent, site council member, and experiential learning coordinator. Jenessa rose to the top of an exceptional group of finalists who all taught demonstration lessons in our 1st/2nd grade classrooms. The late opening in Room 208 helped demonstrate what Orca is all about. **Maidi** and **Stacy** took turns teaching in 208 for a week and a half each to build a cohesive learning community. The parents of 208 organized themselves to assist in the classroom and be ready to support a new teacher. When we work together towards a common goal, it builds our community's capacity to deal with challenges.

We are interviewing for our full time PE opening on Monday, October 6. Hopefully, we will have a regular teacher starting in PE next week. After that we will search for a candidate to fill our .5 alternative PE position. Although it's been a challenge to start the year with so many unfilled positions, the bright side is that we are able to interview for each opening. Had our job vacancies appeared sooner, we would have had displaced teachers assigned to the openings.

Afterschool activities start this week for both K-5 and middle school students. Many thanks, to **Lily Hotchkiss**, our Afterschool Activities Coordinator who organizes both programs. Also this week, October 10th is a professional development day with no school for students. Orca staff will be attending ongoing Writers Workshop training all day. All K-5 classrooms, and middle school drama and social studies have begun the year with a unit launching Writers Workshop and working on personal narratives. As we well know, our students have amazing stories to tell.

Also, Orca buses began new routes last week. Some students' buses were changed, others remained the same. Similar to the first week of school, routes are going to take a little longer for a while. However, overall we should begin to see some improvements around the headaches that

wouldn't go away for the first month of school. Thanks for your patience as we work with transportation to tackle the problems.

- Ben Ostrom

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE HARVEST FESTIVAL IS COMING! COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

The Harvest Festival is Friday October 24th! It will be a day filled with fun activities, great food, and cider pressing just to name a few!

Below are listed the many different parts of the Fest that need your help:

- Decorations
- Promotions
- Pumpkin Donations (for carving)
- Make food from the garden for your classroom
- Loan your Pop-Up canopy in case of rain
- Donate good apples for pressing

Day of event:

- Set-up/clean-up
- Cider making
- Salsa making
- Craft station
- Storytelling
- Scarecrow making
- Serving food

Pick the part that works for you and contact Phyllis Daniels at phyllis@circlethat.com/708-9936

First BASE Sally Foster fundraiser

First BASE has brought back by popular demand the Sally Foster fundraiser. Please help support the before and after school program so that various supplies, educational games and computer software can be purchased. Now through October 17th.

The Sally Foster fundraiser features high quality gift-wrap, unique gift items, gourmet chocolates and edibles and much, much more. 50% of your purchase goes directly to First BASE. Stop by room #106 and see a few displays of products, obtain a catalog or view on-line. You can shop on-line at www.sallyfoster.com and enter the First BASE account #601886 or fill out an order form available at First BASE. It's easy!!!

SIXTH GRADE POTLUCK

- When: Tuesday, 10/7, 6pm
- Where: Science Building

This is a chance for 6th grade families to get to know each other and talk about how we can support our kids and ourselves through this school year. Sorry for the late notice, please come if you can. For more info, contact Mikala Woodward at jojoma3@aol.com or 206-722-5177.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

HARVEST FESTIVAL FRIDAY OCTOBER 24TH

Phyllis Daniels has stepped into the role of chairperson for the Harvest Festival - THANKS PHYLLIS!

There are many ways that you can help make this a fun-filled day. You can contact your room coordinator and volunteer to bring food that either came from a garden or has ingredients that came from a garden, oversee one of the stations during your class's times or during the duration of the Fest, set-up or clean-up, decorations, promotion, the list goes on and on! See the Harvest Fest piece in the bulletin for more information.

Greetings from the Art Dept!

We are in search of:

- A loveseat for the art library
- A working sewing machine
- #2 plastic lids (the kind from big yogurt containers)

Thank you!

COMMITTEE CHAIR TRAINING

Committee Chair Training will take place on Saturday October 18th at 9:00am to 11:00am in the school library. If you are chairing a committee it is important that you attend this meeting if at all possible. I will be sending out more information regarding this meeting in the near future.

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

From the After School Programs Coordinator



We are excited to begin our after school programs this week with an amazing group of teachers and students. Please see below for details and updates!

Powerful Schools:

Most of our Powerful School classes are full. We have space in Taekwondo on Mondays at 4:30pm, EIM 3-5 on Mondays at 3:30pm and a few spots left in Joan's 4:30pm collage class on Wednesdays which she has graciously opened up to K-2..

If you have a student attending a 3:30pm class please let them know that they go right down to the lunch room when the bell rings to check-in. All drop off and pick-ups will also be from the lunch room.

Middle School Programs:

Both Bike Works and Orca Zine! are full but we still have space in Homework Club, Flag Football and Ultimate Frisbee. Please contact me directly if you'd like to enroll for any of these classes.

If you have a student attending a Middle School class please let them know they go right to their class when the bell rings. Orca Zine! is in Room 308; Homework Club in Room 304; Flag Football and Ultimate Frisbee will meet on the field.

Activity Bus:

The activity bus will begin service on Tuesday, October 21st and run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign up sheets are in the office. It takes about 5 days to process your request.

Reminders and Requests:

~There will be no Homework Club during the week of October 13th-17th when the 6th Graders are at OPI.

~The Bike Works class starts on Friday, October 24th.

~Our after school classes would greatly benefit from fresh fruit and veggies. If you can contribute please drop off items to Room 207A.

~Parent volunteers are needed on Mondays and Wednesdays to help serve snack in the lunch room. Please let me know if you can help and/or come by the lunchroom at 3:00pm on a Monday or Wednesday.

Many thanks to all the parent volunteers who helped to copy, fold and distribute registration forms.

Thank you! Lily Hotchkiss, lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org, 206.252.6885



Phyllis Daniels has been doing these awesome stencils (and freehand fish!) on our doors....Nice work, Phyllis! If you want to help, you can contact her at phyllisdaniels@yahoo.com or 206-708-9936.



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!*