



# ORCA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### October 14, 2008

**Phone:** 252-6900

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**Website:** [www.orcapta.org](http://www.orcapta.org)

#### **October**

16 – PTSA GM/Race Forum Kick Off

13-17 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade Camp to OPI

18 – End of season Work Party

23 – Grant Writing Workshop

24 – Harvest Festival

**29 – Professional Development**

30 – Race Forum Mtg

Olympic Park Institute

10am-2pm Hillman City P Patch

6pm Orca library

**1:15, Early Dismissal**

#### **THOUGHTS FROM KOICHI...**



Hi Orcans!

Originally being from Southern California, I'm constantly reminded at this time of year that I love the change of seasons. My body has told me all summer long that it thrives in the warm sun and that more can be accomplished during the day when the weather cooperates. But my mind says that change in temperature and adapting to a "wet" climate is good for the soul. I find this particularly true as our kids get older. The name on the school may still be Orca, but as the year progresses their environment as well as their perception of school changes. We as parents need to be aware of these changes to better prepare our kids for what the future holds.

Keeping up to date with your child's class work, asking your teacher for information and meeting with other parents are all ways that we can stay involved. Whenever possible, read this newsletter for opportunities to participate in school wide events or networking meetings that help us to make decisions on behalf of our community. The benefits of parent involvement are monumental, needless to say that parent involvement is a critical part of the Orca experience. Collective parent involvement such as the tearing down of fence, baking cookies for a good cause or even tying roller skates for kindergartners is truly motivating. This motivation in turn drives us to be more engaged with our kid's endeavor in the class and makes us better parents. "Orca is much about educating the parent as it is the student."

Being involved in the mechanics of school and how decisions are made, has opened my eyes on how the city, county and state function as well. As with all election years, we have some heavy decisions to make on how and how much we fund education in Seattle. We all want what is best for our child and sometimes asking for more is all it takes. But in the case of funding at the state level and providing every child with the same opportunities, it is very evident that advocacy for public education is what is needed most. We all most raise our hands and voices together as a community to make sure that both politicians and lawmakers understand that well funded education produces the type of citizens that promote long lasting strong communities. Somewhere along time, we have forgotten that our votes count and can make a difference. The Seattle School Board has not forgotten this...neither has your City Councilman. Reach out to these people and let them know the importance of public education and what your expectations as a parent are. Let's be innovative...let's be loud!

In the meantime, get involved at Orca and learn what our current needs are. It could be as easy as attending a PTSA general meeting like the one this **Thursday at 7:00 pm** in the cafeteria where we

will openly discuss issues like race and equity in the community. It could be an investment of time into an event like the **Harvest Festival on October 24th** which is both an appreciative and rewarding event to be a part of. Or reach out to Deb Koon, our fearless Volunteer Coordinator at [debkoon@comcast.net](mailto:debkoon@comcast.net) for more ideas and events to help out with. And involvement can also be as simple as reading 20 minutes to your child just before they go to bed. Bottom line, whatever you can give... is the best you can give. Be involved!

Thank you~!  
Koichi Kitazumi PTSA president  
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"don't swim alone, be herd"

## 🌟 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🦴



Mark your calendars, HARVEST FESTIVAL is Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>!!!

Still looking for a few good pumpkins:

- To volunteer during the event
- To donate or help coordinate procurement of 70 pumpkins
- Please contact Phyllis Daniels at [phyllis@circlethat.com](mailto:phyllis@circlethat.com)/708-9936

### **End of Season Community Work Party at Hillman City P Patch Saturday, October 18th from 10am-2pm.**

The P Patch community is getting winter-ready. We'll be clearing weeds, mulching and maintaining the compost area plus more. We need to have 8 hrs of volunteer time logged by the end of October to be offered renewal next year for our plots. The work party will be a fun way to get hours in and meet our P patch neighbors. Bring warm clothes, gloves and if you have any favorite tools (otherwise there are tools there) or snacks. Come by for an hour anytime. Children Welcome. Be sure to log your hours in the notebook that Brenda or Lizzie the P Patch organizers will have there.

Any questions? Call Sarah Hufbauer at 300-8152.



### **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...**

The HARVEST FESTIVAL (Friday October 24) is quickly approaching! It is going to be a great day in our new Eastside garden! There are many ways that you can get involved. Contact your room coordinator if you are able to bring food made from the garden for your class or are able to help bring your class out to the Festival. Contact **Phyllis Daniels** at [phyllis@circlethat.com](mailto:phyllis@circlethat.com) to volunteer for one of the many tasks available to make the Festival a success!

### **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Just a reminder to complete a background check if you are planning to volunteer at Orca this year. The forms are located on the counter in the Main office. Just complete BOTH sides and attach a COPY OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE. Turn them in to Cynthia or Patrice and they will put them in my mailbox.

-Deb Koon, Volunteer Coordinator [debkoon@comcast.net](mailto:debkoon@comcast.net)/723-7444



## From the After School Programs Coordinator

Wow! We have had a busy first week settling in to our after school programs. Thanks to all the students, parents and instructors for your extra support while we find our groove!

**Also, a special thanks to volunteers Mike Leitner, Shava Lawson, Phyllis Daniels, Terri Lovins, Eric Simmons and Hugo Pakaar for helping out in the classroom and the lunchroom.**

### Powerful Schools

If you have a student attending a 3:30pm class please let them know they go right to the lunch room when the bell rings. If they attend First Base, they will need to check in there first. All drop-off and pick-up is in the lunch room.

### Middle School Programs

If you are a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent and have a student who would be interested in taking Ultimate Frisbee please let me know. We have several openings.

If you have a student attending a middle school class please let them know they go right to the classroom/field where the class takes place. Flag Football and Ultimate Frisbee will meet on the field. Orca zine will meet in Room 308.

### Important Reminders:

~Homework Club with Donte will be cancelled this week while our 6<sup>th</sup> graders are at OPI.

~The activity bus will begin next week on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have not already done so and want your student to ride the bus you need to turn in your form by Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. After that it will take 5 days to register from the day you submit your form.

~Bike Works will start on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Fresh Fruit and Veggies wanted ~ please let me know if you can contribute!**

-Thanks! Lily Hotchkiss, [lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org), 252.6885

### NEW ORCA ZINE LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

Hi! We're the editors of the new and coming Orca zine:

***The Sound: Voices of Orca***

We are looking for writing, art, fiction, poetry, reviews, comics, photography and so much more by Orca students. Look for submission envelopes coming soon in the halls. You can also send submissions to [orcazine@gmail.com](mailto:orcazine@gmail.com).  
Go ahead, submit something!



## Instrumental Music News

Orca's instrumental music program is still in need of instruments.

District-wide, there is a shortage, particularly of violins, for students who want to play but are unable to rent their own instrument. The solution at many elementary schools is to create a waitlist -- kids who need a loaner are asked to either play something else that IS available, or don't play at all. Not very Orca-ish, is it? So, please keep us in mind the next time you see a serviceable-looking instrument for a reasonable price at a garage sale or fleamarket. Or if you happen to have a woodwind, brass or string instrument gathering dust, please consider donating it. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Questions? Contact Deb Schaaf at [d.schaaf@comcast.net](mailto:d.schaaf@comcast.net) or 252-6900.

From the Seattle City Council PTA –



## “Let’s do something about state education funding”

(A Proposal for the Basic Education Finance Joint Task Force)

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008, 7pm; Sammamish High School Performing Arts Center

**Washington State’s education funding system is broken.** Increasing costs and declining funds to public schools continue to create chronic underfunding which affects every student in Bellevue and forces the district to use levy dollars to fund basic education programs.

**2008-2009 could begin the change.** For more than a year, the WA Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has been studying the education funding problems facing our state. Its report and suggestions to the legislature are due in December 2008. Finally, there will be a serious and open discussion in Olympia about what our kids need and how we can help them get it. The Task Force has been working on two monumental issues important to BSD and the State:

- redefining basic public education to include all that our children need for success
- developing an appropriate funding mechanism for our schools

This presentation will discuss a serious proposal to address these issues; and how we can help. For event information or to submit questions in advance, contact Bellevue PTSA Council President Janet Suppes [janetpta@gmail.com](mailto:janetpta@gmail.com) or Legislative Chair Connie Gerlitz [dgerlitz2@comcast.net](mailto:dgerlitz2@comcast.net). For more info, visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/>.

### Student assignment meetings: **Oct. 23, Oct. 27, Nov. 1**

Seattle Public Schools invites families and community members to a [series of community meetings](#) to discuss a new districtwide student assignment plan. The meetings will inform community members of the overall process to design, develop and implement a new student assignment plan. The connection of this work to Seattle Public Schools’ larger improvement efforts will be discussed. More info: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/index.html>

#### Assignment meeting times and locations:

**Thursday, Oct, 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Ingraham High School library, 1819 No. 135th Street

Interpreters: Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese

**Monday, Oct. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Rainier Beach High School – Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center, 8815 Seward Park Avenue S.

Interpreters: Somali, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese

**Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – noon**

John Stanford Center auditorium, 2445 3rd Avenue S

Interpreters: Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tigrigna, Vietnamese

#### Arts Education Forum

7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30

Seattle Asian Art Museum, 1400 E. Prospect St. in Volunteer Park

Learn about the accomplishments of the Arts Education Partnership Initiative. Hear from Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno and District Arts Manager Carri Campbell. Mayor Greg Nickels will open the forum.



#### Lost and Found!

The racks in the lost and found area are overloaded! Please take a minute to wander by and look for your lost treasures. The lost and found clothing rack is located just inside the doors at the sound end of the playground.

## SPS pre-registration

Pre-registration continues through the end of November. During this time, families can pre-register students who will enter Seattle Public Schools in September 2009. Early Sibling Assignment Applications will also be accepted during this period.

### **Safety Tips for Children**

A recent incident (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) involving a 10 year old Seattle student waiting at a bus stop served as a reminder that all children should be taught how to respond to suspicious behavior from strangers. The girl was reportedly grabbed from behind, but managed to break away and report the incident when she arrived at school. The incident was investigated, and although no suspects were identified nor the victim's account independently confirmed, it emphasizes the need to educate children regarding safety.

### ***Some Personal Safety Tips for Children***

Children should remember:

- **No.** If uncomfortable with how someone is acting, a child should yell "NO," as loudly as possible. This ensures that those around them know - or hear - that something is wrong.
- **Go.** Run away from the stranger toward home, the nearest adult or neighbor the child trusts, or to a safe location (School, Fire station, maybe even a business like a grocery store).
- **Tell.** Tell the adult they run to -- a parent, neighbor, teacher -- what happened.
- Make sure your child knows another adult, besides his/her parents, whose help s/he may seek if s/he is hurt.
- Teach your child to recognize the types of "low-risk" individuals s/he may ask for help if s/he is lost - including police officers, firefighters, school crossing guards, elderly women, and women accompanied by children.
- Help your child memorize his/her full name, address, and phone number.
- Teach your child how to call home from a pay phone.
- Make sure your child knows to call 911 in emergency situations.
- Know your child's routes to and from school, play and errands. Insist they stick to the same route - no shortcuts! If you have to look for them, you will know where to begin.
- Teach your children to never go anywhere with anyone without parental permission. This includes getting permission a second time if plans change and calling to check before going from one friend's home to another location.
- Teach kids alternatives if they are bothered or followed on the playground, walking to friends' home, school or store. Walk common routes with your child and look for choices (back into the school, in a store or business, into a fire station, or approach someone doing yard work).
- Children's' best defenses are their voices and their legs. Teach them to runaway from someone who is bothering them while yelling to attract as much attention as is possible. Have them practice yelling!
- Teach children not to approach cars that stop to ask for help. Most legitimate adults would not ask a young child for directions anyway. If the car follows them or the driver gets out, they should run away and yell.

Visit the Seattle Police prevention website at <http://www.seattle.gov/police/prevention/Child/default.htm> for additional child safety tips.

\*Note: These tips were taken from a Seattle Crime Prevention publication.



## Monthly Math Challenges!

The Explorations in Math monthly math challenges are now underway. The first challenge has been posted in the south end of the second floor hallway. Every month, students K-5 are invited to participate by picking up a challenge sheet from their teacher or the bulletin board, completing the challenge, and turning it in to the office. This month's challenge is due October 31. There will be a drawing at the end of the month to award two students with the correct answer a prize. There will also be a math game awarded to the classroom with the most participation.

As you encourage your children to solve these problems, please help them think of strategies they could use: guess and check, estimate, organize their data with charts or tables, draw a picture, or look for patterns.

### K-2nd grade

At Xtremeland Amusement Park, there is a roller coaster ride. Each car holds 4 people and there are 2 cars. The ride takes 10 minutes. How many people will ride the roller coaster in 30 minutes?

### 3rd grade and older

At Xtremeland Amusement Park, there is a roller coaster ride. Each car holds 8 people and there are 3 cars. The ride takes 10 minutes. There are 150 people waiting in line and the ride closes in exactly 1 hour. Will all of the people be able to ride the roller coaster?



### El Centro De La Raza Presents

2008 Día de Los Muertos  
(Day of the Dead)

#### “The Legend of the Three Deaths”

“In our tradition, people die three deaths. The first is when our bodies cease to function, our hearts no longer beat...when the space we occupy slowly loses its meaning.

The Second death comes when the body is lowered into the ground, returned to mother earth, out of sight.

The Third death, the most definitive death, is when there is no one left alive to remember us.” - Victor Landa Columnist

#### Let Us Remember

**Opening Reception-Saturday Nov 1,  
2008 4:45-8:00P.M.**

Dinner served 4:45 – 5:45PM

Ceremonial Procession 6:00PM

Opening of Ofrenda Exhibit 6:30 –  
8:00PM

**El Centro De La Raza**  
2524 16<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Seattle, WA 98144