



# ORCA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### October 21, 2008

**Phone:** 252-6900

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

#### **October**

23 – Grant Writing Workshop

24 – Harvest Festival

**29 – Professional Development**

30 – Race Forum Mtg

6pm Orca library

**1:15, Early Dismissal**

6pm dinner/childcare provided

#### **November**

1<sup>st</sup> week – Classroom POD potlucks

3 – Open Mic

10 – Leadership Council Mtg

**11 – Veteran’s Day**

20 – Race Forum mtg

**24-26 – Parent/Teacher conferences**

**27-28 – Thanksgiving holiday**

TBD by grade band VP’s

Starbucks Columbia City

3:30

**NO SCHOOL**

6pm dinner/childcare provided

**NO SCHOOL**

**NO SCHOOL**

#### **THOUGHTS FROM Melanie Moor...**



Recently I was dealing with a tragedy that occurred to some close friends. Afterwards, Stacy Stark lent me the book, The Three Questions by Leo Tolstoy. The three questions highlighted by Tolstoy have been leading my reflections on the deep work of teaching: **“What is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do?”**

How do we know the best time to do anything? For teachers, the practice of teaching always crafts best when the “art” of teaching has been welcomed into the conversation. Knowing our children – when to push them and when to step back and observe – is one of our greatest challenges as both teacher and parent.

Does the most important one change or stay the same and how do we decide or know who they are? I’ve been a teacher for 17 years and I can honestly say that each child has always been my most precious student. Some are more memorable, true, but all are important.

How do we qualify “right” vs. “wrong” action? I would venture to guess that most teachers go home with at least one nagging question of whether they made the correct choice for either an individual or class decision.

Leo Tolstoy gives responses to these questions that may or may not surprise you. “Remember that there is only one important time, and that time is now. The most important one is always the one you are with. And the most important thing is to do good for the one who is standing at your side. These are the answers to what is most important in this world.”

May each of us connect with each other in love and appreciation.

Melanie Moor  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome P.E. teachers!



Orca finally has permanent PE teachers. **Renee Johnson** will begin working in our full time PE position on Monday, 10/19, and **Jupinder Gill** will begin working in our .5 PE position on Wednesday, 10/21. Look for introductory letters in the next couple of newsletters. Here's a quick hello from both:

Hello ORCA Parents & Students,

I am very excited to be part of the Orca staff this year. I look forward to teaching your children the importance of staying active and making fitness part of their lives. I have been teaching physical education to kids since 1988 and been teaching in Seattle since 1992. I received a B.S. in Kinesiology (study of human movement) and Health for Texas A & M University and also started some of my graduate studies in Exercise Physiology there. I plan to introduce a variety of physical activities/experiences to the students at Orca while continuing to rebuilding SCATS back into the Physical Education program.

My philosophy of physical education has always been to teach individuals the importance of a healthy lifestyle, one that includes mind, body and spirit. I believe all three are intertwined in educating and fostering a child's growth within a creative, enriched environment. I look forward to being your child's new P.E. Teacher and welcoming parents to volunteer in the gym.

-Renee' Johnson

Dear Orca Families,

Originally from Punjab, India, I taught Physical Education for ten years there before immigrating to USA in 2006. Most recently I have been working with children with Autism at Meany Middle School. I am thrilled to be teaching Physical Education at Orca K-8 this year.

-Jupinder Gill

## HARVEST FESTIVAL is Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>!!!



Learn more about the Harvest Festival!

The Harvest Festival is an opportunity for the kids to celebrate the Fall Harvest! Here's how it works:

**Time of day:** Each classroom comes out to the Garden for 30 minutes at a time chosen by their teacher. This time is posted on the sign-up sheet outside each classroom.

**Stations:** As shown on the sign-up sheet, there are different stations in the Garden. The stations include pumpkin carving, scarecrow making, cider pressing, corn husk doll making, salsa making and delectable food table. The PCC van will also be on site with their yummy taste testing! We need parents from each classroom to sign up to fill each of the stations during their classroom's time (or longer if they choose) in the Garden; we need preferably two parents per station. There will be someone from the committee at each station to assist each classroom parent.

**Food:** Each classroom needs some parents to bring food for their classroom to enjoy! This food is made with ingredients that can come from a garden. This doesn't mean you have to pick things fresh from a garden just that some ingredients could come from a garden. Food can be dropped off in the Greenhouse in the Eastside Garden the day before or day of the event. **MAKE SURE YOUR FOOD IS CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CLASSROOM # OR TEACHER'S NAME.** Plates, cups and utensils are provided by the PTSA. Here are some examples:

pumpkin bread	fresh fruit or veggies
zucchini bread	soups
spanakopita	apple/carrot muffins
spinach dip	fruit pies
apple butter and bread	use your imagination

**Pumpkins:** We need parents to donate or procure pumpkins for carving. This is not one per child but more of an ongoing carving throughout the day. It would be helpful if each class could provide 6 to 8 pumpkins.

**Jugs:** We need more empty (and washed) gallon jugs for the apple cider.

**Clothes:** We need clothes to dress our scarecrows with.

**Siblings:** Families are welcome to bring siblings along to enjoy the festivities!

**Items may be dropped off in the PTSA room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**Questions?** Contact Phyllis Daniels at [Phyllis@circlethat.com](mailto:Phyllis@circlethat.com) or 708-9936

## **Grant Writing 101 Workshop**

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:

- o Developing a clear mission or focus
- o Researching appropriate funders
- o Writing a compelling narrative
- o Gathering the necessary data
- o 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.

If you are interested in attending, it will take place this Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm in the library. Childcare will be provided.

If you have any questions please contact Lily Hotchkiss, [lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org), 252-6885



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

**GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP - THURSDAY OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00 to 7:30pm - Orca Library**

This workshop is open to anyone who has ideas about where we could use extra funds, who wants to learn how to write grants, or just has great ideas in general! Come learn the variety of ways we can tap into different resources and bring more funds into Orca. Coffee, treats and childcare are provided.

Questions? Contact Lily Hotchkiss @ [lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org).

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL IS THIS FRIDAY OCTOBER 24TH!**

The Harvest Festival committee, headed up by **Phyllis Daniels**, has been working hard to make this a great event! Please do your part by volunteering to bring food, work at a station or bring pumpkins! Remember, each class is only out there for 30 minutes so your station time would be brief. You can sign up on the sheet outside your classroom or contact your Room Coordinator to see what your class needs. Come join the fun on Friday!

THANKS GO OUT TO.....

- **Jeff Freshley** for getting out there and painting the curbs to help keep our kids safe! Way to go, Jeff!
- The Garden work party crew for working in both gardens on Saturday! Thanks to **Anthony and Sarah** for setting it up and to all of the workers: **T.A. McCann, Tiana Colovos, Dave Smith, Kelly Williams, Pam Jones, Phyllis Daniels, John Koon, Deb Koon**, and the kids, **Sadie, Emmett, Serena, Ray, and Simon and anyone else I may have missed!**

Remember, always read your bulletin to stay in touch with what's going on at school! When you see something that appeals to you, just jump right in and join the fun!

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

## **UNICEF BOXES ARE COMING!**

At the Harvest Festival this Friday, children will be receiving UNICEF boxes. Since 1950, children have raised over \$123 million to help improve the lives of children around the world through the UNICEF program. It is a great program that promotes giving! In years past, ORCA students have brought in over \$500 dollars; let's see if we can do that again! This is entirely voluntary; if you and your child choose to participate here's what you do:

1. Bring the UNICEF box with you when trick-or-treating
2. Ask neighbors/friends/family for small donations
3. Return the boxes, with donations inside, to your classroom by Friday November 2nd.

Every little bit helps those in need!



## From the After School Programs Coordinator

### The After School Activity Bus Starts This Week!

#### Middle School Students:

- If you are signed up to ride the After School Activities Bus on Tuesdays and Thursdays, it will start to run this Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Pick-Up will be from the bus zone on Dawson- Parents please remember to leave the bus zone clear between 4:30pm and 5:00pm. If you still need to sign up please keep in mind it takes up to five days to register your student.

**Bike Works** will also start this week. For those of your signed up to take the Bike Works class, it will begin this Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Pick-up and transportation to Bike Works will happen immediately after school in front of the building on 46<sup>th</sup> Ave.

#### Powerful Schools:

What kinds of classes would you like to see for Winter and Spring? If you are interested in having a French class, or have another idea, please let me know.

#### Requests & Reminders:

- Do you have Flag Football experience? Are you willing and able to help coach our Middle School students this Fall? Coach Curtis Brown is seeking a skilled parent volunteer to help him out on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-4:30pm.
- If you enrolled your student in a Powerful Schools class this Fall and it was full, I may have a check to return to you. You can stop by Room 207A this week and pick that up or I will put them in the mail on Friday.

Many Thanks to **Ellen Bates** for providing fresh fruit this week!

Thanks!

Lily Hotchkiss, After School Programs Coordinator  
[lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org), 252-6885



## Plant a Tree, Build a Movement!

Seattle Green Schools

Earth Summit III

October 24th 9am-3pm (United Nations Day)

Gatewood Elementary

- Join teachers, parents, students, community groups, and agencies interested in building a green movement in Seattle Schools and beyond. We will be gathering at Gatewood Elementary this year to highlight Project Earth Care's
- 10,000 trees/10,000 kids campaign, to celebrate their "Inconvenient Ride" cross country bike tour which connected cities coast to coast who signed on to Mayor Nichols Climate Initiative, and to explore other action opportunities.
- The 10,000 trees/10,000 kids Project is linked to Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai's United Nation's Billion Tree Campaign. At last year's Earth Summit we planted trees with Wangari when she was in town at a speaking engagement with Seattle Arts and Lectures. This year we are taking this collaboration to a new level. It's exciting to be part of an international effort to protect and enhance the environment!

For more information about the Earth Summit or Seattle Green Schools contact:

Peter Hubbard

Lawton Elementary [pchubbard@seattleschools.org](mailto:pchubbard@seattleschools.org) or 252-2166