



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 28, 2008

Phone: 252-6900

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Website: www.orcapta.org

October

29 – Professional Development

30 – Race Forum Mtg

1:15, Early Dismissal

6pm dinner/childcare provided

November

1st week – Classroom POD potlucks

3 – Open Mic

7 – Picture re-take day

11 – Veteran’s Day

17 – Leadership Council Mtg

20 – Race Forum mtg

24-26 – Parent/Teacher conferences

27-28 – Thanksgiving holiday

TBD by grade band VP’s

Starbucks Columbia City

NO SCHOOL

3:30

6pm dinner/childcare provided

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

THOUGHTS FROM Koichi...



Congratulations to Phyllis Daniels and team for putting on such great event last Friday. The Teachers and Students enjoyed the traditional Harvest Festival and all of its reaping. Thank you to all those who participated and contributed.

The Harvest Festival reminds that fall is upon us. And with fall comes later sunrises and earlier sunsets. Let's all use extra caution as we send kids out to meet the bus on chilly mornings and take one more look before crossing the street. Fall is also a great time to get outdoors with family and friends before the really rainy and cold weather hits. Please take the time to connect with others and enjoy nature at its best.

I attended 3 meetings last week. All were truly inspiring. I wish you were there to participate. If for any reason you would like more information on these meetings please let me know. The first meeting was PTSA Committee Chair training. This was mostly for the committee leads and was filled with great energy from Parents who want to make a difference at our school. I can tell you, it was the most excited bunch of parents I have met thus far. We are in good hands.

The next meeting was Seattle Council PTSA's monthly general meeting. Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson spoke with parents for about 45 minutes about the upcoming budget planning. Please go to our website, www.orcapta.org to learn more about the districts current economic status. Although the news the superintendent delivered was not new news to Seattle or anywhere in the U.S., it was good to see that planning is in motion to cover the \$25 million deficit for next year and that legislation and parent involvement are part of the plan. We have a lot of work to do in order to keep what we have, let alone to get what we want. In the meantime I want to remind you...the best thing you can do is do what you can do. Continue to be involved with your child's learnings and their Orca experience. Also for your information, attached is the State PTA's stance on Initiative 985.

The last and final meeting went hand in hand with the last meeting. Parent Lily Hotchkiss arranged for Joanne Lauterjung Kelly of <http://www.muse-indigo.com/> to come out and talk to a group of parents who are interested in raising funds through grants in a Grant Writing Workshop. Joanne, who voluntarily shared her secrets of submitting effective applications for grants, has written 25 grants and got them all. Some of her ideas will be made available online at our website and more training will be conducted. As you will soon learn, the PTSA is shifting its funding strategy to include grant writing which will make up a 1/3 of our funds raised in a year.

Speaking of fundraisers, keep an eye out for the Annual Fund lead by parent Susan King. This is the first of our main fundraisers and will make up nearly half of our budget. More details to come..

Thank you~! koichi kitazum - PTSA president 206.856.0571 "don't swim alone, be herd"

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ORCA RACE FORUM this Thursday 10/30 at 6pm-8:30pm with dinner and childcare

Undoing Racism Everyday at Orca - A Place for Dialogue and Action

Our topic for this time together is "Deepening our Understanding of Racism: Analysis of Power and Privilege" Dinner at 6pm in the cafeteria, childcare starts at 6:30 and discussion at 6:45. Join us in community-building/learning activities and discussion about race and living our Orca motto "We all belong". See you Thursday night!



Great News!

Anthony Warner, our amazing Environmental Education Coordinator has really gotten busy, AND inspired. He recently wrote a grant to Seattle Public Utilities to expand ORCA's worm bins /composting program. He's reaching high and hopes to meet our long term goal of 100% composting of food waste from the lunchroom.

WE GOT THE GRANT!

Now we can build five large worm bins to process lunchroom scraps. We also got money for a scale to monitor the amount of waste recycled. The grant will pay Anthony for two extra hours a week of maintenance/ data recording, till school gets out. This is an amazing opportunity for us and we are going to be a model for sustainability in Seattle Public Schools.

Here is the notification he received last Friday....

Congratulations! The Orca K-8 School Composting Program has been awarded a Waste Prevention and Recycling Matching Grant for up to \$2,017.

Waste Prevention and Recycling Program Manager, Customer Service Branch
Seattle Public Utilities

Next time you see Anthony, give him a big congratulations. We're fortunate indeed.

The Garden Committee



Attention!
Monday,
November 3rd
is the next
open mic
night at
Starbucks in
Columbia
City from
6:00-7:30pm
We hope to
see you there!
The first 20
kids to sign
up – read!



Parent Education and Training for Writing Workshop - see attached flyer for details

If you are interested in attending, please r.s.v.p. - thank you!



Fundraising News!

PCC Scrip Cards are here! If you ordered a Scrip card, you should have received a phone call over the last few days. The cards are pre-loaded with \$12.50 and can be refilled at any PCC register. Remember to USE your cards for EVERY purchase so that Orca will receive 5% cash back on all your grocery bills! If you are interested

in purchasing a PCC Scrip card, but did not pre-order, or if you want multiples for additional family members, you are in luck... we have a few extras. Contact Sabranie@hotmail.com

The Holiday Shopping Season is fast approaching! Remember, there are several ways your gift giving purchases can benefit Orca:

Global Goods Partners: Orca has partnered with Global Goods Partners in a forward-thinking, fair trade movement that is changing the way that schools and non-profits fundraise. By purchasing beautiful handmade gifts and products online, you are contributing to the economic and social development of women artisans and their families around the world. With Orca's support, GGP's overseas partners are helping generate income, advance healthcare, promote human rights, and support access to education in their communities. At the same time, Orca will be raising funds for our PTSA general fund. GGP also serves as an important educational tool by encouraging appreciation of other cultures and raising awareness of critical challenges people around the world face today. Orca will receive 20% of every purchase via www.globalgoodspartners.org. Simply select "Orca" from the list of participating organizations at checkout.

Box Tops Marketplace: Start your shopping online at www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace. Log into the website then link to any of over 70 merchants including: HomeDepot.com, Nordstrom, PotteryBarn, Sears.com, Oriental Trading Co., Office Depot, Hallmark.com, and Circuit City. See website for complete list of merchants. Orca will receive a donation of up to 8% back on every qualifying purchase, up to \$20,000 per year – at no additional cost to you!

Escrip: Visit the online mall at www.escrip.com. Every time you shop at any of the 700 online partners including Amazon, Barnes&Noble, Ebay, Eddie Bauer, Macys, and Shutterfly, our school receives up to 16% of your shopping dollars! See website for complete list of merchants. There is a one-time registration download. No need to remember to log in every time, it's automatic. It's simple and free!



From the After School Programs Coordinator

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH DUE TO SPS EARLY RELEASE.


Middle School Updates:

Activity Bus: After getting off to a bumpy and very late start, we now have our regular driver who has tested the route and promised to get to Orca as soon as he can. Transportation is also helping out by redrafting the route so students will get home earlier. Thanks for your patience with this. Please continue to keep in touch with me if your student is getting home late.

Bike Works: I have two openings in the Bike Works class which takes place on Fridays. Bike Works will pick you up from Orca and bring you to their work shop to learn bike mechanics. Cool, huh?

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with snack and donated fresh yummys!

Lily Hotchkiss, After School Programs Coordinator, lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org, 206.252.6885



Take Two!
Picture re-take day is Friday, November 7
Re-order forms may be picked up outside of the office on the 2nd floor.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Autumn brings beautiful fall colors, crisp air, outdoor sports, and, unfortunately, cold and flu season. Following are a few simple suggestions that will help protect you and your child from the "bug" – **PREVENTION** is the goal!

- 1.) **Wash your hands!** **Wash your hands!** **Wash your hands!** - It's **THE** best way to prevent germs and viruses from making their new home in your body. Wash your hands frequently during the day, but especially before preparing food; after sneezing, coughing or caring for pets, and of course, after using the bathroom. Use soap from a pump dispenser and disposable paper towels, or change the hand

towels in your home daily. In public restrooms, use the paper towel to turn off the faucets and open the door. A rich lotion will help prevent dry, cracked hands.

- 2.) Sneeze or cough into your elbow, not your hand, and keep your hands away from your face and eyes.
- 3.) Nutrition – Eat a balanced diet with an emphasis on fruits and vegetables, at least “5 A Day.” Fruits and vegetables have natural immune boosters and make great snacks for children. School is hard work and energy stores are burned up quickly; your child will benefit from a mid-morning snack and after-school “pick me up.”
- 4.) Rest – Elementary school children need an average of 10 hours of sleep each night as their bodies are growing and changing at a phenomenal rate! Lack of rest contributes to emotional stress, irritability, and it decreases the body’s ability to fight infection.
- 5.) Dress appropriately for the weather – To stay warm and dry, wear layers of clothes to trap heat. Use coats, hats, boots and mittens when needed. If you or your child has respiratory problems, wear a scarf or bandana over the nose and mouth. Cold air is an asthma “trigger” for many people.
- 6.) If you have young children at home, wash and disinfect their toys daily. Toys can be hand-washed with hot water and dish soap, but many toys can be safely washed in the washing machine or dishwasher. If the toys are hand-washed, disinfect them with a ¼ teaspoon of bleach mixed with a quart of water. Make a fresh solution every day. Toys that are washed in the dishwasher or washing machine do not need to be disinfected with bleach.

Stay Healthy!

Join us at the 2008 GLBT Families Dinner Hawaiian Theme



The Health Education and Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson would like to invite you to join gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families and friends at a dinner to be held at Meany Middle School’s cafeteria on the evening of Thursday, November 6th, 2008. Dinner and activities are complimentary through donations from the community. Craft tables will be available for younger attendees. Traditional Hawaiian dance performed by the Kennar Family Dancers. Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson, members of the School Board, and other District staff will welcome you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO R.S.V.P.

This will be a well-attended event, so reserve a space for you and your family today! **Please reply no later than November 5th** to Lisa Love at 252-0982 (let us know how many people are in your party).

2010 Capital Levy Planning – Project Nominations Due by December 1, 2008

Seattle Public Schools invites staff, families and community members to provide input as the district plans for the next capital levy, tentatively scheduled for a vote in February 2010. First steps in the planning process include gathering staff and community input and examining the current condition of buildings. Staff and community members are encouraged to nominate projects for consideration as the capital program package is developed. The nomination form, together with background materials and a presentation shared at a series of community meetings held in October, is available on the [capital levy planning Web site](#). Information about projects included in previous levies is available on the [levy Web site](#), and details of projects included in the Building Excellence III bond, including updates on progress, is available on the [BEXIII Web site](#).

Seattle Public School students are fortunate to have voter support for capital levies and bonds. Since 1995, the District has placed two levy or bond measures before voters on a three-year cycle. These include an operating levy (which provides approximately 25 percent of the District’s operating budget) and a capital measure. The capital measures alternate between large capital projects (Building Excellence) that pay for major or complete school renovations, and Building, Technology, Academics (BTA) measures that pay for a wide range of smaller projects.