



# ORCA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### November 11, 2008

**Phone:** 252-6900

**Fax:** 252-6901

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

#### **November**

13 – Explorations in Math Math Night  
17 – Leadership Council Mtg  
18 – Middle School Potluck  
20 – Race Forum mtg  
**24-26 – Parent/Teacher conferences**  
**27-28 – Thanksgiving holiday**

5pm-8pm Rainier Community Center  
3:30  
6pm Science Annex  
6pm dinner/childcare provided  
**NO SCHOOL**  
**NO SCHOOL**

#### **December**

1 – Open Mic  
4 – Math Game Night  
8 – Leadership Council  
18 – Festival of Children  
**19 – Professional Development**  
**22 – Jan 2 Winter Break**

Starbucks Columbia City  
7pm Orca cafeteria  
7pm, library

**Early Dismissal**  
**NO SCHOOL**

#### **THOUGHTS FROM Koichi...**

Wow! Whatta week~! All I can say is that regardless of who you voted for... your thoughts are now filled with what happens next? Where do we go from here? How is this going to impact me? There's so much to think about. Let's continue to talk about what happened last Tuesday with our kids and amongst ourselves. I think the more we talk about it, the more we will discover that rather than reaching the top of a mountain after a long hike, we have only taken the first step on a long journey – a promising journey, but nevertheless an uphill one. I hope your discussions are engaging, welcoming and make you go "hmmmm?"

Locally, we continue to figure out what needs to happen in our schools to ensure that the learning is of high quality and accessible by all. Please take the time to review the district's strategic plan to continue to improve in the areas of math and consistently provide support to struggling schools and students.

[http://www.seattleschools.org/area/strategicplan/SPS\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_2008.pdf](http://www.seattleschools.org/area/strategicplan/SPS_Strategic_Plan_2008.pdf)

Here at Orca, I hope you have had the opportunity to meet with other parents through potlucks, small meetings and in the hallways. By far, the small meetings continue to be the most effective in catching up with one another and making decisions. I encourage all of you to reach out and set up a meeting, formal or informal, with a teacher, PTSA board member or parent...and find out how to get involved. You will find that others are just as interested in what you know as you are interested in what they know. So share what you know, and seek out what you are looking for. Speak up and "Be Herd"! Please contact your grade band (pod) VP for details of the next opportunity to get together.

Speaking of speaking up... the spoken word is getting a workout via the efforts of Writer's workshop, the Young Author's Program and Scribbling Whales. The stories and poems I have seen thus far are both impressive and inspiring. These can be shared at Open Mic Night at Starbucks on the first Monday of the month. The next one is on December 1st at 6:00 pm. Please contact your teacher for more details on these programs.

As you may have been made aware, the Annual Fund kicked off last week. This major fundraiser supports programs like the ones mentioned above. Your participation is much appreciated. "No donation is too small or too large!" Go to [http://www.orcapta.org/fundraising/Orca\\_Annual\\_Fund.shtml](http://www.orcapta.org/fundraising/Orca_Annual_Fund.shtml) for details.

I feel we live in exciting times. And although we don't know exactly what lies ahead, we can be assured that if we continue to gather as a community and support one another, that we will be better a school for it.

Thank you!  
Koichi

206.856.0571

"don't swim alone, be herd"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Annual Fund Letters are in the Mail!**

Thank you all for turning in the mailing list requests for the Annual Fund. The ice cream social goes to both **Marletta** and **Mr. McCullough's** class for turning in forms for each student in their classes!

Also big thanks to those that helped with the envelope stuffing - Tuesday Smith, Chico King, Kimberly Bowen, Joyce Cruz and Suzanne Wastier, as well as the Room Coordinators for stamping the envelopes! And extra thanks to David Newman for redesigning the brochure!

Please be on the lookout for your Annual Fund letter coming in the mail soon. This year's Annual Fund Drive will raise funds to ensure that the programs that make Orca unique will continue to flourish. Our Annual Fund goal is \$40,000. Every dollar counts and every donation is deeply appreciated. **No donation is too small or too large!** With the support of caring Orca families, friends, alumni and neighbors, this year's Annual Fund Drive will be a great success.

Susan King, Annual Fund Chair  
[kingsusanl@gmail.com](mailto:kingsusanl@gmail.com)



### **Mark your calendars for MATH!**

- **Explorations In Math, Math Night, Thursday, November 13,** 5:00-8:00pm Rainier Community Center. See attached flyer for more details.
- **Math Game Night, Thursday, December 4,** 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Orca Cafeteria.

Get ready for this highly anticipated event... Math Game Night will be held on Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Research shows that games are the #1 way for parents to reinforce their kids' math skills, and we have some fun games to show you. Come learn games from the Everyday Math curriculum. Get math tips from our Explorations in Math team. And play games brought to us from Blue Highway Games.

If you've attended math game night before, you know that we rely on a swarm of parent volunteers to help this event run smoothly. Volunteers need no experience -- we'll teach you a game, and then you can teach others to play it. It's all fun! Interested volunteers, please contact [julie@softlabour.com](mailto:julie@softlabour.com) to sign up for a game station or to help with organization of the event.



### **Gardening, Environmental and Science Enthusiasts – please read on....**

Hey all you folks interested in the environment, gardens and science---we're ready for your input and energy! Please consider coming to one of these meetings or contacting **Sarah Hufbauer** or **Anthony Warner** (Environmental Science Coordinator) to get involved.

1) Space Committee/ Getting internal Orca community input on the WEST GARDEN Monday 11/10 7pm at the school library with the educational landscape designer Emily Bishton.

2) First ORCA Garden Meeting this Wednesday November 12 in the Greenhouse from 3:30-4:30 (then monthly on a Weds after school 3:30-4:30)

Come get up to date on what's been going on so far, and what's ahead that we'll need everyone's help on, (Environmental Night in February and Plant Sale in May) as well as day to day classroom stuff, outdoor fieldtrips, Native Plant Program, worm bins and cafeteria composting. THANK YOU!

Sarah Hufbauer [sarah.hufbauer@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.hufbauer@gmail.com)  
300-8152

Anthony Warner [apwarner@seattleschools.org](mailto:apwarner@seattleschools.org)  
252-6918



## **Lost and Found Items Need to be Claimed! They're Going to Charity DEC. 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Can't find that coat at home? Missing a backpack? And how did someone make it home with only one shoe?! Take a look in the Lost and Found bin at school! The Lost and Found items will remain at school through the time of parent/teacher conferences. Please remember to take a look for any lost items as any that remain unclaimed will be donated to charity on Monday December 1st. Lost and found is located in the south end foyer by the doors heading out to the playground.



## **Festival of Children is just a month away..... December 18<sup>th</sup>!**

More to come regarding auditions, additional volunteer opportunities and ways to make this a memorable and wonderful time for all! Look forward to seeing you all there, camcorders in hand....



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

### **HELP WITH LOST AND FOUND ITEMS**

It is time once again to organize the lost and found items! I'm looking for someone to help me set up a table near the lost and found bin and lay out the items so students/parents can go through them. This task will not take long but any job is better done with someone than alone! If you're interested in helping, get in touch with me and we can set a time for next week. Any items not claimed by the end of the day on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> will be boxed up and moved on.

### **MANY THANKS TO...**

Playground supervisors who are taking the time out of their day to help keep our children safe on the playground!

All of the parents who are volunteering and helping in the classroom; teachers always appreciate an extra set of hands!

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



## **From the After School Programs Coordinator**

Come join us Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> after school as we welcome The New School to Orca for the first of two Ultimate Frisbee games. Help cheer on our kids, welcome our neighbors and support Coach Curtis Brown!

Do you volunteer at school on the playground? Work with children? Need to get or renew a CPR/First Aid card? I will be putting together a class which will take places over consecutive Saturdays in December. Please let me know if you are interested.

Please note there will be no after school classes or activity bus on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Veterans Day Holiday.

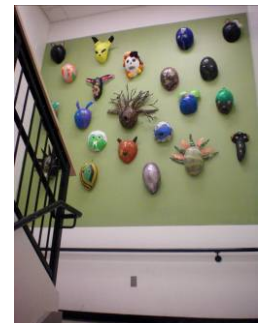
Many thanks to **Mike Leitner, Eve Soffer, Laura McAlister, Joan Engelmeyer** and the **Bates Family** for helping to restore order in the lunchroom, stepping up to sub, coming in early to help out and bringing fresh fruit for our students!

Lily Hotchkiss, [lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org), 206-252-6885



## **ORCA SPACE TEAM UPDATE**

Thanks to **Lily Hotchkiss, John Unangst,** and **Emily Nagel** for mounting these glorious masks in the stairwell up to the office! The masks were made by middle schoolers in an art elective taught by Emily last quarter. What a terrific welcome to Orca for our families and visitors!



Next up, we need to mount the beautiful wave wall murals **Michaele Miller** and **Phyllis Daniels** have been working on with students in an after school mural class. If you can help with weatherproofing and mounting these panels, please let us know -- we'd like to get them up over the Thanksgiving break.

Orca Space Team

Phyllis Daniels - [phyllisadaniels@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllisadaniels@yahoo.com) / 708-9936

Lily Hotchkiss -- [lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org) / 226-6658

Mikala Woodward -- [jojoma3@aol.com](mailto:jojoma3@aol.com) / 722-5177

**Orca K-8 School Parent  
Involvement Policy**

We welcome active student-parent/family involvement in classrooms, at extracurricular activities, at special events, and in decision-making. We recognize the diversity of our community and are committed to creating a culturally inclusive school-family partnership to maximize the success of every student.

**EQUITY & RACE FORUM IN ACTION – INFLUENCING THE LAW**

With almost 40% of Washington state African-American students not graduating on-time with their peers a new law has been passed to address this concern.

Educators, students, and families are invited to participate in a Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the House Bill 2722 Advisory Committee on Thursday, November 13th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Cleveland High School Auditorium. This is an opportunity for citizens to influence legislators as they identify what must be done to make every school a great place for all children. The bill can be found at the State of Washington Legislative Website

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/200708/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Law%202008/2722-S2.SL.pdf>



**BE FAMOUS!**

Get published in the new Orca 'zine.

We want your stories, personal essays, small moments, fashion thoughts, reviews, interviews, commentary, photos and art! All students and grades welcome!

Use the big envelopes in the hall to submit your stuff or email it to [orcazine@gmail.com](mailto:orcazine@gmail.com)

**IMAGINE closing the  
the education gap for all  
African-American students.**



**Issue:** Washington state faces a growing crisis in the education of African-American students. Almost 40 percent of African-American students in Washington state are not graduating on time with their peers.

**Opportunity:** The town hall meetings are your chance to share both your experiences and hopes to help us identify what we must do to make every school a great place for our children. Your perspective is valued and necessary for us to write a powerful and effective plan to close the education gap.

**What:** Town hall meeting

**Who:** Students, parents, educators and community members

**Where:** Cleveland High School Auditorium  
5511 15th Ave. South  
Seattle, Wash. 98108

**When:** Thursday, Nov. 13  
6-8 p.m.