



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 18, 2008

Phone: 252-6900

Fax: 252-6901

Website: www.orcapta.org

November

18 – Middle School Potluck

20 – Race Forum mtg

24-26 – Parent/Teacher conferences

27-28 – Thanksgiving holiday

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 Ben



As usual, many things are happening at Orca. This week includes a Race Forum on Thursday, 11/20 from 6-8:30 pm. The program will focus on “words of power” and the way such words affect the way we think and talk. On Friday, 11/21 Orca is having a writing celebration. This fall all of Orca’s classrooms introduced Writers Workshop and taught students how to develop personal narratives based on stories from their lives. Students have been learning strategies to brainstorm and develop stories using a variety of strategies at different grade levels. One of the underlying goals of Writers Workshop is for both teachers and students to identify themselves as writers. So everyone has writer’s notebooks, with notes and “seed” stories they’ve started, and some pieces that are being revised and published. On Friday we will have an assembly, stories will be posted in the halls, and classes will travel through the school at different times to view one another’s work. When you conference with your child’s teacher next week, look at their writer’s notebooks and published work. Ask your children about their writing, and what their teachers are writing about as well.

Unlike many schools, Orca has regular school days this week. Full day conferences have been far less disruptive of learning and are preferred by most families. That means there will be no school 11/24-11/27 while teachers are meeting with families. Many teachers are including students in conferences, so please check about whether to bring your child if you are unsure.

Special thanks to our 6th and 7th grade art elective students for the amazing masks decorating the main stairwell, and to parent Joan Engelmeyer for all the assistance to pull it off. Walking up the stairs is a whole new experience.

Thanks! Ben



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Annual Fund Update

So far we've raised \$10,149, **over 25% of our Annual Fund Drive goal of \$40,000!** If you've already contributed to the Annual Fund, know that your donation is greatly appreciated. For those of you that haven't yet

donated, we can only reach our goal with your generous contribution. If you haven't yet given what you can to the Orca Annual Fund, please do so now! You should have already received your Annual Fund letter in the mail, with a pledge form to return with your donation. You can also make your tax deductible donation online at:

www.orca.chipin.com

Every dollar counts and every donation is deeply appreciated. No donation is too small or too large! The Orca Garden, library books, tutoring, music, and arts all rely on our donations. If you are unable to make a personal donation, please help spread the word about the Annual Fund to your friends and family, and ask them to give a gift to Orca in honor of your child.

If you have not received an Annual Fund letter in the mail, that is because I did not receive your completed mailing list request form. Aside from a couple exceptions, I did NOT receive completed mailing lists for middle school grades, and a few other classrooms. If you haven't returned addresses for yourself and your friends and family so we can request their gift, please do so now by contacting me at 206.683.8431 or kingsusanL@gmail.com.

Please join us in making this the most successful Orca Annual Fund Drive ever!

Susan King Annual Fund Chair (and Tuesday's mom!)



UNICEF RETURNS are in and the Orca community has raised **\$509.24!!!!!!!!!!** Thanks to all who participated. What an effortless way to make such a big difference. You can see just how much that money can buy by checking out the Unicef website at youth.unicefusa.org/trickortreat/ . I also want to thank all the money counters who spend hours wrapping and counting out coins. Thanks to Lena Fox, Nadia Fox, Elijah Banks and Zach Brown!



Math Game Night

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 to sign up for a game station or to help with organization of the event.



Race Forum Meeting, 11/20

Thursday, 11/20, 6pm-8:30pm with dinner and childcare

Undoing Racism Everyday at Orca; A Place for Dialogue and Action.

Topic: "Words of Power".

Words have power. All words. And they have an impact. Stupid/Smart, Slow/Fast, Dark/Light, High/Low. Come see how Words of Power can change the communication between students and families in our community.

Children in 2nd grade and older are welcome to participate in the first segment of the session, which includes the view of a DVD made by Tanisha Brandon-Felder and Caprice Hollins for the school district, directed and features ORCA children.

Dinner starts at 6pm in the cafeteria, childcare for all age children starts at 6:30 pm and discussion at 6:45 pm. Join us in community--building/learning activities and discussion about race and living our Orca motto "We all belong." See you Thursday night!



Get Involved with the Orca Spring Auction

Join us for a Procurement stuffing party and find out how you can get involved with the Orca Auction (to be held on April 18th).

Stuffing Party: Monday, November 24th at 7PM/Teresa McCann's – 4614 51st Ave South

our Pajamas are still needed!!!

We have a goal of collecting 100 pairs of new or gently used pajamas by Dec 1. Can we do it? Of course we can, but we need everyone to help! Ms. Tanisha will return on Dec 1 to make the final count and celebrate the generosity of Orca to King County's youth in foster care. Remember...if we reach our goal, I'll be back in the Spring to do a HUGE clothing drive! Yay! Go Orca!

Questions? email Tanisha at tanisha@treehouseforkids.org



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

NURSE LIZ NEEDS HELP WITH HEALTH SCREENINGS

Nurse Liz is going to do the health screenings in December and needs a few people to help! These screenings include vision and hearing testing. They will be taking place Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30 am throughout December with the last one being on the 19th. If you can help for one or all of them, please let her know at lterry@seattleschools.org/252-6900.

STILL LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT TREASURER!

We are still looking for a new Assistant Treasurer! The position supports the "receivables" function of the Treasurer's job which includes being a conduit to fundraisers, making deposits and inputting data into Quickbooks. This is a perfect role for someone who likes to crunch numbers and wants to volunteer but can't be at school during the day; could that be you?

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ART STUDENTS who maintained incredible focus during the two month project to create the amazing masks you see hanging in the stairwell! A huge thanks to **Joan Engelmeyer**, our visiting artist, who created and implemented this project and to **Emily Nagel** for her assistance in the classroom.

IF YOU ORDERED A PCC CARD and have not yet picked it up, you can stop by my office on the second floor (Room 207A) at drop-off or pick-up. The cards are filled with \$12.50 so please bring cash or a check made out to Orca PTSA. If you are unable to catch me and would like me to send it home with your child, please let me know.

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



From the After School Programs Coordinator

Wow! What an amazing frisbee game last week between Orca and The New School. The students were awesome! If you missed this game we will be playing The New School again on Thursday, December 4th. Many thanks to all the students who came to play, The New School families and friends who came out to watch and coaches Curtis, Andy, Mike and Chris for making this happen!

A few reminders...

~No after school programs next week due to parent/teacher conferences and the Thanksgiving holiday.

~Parents who pick up and drop off from the lunch room please remember to help keep the lunch room quiet as there are classes happening on the stage during that time.

~The CPR/First Aid class will be happening on Saturday on December 6th and 13th. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Thank you! Lily Hotchkiss, lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org

Wanted:

An instructor to teach Chess during the winter session.

Interested?

Please contact Lily Hotchkiss at

Hlihotchkiss@seattleschools.o



ORCA SPACE TEAM UPDATE

We will be hosting a work party on Monday, November 24th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. We will be finishing up the mural, hanging student art, placing the totem pole and many other fun and fabulous things to help Orca-fy our environment!

Please let us know if you can help!

Thanks, Orca Space Team

Phyllis Daniels - phyllisadaniels@yahoo.com / 708-9936

Lily Hotchkiss -- lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org / 226-6658

Mikala Woodward -- jojoma3@aol.com / 722-5177



Solve the November Math Challenge!

Please participate in the November Math Challenge at home! Our monthly math challenges are brought to you by Explorations in Math. Every month, the classroom turning in the most correct responses wins a math game for their library. And, a student is selected at random from the K-2 and 3-5 grade levels to receive a small prize just for turning in a correct challenge answer.

Congratulations to Maldi's class for turning in the most correct responses in October. And congratulations to Nora Elkerton (3rd grade) and Luna Hotchkiss (2nd grade) who took home October prizes.

You can participate, too. Pick up an official challenge sheet from the bulletin board at the south end of the 2nd floor hallway to record your answer to these questions. Or, record your answer on a plain sheet of paper labelled with the student's name and their teacher's name. Challenges should be turned in to the Math Challenge box at the end of the office's front desk by the last day of the month.

3RD GRADE & OLDER:

Xtremeland uses popcorn boxes that are 6 inches high, 4 inches wide and 3 inches deep. The box company made a mistake and sent them boxes that are twice as high, twice as wide and twice as deep. The popcorn manager decides to use the new boxes but make twice as much popcorn as they usually make. Will they have enough popcorn? Why or why not?

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE:

How big are the new boxes that Xtremeland received? Draw a picture and label the sides.

GLOBAL GOODS PARTNERS FUNDRAISER FOR ORCA PTSA

This season Global Goods Partners is offering an even bigger return to Orca. From November 24th to December 15th, our school can earn 50% more on every GGP purchase. Instead of 20% of all items credited to Orca, during these three weeks we'll receive 30%! Attached is a flyer describing this promotion, feel free to print it and share with co-workers, friends, and family. Supporting Orca through GGP is simple and helps to bring opportunity and a promising future to women and their families around the world. To Shop for Change, visit:

www.globalgoodspartners.com, click on "Shop for a School or Non-Profit" and select "Orca" from the drop down list you can then shop for hundreds of handmade goods while earning dollars for Orca!

ORCA CLASS-TO-CLASS BOOK TOUR 2008! Writers Workshop at Orca Friday, November 21st at 9:15 -

This is the first of 3 school-wide writing celebrations. The kids of the school will have a chance to read other kids' small moment personal narratives. Up and down the hallways student writing will be displayed. We'll start the day off with an assembly at 9:15 honoring our writers and then teachers will have signed up their class for a block of time to cruise the hallways, read stories and then give compliments on post-its. As soon as your teacher knows her/his time slot s/he'll let you know in case you can make it over. You are very much invited to the assembly (it'll be short) and to volunteer your time any time that day to be present in the hallways, help kids read the stories and help with writing compliments. The day will close with Ben sharing an exciting piece of his own writing over the intercom. The kids have been working so hard on creating interesting, organized meaningful pieces of writing and are excited to share it with you! Thank you also to all the parent volunteers who come in each week to conference with our writers! We couldn't do it without you! (If you'd like to volunteer in your child's classroom to help with Writers Workshop, just let them know!)