



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 2, 2008

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December

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

Starbucks Columbia City
7pm Orca cafeteria
7pm, library

Early Dismissal
10am-2pm East garden
NO SCHOOL

THOUGHTS FROM Ben



I hope everyone had some extra time to experience the value of family and friends. The current economic upheaval, and ongoing global crisis, heightened my awareness of several notions as I took a few days to breathe: how fortunate I am, the importance of family and community, and how critical it is to be part of communities that are working for awareness and change. I'm fortunate to be a part of Orca!

Thanks everyone who helped and joined in our writing celebration on 11-21. The development of an entire school of authors is in process, and some of the pieces seemed as if they were meant for a spotlight. We will have another celebration around February, and a third at the end of April (focusing on poetry—rah).

Thursday evening from 7-8:30 pm is our annual Family Math night. Join us in the cafeteria for a wide variety of math games and tons of fun. You can also ask questions and get more information about Everyday Math.

Many thanks to all the parents and students who joined the painting and decorating work parties over the break. Wall by wall, the Whitworth building is starting to have a different feel.

Thanks! Ben

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 18!

We will be celebrating our annual "Festival of Children" at 7:00 PM, with families, friends and our orca community all together cheering our young performers on.

Children interested in performing a solo, or group act should prepare for auditions which will take place on Friday, December 5th afterschool. Each act will need to be 3 min. or less. A sign up sheet is in the lunchroom. If your child needs a ride home afterwards, please indicate that on the sign up sheet.

So get ready to show your stuff! Dancing, singing, rapping, musical instruments, gymnastics...and much more!
Questions? Contact Nina Beach at ninabeach@msn.com or Leda Westberg at leda206@hotmail.com



Annual Fund Update

It has been one month since our initial Annual Fund mailing, and we've already reached **44% 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. Without this fund drive, we would not be able to support all of the programs that make Orca unique. The Orca Garden, library books, tutoring, music, and arts all rely on our donations!

If you haven't yet made your gift to Orca, **please consider what your child's education is worth to you.** No donation is too small or too large! We can only reach our Annual Fund Drive goal with your generous contribution. Drop off your gift in the Orca office, or you can make your tax deductible donation online from our website:

<http://www.orcapta.org/> and follow the link from our homepage

Also, **please ask your friends and family to give a gift to Orca in honor of your child.** A large number of Annual Fund donations are made by Orca alumni, neighbors, and friends of family. If you'd like a formal letter sent to your friends and family, and haven't yet turned in a mailing request form, please contact 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!)



Orca is collecting store food cards to give to Orca families in need. Please donate cards from the following stores in denominations of \$25 and \$50:

- o SAARS MARKET
- o SAFEWAY
- o FRED MEYER
- o QFC

Please bring your donations to the Orca office. Thank you!



ORCA ART AUCTION/GARDEN MOSAIC FUNDRAISER

Please join us as we seek art from our community for a one day only silent art auction to raise money to mosaic the garden beds in front of our school. We are asking parents, staff and other artists to donate a piece of art which will then become part of The Orca Art Auction happening on Friday, February 13th at our very own Columbia City Gallery, GATHER (www.gatherseattle.com). The show will be open during that day and culminate in an evening event.

Come Spring we will partner with SEED Seattle to create opportunities, through free after school classes and weekend work parties, for our students and community to participate in creating both handmade clay and mosaic art for our garden beds.

If you have a piece of art you would like to donate or would like to volunteer to help with this project please let us know. You can bring in your art and drop it off at Room 207A. Please also include your contact information.

Thank you! This will be an amazing event and will truly showcase what a creative community we have.

Lily Hotchkiss: lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org

Emily Nagel: eanagel@seattleschools.org



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

MATH GAME NIGHT THIS THURSDAY - VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

Math Game Night is a great time to learn new games, play some old favorites and connect with great Orca families! There are still some 45 minute shifts available to help on Game Night. If you are available, please contact Julie McCann at julie@softlabour.com.

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



From the After School Programs Coordinator

Game 2 is on! Come Join Coach Curtis Brown and our amazing Ultimate Frisbee Team for game 2 with The New School this Thursday, December 4th, after school. If you can bring extra snacks and/or hot chocolate please let me know.

Our first of two CPR/First Aid Classes will be happening this Saturday, December 6th at Orca from 10am-2pm. If you are interested in taking the class please contact me for details. Childcare will be provided.

Thank you! Lily Hotchkiss, lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org



ORCA SPACE TEAM UPDATE

We had two great work parties over the Thanksgiving break. It is great to see so much of our students work hanging in the hallways, thanks **Emily**, the birds are beautiful. Please also check out the amazing mural, one of two parts, now hanging outside near the back door to our playground and the wonderful totem pole that Stacy's class created last year now in the Westbed garden. And thanks to **Deb Schaaf** who painted the stage area just in time for the Festival of Children!

Many, many thanks to those of you that made all that possible: **Deb Schaaf, Emily Nagel, Tom Whisenand, Michale Miller, Phyllis Daniels, Anthony Aue, Amy Fleetwood, Craig Bradshaw, Isiah Watkins** and of course we could not have done it all without our amazing middle school student, **Jacob Watkins**, who came out both days and painted, hammered, and helped to hang the murals. Thank you!

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.

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 labeled 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 has two entry booths. Together they let in 6 people every minute. On average at opening time there are 144 people waiting to get in the park. How long does it take to let everyone in? How long would it take if they were to add a third booth?

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE:

Xtremeland has 2 entry booths. Together they let in 6 people every minute. How many people get into the park in 5 minutes.



Columbia City Happenings....

Columbia City Tree Lighting -- Saturday, December 6th, 6 pm at Rainier and Hudson!

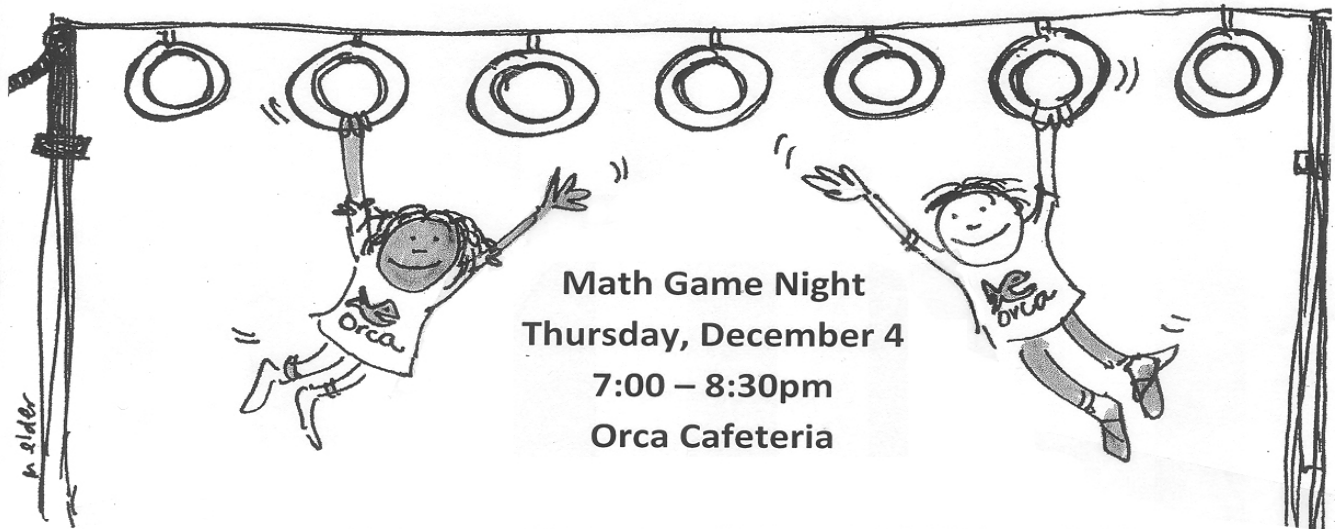
Carols, cookies, and cocoa for all! Plus the fabulous Zionettes will be performing. And Santa will be at KC Flowers afterwards -- Rainier & Ferdinand. Thanks to the Columbia City Business Association for organizing this fun community event!

And on Saturday the 13th:

South Seattle Solstice: Festival of Lights



[The Gateway Group](#) & SEEDArts invite you to be part of the first South Seattle Solstice. Join us on **Sat, Dec 13th** between 10-1pm for a **FREE Lantern-Making workshop** at the **Rainier Valley Cultural Center** (3515 S Alaska St). The following **Sun, Dec 21st**, we will meet at the RVCC parking lot at 4pm with our lanterns and noisemakers and head south to Hillman City to celebrate community on the darkest day of the year, with light, music & refreshments.



Mastermind • Rat-a-Tat Cat • Pickomino • Blokus • Number Chase • Poison • and more!

The Orca PTSA and Blue Highway Games invite you to come play games with your family in the Orca school cafeteria this Thursday, December 4. Games are math-related... suited for all ages (K-6)... and fun! Meet our Explorations in Math partners, and learn games from our new math curriculum, too!

We can still use more parents to volunteers to learn and help teach games that evening. Please contact Julie McCann by Wednesday to sign up for a shift (Julie@softlabour.com or 409-6992). No experience necessary!

Light refreshments will be served.