



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 6, 2009

Phone: 252-6900

Fax: 252-6901

Website: www.orcapta.org

January

08 – Festival of Children

10 – ORCA Garden Mtg

12 – Leadership Council Mtg

16 – MLK Jr. Celebration

19 – MLK Jr. Holiday

21 – PTSA General Meeting

26 – Day between semesters

29 – Middle School Open House

6:30, Orca

Orca Greenhouse

7:00pm Orca library

school assembly

NO SCHOOL

Topic: What is Alternative Education?

NO SCHOOL

7-8pm Orca Middle School

February

04 – Professional Development

1:15pm, Early Dismissal

THOUGHTS FROM Leslie Sager...



Orca Families and Community,

I am so glad to have this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and to introduce myself to you. I have been at Orca since September, working with Ben and the staff as a writing coach. I am at Orca every other week splitting my time between 2 schools, the other being Van Asselt Elementary. It is a privilege for me to work at Orca this year with such an amazing teaching staff and a community that nurtures young writers.

My work as a writing coach is to support teachers in their efforts as they implement Writing Workshop in their classrooms. As a district we have adopted the Lucy Calkins model of Writing Workshop and we are working in partnership with Columbia University Teacher's College to bring these best practices into the classroom.

This workshop model has several important elements: teachers providing explicit instruction and modeling, students choosing topics, writing independently, and building stamina as writers, and one on one conferences to provide individualized instruction. If you observe a class working during Writers Workshop, you might see students writing a personal narrative (a story about a personal experience) in a notebook or on loose paper to put in a writing folder, while the teacher meets with an individual student about their writing. Later this winter all of our classes will do a unit on expository writing, and in April a unit on poetry. I am also working to arrange a training later in January for parents who are interested in learning how to conference with children about writing.

My work here is varied and can include modeling the teaching of lessons in classrooms, working with teachers to confer with students, providing feedback to teachers, unit/lesson planning, providing resources, staff development, and additional support as needed. In the last few years I have had the privilege of attending Writing Institutes in NY at Teacher's College and Writing Institutes here in Seattle. I am passionate about this way of teaching writing and am grateful for having been mentored many years ago in my own classroom when Powerful Writers first taught me about teaching writing to young children.

I have already met some of your children as they were writing in their classrooms, and as we begin this New Year, I look forward to getting to know more of our student writers and meeting you as well. I share an office with Jeffrey, Orca's math coach extraordinaire, and we are located right next to Ben's office. Stop by and say hello.

Again, a very happy new year to you all, ~Leslie Sager, Literacy Coach/Writing

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Festival of Children is Thursday, January 8th, 6:30PM

The Festival of Children, Orca's annual December show has been rescheduled for this week. The Performance will take place on Thursday, January 8th, starting at 6:30 pm on the Orca lunchroom stage.

The committee will need help during the performance with:

- decorations
- setting up and stacking chairs
- stage lighting
- the sound system
- getting children on and off the stage
- backstage management
- clean-up

Please contact the FOC committee for more information.

A dress rehearsal for the show is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7th, at 3:30 pm. The performers will run through the following evening's program. If your child will perform to music during their performance, they need to email the music in MP3 format to Koichi at kkitazum@starbucks.com: or Harvey at harveyb@msn.com.

If you have any questions, please email Lydia Westberg at leda206@hotmail.com or Nina Beach at ninabeach@msn.com.



Orca Garden Meeting, date changed to January 10

Come one, come all to the amazing groundbreaking planting party for Orca on Sat. Jan. 10th. We have completed a master plan that encompasses teacher, student, and neighborhood input for creating an incredible garden space. Come get an up close and personal view of the incredible resource that the Orca garden will be. We will plant a diverse selection of native NW plants, herbs, medicinals, trees, shrubs, and so much more. With our food bank gardens, p-patch, water collection system, lunchroom worm composting, soon to be installed solar panels, and native plant program, Orca will be a statewide inspiration for naturalist learning and sustainability. For more information, please contact garden coordinator Anthony Warner at 206-252-6918 or apwarner@seattleschool.org. To see student work around sustainability at Orca, please check out Anthony's blog at orcagarden.wordpress.com. Thank you and please come and enjoy hot beverages and pastries as we get our garden planted on Saturday Jan. 10th! -Anthony Warner, Orca K-8 Garden Coordinator



Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Friday, January 16th

Mark your calendars, and plan to join the Orca community in celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. In 2009, the celebration will revolve around the theme *Words of Power -- Speak Your Truth, Seek the Dream*. Using Dr. King's life as an example to build upon, Orca students will work with each other and their teachers to examine how **perspective** and **viewpoint** are key elements of **racial** and **social justice**, and how words have the power to uplift and empower or, alternately, to perpetrate negative patterns of racism and intolerance.

This year, Orca will join with **New School** for a march and rally in Columbia City, and following this Orca students will return to school for a special assembly with student performances and art exhibits. Orca family and friends are free to join the festivities, which will take place throughout the day on Friday, January 16 (more detailed schedule of events to follow in early January).

Volunteers are needed for the day of the event, as well as days leading up to it. If you are interested in helping make this celebration a terrific success, please contact event planning co-chair Becca Aue at beccaue@hotmail.com. We will need help with refreshments, setting up, decorations, safety patrols during the march, and more. Please email Becca to find out the best job for you!



New Bike Racks!

We have two new bike racks at school. One is located at the 46th street entrance to school and one is located at the back of the basketball court. We hope that you'll use them and bike to school as often as possible. It's fun and great exercise! Please do not chain your bike to the fences at school. They are a hazard for people on the sidewalks. Thank you and happy biking! - Your Orca Safety Committee



GARDEN MOSAIC FUNDRAISER SEEKS ART!

Please join us as we seek art from our community for a one day only silent art auction to raise money to mosaic the front garden beds at Orca. Do you have a piece of handmade art or know of an artist who would like to donate an original work of art?

The event will take place at GATHER (www.gatherseattle.com) in Columbia City on Friday, February 13th. The show will be open during the day and culminate in an evening event. This will be an amazing event which will truly showcase what a creative community we have.

Please drop off all artwork to Lily in Room 207A or Emily in the third floor art room.

Lily Hotchkiss: lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org Emily Nagel: eanagel@seattleschools.org



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

Welcome back everyone! There are a couple of events coming up quickly that could really use your help!

FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN - THURSDAY, JANUARY 8th AT 6:30pm

Help is still needed for this fun event on Thursday! Please let me know if you are able to set-up decorations and chairs, herd kids on and off the stage or take down chairs at the end.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION - FRIDAY, JANUARY 16th

There is much to be done to make this a successful event! The organizers of this event have been working hard to make this a memorable celebration and they need your help! Please contact Becca Aue at beccaue@hotmail.com and she'll find a volunteer opportunity that is just right for you!

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



From the After School Programs Coordinator

Welcome back! Catalogs for our after school programs will be going out early this week. **ALL FORMS ARE DUE BACK TO ME BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH.**

Our OST/Middle School Program and the After School Activity Bus will begin on Tuesday, January 20th. Powerful Schools Monday classes will begin on February 2nd and Wednesday classes on January 21st.

New Class Announcement! Starting on Tuesday, January 20th we will be offering a free Homework Study Group for 3-5 grades. This will be the first of what we hope will be an ongoing class offered by Kerry van der Veen, an Orca parent and experienced teacher. Kerry will meet with each student to come up with a focused plan for a course of study which could include homework, math, Writers Workshop or other areas of study relevant to our 3-5 graders. This class will take place on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30pm. There are only 10 available spots. If you are interested in signing up your student you can do so on the sign-up sheet located on the door of Room 207A or contact me directly.

Thanks! Lily Hotchkiss, lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org, 206-252-6885



ORCA AUCTION IS APRIL 18TH!!

The Orca PTA's annual auction fundraiser will be happening this spring. The big push for getting donations will be in February, but we'd like to put a bug in your ear before you spend

the holidays with family and friends. Maybe your mom makes great handmade dolls or your uncle is a woodworker who makes wooden toys? Maybe your cousin is an artist? If you are seeing a family member who doesn't live in the area, the holidays are a great time to ask them about donating something for the spring auction. The funds raised will go toward providing music education, after-school programs, art and PE supplies, and all the other very important things our PTA dollars support! Thanks for your help, and have a great break! LuAnn Wangness and Carrie Sellar, Procurement chairs



First BASE Recycle Fundraiser:

Did you know that every year 300 million ink cartridges end up in landfills worldwide? Did you know that Americans will purchase over 100 million new cell phones this year and that 500 million phones weighing 250,000 tons could be headed for our landfills?

Help the Earth and help our before and after school program, First B.A.S.E. Drop off used printer cartridges (inkjet, laser, fax and copier), cell phones, laptops (must include power cords) and Palm Pilots (PDAs, Blackberries, etc.) Bring them to Room 106, First B.A.S.E. Remember – a half gallon of oil is saved each time a laser cartridge is remanufactured and almost 700,000 cartridges are thrown away every day! With your efforts, we can decrease that amount!



ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Thank you all for your continued support of Orca through our Annual Fund Drive! So far we have raised over \$27,000 which will go directly towards the programs that make Orca unique! The Orca Garden, library books, tutoring, music, and arts all rely on our donations.

We are at 68% of our Annual Fund goal! If you haven't yet made your gift to Orca, it's not too late. 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://orca.chipin.com/orca-annual-fund>

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!)