



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 13, 2009

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January

15 – Garden Committee Mtg

16 – MLK Jr. Celebration

19 – **MLK Jr. Holiday**

20 – After school classes begin

21 – PTSA General Meeting

26 – **Day between semesters**

29 – Middle School Open House

3:30, Orca Greenhouse

9:15am, school assembly, 1:30pm march

NO SCHOOL

Topic: What is Alternative Education?

NO SCHOOL

7-8pm Orca Middle School

February

04 – Professional Development

13 – Mosaic/Art Auction

1:15pm, Early Dismissal

GATHER, Columbia City

THOUGHTS FROM Koichi...

Happy New Year's Orcans!!

I hope the New Year is filled with hope and new adventures for you and your child. It's sometimes difficult to avoid the news about the current economic status and other financial issues. Even our own school district is facing a deficit that will have many impacts on programming, some of which will include school closures. For the latest plan, please visit www.seattleschools.org, and then click on "Capacity Management" on the right, and then click on the first link "Final Recommendation Overview". Also included in the link are opportunities for you to voice your thoughts about the closures.

In the meantime, your PTSA board and Leadership Council are busy leading the work on K8 Planning as we include an 8th grade to our school next year. Your thoughts, expertise and passion are needed as begin the work that will add this final tier to the program. Please stand-by for a message from Ben for opportunities to join the effort. Along the same lines, I want to invite you to the next PTSA general meeting on January 21st at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria where you will learn the background of alternative education, review Orca's vision, and finally discuss as a community the ongoing development of Orca as a K-8 alternative school. What are your ideas of Alternative Education? What would you like to see happen? How is my child benefiting? I encourage you all to attend and ask these questions for yourself and experience democratic decision making between parents, teachers and students... a key and integral part of alternative education.

I want to invite you to a moment of celebration as we take to the streets to not only recognize Martin Luther King Jr. and all of his achievements, but to begin early congratulatory efforts on the election of our next President of the United States of America. The morning will be filled with discussions and an assembly. The MLK march will begin after lunch around 1:30. Details of the route and course of the events can be found in this newsletter. Both the PTSA and Seattle Police department would appreciate any parent who would like to commit to being a safety monitor to alert drivers and help students avoid traffic. The march will include the efforts of the New School down in Columbia City and promises to be a joyous highlight of the year. Don't Miss it.

Finally, the "don't swim alone, be herd" campaign was specifically designed for the parents and students who normally don't have open avenues to voice their thoughts and participate in community activities. We wanted to make sure that ALL have a choice and can be confident that their ideas are being heard and acted upon. With the upcoming K-8 planning, I hope you will all take the opportunity to talk with your Teacher, Classroom Coordinator, Pod VP (Pam, Sauda and Simone) or myself...face to face, email or otherwise...and express your

ideas. It is also my hope that you will let us know that your idea was followed up on and we were able to get back to you with a plan of action or some sort of Feedback.

May the New Year bring you all good health, peace and prosperity.

Thank you!

koichi kitazumi 206.856.0571 "don't swim alone, be herd"

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Friday, Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

This year, Orca will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King with a **9:15 a.m. morning assembly** with performances and art by Orca students.

In the afternoon, we will join with our neighbors at **New School** for a march and rally in Columbia City. **The march will leave Orca at 1:30 p.m.**

Families welcome at both events.

Many volunteers are needed for the MLK Celebration. Opportunities include:

- **Thurs. 1/15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** - Volunteer work party to decorate the cafeteria, set up the audio/visual equipment system for the assembly and organize classroom snacks.
- **Fri. 1/16, 8:45 - 11 a.m.** - Set-up and break-down for the assembly, and deliver snack bags to classrooms.
- **1:30 - 3:00 p.m.** - Chaperones for march.

Please email Becca Aue at beccaue@hotmail.com if you can help.



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



IMPORTANT CORRECTIONS FOR PTSA CONTACT SHEET IN DIRECTORY!

Please make these corrections on the PTSA Contact section on page 1 in the Directory:

Koichi's correct email is: kkitazum@starbucks.com

Email address for Treasurer: orcaptatreasurer@gmail.com

Also Kent Daniels was accidentally left off of the staff page; he is in room 203 and his email is tkdaniels@seattleschools.org

Garden News

Thanks for the amazing turn out of kids and grownups from near and far to help with composting and planting East ORCA garden on Saturday. It is amazing to bring the beautiful design into reality bit by bit. This work party was a great step forward, and we all look forward to more learning and playing in this space. We have ideas about murals and ways of decorating the powerbox, brick walls, etc to make it inviting for the school and larger community. The central medicine wheel circle will be planted with perennial and annual herbs in Spring. Children will help with getting more winter vegetables planted in the next few weeks. Many thanks to Anthony and Briahn (our new MLK Vista Staff person) for getting it all organized and getting the word out. Huzzah!

Please come to the Garden Committee Meeting this Thursday 1/15 at 3:30 in the greenhouse. We'll try to finish by 4:30. Kids can play in the greenhouse or garden or sit at the table with us! If you have any agenda items, questions, or just want to see what's ahead...please come! Questions?

Anthony Warner apwarner@seattleschools.org, Sarah Hufbauer sarah.hufbauer@gmail.com, TA McCann tam@gist.com



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS...

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE MLK CELEBRATION THIS WEEK!

There are still lots of ways you can help with the MLK Celebration - Please see the above section for more details....

MANY, MANY THANKS GO OUT TO.....

Thanks go out to the many folks who helped make the Festival of Children a successful, fun evening:

Pam Jones and **Leda Westberg**, event chairs, **Wendy Simmons**, decorations, **Harvey Bowen**, sound, and **Mike Cruz**, MC, and **Melanie** and **Patrick**, our teacher liaisons. Thanks also to everyone else who helped in a variety of ways: **Angela Deppe**, **Lori Brown**, **Heidi Dellinger**, **John Dagnen**, **Mike Leitner**, **Jared Koon** and **Zack Brown**. Many thanks to our "cookie bakers" and special thanks to **Ralph**, the night custodian, for his set-up and clean-up efforts!

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



From the After School Programs Coordinator

Powerful Schools: Wow, so many of our Powerful School classes are full! However, we still have space in Explorations in Math for both the 1-2 class and the 3-5 class, Murals, Felting, Fun Combinations at 4:30pm for 2-5, Taekwondo and Painting from the Masters. Registration forms are available from me or the office and are due asap. Monday classes start on February 2nd and Wednesday classes on January 21st.

Middle School: Dance Workshop is full but we still have space in Hip Hop 101, Homework Club, Orca Zine and both Girls and Boys Basketball. PLEASE NOTE if you tried out for BOYS BASKETBALL you still need to fill out the registration form. Classes begin Tuesday, January 20th. Forms are available via email or in the office and are due asap.

After School Activity Bus: If you want to sign up for the activity bus you must fill out the registration form. It takes up to 5 days to be enrolled from the time you sign up. The bus runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays and leaves Orca at 4:30pm. The bus will start running on Tuesday, January 20th.

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. Please contact me directly if you are interested in this class.

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



Fundraising News!

Just a few quick notes on current and on-going fundraisers:

Global Goods Partners: Orca K-8 was the #1 selling school in America!! In fact, during the 3 week promotion in December, Orca supporters purchased \$1351.75 in handmade goods to support women and their families around the world. Orca's share of those purchases is \$405.52. Well Done! Just remember, that handmade items from these artisans make excellent gifts year round. Simply visit www.globalgoodspartners.com and be sure to select "Orca" before purchasing or at checkout.

PCC Scrip: We have several extra PCC Scrip cards available for any families wishing to participate in this great fundraiser for our school. Cards come pre-loaded with \$12.50 and can be refilled at any time at any PCC register. Use your cards like cash for all your purchases at PCC and 5% will be donated to Orca. It's easy, and free to you! If interested in obtaining a card, please see Deb Koon at the school or email sabranie@hotmail.com.

Box Tops and Labels for Education: Please remember to continue to clip and save your Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education and return to the school. There is a collection bag near the office. Earn \$ and supplies for our school. Every little bit adds up!

Escrip: Over 75 contributors have registered their Safeway Club Card in support of Orca K-8. In the month of November alone, these supporters raised nearly \$150 for our school just by swiping their Safeway Club Card at checkout. Haven't registered yours? Simply visit www.escrip.com and sign up. Our Group ID # is 500017744. Once registered, there are many ways you can contribute to Orca via the Escrip programs. Questions? Contact sabranie@hotmail.com.

****Be sure to check out the new fundraising page on the Orca PTSA website and check back often for news and information regarding these and other fundraisers at Orca!****



MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS....

Well into our 2nd year of becoming a K – 8 school, we can report our middle school students, staff, and parents are thriving and proud of where we are today. If you stroll up to the third floor of our school, you will usually find 75% of our sixth and seventh graders engaged in Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, Drama, or Spanish. The other 25% of our middle school students are in the new Science Annex.

Our middle school students are fortunate to have a talented and dedicated team of teachers who enjoy working this age of learner. Katherine Law, currently our lone female team member, is responsible for Science education and Language Arts. Donte' Felder is our Language Arts, Social Studies, Anti-Bullying, Cyber Safety, and Equity teacher. Jeff McKenzie joins Orca as our middle school Mathematics teacher after a number of years as a leader at Aki Kurose. Our final core teacher is Senor Patrick Scott who teaches Espanol and Drama. Patrick is a successful, experienced middle school teacher who joins us from the Highline School District. Being the team player that he is, Patrick can often be found skillfully incorporating a lot of Writing instruction (Writer's Workshop) and Equity concepts into his instruction. Like Donte, Patrick comes to Orca with an extensive background in theatre. Michelle Kaufman and Krista Keller (via New York City) are also part of the middle school program. They support select students in Reading, Writing, and/or Mathematics. Dr. Jupinder Gill and Renee Johnson are our Health and Fitness teachers. We can't forget Emily Nagel, our Art Teacher; John Brockhaus, our Library/Media Specialist; and Padma Panchepagasan, our middle school self-contained teacher who round out the team. Together, these talented professionals provide meaningful learning experiences for our near 100 highly energetic and delightful sixth and seventh graders who are now a part of our fine community.

Looking at human development, middle school is a challenging time. Middle schoolers experience intense and often rapid physical, emotional, and intellectual changes. It takes a special team to work with individuals who can sway between childhood and adolescence (and back), in a matter of seconds. Developing, implementing, and refining a quality academic program for middle schoolers which is aligned with our program vision and mission and prepares them for high school is no easy task. In the weeks to come, you will learn more about what is happening in YOUR middle school. Ben and I can proudly say, that though nothing is perfect, YOU have a quality K – 8 being developed. We look forward to opening our doors and sharing the many great things that are happening in YOUR middle school.



NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Recently, there have been several cases of pneumonia among students at Orca. Following is some information about the illness and what can be done about it.

Pneumonia is a general term for an infection of the lungs which can be caused by viruses, bacteria, fungus, even parasites. It typically begins within a few days after an upper respiratory infection (like a "cold".)

Pneumonia that is caused by a virus has a slower onset of symptoms that may be confused with "just a cold that is hanging on." Wheezing often accompanies viral pneumonia and there may or may not be a fever. Pneumonia caused by bacteria may start as a virus, but the bacteria grows in the mucous that gathers in the respiratory tract. Bacterial pneumonia often causes the person to become sicker quickly, typically with fever >102 F and rapid breathing.

Since symptoms vary with the cause of the illness and age of the person, here are some general guidelines about what to look for and when to call the doctor:

Symptoms:

- Fever, chills and cough
- Rapid breathing
- Vomiting
- Chest or abdominal pain
- Lethargy, fatigue

- Loss of appetite
- Bluish color of the lips or fingernails
- Labored breathing

Call the Doctor:

- Coughing that wakes the child at night
- Fever >102 F (100 F if the child is under six months old)
- Extreme fatigue
- Chest pain; atypical wheezing or rapid breathing
- Vomiting, abdominal pain

Emergency Room Visit:

- Very labored breathing: i.e. grunting; muscle “sucking in” around ribs and neck, nasal “flaring”
- Changes in coloring, i.e. blue/gray coloring of lips and fingernails

A word about being contagious: the pneumonia itself is not contagious, but the cause of it probably is. Therefore, a close family contact (or classmate) of the person with pneumonia may not get pneumonia themselves, but may get the virus that caused it. Good handwashing is so important, as is covering your cough or sneeze, and not sharing drinking glasses and silverware with the infected person.

As always, you are the expert on your own child. Please do not hesitate to call your doctor with questions or concerns about symptoms that don't seem to go away.

Stay Healthy!