



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 27, 2009

Phone: 252-6900

Fax: 252-6901

Website: www.orcapta.org

January

28 – Parent Training in Classrooms
29 – Middle School Open House

9:30 – 11:30AM
7-8PM Orca Middle School

February

04 – Professional Development
07 – Middle School Parent Gathering
09 – NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day)
12 – Skate Party
12 – Kindergarten Open House
13 – Mosaic/Art Auction
16-20 – Mid Winter Break
26 – Middle School Open House

1:15PM, Early Dismissal
3-5:00PM, Science Annex
9:30-2PM – Skate King
7-8PM
GATHER, Columbia City
NO SCHOOL
7-8PM

THOUGHTS FROM Flora...



As January comes to an end (already!!!), I find myself wondering where all the time has gone and continue to be amazed at how fast it all goes – such a common theme amongst our friends and everyone we seem to come into contact with.

In our second year at Orca, the hustle and bustle just continues to grow as our family gets to know the school better and our children's interests continue to expand. Even with the year almost half over, there are so many things to look forward to, weekends to spend, activities to take up, lessons to look into, teams to join, play dates to make, etc.!

With all of the excitement going on in the world both good and bad, it's so nice to take some weekends out of the year to stay home and spend time together, even if it's just one day or a few hours. Cooking, playing board games, playing with neighbors outside, going to the grocery store, these are all things that may seem everyday, but if you're not rushing through it, ends up being very special.

We just spent some time doing just that – totally unplanned – but it was so refreshing and simple and fun to look back on. It's amazing to see how quickly your kids change right before your eyes. With spring around the corner comes, more sports/lessons, spring fever, new life outside (and in!) and the general optimism that comes with warmth and sun - Life is sure to suck us back in but with a few "timeouts" we'll be ready!

-Flora Fleet (Oscar F's mom)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Slow Food Seattle Meets Orca K-8!

Just prior to our artic blast, Orca was invited to talk about our food garden and garden based education at Seattle Slow Food's annual membership meeting. Slow Food Seattle supports the following

programs through events, campaigns, and fundraising efforts that serve to galvanize their chapter/convivium and enable their contribution to:

- preserving traditional and endangered foodstuffs of our region and our nation.
- experiencing the cultural and regional significance of our foods by educating ourselves about where our food comes from.
- fostering regional food production that is good, clean and fair.
- celebrating life, joy and friendship through the pleasures of the table.

Slow Food USA has an area that particularly focuses on children called "Taste Education." With our mutual interests, Orca will host a tour and brown bag lunch for Slow Food Seattle board members on Thursday, January 29 and join us at a planting party in early March. If you are interested in helping the nutrition committee with other planning efforts to pursue Slow Food school support, call Tiana Colovos (206)849-5151 or email tiana.colovos@gmail.com. Thank you!

Powerful Writers Writing Workshop

Powerful Writers, a program of the award-winning nonprofit Powerful Schools, brings **writing workshops** to six Southeast Seattle elementary schools. Teachers and Powerful Writers' staff developers work together to develop students' writing skills, habits and confidence, uniting in the belief that writing well is an essential life skill and a valuable tool for continued learning and creative expression.

If you are wondering how to help your children at home with writing, or are interested in volunteering during writing workshop in your child's classroom, or if you're just curious to find out more about this exciting program, please join us at the parent education and training session.

Next training:

At Orca, Wednesday, January 28
9:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.

ORCA SPRING AUCTION PROCUREMENT PUSH!

PROCURE, PROCURE, PROCURE. . . We need 200 items by February 28!

The Orca PTA Spring Auction is April 18th – mark your calendars! This is a major PTA fundraiser to help pay for art supplies, music education, after-school program support, and many other important enrichments for our kids. February is the big procurement push! We would like to challenge every family to donate or procure at least one item for the auction. Here are some ideas. . .

Are you a good cook? Know someone who is a musician? How about hosting a dinner party with musical entertainment . . .

Have a pool? How about donating the use of your pool for a kid's birthday party . . .

Know someone with a sailboat? Why not ask them to donate a sailing cruise?

Are you an artist? Donate a painting, handmade jewelry, etc.

Do you have the equipment to convert family videos to DVDs? You could donate several hours of time for this purpose.

Does your cousin own a restaurant? Or how about your favorite restaurant downtown? Ask for a gift certificate.

Own a limo? How about chauffeuring for a night on the town . . .

Love to bake? How about a dessert a month for six months . . .

Please fill out a donation form for each procurement, located in the office under mailboxes, and leave it in the auction box there. If it is difficult for you to get to the school, call or email us and we'll fill one out for you.

We need volunteers to canvass neighborhood businesses – Columbia City, Seward Park, Madrona, Hillman City, Leschi, Beacon Hill, etc. We are also looking for folks with connections to hotels, spas, and restaurants so we can put together packages for the live portion of the auction. Thanks tons, and let us know if you have questions or are willing to help procure from businesses. Carrie Sellar, shagreh@gmail.com, 425-417-3232 or LuAnn Wangsness, lwangsness@yahoo.com, 324-1939

Diversity Speaker Series

The Diversity Speaker Series is focused on exploring issues related to diversity, privilege, and oppression. Each year we invite experts in these areas to speak and engage with members of The Bush School and the greater Seattle community. These events are free and open to the public. For more information about The Bush School's Diversity Speaker Series, please

visit www.bush.edu/diversity. For seating reservations and if you have any questions, please call Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., Director of Diversity, at 206-326-7731 or eddie.moorejr@bush.edu.

Jessica Pettitt

Social Justice Core Competencies

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: The Bush School Community Room

Hip Hop Summit 2009

Date: Saturday, Feb 28, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: TBD

Winona Laduke

Women, Politics, and Environmental Justice from a Native Perspective

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: The Bush School New Gym

Yong Zhao

Rethinking Education in The Age of Globalization

Date: Monday, April 27, 2009

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: The Bush School Community Room



GARDEN MOSAIC FUNDRAISER SEEKS ART!

This event is in just a few weeks! We hope to have all art in by the end of the week.
Please let us know if you need us to pick it up!

Thank you to all the wonderful artists who have already been bringing in art!

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

From the After School Programs Coordinator

Powerful Schools: Monday classes start on February 2nd and Wednesday classes started last week. Pick-up and drop-off is in the lunchroom and unless you have made other arrangements you must sign your child in and out from there. If your student attends First Base please remind them that they will need to check in there first.

We still have space in Explorations in Math, Taekwondo and have added Knitting on Mondays at 3:30pm and have a few spots in that class as well.

Middle School: Our middle school classes begin right after school, students should go right to the location of their class. We still have room in Hip Hop, Girls Basketball and Orca Zine!

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: We still have a few spaces in this class which is for 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 and will meet in Room 306. Please contact me directly if you are interested in this class.

Volunteers Needed! If you have time after school to help out in the lunchroom on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays we need help serving snack to our students.

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 Escript 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!****

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS

BEST WAYS TO CONTACT ME ...

If you want to volunteer or just have questions you can reach me in the following ways...

1. Email debkoon@comcast.net
2. Home phone 723-7444
3. Cell phone 612-1080 (new number; number in directory no longer valid)

HELP NEEDED WITH OUR SCHOOL TOURS!

School tours are starting and we need volunteers! Your role would be to meet near the office at 9:15 on tour day, greet touring parents and then accompany Ben on a tour of the school. Ben gives the guided tour and you walk amongst the parents answering questions that you can and making note of those that need to be answered by Ben. It's your chance to show off our school! Check out these dates and let me know when you can help! Below are the dates:

Elementary School Tours - 9:30-11:00am

Wednesday January 28th
Thursday February 5th
Wednesday February 11th
Thursday February 26th
Tuesday March 3rd

Middle School Tours - 9:30-11:00am

Thursday January 29th
Tuesday February 3rd
Wednesday February 25th



LAST CALL FOR ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS!

Orca family and friends have donated more than \$27,000 to support critical programs for our children through our Annual Fund Drive. With only one week left of the Annual Fund Drive, now is the time to help us get closer to our final goal! If you've been meaning to return your Annual Fund donation, now is your last chance! No donation is too small or too large! Without your generous contribution, Orca will be unable to fully fund programs like our garden, library, music and arts, as well as many other programs. You can drop your donation in the Orca office, or donate online at <http://orca.chipin.com/orca-annual-fund>. Thank you for making this year's Annual Fund Drive a great success!

Best regards,
Susan King, Annual Fund Chair (and Tuesday's mom!)
206.683.8431, kingsusanL@gmail.com

K-8 Steering Committee Looking for Parent Participation

Are you interested in joining Orca's K-8 Steering Committee? Orca is continuing to develop into a K-8 community. As we have grown the last few years, many K-8 Steering Committee efforts shaped Orca. Our Vision, improvements to the Whitworth facility, a K-8 environmental science curriculum, and Writers Workshop are all outgrowths of Steering Committee work. The Steering Committee meets on the first Friday of each month from 3:30-5:00. Members work on tasks as needed at their convenience between meetings. Parents made essential contributions to the Steering Committee's work the last two years, and we are looking for parent members again.

If you are interested, and are able to commit to the regular Friday meetings with a little work in between, please contact Dan Sakaue at dksakaue@seattleschools.org or 252-6870.

Thanks,

Ben Ostrom
Orca Principal

Snow makeup days set for June 17, 18 and 19, 2009

Three additional days will be added to the school calendar in June 2009 to make up for school closure days on December 17, 18 and 19, 2008, because of inclement weather. Makeup days are June 17, 18 and 19, 2009. Unless additional makeup days are needed, the last day of school for students will be on **Friday, June 19, 2009**.