



# ORCA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### February 10, 2009

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#### February

11 – Race Forum (dinner & childcare)  
12 – Skate Party  
12 – Environmental Education Curriculum Mtg.  
12 – Kindergarten Open House  
13 – Mosaic/Art Auction  
16-20 – Mid Winter Break  
26 – Garden & Nutrition Comm. Mtg.  
26 – Middle School Open House

6-8:30PM  
9:30-2PM – Skate King  
3:30PM @ Orca  
7-8PM  
GATHER, Columbia City  
**NO SCHOOL**  
3:30 (Greenhouse)  
7-8PM

#### March

04 – Early Dismissal

1:15PM

### THOUGHTS FROM Koichi...

Hi Orcans,

As we head into Mid-Winter break, I want to wish you all a Happy Valentines and hope that you will find the tie to embrace your loved ones and share your affections for one another...not with just chocolate and flowers, but through words and actions as well. We all know that "love" is what makes the world go around...but we also know it's what holds a community together.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7lvUEssa4A&feature=popw00us04>

Speaking of love, some are still loving the moments experienced on January 20th in Washington DC as Barack Obama took office as President. I often think about his daughters and what their impressions of him are. Is he a great dad because he plays with them and reads them stories at night? Or will he be better remembered by them as a servant of the people? As a dad, I often think that as I come towards the end of my life, I want my child to know me for the positive contributions that I have made to the community. Monday was National African American Parent Involvement Day. It's a reminder to us all, regardless of background, that parent involvement in school and our communities is critical to the learning piece, not only because it will help you understand where your child is at in their schooling, but it will set the example for generations to come. Just as President Obama placed his hand on the bible to make a promise, so should we all take an oath to do our part to serve our community, serve our children and serve our selves.

For the PTSA board, mid-winter break is a warning for us to go into scramble mode to start getting next year's budget together and solidified by the beginning of April. Please join us for a series of upcoming meetings to review fundraiser opportunities and budgeting meetings. These meetings also include opportunities to take a look at Seattle School's budget as it applies to Orca. Ben will reveal next year's spendings and show us where and if any short falls appear. Then we as a community will come together to figure out how we can best serve our children with the funds raised this year. It's also a reminder for us to start looking for successors for our officers. If you're interested or know someone who would make a difference as a PTSA servant next year, please email Deb at [debkoon@comcast.net](mailto:debkoon@comcast.net). Please stay tuned to this newsletter for the dates and times of those meetings.

In the movie Horton Hears a Who! (2008) (IMDB <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0451079/>), Horton the elephant hears a cry for help coming from a speck of dust. Even though he can't see anyone on the speck, he decides to help it. He is tormented by his neighbors, who refuse to believe that anything could survive on the speck and think he's crazy for believing in such a thing. Still, Horton stands by the motto that, "After all, a person is a person, no matter how small." On February 26th we will all be provided an opportunity to be "herd" and be heard on the Capitol

steps in Olympia as parents, teachers and students to demand more funding for Basic Education. Together we must stand in front of our legislators and convince them that we want the basics...such as full day kindergarten, music & art and smaller classroom sizes. Go to: [http://www.seattlecouncilptsa.org/article\\_150.shtml](http://www.seattlecouncilptsa.org/article_150.shtml) for more info.

As it turns out, the speck of dust is home to the Whos, who live in their city of Whoville. Horton was right all along. His perseverance and willingness to believe in what is right no matter what others thought of him pays off in the end and saves the lives of many. Hooray for Horton!!!

See you all at the skate rink on Thursday!!

koichi kitazumi

[kkitazum@starbucks.com](mailto:kkitazum@starbucks.com)

206.856.0571

"don't swim alone, be herd"

## ☀ ANNOUNCEMENTS ☠

### ORCA RACE FORUM

**Wednesday February 11th 6pm- 8:30pm with dinner and Childcare**

"Undoing Racism Everyday at Orca--A Place for Dialogue and Action"

This evening's topic is "Media and Racism" with older children (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) welcome to participate in the first section. We will also follow-up on our "Words of Power" session by role-playing how to confront specific instances of racism and discuss how we can help ourselves and our children to gain skills and confidence in speaking up and speaking out.

Dinner at 6pm in the cafeteria, childcare starts at 6:30 and discussion at 6:45. Join us in community-building/learning activities and discussion about race and living our Orca motto "We all belong". See you Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### ALL SCHOOL ROLLERSKATING PARTY:

Thursday, February 12th, Bellevue Skate King

Join us for Orca's annual skating party! This year we're at a new location, the Bellevue Skate King (directions & info available at 425-641-2047 or

<http://bellevueskateking.homestead.com/>). We'll leave school on buses at 9:30 am,

skate from 10 - 1:30, and arrive back at school at 2 pm. Cost is \$8.50 per person, which covers skate rental and bus transportation. For in-line skates, bring an extra \$4. You can also bring your own skates if you like (though you still have to pay the basic fee). The snack bar will be open, but it's usually pretty crowded, so bringing your own lunch is advised. Look for a permission slip to come home with your child in the near future. Your Room Coordinators will also be looking for volunteers to come along as chaperones & skate-lacers. If you have questions or need more information, contact Mikala Woodward at [jojoma3@aol.com](mailto:jojoma3@aol.com) / 722-5177, or PE Teacher Renee Johnson (Miss J.) at [rsjohnson@seattleschools.org](mailto:rsjohnson@seattleschools.org) /252-6900. Thanks!

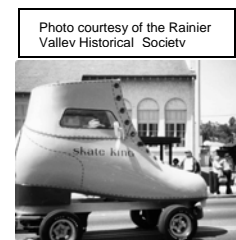


Photo courtesy of the Rainier Valley Historical Society



### GARDEN MOSAIC FUNDRAISER SEEKS ART

Please join us as we celebrate the incredible community of artists that have come together in support of our Garden Mosaic Fundraiser. This is a one day only silent art auction happening at GATHER in Columbia City. The gallery will be open from 10:00am on and then we will have an evening event from 5-7pm. Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you to all the wonderful artists and contributors who have made this event possible.**

Lily Hotchkiss: [lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org](mailto:lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org) Emily Nagel: [eanagel@seattleschools.org](mailto:eanagel@seattleschools.org)

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS.....

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SKATING PARTY THIS THURSDAY!**

Please join us for the annual Orca skating party! We need many parents to help lace skates, help little ones around the rink and just for kid herding in general! The bus leaves school at 9:30am to go to Skate King in Bellevue and returns around 2:00pm. Please contact your Room Coordinator if you can help!

THERE ARE MANY EVENTS ON THE HORIZON.....

The Orca Art Auction at GATHER in Columbia City is this Friday, the Jogathon is coming up on Friday March 13th and the Orca Annual Auction is April 18th! We will need various volunteers for each of these events so sign up for the one that appeals to you!

Deb Koon, Volunteer Coordinator [debkoon@comcast.net](mailto:debkoon@comcast.net)/723-7444/612-1080

## GARDEN NEWS

We will now have GARDEN & NUTRITION committee meetings 4th Thursdays in Greenhouse at 3:30 (next is 2/26) and if you're interested in helping with Environmental Education Curriculum, consider regularly attending the 2nd Thursday meeting with Ben and Ms. Katherine (next is 2/12) at 3:30.

For more information and to help out with your classrooms, please contact garden coordinator Anthony Warner at 206-252-6918 or [apwarner@seattleschool.org](mailto:apwarner@seattleschool.org). To see student work around sustainability at Orca, please check out Anthony's blog at [orcagarden.wordpress.com](http://orcagarden.wordpress.com)

Thanks for your time!

Sarah B. Hufbauer--feel free to contact me @ 300-8152 or [sarah.hufbauer@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.hufbauer@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 [dsakaue@seattleschools.org](mailto:dsakaue@seattleschools.org) or 252-6870.

Thanks,

Ben Ostrom      Orca Principal

## PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR THE 17<sup>th</sup> YOUNG AUTHORS FESTIVAL



This year's YAF will be on **Friday, March 6th** and we need your help.

YAF is an Orca event that brings the children together with members of the community, to celebrate the "art of writing." This event gives the children a concrete goal to work toward, with the opportunity to share what they have created and get feedback from their peers.

We will need many parent volunteers to facilitate the small sharing groups. These are multi-age/multi-grade groups, where each child is encouraged to share a piece of writing they have worked on this year. These pieces may be poetry, short stories, or a snapshot of their life. All are looking forward to your feedback and encouragement.

We will begin at **12:30 PM with a short orientation meeting in the lunchroom** with snacks. **The SHARING SESSIONS will take place from 1:00 to 1:45 PM.**

As a group leader you will meet with about eight students. Each student will share his or her work, preferably by reading it aloud. If a child is not comfortable reading aloud, she or he may ask you or another student to read the work. The session is informal, but provides a special opportunity for each student's work to be listened to and appreciated.

In addition to facilitating the group and providing feedback to the students, it would be fun if you could bring a story that you think they would enjoy or a short work you have written to share with the children. They are inspired by other authors because they place your writing into the context of their own sharing and feedback.

We are inviting all members of the Orca community to come and participate in this valuable learning experience. We truly appreciate your effort in taking time from your busy day to join us.

To sign up, contact either Deb Koon (debkoon@comcast.net) or Lizabeth Coller (l\_coller@yahoo.com). Let us know if there is a particular child you'd like to be grouped with. Include the grade, teacher, or room number, if possible.

Sincerely,  
The 2009 Orca Young Authors Committee  
Stacy, Mr. C, and Lizabeth

## **First B.A.S.E. Notice**

First B.A.S.E. proudly announces that we are expanding in September 2009! We will be opening a pre-kindergarten class. This class will be open to children who are four years old and will attend kindergarten in September 2010. The pre-k class will operate out of room 106 and will be in session Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The maximum class size will be 16 with 2 adult staff. We will be a child-centered, play based program. We are also consulting with the two Orca kindergarten teachers as we develop our program. We will maintain both the Orca and First B.A.S.E. philosophies.

We are actively recruiting staff (a teacher and assistant) for the program. We plan to hold an information night for parents in February with registration opening up on March 1.

If you are interested in being added to our mailing list, please contact Melodie Rogers in the First B.A.S.E. office or call/e-mail at 722-3658, [firstbase@clearwire.net](mailto:firstbase@clearwire.net). We are open to Orca families, families in our immediate neighborhood and the community. This proposal has generated a great deal of interest already and we hope to begin with full enrollment.

## **Calling All Grant Writers!**

I enjoyed working with some of you at the grant writing workshop last fall, and would like to follow-up and see if any projects have come to fruition. That workshop was inspired by a TED Talk online, calling for neighbors to get involved with their local schools. I'd like to let them know if anything came of the workshop, so please send me any information on projects you're working on – whether you've gotten funds or not.

**Thanks so much. Take care.**

**Joanne Lauterjung Kelly**



### **Orca Spring Auction**

The Orca Spring Auction will be held on Saturday, April 18th at the Garfield Community Center. Our theme this year is Going Once, Going Twice, Going Green! Mark your calendars now.

We are still looking for folks to help with the auction. Specifically, we need someone to coordinate volunteers and child care, but there are many other ways to be involved. Please email Teresa McCann ([teresa@teresamccann.com](mailto:teresa@teresamccann.com)) if you are interested.

### **ORCA PTA SPRING AUCTION PROCUREMENT PUSH!**

#### **PROCURE, PROCURE, PROCURE. . . We need 200 items by March 6th!**



The auction is April 18th, but the procurement push is NOW! We would like to challenge every family to donate or procure at least one item for the auction. We'll give you some new ideas each week . . .

Know anyone with a farm nearby? See if they'll donate a few hours of animal-petting, learning about the crops, etc.

Know a firefighter? Ask for a tour of the station, sitting in the truck, wearing gear, etc.

Know someone who works at a TV station or local newspaper? How about a tour?

Are you an architect or design consultant? How about donating a few hours of consultation?

How about putting together a basket with baking gadgets and favorite recipes?

How about donating a hand car wash and inside clean for someone's vehicle?

Know how to swing dance? How about donating a lesson(s)?

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. If you go to another auction, save the auction booklet for us – it can help us with ideas.

We need folks to canvass neighborhood businesses – Columbia City, Hillman City, Leschi, Beacon Hill, etc. The businesses are expecting us, so it's a lot easier than you might think! Thanks tons, and let us

know if you have questions or are willing to help procure from businesses. Carrie Sellar, [shagreh@gmail.com](mailto:shagreh@gmail.com), 425-417-3232 or LuAnn Wangsness, [lwangsness@yahoo.com](mailto:lwangsness@yahoo.com), 324-1939.



### **Pathways Lecture Series for Parents**

Children's and ParentMap magazine are sponsoring the Pathways Lecture Series for Parents. All lectures are from 7 to 9 p.m., and tickets are \$18 in advance or \$25 at the door, except for the Dr. Gottman lecture, which is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.parentmap.com/pathways](http://www.parentmap.com/pathways) or by calling 800-838-3006.

Upcoming lectures:

1. "The Homework Myth: Questioning Achievement Pressures in School" Dr. Alfie Kohn  
Tuesday, March 3 Mercer Island High School
2. "Making Marriage Work" Dr. John Gottman  
Thursday, March 19 Town Hall, Seattle
3. "Opting In/Opting Out: Slow Parenting in the Fast Lane"  
Tuesday, March 24 Seattle Children's Theatre

### **Open Enrollment for Seattle Public Schools**

Open Enrollment for Seattle Public Schools begins March 2, 2009 and continues through March 31, 2009. When families enroll during this period, they have the best opportunity to receive the school of their choice, and the benefits for our students are far reaching. Families may enroll by fax (206) 252.0761, by mail or in person at the John Stanford Center or the bilingual Family Center. We understand that coming to these centers may present a challenge to many of our families during the open enrollment period in March, and that access to a fax machine is not always readily available. With this in mind, we would like to reach out to families in their neighborhoods and provide opportunities to enroll at various sites around the city.

As always, we will be hosting open enrollment nights at community libraries throughout the District. Please find attached two fliers for distribution and posting. One flier is translated for our bilingual families. They should be printed back to back or posted side by side. In addition, we plan to have a drive-thru at JSCEE for families to drop-off their pre-printed applications during March. Visit [www.seattleschool.org](http://www.seattleschool.org) for updates and additional information as we approach March.

Additionally, we understand that families affected by school closures need opportunities to visit schools and learn more about their options for 2009-10. Schools are in the process of scheduling additional tours to meet this need. We will be adding new dates as they are scheduled, so please have families check back periodically for these updates. Again, they can check our web site at [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org), or call Enrollment Services at (206) 252.0760 and the Bilingual Family Center at (206) 252.7750.



### **Help us Earn Cash for Orca!**

Our next Box Tops for Education submission deadline is fast approaching. Please send your Box Tops to school with your child this week. There is a collection bag on the bulletin board outside the office. Thanks for your participation!

### **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**.