



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 15, 2009

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September

16 – Welcome PTA Potluck 6-8:30PM
30 – 2 hour Early Dismissal 12:40PM

October

1 – Curriculum Night 7-8:30PM
5-9 – 6th Grade OPI
9 – No School
15 – Race Forum 6-8:30PM
28 – 2 hour Early Dismissal 12:40PM
29 – Harvest Festival Orca

THOUGHTS FROM BEN. ...



The promise and hope of a new year filled our halls with welcome last week. After several weeks of preparation, we were definitely ready to see some students. It's challenging to work so hard without the daily recharge we get from children.

We continue to grow in numbers of staff and students. We are no longer a small school. This fall we opened with over 45 staff and 530 students! Some of the new faces you should look for to give a warm hello: Kirk Keeling—Custodial Engineer, Peter Behr—Team A, Mary Jane Macias—1st/2nd grade, William Butler—1st/2nd Grade, Tanisha Felder—6th grade LA/Social Studies (ok, do she should look familiar), Aimee Hall—7th/8th Math, Sara Daly 7th/8th Language Arts/Spanish, Dirk Peterson—Kindergarten Special Ed. Assistant, and Rebecca Northway, Special Ed. Assistant.

Our Welcome Back Potluck/First PTSA meeting is Wednesday from 6-8:30PM. Please join us for a community gathering followed by a short PTSA meeting. Also, I wanted to note that although Curriculum Night for K-5 and 7th/8th grades will be on October 1 from 7-8:30 PM, 6th grade will have a special Curriculum Night/OPI meeting on Wednesday, September 23.

School starts for the middle school at 8:05 am and K-5 at 8:20 am. K-8 dismiss at 2:40 pm. **An important reminder--there is no playground supervision before 8:00AM and after 3:00 PM. Please help us keep your children safe.** Also, note that both parking bays on Dawson are bus zones. We now have 11 buses. Unless you are a walker or finding parking somewhere and coming in, please pick up and drop off students in the load/unload only zone on 46th. We are trying to keep pick ups and drop offs out of the bus traffic on Dawson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS

Welcome to another year of fantastic volunteer opportunities! There are many ways to become involved at Orca. How much time you are able to share and how you share it comes down to who you are, where your interests and passions lie and where you are in your life. Every bit of volunteer effort, whether big or small, makes a difference in our school!

Please plan to join the fun at the **Beginning of the Year Potluck this Wednesday September 16th at 6:00pm**. This is a great time to meet with other families, get introduced to your PTSA officers and check out the **Committee Sign-up Sheets**.

Here are a few volunteer opportunities already waiting for you:

We are still in need of an Auction Lead! The Auction is one of our top fundraisers and we need someone to take it on this year. I have some folks who are willing to help with the planning and execution, but I still need one or two people to step up and be in charge. Teresa and her crew will be passing on great information to get you started and be there for any questions you might have. There are things that need to start happening now, so please step forward and fill this vital role!

Room Coordinators. We need one or two volunteers in each classroom to be Room Coordinators. These coordinators develop a classroom contact list and keep their families informed about classroom news, help solicit volunteers for both classroom and school-wide volunteer needs and help to coordinate general teacher assistance in the classroom. They also get together monthly with other Room Coordinators to share ideas and talk about how things are going in their room. Sound like something you'd like to do? If so let me know!

Assistant PTSA Secretary. This person supports and backs up the Secretary in case of absence. The Secretary maintains the email distribution list, distributes email announcements and bulletins, posts meeting minutes to the website and attends monthly meetings. Let me know if this support job sounds like the one for you!

Remember to check the bulletin weekly for volunteer opportunities and check out the Committee Sign-up sheets at the Potluck on Wednesday. Don't hesitate to stop by my office (Room 203A; I'm usually there at drop-off) or contact me if you have questions. See you all at the Potluck on Wednesday!

Deb Koon, Volunteer Coordinator debkoon@comcast.net/723-7444/612-1080



Music Notes

Welcome back, everyone! I hope the beginning of the year has gone smoothly so far. Here's the scoop on music this year, since I know everyone's curious!

Starting in October, we will have a wonderful teacher named Rachel Bernstein as our K-5 general music teacher.

Rachel comes to us directly from the University of Washington, where she earned her degree in music education, with her emphasis on elementary vocal music. Originally from Boulder, Colorado, Rachel also plays the violin, works at Soundbridge and is a trapeze performer! She will meet with each K-5 class every week until April for 40 minutes. We are tremendously lucky to have her. A huge thanks to the Orca PTSA and community for the heroic fundraising efforts and contributions that fund our general music program.

Enrollment forms for instrumental music for grades 4-5 will go home this week, and **WILL BE DUE SEPTEMBER 24**. Lessons will begin the week of October 5. Middle school band enrollment will be handled through enrichment sign-up, and extra forms will be sent home at that time. Middle School Band will meet every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday during the last period of the day. By the way, Orca is the only small K-8 school that has made room in its schedule (and funding!) to offer music during the school day. This is only possible through the support of our terrific administration and staff -- thank you!!

I will be available to answer any questions at the first all-school potluck on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th**. Even though the potluck starts at 6:00, I will be here at 5:45. Please come armed with questions, enthusiasm, something delicious to share, and of course, your own plates and utensils.

Cheers -
Deb Schaaf
Instrumental Music

From the After School Programs Coordinator

After school programs will start the week of October 5th. Please see below for specific program information.

Powerful Schools:

Powerful Schools offers classes for students in grades k-5. Classes will begin on Monday October 5th and take place on both Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-4 and 4-5. Students go directly from their classrooms to the lunch room for a snack prior to the 3pm classes. All pick up and drop off happens from the lunch room. Registration materials will come out on Monday, September 21st. Please note that classes fill quickly on a first come first serve basis. These classes are fee based, with the exception of our math support class. Scholarships are available.

Out-Of-School-Time:

Our Out-of-School-Time or OST programs, serve our middle school students and are all offered free. This Fall we will be offering Drama Club with Donte, Who Am I Anyway?, a writing class with Orca parent and Seattle Public School teacher Meg Richman, Piano Lab with Mrs.Luster and Bike Works. Our Video Production class is already full. Registration is available now. Classes begin October 5th. Students go directly to their classes after school. Classes run from 2:40pm-4:15pm with the exception of Video Production which runs until 4:40pm and Bike Works. Bike Works picks up students from Orca and brings them to their Columbia City shop (how cool is that!) and parents pick-up from Bike Works at 4:45pm.

After School Activity Bus:

Our after school bus will run on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays with a 4:15pm pickup. This is offered to our middle school students only though we can accommodate younger grades on a space available basis. Sign up sheets are available now. Please note that it takes up to a week from the time you register to add your student to the bus roster.

After School Sports:

Please connect with Renee Johnson, the Athletic Director for the 2009-10 school year (Yeah! Congratulations Renee!) regarding after school sports.

Seeking:

Parents, teachers, artists who have an idea for a class they would like to teach here at Orca! I am specifically seeking instructors in Spanish, art, movement and garden arts.

Any questions? Please contact Lily Hotchkiss at lihotchkiss@seattleschools.org Thanks!

Dear Seattle Public Schools Families,

Seattle Public Schools' goal is to provide an excellent education for every student while maintaining a safe and healthy environment in every school. As school begins, we continue to read or hear in the media that both seasonal influenza as well as cases of 2009 H1N1 (swine) flu are in our community. Our District will follow the national, state and local guidance to promote a healthy environment so that students and teachers can stay focused on excellence in education for every child. Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations, Districts are to keep schools open to the greatest extent possible. We continue to work closely with the Public Health Department - Seattle King County to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and the general community.

The flu virus causes symptoms such as cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, and fever of 100 degrees or greater. To prevent the spread of any type of flu, here are some ways to protect your family from getting sick or spreading flu through our community:

- **If your child is sick, have them STAY AT HOME** until s/he has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. This includes staying away from school, child care or other gatherings.

- **Teach each child to:**

Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially before eating and after using the restroom. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself. If soap and water are unavailable, alcohol based hand sanitizers may be used.

Stay at least three feet from people who are sick.

When sneezing or coughing, cover their mouth and nose with tissues or sneeze/cough

into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.

Avoid

touching your eyes, nose or mouth since germs spread this way.

In our community, planning efforts continue. The District and schools are developing plans to minimize the spread of the flu virus. As part of these efforts, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has asked local governments and schools to develop plans that could also include closing schools and day cares if the flu season becomes more severe. Additionally, the Public Health Department – Seattle King County is asking each family to: 1) screen their family for flu symptoms each morning and, 2) develop a plan to keep students at home if schools are closed. This may include keeping students at home even if they show no symptoms of flu.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your health care provider. You can also get more information from the Flu Hotline at 1-877-903-KING (5464) or the Public Health Department –

Seattle/King County at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemicflu/swineflu.aspx>

It is very important for all of us to work together to protect the health of our students and school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Lewis".

Jill Lewis, RN, MN
Student Health Services Manager