



# ORCA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### September 22, 2009

**Phone:** 252-6900

**Fax:** 252-6901

**Website:** [www.orcapta.org](http://www.orcapta.org)

#### September

23 – Curriculum Night - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade/OPI 7-8:30PM  
30 – 2 hour Early Dismissal 12:40PM

#### October

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

#### THOUGHTS FROM STACY. ...



Hello Orca!

I'm so excited to be back with my new hat – ART TEACHER! I hope you all had a great summer. I've enjoyed many happy days with my kids, time alone for quiet and reflection and turning the art room into an art studio. It's been a fun start to the year. Your kids are SO inspiring and creative. I am looking forward to working, learning with and creating with all of them.

For those of you who don't know, I am not new to Orca. I have taught for many years and for the last three with Maida and Supaydah teaching 1st/2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I am making a huge change in my life as an educator, narrowing and deepening my focus on Visual Art, becoming a pcp teacher and a middle school teacher all in one leap. It's not going to be a perfect year. My learning curve will be steep steep steep. But I am grateful and excited and am filled with positive anticipation. I'm going to do my best at meeting the Orca Art Philosophies and Goals (you'll get a copy of the draft at some point). I am very open to communicating and collaborating. We'll see how the dance goes as the music begins.

A little about my background as a student of art and life: I received my Bachelors Degree in Fine Art at the University of California at Santa Cruz. My emphasis was in printmaking. From there I traveled parts of the world adventuring, exploring myself and ART! I received my Teaching Certificate from the University of Washington and my Masters from Lesley University in Creative Arts. All of the arts have been a passion throughout my life and teaching became the perfect vehicle to share and inspire creativity. During my 15 years of teaching, I took a two year sabbatical to work as a teacher coach with an emphasis in integrating the arts into other content areas. These experiences and the support and inspiration of so many friends, family, colleagues and you all have led me to take on the responsibility of keeper of the key to Orca as an art focused school.

I am calling this space an "art studio" because it is a place where we study, explore and create - a dynamic learning environment. An "art room" gives me images of a place we store art or art sits there in some static way. The "art gallery" of the school will not be 303 either. The gallery is the halls, the classroom walls, the other spaces in and outside the building. Special thanks to Ralph who painted the door and alcove to the studio. We all love it!

Periodically I'll put out a call for wish list items. To start off I could use the following:

- Art books – coffee table type books to fill my library about artists and art styles
- Instrumental CD's – If you or your child has a favorite cd that is instrumental only (no words) or some favorites and would be willing to put together a compilation cd for the art room, we'd love it. It could be any style of music – instrumental only.
- Newspapers
- Tissue boxes – (full)
- Baby wipes

I am also in need of some volunteers. If you have the time I really need help hanging art in the hallways. We already have much to hang and I'm hoping to have things up by October 16<sup>th</sup>.

My colleagues, your Art Committee and I will be working collaboratively to make this a great year in Art Studio 303! I have an open door and would love to share ideas, inspirations and stories.

Thank you for all the support as I dive into this new adventure!

Stacy

### **Dear Orca families:**

I am writing to let you know about an important step that Seattle Public Schools is taking towards our goal of ensuring an excellent education for every student.

During the first four to six weeks of the school year, Orca will be implementing an assessment called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). MAP tests will help us determine your child's instructional level; measure academic growth throughout the school year; and measure growth from year to year in the areas of reading and mathematics. Results from MAP are available immediately and so will support our teachers in knowing what students have learned and the progress they are making. Teachers will use this information as they consider how to adjust instruction to help each student succeed.

At Orca there are a wide variety of opinions about assessment. As we experiment with a new assessment, MAP offers some important advantages. First, it replaces several assessments that have consumed significant amounts of time and resources. We will no longer be providing the DRA to K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders (2 graders will continue to receive the DRA in the spring of each year). Nor will we be administering Edusoft math assessments 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 3 times/year. MAP is an adaptive assessment that will be taken via computer, and your child will spend about two hours completing it. Second, MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to match students' skill levels. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward, and we receive information about what children know and can do, rather than what they can't do. Finally, we receive results immediately, so that we can use information about students to help guide classroom instruction. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. We know that an assessment taken via computer provides a limited snapshot of what your child knows and can do. MAP results will be used with a wide variety of classroom information to help us target instruction and support that match your children's learning needs.

Each school year, students in grades Kindergarten – Ninth Grade will take the tests in September/October, January and April/May. This year, teachers will share information about MAP results during parent-teacher conferences in November.

We are truly excited to have a new tool available to our teachers and students that will help us focus on every child's individual growth and achievement. Consistently tracking student progress and using that data to help improve student achievement is a key strategy of Seattle Public Schools' strategic plan, *Excellence for All*.

Thank you for partnering with us as we work together to ensure an excellent education for your child. For more information about MAP, including resources for parents and guardians, you may download the *Parent Toolkit* at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) >> Students & Parents. Please also feel free to ask me, or your child's teacher, about MAP.

Sincerely,

Ben Ostrom, Orca

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

First B.A.S.E. currently has openings in its before school program. We open at 7 A.M. and escort children to the playground at 8:15 A.M. We serve breakfast and offer computer time, games, art and other activities in the morning. Call 206-722-3658 or stop by the First B.A.S.E. office if you wish to sign up or have any questions. Currently, all after school care is full and parents may sign up on the 'wait list'.

First B.A.S.E. is selling Sally Foster gift wrap products and Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough for its annual fundraiser. There is a great variety of quality gift wrap. Sally Foster also offers gift items and chocolates. Their chocolates have been served at the White House and Walt Disney World! Check out our display outside room 106 – order forms can be obtained from Melodie or any First B.A.S.E. parent.

Thank you for supporting First B.A.S.E.



### **2009-2010 ADVANCED LEARNING NOMINATION PACKETS**

Apply now for testing for Spectrum and the Accelerated Progress Program. Information packets and nomination forms are available in the Main Office or from the SPS Website.

[www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml](http://www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml)



### *Student Messages*

Parents, when calling into the office to leave a message for your student, please make every effort to call before 2PM. This will insure that your message gets to your child in a timely manner before the dismissal bell rings at 2:40PM. Please, call 206-252-6900.



## **GARDEN NEWS – monthly meetings and new VISTA staff introduction**

Monthly garden meetings are a great way to be involved in expanding and enriching Orca’s garden program. At meetings we plan events such as the Harvest Festival (10/29), Environmental Science Night (2/4), Annual Plant Sale (5/8), develop curriculum, plan field trips, organize gardening workshops for the community, plan healthy snacks, and much more.

### **Garden Meeting Dates for 2009-2010 School Year**

#### **3:00-3:30 in science annex**

September 17 <sup>th</sup>	February 18 <sup>th</sup>
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	March 18 <sup>th</sup>
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	April 15 <sup>th</sup>
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	May 20 <sup>th</sup>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	June 17 <sup>th</sup>

We also are looking for parents to act as garden liaisons for each class. These liaisons will accompany students to the garden on their scheduled day and relay important garden happenings to the class. Please contact Anthony at [apwarner@seattleschools.org](mailto:apwarner@seattleschools.org).



**Greetings everyone!**

As a new face at Orca, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Beth Graves and I am the Orca Garden’s new AmeriCorps Vista for the 2009/2010 year. I will be working with Anthony and Briahn in the garden, planning exciting curriculum for students and some fantastic events throughout the year. I will also be working to build stronger partnerships between Orca, the surrounding community, and other food and environmental organizations throughout Seattle. We are going to have an excellent year in the garden, and I can’t wait to meet more of you. Stop by and say hello anytime!

Have a great day!  
Beth Graves

*Student Directory: 2009-10 Edition*

**This year, I want to include art from students in the Directory.**

**There is space inside, and, of course, on the cover, where drawings can be placed. Hardcopies of the directory will be in black & white only, so art that copies well is best. I hope to highlight the many activities our students participate in, inside and outside of school. Depending on how many submissions I get, I'll randomly select the placement of each piece.**

**Encourage your artist(s) to submit work to the directory. Pieces may be dropped off in the office, with a note indicating it's for the Directory.**

Lizbeth (Kai's mom)

## September is Emergency Preparedness Month

You never imagine that a disaster could happen to you or family. But recent years have shown that disasters can happen to anyone – severe storms, floods, power outages and more. The best way to stay safe and protected is to take a few simple steps to prepare your family. The State of Washington has great resources to help all of us stay safe and sound. Please take a moment to read these resources and take the simple steps to set up your household for safety!

- **Steps to prepare your family.** Easy steps to take over the year to prepare your family for disaster -- [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare\\_year.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare_year.shtml)
- **Build your emergency supply kit.** Checklists and guidance on how to prepare your kit -- [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/documents/piy\\_72\\_hour.pdf](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/documents/piy_72_hour.pdf)
- **Prepare your home.** Getting your home ready with tips on how to secure furniture, water heaters and more -- [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare\\_home.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare_home.shtml)
- **Fact Sheets on many issues in various languages.** Includes information on a checklist for emergency supplies, tips for people with special needs, helping children, flu prevention, terrorism and more -- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/factsheets.htm>
- **Emergency Resource Guide.** Information to plan for all types of disasters -- [http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/handbook/hbk\\_pdf/EmerRes08.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/handbook/hbk_pdf/EmerRes08.pdf)

The Orca Safety Committee is working hard to ensure that all of our students are safe while they are at school. If you are interested in volunteering for the committee please contact Elizabeth Rifer at [elizabethrifer@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethrifer@hotmail.com).

### FUNDRAISING NEWS

#### PCC SCRIP Fundraiser!

Now taking orders for PCC Scrip cards!! Purchasing PCC Scrip is a great way to support the PTSA! Simply fill your scrip card with cash as often as you'd like at any register, then use it to purchase your groceries. Our PTSA earns 5% of your grocery shopping purchases, which amounts to thousands of dollars each year! To order your card, please send me your name, phone #, and email address along with the # of cards you would like for your household.

#### Global Goods Partners

Orca participates in a wonderful on-going fundraiser through Global Goods Partners. GGP is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, alleviating poverty and promoting social justice. Their website and products have recently been updated to include new partners from countries such as Peru, India, Madagascar, Sudan, and more. When selecting items to purchase, please remember to designate "Orca" as your non-profit of choice so that we earn 20% of your purchases. There will be a printed catalog of items coming out soon, but in the meantime, visit [www.globalgoodspartners.org](http://www.globalgoodspartners.org) – there's something for everyone!

#### Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education

Please continue to clip, save, and bring your Box Tops and Labels to the collection bag just outside the office. This is an on-going fundraiser that equates \$ and school supplies for our children. Why throw away free \$? For a list of products containing these labels, visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) or let me know and I'll get a list to you.

#### School Portrait Fundraiser

This year, wonderful photographers from our community of parents will be taking our students school portraits. Photos will be available for purchase online and will ship directly to your home. Look for more details about this exciting new fundraiser coming soon!

Looking forward to a great 2009/2010 School Year!

Sabranie Coyne [sabranie@hotmail.com](mailto:sabranie@hotmail.com) 206-618-1280  
Orca K-8 PTSA Fundraising Coordinator

## Coyote Central Gears Up for Fall Term

Fall term begins October 17. See [www.coyotecentral.org](http://www.coyotecentral.org).

Coyote Central, winner of the 2008 Mayor's Arts Award, is a non-profit enrichment program that was founded in 1986 to offer action-packed courses and projects to 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders during their weekends and out of school time. They are taught by professionals in professional works settings throughout central Seattle. Participants have fun and learn lots of sophisticated, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills as they become photographers, hot glass artists, welders, cooks and pastry chefs, soapbox derby car builders, bicycle choppers, fashion illustrators, breakdancers, cartoon animators, actors, painters, singers, and much more.

Coyote has lined up 27 hands-on courses for Fall term, from Forging & Blacksmithing to Cartoon Animation, Welding to Fashion Design, Cooking to Photography. Enrollment is first come-first served. Their scholarship program and system of barter and trades makes Coyote available to all kids. Kids will enroll from some 30 different schools. For more information, visit [www.coyotecentral.org](http://www.coyotecentral.org)



# Community Meetings Levies 2010

As part of Seattle Public Schools' engagement process, the community is invited to three meetings designed to share information about two levies which will be placed before the voters as a special election on February 9, 2010.

**The Operations Levy** renews every three years and represents about 22% of the District's annual general fund budget and supports basic educational programs not fully funded by the state.

**The Buildings, Technology and Academics III (BTA III) Capital Levy** is placed before the voters every six years and funds hundreds of small renovations and major maintenance projects, technology and academic initiatives.

Preliminary levies funding recommendations were presented at a School Board work session September 2 at the John Stanford Center. A report is posted to our Web site.

The purpose of the community meetings is to inform the public, present information and answer questions. Interpreters will be at the workshops for the following languages: Amharic, Cambodian, Chinese, Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrigna and Vietnamese

Community Meetings dates, times and locations:

<b>Tuesday, Sep. 22</b> <b>6:30-8:00 p.m</b> <b>Mercer Middle School</b> <b>1600 S. Columbian Way</b> <b>Seattle, Wa.</b>	<b>Thursday, Sep. 24</b> <b>6:30-8:00 p.m.</b> <b>Madison Middle School</b> <b>3429 -45<sup>th</sup> SW</b> <b>Seattle, Wa</b>	<b>Monday, Sep. 28</b> <b>6:30-8:00 p.m.</b> <b>Eckstein Middle School</b> <b>3003 NE 75<sup>th</sup> Street</b> <b>Seattle, Wa</b>
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For more details, visit [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) and select “Levies 2010”.

Comments may be emailed to [2010levies@seattleschools.org](mailto:2010levies@seattleschools.org) or mailed to Levies 2010, Seattle Public Schools, M.S. 22-336, P.O. Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1165.

*Every student achieving, everyone accountable*  
[www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org)

September 18, 2009

Dear Alternative School Communities:

As you may know, we have had ongoing conversations about an alternative schools peer review since last spring. We recently scheduled a time for this review by the Council of Great City Schools. Many community members provided valuable feedback about the possible contents of the coming review.

After thoughtful consideration of all of our current strategic initiatives, most specifically our new student assignment plan, it is clear to me that currently, we do not have the staff capacity to take on such an important project and guarantee it can be done well. Therefore, we are postponing the scheduled October review by the Council of Great City Schools.

It is imperative that any such review be undertaken when we and our school communities have the time to reflect on recommendations and make thoughtful decisions about how to strategically incorporate the work. At this time we must focus on the myriad of other activities underway—the new student assignment plan, the rollout of the Measures of Academic Progress assessments in 76 schools, including our alternative schools, and the significant changes in delivery of both special education and bilingual services, along with the many other activities that are occurring in your schools daily.

Though the review has been postponed, the School Board and I maintain our commitment to alternative education, and continue to be interested in ways to strengthen instructional opportunities for all students. I can promise you that I am committed to and supportive of our alternative schools. I am clear about the options that they provide to our students and look forward to their longevity in the

system. I want this to be absolutely clear: there is no ulterior motive or negative intent in postponing this review—this is based solely on our capacity to undergo, and subsequently implement, such an important review, knowing the challenges of implementing a new student assignment plan that will impact each of our schools and the entire community.

I thank each of you who provided information to us about the review, probing us to think about the timing of it and the specific questions we would be asking. When the review is rescheduled we will work with our principals and community to ensure that you have timely information and are able to participate. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Holly Ferguson at [hferguson@seattleschools.org](mailto:hferguson@seattleschools.org).

Sincerely,



Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson  
Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools

cc: Seattle School Board



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