



ORCA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 13, 2009

Phone: 252-6900

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Website: www.orcapta.org

October

15 – PTSA General Mtg.

16 – Field Trip/Dead Horse Canyon

22 – Green Team Ass./K-8

23 – Parents' Night Out

28 – 2 hour Early Dismissal

29 – Harvest Festival

7-8:30PM Topic: Race Forum

Rm. 201

2PM

6-10PM

12:40PM

Orca

November

2 – Leadership Council

2 – Open Mic Night/Starbucks

3 – Picture Day – Make up

5 – Board Mtg.

3:00-4:30PM

6PM Columbia City

Garden

7PM

THOUGHTS FROM BEN. . .



One minute you're starting the race and the next you're trying to find your stride because you won't make it if you keep sprinting. Welcome back to our 6th graders who just returned from a week of stellar weather and learning at Olympic Park Institute. Many thanks to Jeff and Ms. Tanisha and the parent chaperones who were able to accompany them.

Before the PTSA meeting on Thursday night, many of this year's Celebration of Families projects will be on display. At the beginning of the year, students make projects with different themes that highlight the diversity of Orca families. Sharing students' family cultures in classrooms lays the foundation for an inclusive community and the importance of anti-bias education.

Thursday night, October 15 from 7:00-8:30 pm is the next PTSA general meeting. Two important issues headline the agenda. We will be discussing the new student assignment plan and proposed boundaries. We will also be introducing the Race Forum at Orca. The Seattle School Board will be voting new assignment boundaries on November 18th. Several community meetings are being held to provide opportunities for feedback. Additionally, comments may be sent to newassign@seattleschools.org and by postal mail to Seattle School Board, P.O. Box 34165, MS 11□010, Seattle, WA, 98124□1165. At Orca, there will be an envelope for comment postcards and also a computer in the library in which families can look up proposed boundaries online.

The new student assignment plan addresses a number of important Seattle Public Schools goals, including developing a coherent, equitable student assignment process, developing school pathways, and reducing transportation costs. Orca has been designated an "option school." Option school simply means that Orca does not have an attendance area or receive default enrollment assignments. Other than within a small geographic zone right around Orca, distance from the school is not an enrollment tie breaker. The "option school" designation is an enrollment term that is separate from Orca's identity as an alternative school (although most, but not all, option schools are also alternative schools). **The new student assignment plan does not mean that any student currently attending Orca will lose their spot. The main effect of the plan on Orca will be that**

transportation is only provided to addresses within the newly defined Mercer Middle School “service area.” It is not clear yet whether transportation services to students currently attending Orca but living outside of the Mercer Middle School service area will be “grandfathered” in during a transition period. Enrollment at Orca will remain open to any student in Seattle, but transportation will be provided within a much smaller geographic area than currently. Information about the new assignment plan and maps detailing attendance boundaries are available at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/index.html>.

New Student Assignment Plan - Upcoming Community Meetings & Events

Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing an excellent education for every student. Our new student assignment plan is an important step we must take to ensure that each school is an excellent school. The plan will be implemented in phases beginning in the 2010-11 school year.

Seattle Public Schools is now developing attendance area boundary maps that will determine initial student assignments. The boundary maps will be presented to the School Board and the public for comment this fall. After reviewing these comments, we will submit the boundary maps—including any revisions—to the School Board for a vote on November 18, 2009.

Below is a list of public meetings. Please note that they include community feedback meetings where you can comment on the new attendance area boundary maps and the new student assignment plan. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to newassign@seattleschools.org and by postal mail to Seattle School Board, P.O. Box 34165, MS 11-010, Seattle, WA, 98124□1165.

Event Date/Time Location

Community Feedback Meeting Tuesday, October 13 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Aki Kurose Middle School 3928 S Graham Street · Seattle, WA 98118

Community Feedback Meeting Wednesday, October 14 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Ballard High School 1418 NW 65th Street · Seattle, WA 98117

Community Feedback Meeting Thursday, October 15 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
West Seattle High School 3000 California Ave SW · Seattle, WA 98116

Community Feedback Meeting Friday, October 16 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Denny Middle School 8402 30th Ave SW · Seattle, WA 98126

Community Feedback Meeting Saturday, October 17 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Mercer Middle School 1600 S Columbian Way · Seattle, WA 98108

Community Feedback Meeting Saturday, October 17 1:00 pm -3:00 pm
Mercer Middle School 1600 S Columbian Way · Seattle, WA 98108

School Board Workshop Attendance Area Boundaries Tuesday, November 3, 4:00 pm
John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134

School Board Meeting: Introduction of Attendance Area Boundaries Wednesday, November 4 6:00 pm
John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134

Community Information Meeting Thursday, November 5 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Roosevelt High School 1410 NE 66th St · Seattle, WA 98115

Community Information Meeting Saturday, November 7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Rainier Beach High School 8815 Seward Park Ave S · Seattle, WA 98118

School Board Public Hearing: Attendance Area Boundaries Monday, November 9 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134

School Board Meeting: Action On Attendance Area Boundaries Wednesday, November 18 6:00 pm
John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134

Interpretation Services Will Be Available At All Meetings



ANNOUNCEMENTS



PTSA General Meeting

Please join us on Thursday October 15th at 7:00 pm for our monthly PTSA general membership meeting. This year we have increased the number of our monthly meetings to provide an opportunity for the community to gather and engage in some back/forth dialogue and share ideas. This month's meeting will provide a launch platform for the Race Forum (RF) which gives us all an opportunity to share our thoughts and experiences. The RF meeting is typically separate from the General Meeting, but we have dedicated this meeting to the RF to show our support and commitment for this very important effort. I personally believe that RF is the most important thing we do in the community. Below is the agenda:

7:00 Ben's Poem
 7:05 2010/2011 Seattle School District Assignment Plan review- Ben
 7:30 Race Forum introduction - RF committee
 8:25 wrap up
 8:30 end

Child care is provided in the library. The agenda is packed. So please be on time so that we can end as scheduled. The PTSA General Meeting will also be when the school-wide Family Projects will be displayed around the entire school for viewing as well as the last month's artwork.

Thank you!!

Koichi Kitazumi 206.856.0571 "don't swim alone, be herd"

Snack Update (2nd reminder)

Just a short update and some clarification on snack for this year. This year snack will go to all grades including middle school. Now with the earlier school start time some kids will go as long as 5 hours without eating, so snack plays a more crucial role in making sure kids are refueled and feeling energized till lunch and through the day. To be successful in our efforts, the snack committee is targeting snacks to be daily (everyday), nutritious and as organic and local as possible. To make this happen, we are budgeting approximately 20 cents per student per day or ~\$50 per year. So more than ever, your donation of \$50 or whatever you can contribute is needed in order to make the program sustainable and to take advantage of the volume discounts available when we can buy in bulk.

On the first day, your child should have come home with a packet of information. Attached to the front was a yellow PTSA form. On the back of the form was information regarding the snack and snack donation. We are now realizing that a number of you skipped the back side of the form which was easy to do. If this was the case, we are in the midst of returning the form back to you. Please return the yellow form along with your donation to your teacher.

Thanks to the efforts of Parents like Kate Malkin and Michelle Perkins with support from the teachers, snack is looked forward to and enjoyed by all. And the way we are doing this and the level of nutrition supplied by the snack far exceeds what the district could possibly supply (if they could) and meets all expectations of a healthy diet. I challenge you to find anything comparable. Thank you for your time and donation to keep this program running. It's amazing what we can do for 20¢ a day. Please feel free to call me direct if you have any questions or concerns about the snack program



HARVEST FESTIVAL coming up Thursday, October 29th!!! Come join the fun!

The Harvest Festival is an opportunity for the kids to celebrate the Fall Harvest. Here's how it works:

Time of day: Each classroom comes out to the Garden for 30 minutes at a time chosen by their teacher. This time is posted on the sign-up sheet outside each classroom.

Stations: There are different stations in the Garden. The stations can include pumpkin carving, scarecrow making, cider pressing, corn husk doll making, salsa making and sampling from a delectable food table. We need parents from each classroom to sign up to fill each of the stations during their classroom's time (or longer if they choose) in the Garden; we need preferably two parents per station.

Food: Each classroom needs some parents to bring food for their classroom to enjoy! This food is made with ingredients that can come from a garden. This doesn't mean you have to pick things fresh from a garden just that some ingredients could come from a garden. Food can be dropped off in the Greenhouse in the Garden the day before or day of the event. **MAKE SURE YOUR FOOD IS CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CLASSROOM # OR TEACHER'S NAME.**

Plates, cups and utensils are provided by the PTSA. Here are some examples:

- pumpkin bread fresh fruit or veggies
- zucchini bread soups
- spanakopita apple/carrot muffins

- spinach dip fruit pies
- apple butter and bread
- use your imagination!

Pumpkins: We need parents to donate or procure pumpkins for carving. This is not one per child but more of an ongoing carving throughout the day. It would be helpful if each class could provide 6 to 8 pumpkins.

Jugs: We need more empty (and washed) gallon jugs for the apple cider. Plastic or glass OK, with lids.

Clothes: We need clothes to dress our scarecrows with.

Siblings: Families are welcome to bring siblings along to enjoy the festivities!

Items may be dropped off in the Greenhouse

Below are listed the many different parts of the Festival that need your help:

- o Decorations
- o Promotions
- o Pumpkin Donations (for carving)
- o Make food for your classroom
- o Loan your Pop-Up canopy in case of rain
- o Donate good apples for pressing

Day of event:

- o Set-up/clean-up
- o Cider making
- o Salsa making
- o Craft station
- o Storytelling
- o Scarecrow making
- o Serving food

Pick the part that works for you and contact Roberta Kranz at 381.7556 or brkranz@comcast.net or your room coordinator.



Race Forum Kickoff this Thursday 10/15

Come to the PTA meeting starting at 7pm in the lunchroom, and then at 7:30, we'll introduce the history and purpose of the Race Forum at ORCA. This year's emphasis will be on building skills. We want to find concrete ways as parents, students & teachers to challenge ourselves to reduce prejudice and even interrupt racist behaviors whenever we can. We'll watch a short video (if you want to preview, see Koichi's link in this bulletin) and discuss positive ways we can work to be a healthy community where we all belong. Looking ahead, the next few meetings will be Thursday, November 19th and Wednesday, December 9.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS.....

IT IS HARVEST FESTIVAL DAY OCTOBER 29TH!

Please volunteer to help with Harvest Festival! This is a fun day filled with food from the Garden, pumpkin drawing, cider pressing and much more! Please see the Harvest Fest article elsewhere in the bulletin and see how you can jump in and help!

ASSISTANT SECRETARY STILL NEEDED

We still need someone to be Flora's back-up person. If you are willing to explore this position please contact me.

THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER TO MAKE ORCA A GREAT SCHOOL!

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



GARDEN NEWS!

The next monthly garden meeting will take place this **Thursday, October 15th, in the greenhouse** right after school, please mark your calendar! We are pushing for Orca to be added to the Washington Green Schools team and a zero waste Orca; come share and hear ideas. School wide recycling and compost assembly will take place Thursday, October 22nd, at 2:00pm, families are welcome.

Harvest Festival is coming up Thursday, October 29th. Festival will begin at 9:00am until school ends, every class will have a chance to come to the garden for a potluck, games, cider pressing, and pumpkin decorating. Families and friends are encouraged to join in the fun! If you would like to donate small pumpkins please let us know or come by the greenhouse. In line with our zero waste push we are asking that parents encourage their students to please bring a reusable bowl and utensil from home the day of the festival.

Students have been doing amazing things in the garden this fall; please check out the Orca garden blog at <http://orcagarden.wordpress.com/>



PE NEWS

It's great to be back! My second year at Orca as a PE teacher and now, Athletic Director has started with my feet off and running in many directions. I've been able to ground myself this last week with the realization of how excited and enthusiastic the kids have been as they enter the gym. All grade levels have brought such great anticipation towards moving and learning a new health curriculum in PE.

The PE/Health requirements have changed this year, such that 3rd-8th grade will be pre and post tested on Health concepts that are introduced everyday in PE. New PE units that most grade levels will be learning this year include: fencing, golf, razor scooter, skating, table tennis, gymnastics, archery, wave boards and circuit training with heart monitors. Also, the long awaited "Scats" program is back with practices during lunch recess. Students meeting requirements for scats club will meet together separately at last recess.

I welcome parent volunteers to help in the gym during certain PE units. Thanks for your support and great kids.

Ms. J



OFFICE SHOUT OUT

It has come to the attention of the office staff that Olivia Raymond-Williams, a 4th grader in Mr. C's class, had taken it upon herself to straighten up the Lost and Found area. When asked by a staff member what prompted her to do this gracious deed she replied, 'well, I was looking for a coat that I had lost and then noticed how messy it was and decided to hang up all the jackets'. Thank you Olivia, for going the extra mile!