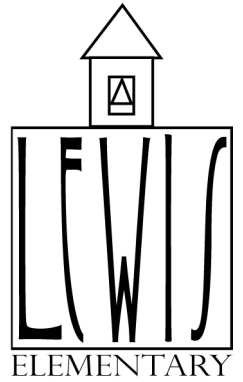


Meriwether Lewis Elementary School

Weekly Letter

503 916 6360 - <http://lewiselementary.org>

April 1, 2009



Principal Notes From Mr. Lauer

Volunteer Painters

On Monday, a group of high school students from Portland Adventist High School came out to school and helped with some badly needed painting. They painted the exterior window trim outside the dip area and also the wall behind room 2. We greatly appreciate their work and community service.

Looking for Incoming Kindergarten Students

As we begin our planning for the 2009-2010 school year we are asking any of our families who will have an incoming kindergarten student to please contact the school office if they have not already done so. Also if you know of neighborhood children who will be attending Lewis, please encourage those families to contact the school office. Thank you for your help and support.

Reminder: Snow Make Up Day

April 10th is a Snow Make-Up Day. School will be in session on Friday, April 10 for Lewis students and other schools on the trimester schedule. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Grant Writing

The PTA is looking for volunteers to help with grant writing. Experience is not necessary. Interested individuals should contact Jen Kelly at 503-777-2431

Walk and Bike Challenge

The BTA's Walk & Bike Challenge Month is fast approaching. Last May, Lewis students had the highest participation of all schools involved in the challenge. Look for more information to follow. To inquire about current and future Lewis Walk & Bike projects or sign up to volunteer, please contact Art Burden at 971-235-9016 or aburden@hevanet.com.

PTA Clothes Closet

The mission of the Portland Council PTA Clothing Center is to provide school clothing based on need for children enrolled in Pre-K through 12th grade. Used and new clothing is available. This is a great resource for winter clothing, jackets and shoes. 4th & 5th graders going to OMSI Camp may even be able to find outdoor clothing for camp. Please come by the school office for an application.

Free Reduced Lunch Reminder:

If your household has experienced a change in income, your family may now qualify for free or reduced priced school meals. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, if your income goes down, if you lose your job, if you start getting food stamps or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). You may submit an application for the first time, or you may reapply if previously denied and your income has changed. For more information and to download an application, go to:

<http://www.nutrition.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10057>

Ask for an application in the office or call: Cindy Baumbach @ 503.916.3247

Vision, Dental and Hearing Screening Scheduled

On Thursday April 9th, we will be having our annual screening for vision, dental and hearing. The vision/dental is for all kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 5th graders. The hearing is for the kindergarten and 1st graders on the re-evaluation usually a month later they will except referrals for older children you have concerns about.

Important Health Care Information

Please review the information (in the box to the right) about an opportunity from Multnomah County and Kaiser Permanente regarding health care coverage for children. This is an outstanding program and we encourage families with students who qualify to please consider applying. For more information, please contact the Multnomah ESD at 503-257-1732.

Sincerely,
Tim Lauer

Starting a Lewis Green Team!

We will be hosting a meeting next Tuesday April 7th from 3:00-4:00 in the teacher's lounge. We will be discussing ways to continue working on sustainability, and making environmentally conscious choices at Lewis. We became a Green School last May 2007 because of the projects and programs we currently have at the school. Let's get together to brainstorm ways to maintain this status.

Green Trays at Lewis: Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteer tray washers for our Washable Tray Project in the cafeteria. Shifts are from 12:00-1:30 as little as once a month, and as much as once a week. We are also looking for substitutes. Every day 150-200 trays are saved from going into the landfill. If you are interested in helping with our project, please call the office and leave a message for Julia Hamlin or email lewislearninggardens@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- PTA Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2009 6:30 pm
- Lewis Green Team Meeting April 7 3:00 - 4:00 pm
- Vision, Dental and Hearing Screening: Grades K,1,3,5. April 9, 2009.
- April 10 - Snow Make Up Day: School in session
- Lewis Garden Social & Plan Swap: April 15, 2009
- Talent Show:
- Talent Show Auditions have been rescheduled for Friday, April 24th.



Wednesday, April 15, 2009
3:00 - 4:30 pm
Musical Performance by our
4th Grade Strings

Next PTA meeting is this Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30pm

At this month's meeting:

- Representative from Pizzacata to talk about an upcoming fundraiser, including PIZZA SAMPLES
- PTA Board Nominations for 2009-2010

Please Join Us!

Do you need health insurance for your children?

Schools, Multnomah ESD and Kaiser Permanente team up to enroll more kids in zero-premium and low-cost health insurance

Kaiser Permanente has recently expanded its zero-premium children's health insurance program and will add 4,000 more children who meet income and age requirements. This represents an additional value of \$4.8 million in medical services. In addition, the Oregon Health Plan has openings for children to receive low-cost health insurance. The children may attend public school in Multnomah County.

It's easy to become enrolled: Multnomah ESD's staff of experienced, multi-lingual specialists (English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese) can quickly and confidentially facilitate the enrollment process.

Who can be covered: Kaiser Permanente coverage starts with enrolling children in grades K-6. If they qualify, their siblings, age 3 through 12th grade, can be included. For enrollment in the Oregon Health Plan, children up to age 18 are eligible, provided they meet income guidelines.

Programs: Kaiser Permanente offers zero-premium health insurance coverage for children from families that earn up to 250% of the federal poverty level (about \$4,600/mo. for a family of four).

The Oregon Health Plan offers low cost health insurance to children from families that earn up to 185% of the federal poverty level (about \$3,400/mo. for a family of four).

Contact: Call Multnomah ESD: 503-257-1732

Email to: speterso@mesd.k12.or.us

Website:

www.mesd.k12.or.us/shs/childhealth/indexnew.shtml

