

Meriwether Lewis Elementary School

Weekly Letter

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

November 18, 2009



Traffic Safety and Parking Issues

Recently we have been having trouble with drivers parking in the fire lane near the main entrance. Please note that cars can not be left parked in this space. We have been having discussions with our Portland Police Support Officer and he plans to start ticketing drivers who park in this area. Also we have had some instances of people parking in, or too close to, the designated cross walk areas. Again, drivers who do so will be ticketed.



Park and Walk! We are working with Portland Police to come up with solutions that will help us deal with some of the congestion that occurs at arrival and dismissal times. One very healthy and easy solution is for parents to park their cars on our side streets and then walk into the school to pick up their child. There is plenty of parking on 45th and by parking and walking you are setting a healthy example for your child. Your help in following traffic laws will help us keep our students and others safe.

Student Cell Phones

I wanted to note our policy on student use of cell phones at school. Our policy is that phones need to be turned off and not used during the school day. Students are not allowed to use the phone during the school day for calls or for texting. If students need to call home they can do so from the school office. Please review our policy with your child and help us reinforce our cell phone use expectations.

Student Made Cards Still Available

If you were not able to attend the Holiday Bazaar, but wanted to purchase your child's handmade card they are available in the office for purchase. The cards are \$3 - exact change or a check is preferred. Funds from this project help support the Lewis Learning Garden.

Drama Program Begins

We are very happy to report that we are continuing with our Drama Teacher in Residence program again this year. We are working with Michael Wehrli and Rosalind Fell of New Moon Productions and through the course of the school year they will be working with each classroom. Currently they are working with students from Ms. Jen and Mrs. Wieand's classrooms and they will be performing for their families on the evening of December 17.

Food Drive for the Sunshine Division at Mehri's

Non-Perishable food items are being collected at Mehri's Bakery, on 52nd & Bybee, for the Sunshine Food Division.

Mehri's Bakery is supporting the food drive, and is offering a free bowl of soup every Tuesday in November from 5-7 pm for those that bring in non-perishable food items. Great way to support the Sunshine Division and a community business!

Cleveland High School Dance Clinic

The Cleveland Sundancers dance team will be holding their 24th annual "Day with the Sundancers" dance clinic on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00am-1:30pm. The clinic is open to grades K-8, and costs \$17 if you register by December 3, or \$20 for registration after the 3rd. Sundancer T-shirts and photos of your child at the clinic are also available. Registration forms will be sent home with your child, and will also be available in the office and at www.clevelandsundancers.com. Questions? Contact coach Mallory Hollowell: mallory@clevelandsundancers.com

Fall Conferences set for week of Nov. 23

A reminder that parent teacher conferences will take place the week of Nov. 23rd. Student are in school on Monday, Nov. 23 with conferences scheduled for that evening along with conferences scheduled for Nov. 24 all day and into the evening. If you have not yet signed up for a parent teacher conference, please contact the school office.

Lewis Eats Out: Thank You

Thanks to all those that were able to visit the Funky Door on Tuesday. We thank you and the folks at the Funky Door for supporting Lewis Elementary. Our next Lewis Eats Out is scheduled for December 8, 2009 at Pizza Roma on Woodstock.

Picture Re-Take Day THIS FRIDAY

Picture Re-Take Day will be on Friday, November 20th. Picture order envelopes are available in the school office.

PPS After School Survey

Please take a few moments to complete this brief online survey about before and after school programs. This survey is for all families with elementary-age students whether or not you use childcare services or not. Survey results are used as part of an annual program evaluation and to help the district make childcare decisions. Please complete the survey by Friday, December 18, 2009.

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229V5VK3A36>

High School Redesign Meetings

Portland Public Schools and Portland Council PTA invite you to a conversation about plans for our High School System. You can attend the meeting at your neighborhood high school or one that fits your schedule. All meetings will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Meeting dates are: Cleveland High School, November 30; Franklin High School, December 3; Jefferson High School, December 1; Lincoln High School, November 30; Madison High School, December 3; Marshall Campus, December 1; Roosevelt Campus, December 2; and Wilson High School, December 2. Translation services will be provided. For more information, go to www.highschools.pps.k12.or.us.

TAG High School Redesign Meeting

TAG/HS Redesign parent-led workshop this Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:30-8:30pm Sabin School library

Butterfly Garden Work Party: Tuesday, November 24th 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Parents, kids, families, and community members are all welcome! There is no school this day because of conferences. A perfect day to volunteer at Lewis Elementary School to keep our gardens looking beautiful.

T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Orders

Lewis shirt order forms are being sent home today. Our new image was designed by Lewis parent Aaron Goodrich.



More Classroom Notes... Our notes ran a bit long this week, below are notes from Mr. Jamesbarry and Mr. Woods...

Music and Technology News From Mr. Jamesbarry

All Band and String players will be taking home instrument rental slips this week. Ask your young musician if they brought one home. I would like all slips returned by the week of November 30th. I know some are wondering about books. I will have books for students after Winter Break. I have found over the years that we don't get into the materials in the book until January. I will be sending home worksheets and songs to practice over the next couple of weeks. This material should be enough to guide students in their daily practice. In other news, 4th and 5th grade Technology classes students are finishing up their "Walk and Bike to School" advertisement campaigns. Students have been working with Animationish, an easy to use, yet sophisticated animation program to express their idea. In 3rd Grade Technology students have been learning the basics of Google's SketchUp. This is a 3d design program. They will be beginning a unit on architecture and using this program to design their structure.

PE News From Mr. Woods

This week all classes will participate in a variety of fitness circuit activities. Monday they will use our new fitness spots for a fun fitness rotation activity. Wednesday the other half will get their turn. Thank you to the PTA for the new PE equipment. It is much needed and appreciated.

Holiday Assistance

We have a few community resources that would like to support families in need during this holiday season. If you would like assistance, please pick up a form from the school office, and return it to the school office by Monday, November 23rd.