



Dear Lewis Family,

A note about this email... You are receiving this email because at one point you signed up for updates and information from Lewis Elementary School in Portland, OR. We are working to provide parents and families with more timely information and the use of this email list, along with our continued presence on the web, will help us to more effectively communicate with our families. If you are receiving this by mistake, or no longer wish to receive information from Lewis, please follow the **opt out** link below to be removed from our list...

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to another year of learning at Meriwether Lewis Elementary School. I am very honored to have the opportunity to again serve as principal at Lewis and I look forward to an exciting year. School begins for first - fifth grade students on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 8:40 am.

**Classroom Placements**

At the end of last year teachers and staff worked over several days to place students in classrooms for the 2009-2010 school year. Our work in this area is guided by striving for balance and the needs of all children. We do not accept classroom requests, but rather each spring seek parent input to help inform this process. Classroom placement letters are being mailed to homes on Monday, August 24.

**Staff Additions and Adjustments**

We have a few staff changes that I would like to inform you of. We had anticipated having Mr. Manger move to teach 4th grade and Mrs. Kohn teach kindergarten. Because of the unsettled nature of the budget situation when we turned in our staffing, we did not make those moves and instead slotted Mrs. Kohn in 4th grade and Mr. Manger in the Learning Center classroom. We anticipated making the moves once kindergarten enrollment warranted a third session. I am happy to report that we do have enough students for a third kindergarten and that Mrs. Kohn will be teaching in that role. Unfortunately, because the start of school is so close the school district has instituted a policy of not allowing special education teachers to transfer into classroom positions. This is because of the difficulty in finding suitable candidates for these high demand positions. While our initial plan to have Mr. Manger teach 4th grade is not possible this year, I am happy that he will still lead our Learning Center classroom.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce to you Ms. Marta Vasquez, who joins us to teach second grade. Ms. Vazquez is a highly regarded educator who previously has worked at Sabin and Buckman Schools. I also am happy to report the hiring of Mrs. Stephanie Wieand to teach 4th grade in Room 22. Mrs. Wieand most recently taught in Chicago and after moving to Portland last year served as a substitute teacher. I am very happy to welcome both of these



**Community Care Day:**

Saturday, August 29, 2009  
9:00 - Noon

**First Day of School:  
Grades 1 - 5**

Tuesday, Sept. 8  
8:40 am

**First Day of School:  
Kindergarten**

Friday, Sept. 11  
8:40 am

**Lewis Open House**

September 22, 2009  
6:00 pm

[lewiselementary.org](http://lewiselementary.org)

fine teachers to our staff.

### **Community Care Day**

A reminder that Community Care Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 9:00 am to noon. We will be working on general weeding and pruning in anticipation of the opening of school. Speaking of community, I would like to express my thanks to our community and parent volunteers who helped to keep our garden areas watered over the summer. In addition we had several groups of people help with general weeding over the summer. The garden area is looking beautiful and we thank our volunteers for their work.

### **Tray Washing Help Needed**

We are seeking volunteers to help with this project by washing trays twice a month (ex. every other Tuesday). We are in need of volunteers on Tuesday's (starting September 8th or September 15th), Thursday's (starting September 10th and September 17th) and Friday's (starting September 18th). The other shifts are covered. By volunteering with this project, you help us make less waste, reduce our environmental impact, and promote a healthier lifestyle. The shift is from 12:00 p.m. until approximately 1:30 p.m. Thank you for your consideration! If you have any questions or are interested in helping with this project, please call the school at 503-916-6360 and leave a message for Julia Hamlin or email her directly at [lewislearninggardens@gmail.com](mailto:lewislearninggardens@gmail.com)

### **Lewis Open House**

Finally, please note that the Lewis Elementary Open House will be held on the evening of September 22, 2009 at 6:00 pm. The PTA will be sponsoring a Book Fair the week of September 21 - 25.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 8, 2009.

Sincerely,  
Tim Lauer  
Principal

Meriwether Lewis Elementary School | 4401 SE Evergreen | Portland, OR 97206 | 503 916 6360