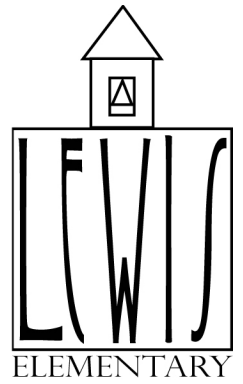


Meriwether Lewis Elementary School

Weekly Letter

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

February 18, 2009



Principal Notes From Mr. Lauer

Lewis Kindergarten Round Up Meeting Scheduled Feb. 26 - 6:00 pm HELP NEEDED! Do you know families in our neighborhood with children who will be starting kindergarten in the fall?

We encourage our families to make contact with their neighbors who may have prospective kindergarten students and have them contact the school office regarding enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year. This will help with our planning and help to make sure we have an adequate number of students for our full day kindergarten program.

We will be offering another informational meetings for prospective kindergarten families. Please share this information with family and friends who might be interested. The dates and times are listed below:

Thursday, February 26, 2009 - 6:00 pm

More information can be found at:

<http://lewiselementary.org/kindergarten>

Oregon State Assessments

We have begun our first round of state testing. This week 4th and 5th grade students will be working on the reading assessment. 3rd grade students will be doing the same on Monday and Tuesday of next week. We plan to start the mathematics assessment the week of March 2.

Attendance Update: Good News!

I am happy to report that as of last week we are on track to meet our goal of 94% average daily attendance. I greatly appreciate the work of our students, staff and families in helping to get our students to school on time and ready to learn. Thank you for your continued effort.

PPS Budget Meetings and Information



**Budget
Information**

Portland Public Schools faces considerable budget cuts because of the weakening economy. At the school board meeting on Monday, Feb. 9,

Superintendent Carole Smith discussed Portland Public Schools' key educational strategies and the trade-offs in building a budget for next school year. The framework message kicks off more than a month of intensive budget development and community involvement.

You are invited to offer your thoughts and ideas for the 2009-2010 budget. Superintendent Smith will hold two community listening sessions:

- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at Wilson High School, 1151 SW Vermont

If you can't make the sessions, they will be televised live and in repeat screenings on Portland Cable Channel TV 28. You will also have a chance to make your views known on the PPS Website and other means before the superintendent proposes her budget to the school board March 16. The board will hold public hearings before final adoption.

For more information on the PPS budget, go to www.budget.pps.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,
Tim Lauer

TRANSFER INFORMATION FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Important Information for our 5th Grade Students and Their Families Regarding Middle School and 6th Grade: Transfer

Window: January 30, 2009 - March 13, 2009

Middle School Transfer Process: Very **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ**
This process is very important for our 5th grade students who may be considering a middle school other than their home middle school. Some middle schools require attendance at a mandatory parent information meeting in order to be considered for a transfer.

Students who live in the Lewis attendance area are slated to attend Sellwood Middle School. Students who have transferred to Lewis are slated to attend their neighborhood middle school unless they choose to go through the transfer process. More information can be found on the PPS Enrollment and Transfer Office page at <http://readysconnect.pps.k12.or.us>.

Note: If you would like further information or any help with the transfer process, please contact the school office or the Enrollment and Transfer office at 503 916 3205 .

Lewis Auction Ticket Sales

AUCTION TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Get 'um while they are inexpensive.

February \$25

March \$30

This is sure to be a fun, community building, affordable, fundraising event for all of our children and for Lewis. Please support it by coming and inviting others to come.

Auction Support Needed!

The Auction is only 2 weeks away, on March 5th 2009

from 7-10 pm. We still have tickets available for \$25.

Just a few reminders: there is no school on Friday, March 6th, this is an adult only event and auction donations will be accepted until THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.

Next week you will be getting a sneak preview of some of the items that will be available at the auction. We will be posting information on the school's bulletin board with Im sign up forms for our school's buy-ins.

What is a buy-in? It is a party that is open to a limited number of people, structured around a theme that you can purchase for yourself or your child for.

What are some examples of the upcoming buy-in offers? kid's skating, parent's-night-out/childcare, adult karaoke buy-ins and more.

Why are you posting them before the auction? The PTA understands that some families cannot come to the auction. We want all children to have the opportunity to participate in the buy-ins and by posting these prior to the auction at the school the buy-ins are more accessible to all. We also hope to get you excited about the incredible items to come at the auction.

How can I purchase a buy-in space for myself or my child?

You can purchase buy-ins by signing up for the particular buy-in that you are interested in and paying for it by March 5th. Checks can be delivered to the office, accompanied with a buy-in receipt (available on bulletin board). If you are coming to the auction you can pay for the buy-in that you have signed up for at the auction (still turn in a buy-in receipt and check the box that says 'I'll pay for this at the auction' so we know that you are coming and planning to purchase your buy-in please).

What if the buy-in I want is full?

Participation in buy-ins is available on a first come first serve basis. If you or your child wants to participate in a buy-in sign up and pay for it by March 5th.

What if I forget to pay for the buy-in I signed up for?

Buy-ins that are not paid for by March 5th with no buy-in receipt will become available again at the auction.



Attention 5th Grade Families!!! Sellwood Middle School Open House February 18 - 6:30 pm

Sellwood Middle School is inviting incoming 5th graders and New Students to Sellwood MS for an informational meeting. Parents and new students are welcomed to join us on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the big gym. Sellwood 6th grade teachers and elective staff will be here to greet you. Tours and staff discussions are planned.

New students -5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grade - are invited to a student meeting on **March 4th, 9:30 - 11:45 AM**. Buses will be sent to Lewis, Lewellyn, and Duniway to pick up students. Pizza is included in this exciting visit!

TONIGHT!