

EASTSIDE NEWSLETTER

687-3286

Eastside Alternative School

December 11, 2008

December 12 (F)	NO SCHOOL ~ Planning Day
December 18 (Th)	Eastside/Harris Winter Sing 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
December 19 (F)	All School Trip to Skate World
December 22 - January 2.	NO SCHOOL ~ Winter Break
January 5 (M)	NO SCHOOL ~ Staff Development

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

In the spirit of keeping tradition alive, we are going to hold our wonderful winter craft workshop on Wednesday, December 17th. We need at least ten parent volunteers (more would be great!) to help assist the workshops. There is no need to be crafty or even slightly crafty to help. We just need people to be there in the classrooms. This is a fun, easy, way to get to hang out with your own children and to get to know other Eastsiders and it's only from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.! Please sign up to help on the sign up sheets outside of Marguerite's office. Questions? Please call Dana Fleming-Travers @344-5967.

THANK YOU FROM LIZ PHELPS

An enormous thank you to the following families who helped us to prepare for yesterday's play dough project for the Relief Nursery: the Simpson family, the Petersen-McCann family, the Carrier family, the Torrence family, the Fullerton family, the Osterlitz family, the Sheerin family, the Rabasa-Freeman family, the Greene-Chang family, the Gershenzon-Pearce family, the Phelps boys, and Grandma Judy Tanner. Just think, you did something for Eastside students and the Relief Nursery kids all at the same time! The Eastside staff would like to thank Liz for coordinating such a meaningful experience for our school!

PARKING LOT

If you have been by the school over the past few days you can see that construction is well under way on our new parking lot. The parking lot will consist of about 25 parking places complete with a drive through drop off for parents and students. There will also be a sidewalk leading up to the school. The anticipated length to completion, depending on the weather, is two months.

SNOW and ICE

and how it relates to school

When there is snow or ice in the forecast, please refer to one or more of the following to assist you with any bus route changes, school delays, or closures:

The district will NOT make an announcement if school is IN SESSION. The district will either announce that buses are on snow routes, or that school will be canceled. This announcement is usually made by 6:00 a.m., after transportation has had a chance to test some of their routes for safety.

Parents have several ways to hear about weather-related school closures in the Eugene School District.

District-run radio station KRVM-FM 91.9 will run school closure information regularly. Other local radio and TV stations will also air closure information, although the district cannot guarantee the accuracy of the message reported on those stations. For closure information on-line, go to www.valleyinfo.net.

Whenever possible, weather-related notices will also be posted on the front of the 4J web site, www.4j.lane.edu.

TAG WORKSHOP

For Interested Parents: Paula Wilkes, a professor from Pacific University (and TAG expert), will be conducting a parent workshop at CHAVEZ ELEMENTARY on January 14th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Paula's topic will be:

"Positive Gifted Identity Development and the Role of the Parent."

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS ARE ON THE HORIZON!

Our school was awarded a grant from Selco Credit Union to carpet the University Street side of the school grounds with Native Wildflowers. We are going to make seed balls from seeds, powdered clay, and compost and then get together with the Harris folks to "gently toss" our seeds along the hillside. Guaranteed to be fun and to make our school beautiful in the spring!

SHOULD I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

Most seasonal illnesses **DO NOT** require students to stay home from school. The following information should be helpful if you are unsure about sending your student to school or not. If you do not have easy access to medical care, please call our school nurse Wendy at 710-7030. There are School Based Health Centers available at all the local high schools, as well as help with Oregon Health Plan applications.

Here are some simple rules to help you through the winter months:

- Common cold with runny nose and cough, but **no fever** does not require staying home. (send tissues with your student, encourage hand washing, extra fluids and rest).
- Runny nose with cough **AND FEVER** seek medical advice. A thermometer reading over **100.4** is considered a "fever".
- Sore throat, **no fever**. Uncomfortable, but going to school is OKAY. Encourage your child to get more rest and to drink extra fluids. If you send cough drops or throat lozenges to school please bring them in and fill out the medication permission to administrate form in the office.
- **Ear pain** needs medical attention!
- **Diarrhea and vomiting** - Exclusion from school is required if the student has 3 or more watery stools in one day and for any vomiting! If a fever develops, seek medical advice. Students may return to school when there has been no fever, vomiting or loose stool for 24 hours.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **Only licensed health care providers** can diagnose, prescribe treatment and provide a note to excuse a student from school for more than 2 days.
2. **Transportation** - a sick child **will not be allowed** to travel home on their regular school bus. An authorized adult will need to pick them up from school.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Below are statements from 4 parents at Eastside who would like to be on the Advisory Committee. Please stop by the office and vote for two parents. Ballots will be available Thursday, December 11th thru Monday, December 15th.

STATEMENTS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sarah Petersen - My name is Sarah Petersen and I am the mother of twin girls, Maggie and Jessie McCann, in the 1st grade at Eastside. I am interested in serving on the Advisory Committee and would like your consideration because I am both very excited and very hopeful about the future of our new school. While our time at Eastside has been short, we picked Eastside for our girls because we love the program, the staff and the community. Our girls wake up excited to go to school every day. They love their teachers, their friends, the project classes and their advisee group (as well as math and LA). My husband, Mike McCann, and I have been thrilled with our

experience this year. I am hopeful that merging with the wonderful Harris community will be a win-win experience and that we will be able to retain the wonderful things about Eastside that we all love. In addition, in case you're wondering, I am an unemployed social worker. I worked for seven years in the Early Education classroom at The Child Center (a day treatment program for children with emotional and behavioral problems) as a child and family therapist. I love groups and group process and work well as a team member. I was on the board of our preschool when our girls were younger. I believe every child should love school, be challenged to learn and have fun learning, and I would be honored to be a representative for our Eastside community on the Advisory Committee.

Jennifer Barwood - *I am Jennifer Barwood, parent to a 2nd grader at Eastside and a Kindergartner at Harris. I feel this gives me a relatively unique viewpoint of this challenge. I consider myself a good listener and problem-solver. I have been told I am a good and efficient "meeting person". The chance to help shape a school is a rare opportunity. I would hope to do it credit.*

Craig Leve - *I am asking for your support to represent Eastside parents on the Advisory Committee for the Harris & Eastside consolidation process. I have had a child at Eastside since Fall, 2002 when my oldest son, who is now in middle school, entered first grade. My second son, Alex, is currently in 4th grade. I am inspired to serve on the Advisory Committee because I have loved the Eastside program and believe strongly that it is a truly unique and visionary program. As well, I am excited to share a parent perspective as we work together to develop the best possible school for our children and families. From academic years 04-05 through 07-08, I was the volunteer coordinator for the Eastside Jogathon (one of our two major fundraising events), volunteered in classrooms, chaperoned trips, and attended many, many school meetings around the Alternative School review and Shaping 4J processes. I am currently one of the parent site council members on the Eastside Site council. Prior to my children attending Eastside, I served on (and was co-Chair of) the Board of Directors at the Coop Family Center which provides childcare to University families and the larger community.*

In the context of a recent physical relocation, staff transitions, a new principal (the 4th since my children began at Eastside) and the need to develop a program by early February 2009, there will be much to do in a brief time. I know the work ahead will be challenging. As we embark on the journey to consolidate Eastside Elementary with Harris Elementary we will need to advocate for those features which we, as parents, value. As well, we should endeavor to maintain a sense of strong community across the children, parents, teachers, and staff of our recently enlarged school. If elected as Advisory committee representative, I look forward to actively representing Eastside parents as we work together to meet these challenges.

Parents are sometimes seen as more transient stakeholders in the school community. I believe, however, that we are the standard bearers for a long-standing community stakeholder - one that extends decades into the past, and one that will, with our

energies extend into the future: the children and families that have benefited from Eastside and will continue to benefit from a truly excellent school. Thank you for your consideration of me as Advisory Council Representative.

Tamara Torrence - *As a site council parent, I would like to represent Eastside parents on the Advisory Committee for the Harris/Eastside merger. There are several reasons that I would like to serve on this committee.*

I have sons that are in the fourth grade, the second grade, and one that will enter this school during the 2009-2010 school year. I have been at Eastside several years now, and I believe that with the lack of institutional knowledge of Eastside in our school, it will be important for the experience of the parent community to provide some of this institutional knowledge. I have a personal vested interest in essentially all the grade levels at this school because I have children at so many grade-levels in the school or the school to-be.

This is my second year on the site council. I looked recently into the legal definition of a site council, and would like to ensure that the statutory requirements for a site council are upheld in our new school. I don't believe that the legal definition has been considered when many site councils have been formed across this school district. Eastside's site council has followed the statutory requirements.

I have read "An Ethic of Excellence", the book that the teachers have all read about project-based learning, and would like to participate in conversations about what project-based learning would look like in our new school environment. I am open-minded about visions for this school with regard to the program. I personally feel that giving teachers the flexibility to teach to their strengths is one of most critical components of a strong public school.

I know that there is concern about parental involvement at Eastside. I do believe that all parents want to be allowed to work in their child's classroom if they so choose. I also think that virtually all parents want strong, positive and thoughtful working relationships between teachers and parents, and would like to work to establish guidelines in the new school that promote these positive and strong relationships. Thanks for reading, Tamara Torrence

Please vote for two parent representatives:

Sarah Petersen

Jennifer Barwood

Craig Leve

Tamara Torrence