

EASTSIDE NEWSLETTER

687-3286

Eastside Alternative School

January 15, 2009

January 19 (M) NO SCHOOL ~ Martin Luther King Holiday
January 26 - 29 (M - Th) School Choice Visitation Week for School District 4J
January 28 (W) Parent Meeting from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
January 29 (Th) Peace Festival ~ 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
@Calvary Fellowship Hall
January 30 (F) NO SCHOOL ~ Grading Day
February 2 (M) NO SCHOOL ~ Planning Day
February 6 (F) All School Trip to Skate World

A NOTE FROM KAREN HANSEN

I have been home for three weeks and I'm starting to get into some crazy routines! But I still need to visit doctors and physical therapists, which takes up a great deal of my time. I want to thank every one of you for all the nice thoughts and some of you for the awesome cards you have sent my way. My doctors are impressed with the speed of my healing, and I know deep down it's because of the support I have received from you - both students and parents.

I don't know if I'll ever want to ride a bicycle again, but I do know that I hope to run again by this summer. My doctors think this is sooner than possible but I know that because of all of you that I will continue to surprise them! I miss you all, but I know that all the staff at Eastside is just wonderful and you are in great hands. I hope to come to the evening show of the Peace Festival where I can see you all in person!

*Lots of good wishes,
Karen*

EASTSIDE PARENT MEETING

*The next Eastside parent meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 28th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. The meeting format will be similar to previous meetings. Wally will provide the latest information on the school merger process and field questions and then both Harris and Eastside parent groups will break out for their individual business meetings. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Jen Barwood to reserve space for your child(ren) at 343-2412 or e-mail jennifer@barwood.net*

SCHOOL TOURS

We are looking for parents to lead school tours the weeks of January 26th thru January 29th as well as February 23rd thru February 27th. The tours will be at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in leading a tour or tours, please contact Mieke Stevens at 338-0366 or e-mail: miekeandpatrick@msn.com

FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The advisory committee wants to hear from you about your priorities for our school structure. The easiest way to have your voice heard is to let us know what is really important to you about our school. We want to represent all parents, but we can only represent you if we know what your thoughts are.

*Advisory committee meetings take place on Wednesday afternoons, and unfortunately, this is too late to get information to you in the newsletter for the following day, so **please look at the parent website each Thursday/Friday or stop by the school office for updated information from the meeting.***

*Also, in this newsletter, we have compiled a list of items for you to think about and comment upon. Please take a few minutes to think about the issues and what is the most important aspect for our school. Please give your comment sheets to Theresa in the office **by Tuesday, January 20th at 3:00 p.m.***

Please contact us at: trtorrente@yahoo.com, sarahjanepetersen@gmail.com, jkcramer@uoregon.edu

How would you rank the following things in our new school? What is the most important to you?

*As your parent representatives to the Advisory Committee, we are trying to find out how important different aspects of our current program are to each of you. Rate each item as High/Med/ Low priority making some effort to think about what really matters to you about group mixing (Please, don't mark everything high). Comments are encouraged and can always be e-mailed to us as well! Please turn this sheet in to Theresa in the office by **Tuesday, January 20th at 3:00 PM.***

[Rating sheet did not paste in - see printed newsletter or Theresa in the office to get the rating sheet]

Optional Contact Info: _____

STAYING CONNECTED > PARENT COMMUNICATION AT EASTSIDE

See the Parent Group Web site at <http://www.eastside-parents.com> for an event calendar, breaking news, parent group and site council meeting agendas and notes, the weekly newsletter, contact information for staff and parent group leaders, and much more!

To update your contact information in the directory, or to post an event or news item on the web site, send it to Nancy West (nlwest@comcast.net). Clickable link at the bottom of every page on the web site. **Please provide address, phone, and e-mail changes to both the main school office and the parent group.**

To send out an e-mail to the parent group e-mail list, or change your e-mail address for parent group e-mails, contact Marina Ormes (marina@efn.org)

To find out more about how you can help out at school, contact Mieke Stevens, volunteer coordinator at 338-0366 (miekeandpatrick@msn.com).

Questions? Suggestions? Contact the Parent Group Communications Team: Marina Ormes (marina@efn.org), Nancy West (nlwest@comcast.net), Tim Jordan (tjordan@uoregon.edu), Tony Kaperick (TonyK@INXi.com), and Mike Jones (mrjonz@comcast.net)

Site Council Minutes January 8, 2009

1. **Review the agenda:** Add PTO meeting discussion.
2. **Review minutes:** A trip to Skate World has been rescheduled. The teachers felt that this had to be rescheduled especially since the pumpkin patch had been canceled due to bad weather. Are we going to continue the Excellent Evening with Harris' carnival? We will add this to the agenda (see below).
3. **Merger Update:** Staff meeting Monday and then again yesterday. The advisory committee met for the first time yesterday. The meeting started with group agreements and then the group discussed what teachers have voted upon. The teachers are looking at a Math/LA block, a project block and an art block. A schedule hasn't been discussed at a decision-making level yet. The projects in the new school are being thought to be longer in length than the three weeks that Eastside currently has. The rest of advisory committee time was spent largely talking about Advisee. A student survey about advisee is going to happen this week and the data will be presented to the teachers next week. An advisory committee meeting will happen next week as well. It was discussed that there are two things that break down about walls between grades at Eastside: ability-based grouping and advisee. Mixed-age grouping is going to be the topic for discussion next week amongst teachers and the advisor committee. One thought is that an increased size of school may make it more difficult for making well-informed decisions about student placement for ability-based

groupings. Going back to the Advisee discussion, it was noted that the importance of the "community" also shows to the students that people are complex and not just simply good at school work or not. There is overwhelming support for the "blocks" concept amongst the teachers.

4. **Budget discussion:** The state economy is not doing well at all. It looks like we are going to be in for large budget cuts for next year and cuts even THIS year. Harris and Eastside are asked to reduce the current 2008-2009 budget by 2% (due to the state putting this year's school improvement funds on hold and the district not knowing if it will get these funds). Schools will be asked to set aside an additional 3% into the "Fleet" fund. At the district level they are reducing their budget by 5% and then an additional 5% into the fleet fund. The school district are looking at a \$7.3 million funding reduction at the district-level next year. There will be no academy funds given - taken in totality these sorts of funds are over \$2 million. Best guess budget projections will be made in February.

5. **Fundraising discussion:** We have always done a direct drive. We think that we should go ahead with a direct-drive. This year we have had added expense with more project teachers and currently need to raise some money for THIS current year. We have three part-time project and we are using Vic as a project teacher. Can we use the "state of the economy" as a plug for the direct drive? We will draft a rough letter to put out there to give deeper to try to offset the loss of funds for next year. What about Harris participating also in a direct drive - about the schools coming together? Some discussion about them being separate due to Eastside needing funds for this current year but to merge the funds at the end of the year.

6. **Peace Festival:** Ask around to see if parents care about the videos at the Peace Festival. There was discussion about since it doesn't cost us anything that we should just do it. The other option is for Susan to ask Chris if his class would be willing to film the Peace Festival and then sell the CD's.

7. **PTO Meeting:** When would be the best time to have a meeting? We can't have it on January 29th because this is the night of the Peace Festival. There is also the question of when to have it relative to the board meeting. It sounds like February 2nd with a document going out on January 29th to the parents.

8. **Tours:** We need to get information into the newsletter about parent volunteers.

9. **Excellent Evening:** Would it be better to have this be separate from Harris as a closure for Eastside? We have heard over and over that "Eastside is Eastside" this year. There has been a strong feeling about not taking things away this year for the closure process. We can add things next year, but things can change for the following year. Should we hold to the traditions this year and then consolidate and try to keep a few of the traditions for the following year? It was then discussed though that the traditions of the Excellent Evening are mainly for the fifth graders. We would want a fifth grade parent to take this on to organize. Susan is going to ask the fifth grade parents if someone wants to take on Excellent Evening and have it as an Eastside

event, or should we do a combined carnival event with Harris maintaining the dunk tank which seems to be the biggest thing for the fifth grade students.

The next Site Council meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

ALL SCHOOL TRIP TO SKATE WORLD

*Since our trip to Skate World was canceled in December we are now scheduled to go on Friday, February 6th. Please take a moment to fill out the yellow sheet (attached to the back of the newsletter) and return it to your advisee teacher by next Thursday, January 22nd. **Everyone needs to fill out this new form - even if you filled out the form in December!***

SNACK FAIRY ALERT

Many classrooms are out of snacks. If you haven't donated in a while, could you send in a box of crackers this month? Thank you so much!

NEW PROJECTS/DBAE ART

We will not be signing up for afternoon projects next month. Instead, all students will stay with their language arts class for art beginning Tuesday, February 3rd thru Friday, February 20th.

WASH YOUR HANDS ~ IT'S A HEALTHY HABIT

Kids may not always listen when you tell them to wash their hands before eating, but it's an important message worth repeating. Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent germs from spreading and to keep your children from getting sick. Germs, such as bacteria and viruses, can be transmitted several different ways, especially by touching dirty hands. Other ways germs can spread are through contaminated water and food, through bacteria released during a cough or sneeze, or through contaminated surfaces. If kids pick up germs from one of these sources, they can unknowingly become infected. Once they're infected, it's usually just a matter of time before everyone in the household comes down with the same illness. Proper hand washing is your first line of defense against the spread of many common illnesses. Wash your hands several times a day by: washing with warm water, use soap and lather up for 10 to 15 seconds, make sure to get in between fingers and under the nails, and rinse and dry well with a clean towel.

ROOM 2 PENNY DRIVE FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Students in our 'Making a Difference' class are collecting pennies to send an animal to a family in another country to help in their community as part of the Heifer Project. Please participate by dropping pennies you find lying around your house into the jar in the office. A few pennies from every family can send a whole flock of chickens on quite a journey!

AFTER SCHOOL SPANISH

The after school Spanish class registration deadline is tomorrow, Friday, January 16th. More information and forms are available from Theresa in the office.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Various community events and flyers are posted on the board across from the office. Be sure to take a look the next time you walk into the building. This includes social service resources. Free and reduced lunch forms can be picked up in the office.

CLOTHES DONATION

The school could use donations of pants (elastic waist or sweat pants are preferred, but we will accept pants of any kind). The smaller size (4-8) are in particular need. If you have some pants at home that your child(ren) have outgrown, please bring them to the office.

LOST AND FOUND

All misplaced items (coats, gloves, lunch boxes, etc.), are collected in bins just inside the cafeteria doors. If your child(ren) are missing an item be sure to look inside these bins. The last week of every month all items in the bins will be placed on tables outside the office. All items not claimed will be sent to a local charity.

Insert not included:

Rating sheet did not paste in

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

Eastside's Annual Field Trip to Skate World is almost here!!!

We will be taking busses to go to Skate World on:

When: Friday, February 6th

Cost: \$3.50, which includes entry fee, skate rental and transportation

****** rental fee for roller blades is extra!******

Lunch at Eastside: 11:15 a.m.

Leave School: 11:30 a.m.

Return to Eastside: 2:40 p.m. (dismissed for the day!)

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Check all that apply:

___ *I've already paid the \$3.50 for _____*
(Student Name)

___ *Enclosed is \$3.50 for _____*
(Student Name)

___ *Scholarship needed*

___ *My child(ren) will not be attending the skating trip but **will be** at school for math, language arts and lunch and will be picked up by _____ at 11:30 a.m.*

___ *My child(ren) _____ **will not** be in school this day*

___ *I will be driving my child(ren) to Skate World and joining you there. After skating, I will take my child(ren) with me*

If we know the approximate number of students who will be going skating we can order the right number of buses.

***Please return this form to your advisee teacher
by Thursday, January 22nd!***