

EASTSIDE NEWSLETTER

687-3286

Eastside Alternative School

March 5, 2009

- March 6 (F) NO SCHOOL ~ Planning Day
March 8 (Sunday) Daylight Savings Time (set clocks ahead 1 hour)
March 11 (W) Choir & Marimba Concert @6:30 p.m. in the gym
March 12 (Th) Site Council Meeting @3:00 p.m. in Room 11
March 13 (F) Project Sign-Up (project to begin March 31st)
March 18 (W) Eastside Express @7:00 p.m. (All School Production)
Calvary Fellowship Hall
March 20 (F) School Choice Deadline
All forms need to be turned in by 5:00 p.m. to 200 N. Monroe
Street or turn into Theresa by Wednesday, March 18th
March 23 - 27 (M - F) NO SCHOOL ~ Spring Vacation
March 30 (M) NO SCHOOL ~ Staff Development
March 31 (T) Classes Resume

HIP-HIP-HURRAH!

Last night, the school board gave the Harris/Eastside merger the go ahead to bring our plan for a truly unique school to fruition. We thought this would be a perfect time to kick off our direct drive seeking donations for next year. We use the money received to fund a rich array of services. For example, we fund extra staff positions including fabulous David Ade, project teachers and our wonderful storyteller, buy library books, provide scholarships for overnight field trips, as well as purchasing supplies like clay, garden tools and classroom materials. This support makes a tremendous difference to our school and allows teachers to provide the kind of program your child deserves.

If you are able to participate, please drop off a check to either the office or the parent outside of school each morning. (Don't worry, you'll know who they are!) Heartfelt thanks from the future staff of 'Awesome School' for your help. (Guess it's time to come up with a real name!) If you would like to include a small amount to fund the Eastside Express expenses for rehearsal buses and storyteller for this year, please note that on your check.

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" PERFORMANCE CHANGED TO MARCH 18

After spending countless hours looking for alternative locations, we are changing the night of our production to Wednesday, March 18th (same time same station) at Calvary Fellowship Church. We apologize for the inconvenience, but there simple wasn't another viable location available on Thursday night. We appreciate the flexibility of Calvary Fellowship Hall to open their doors to us on one of their busiest nights and hope all of you can still attend. We greatly appreciate your understanding in this matter.

SEX EDUCATION UPDATE

In the past, sex education was taught at Eastside as a separate project for 5th graders. This year, Brynne and Eric will be team-teaching it as a health unit in their language arts classes. Boys and girls will be separated as the curriculum dictates. Fifth grade parents will receive notification before instruction begins and be allowed to preview all teaching materials. More information is forthcoming.

MARIMBA AND CHOIR PARENTS ~ ONE MORE REQUEST!

Many parents have shown interest in honoring David Adee and the music program with a monetary gift. Here's your chance!

Mr. Adee has put together a "wish list" of instruments and supplies that would help make the music program even better. At the top of the list is \$500 for several large Afro-Cuban style drums to be used in all classes K-5.

Also, Mr. Adee hopes to bring in Lucky Moyo a guest musician and teacher from Zimbabwe to Harris/Eastside for a day or two of full-class lessons and performance in early April: estimated cost \$200-400.

If you are interested in making a donation bring a check to the Harris/Eastside Office and be sure to note that the donation is earmarked "Music Program." Any support is welcome.

Thanks in advance for your support of David Adee and of the Arts at Harris and Eastside Schools.

*Matt Schmidt,
Choir Parent*

A NOTE REGARDING THE DIRECT DONATION DRIVE

Dear Families,

As we start our direct drive next Monday to help fund our newly formed school in its first year, it would be difficult not to think about the current economic outlook. We all understand how dire the economic situation is currently. Unemployment here in Lane County is currently at more 11% and growing everyday. In Oregon revenue projections are down by an estimated \$3 billion, and with K-12 making up about 45% of the state budget, schools are undoubtedly going to take a big cut next year. The 4J school district is projecting a shortfall of 21 million dollars next year. The 4J budget committee is considering all of their options, but the district will in all likelihood have to eliminate teaching positions to balance the district budget. Currently here in Oregon, we already have the largest elementary class sizes and on average go to school nearly three weeks less than the national average.

While it is not ideal, I believe that parents and potentially grandparents are going to have to dig as deep as they possibly can to try to offset some of these losses in revenue. Our state does not fund our schools adequately or with any level of stability. Unfortunately, I believe that at least for the time being, if we are to have the level of quality of education that our kids require it is up to us to step up dramatically our own personal contributions. I would hope that all of society one day soon will realize that Oregon will not have the economic prosperity that it needs unless it can stably and adequately support our young citizens. Until that day parents must try to bridge the gap as best that we can. Otherwise, we will have to accept substandard educational opportunities for our students and subsequently a lower standard of living.

In the years past, Eastside has done an admirable job raising money to fund a significant portion of one FTE (full-time teaching equivalent) which has gone to pay a little bit in salary to keep our morning classes relatively small, and to pay for some teaching time for projects. If we want to start our school off well and be able to hire great artists and our wonderful David Adee to work with our children, we need to step it up especially since we know that the amount of money for each student is going to drop significantly next year. If we don't want to have to lose teachers and if we want our kids to have opportunity, we need to do more and fund this school by digging as deep as we possibly can. Think about your discretionary funds in this difficult economic time, and what means most to you in your life. I would hope that your child's education and the education of children in this community rise to the top.

Schools need funds like never before and the children of our school will be very appreciative when they are adults and remember how the adults in their own life supported them.

*Sincerely yours,
Tamara Torrence
Site Council Representative*

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Many students and staff came to school in their pj's and enjoyed a day full of surprises, with books around every corner. I'd like to share a poem I received the day after ~ such a delight I couldn't keep it just to myself!

*Dear Susan, I think I must say
That I got quite a surprise yesterday
I had just gotten home with my tie nice and loose
When my daughters told me, 'twas the birthday of Seuss.*

*What's that mean, I asked, as I hung up my hat?
It means that we get to read "Cat in the Hat"
my daughters replied. How about that!*

*I think that it's great. I knew just what to do.
"Lets all run around playing Thing One and Thing Two."*

*But they wanted to read Dr. Seuss books to me
And not to some fox wearing socks in a tree.*

*So after a supper of green eggs and ham
And after we said goodnight to friend Sam
We ate some toast with raspberry jam.*

*Then we got on our jammies and climbed into bed
And put all our Seuss books on top of the spread
We read "Horton Hears a Who" and "Cat in the Hat"
And all fell asleep right away after that.*

*We had a great time and I'd like to say
Thank you so much for that wonderful day.*

*I would read Seuss on a train, in the dark, or on a plane
I would read him in a box, with a fox, wearing purple socks
I would read him here or there, in a chair or with a bear.
I would read Seuss anywhere!*

*By Mike McCann
Jessie & Maggie's dad*