

# Buzzin' Around Madrona



**November 2008**

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you enjoying our beautiful fall weather and breathing a sigh of relief that your child is settling into school and life is moving forward! This last month has been an exciting month at Madrona. We emphasized living free of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and enjoyed a wonderful celebration of harvest with our PTO's Family Fun Night!

Volunteers have been flowing in helping us to provide a solid program of learning for our students. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to volunteer in some way at our school this month! We hope to see even more of you next month!

## Attendance

Our school attendance rate has started out beautifully with a current rate of 97.6% of students attending school for September and October. This is a strong way to start the school year for our children! It is the goal of No Child Left Behind to have all students attending the school year at least 92% of the year. This translates to missing no more than fourteen days over the whole school year. Tardiness or students who leave early can also be considered absent for a half day if more than 50% of the day is missed.

Overall our attendance is great and our kids have the optimum opportunity to benefit from our school programs with such good attendance! Way to go parents!

Be aware that frequent tardiness can also severely impact a student's school success. Most teachers begin the day by reviewing the day's events and by helping students to know about any special events that will be occurring that day. This sets the tone for the day in the classroom. Often teachers begin teaching in the area of reading. This is because reading is one of the most difficult skills to obtain, and we devote a great deal of learning time to helping students become successful readers. Students who are frequently tardy often miss both the opening of class and instruction in reading. This has a very negative impact on the students who are late. Many of the students will experience set backs in their academic progress due to tardiness.

It is important that parents recognize the importance of getting their child(ren) to school on time. We are here to help, so if we can be of assistance with a chronic attendance problem of any sort, please let us know. We want to partner with you to help your child be more successful.

To recognize good attendance, all students who have not missed any days of school and have two or less tardies in a month, will enjoy a special recess time with Mrs. Van Brunt. It's a nice little way for our school to say thanks for being on time and for using your school resources well for learning!

# P.T.O. NEWS

This year our new PTO board and other active PTO parents decided to switch two of our big fund raising events. We did our annual jog-a-thon in October and will have our school carnival in late winter or early spring. Our jog-a-thon was a complete success. We raised over \$9,200 compared to \$6,800 last year. Way to go Madrona supporters! Students earned a variety of fun prizes including school pencil bags, extra recess time, school lanyards, water bottles, movie money, gift certificates for books, and even limo rides and ice cream at Dairy Queen! Mrs. Van Brunt challenged our students to raise \$7,000 or more. They accomplished that feat and will soon be treated to a surprise visit from Mrs. Van Brunt, the Madrona Rockin' Queen. The students are looking forward to seeing just how wild Mrs. Van Brunt can look for them. She says, "The kids rock my world, so I hope I can return the fun for them!"

Our PTO and school staff also hosted our Family Fun Night on October 30<sup>th</sup>. About 70% of our students and their families attended. Many students and their families dressed up. There were many fun, free activities such as pumpkin rolling, face painting, a photo booth, and booths to make bird feeders and spider hats, along with jump roping and play dough. We also had two jump houses going outside. Inside the cafeteria, various yummy food items like nachos, chili, cinnamon rolls and popcorn were available for sale. Cold and hot drinks were also available for purchase. It was a fun night for children and for those who worked. Thanks to everyone who volunteered in some way to make this a memorable evening for our students. A

special thanks to Hidden Valley students from FFA and College Dreamers. We couldn't put this on without your help!

We recently placed the order for our new stage curtain. The PTO donated \$4,000 towards the purchase. We were able to get an acoustical curtain. This type of curtain will help mask out noise between the stage and the gym. This feature will make our performances feel more professional. It will also make our occasional need to use the stage like a classroom more successful. The new curtain will be made of a flame retardant fabric in black. The valance will be trimmed with a bright yellow trim. It will reflect our school colors and the traditional color of many stage curtains. We are so excited to be making this awesome improvement to our school, and it could not have happened without the fund raising efforts of our PTO and our students! Thanks!

Our next PTO fund raiser starts in November. It is a Cary's Chocolate sale. This is a perfect gift for the holiday season. Consider allowing your child to try this sale to support our school. Information will go out the first week of November. The sale ends November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Santa Secret Shop is a fun event that allows our students to shop for their family members safely while at school. Most of the items are very reasonably priced, making it affordable for most families. This will happen December 9-10.



# Lost and Found



**Please mark all of your child's sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, jackets, etc. with a name.** We have so many nice clothes without names on them...it really is a shame. All currently stored items will be out for conferences, so please come and look for missing items! We will donate all items not claimed on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 to local charities.

## No Pets Allowed!



Please remember that pets are not allowed on school grounds at any time unless previous arrangements have been made with Mrs. Van Brunt. Some children may be afraid, allergic, etc. Please be considerate of others.

## Adverse Weather Information

Attached is a flyer explaining what to do in the event of adverse weather. The school buses may not be able to use their normal routes, and this flyer also lists by bus number what the alternate routes will be. **Please keep this flyer handy for weather emergencies.**

# Lunch Money

Parents, please remember to put your child's lunch money in an envelope with his/her name and classroom teacher on it! We have received unmarked money three times this year already, and there is no way to match it up. There is a self pay station set up in the cafeteria with envelopes, etc. if you would like to come in and pay in person.



Madrona will be accepting donations of new toys for the "Toys for Tots" toy drive starting in November.

District wide last year, we collected an outstanding **330** new toys, which was the second highest donation total in the Rogue Valley!

We are proud to be a part of this campaign which benefits needy families from Wolf Creek, Grants Pass, Murphy, Merlin and south to the Illinois Valley this Holiday Season.

The donation boxes will be located in the office. We look forward to your support in this great event.

# Drug Alert!

There is a new drug called “Strawberry Quick” that is actually crystal methamphetamine in disguise. It looks like strawberry pop rocks (the candy that sizzles and pops in your mouth) and it even smells like strawberry! It also comes in chocolate, peanut butter, cola, cherry, grape and orange, and is being handed out to kids in school yards.

Please instruct your children not to accept candy from strangers, or even from their friends who may have received it thinking it was candy, and report it immediately to a teacher, principal, or other adult they know they can trust. By raising awareness, we may be able to prevent any tragedies from occurring.

## Donations Needed

We try to keep a few nicer clothing items on hand in case of spills, etc. The only things we seem to be in need of are:

1. Boys pants sizes 6-10
2. Belts

Thanks for helping keep our Madrona Hornets comfortable!

Andrea Rodgers  
Family Advocate

## Community Food Drive



It is that time of year again when our students focus on the important life skill of friendship. Along with that our school participates in a school wide community food drive. Our school has the perfect opportunity to show our children how the skill of friendship translates into serving others. Our school has provided thousands of canned and boxed food items over the last five years to the Josephine County food bank. It is our hope that we can provide many unfortunate folks with something to eat over the next several months. Your generosity in the past has touched my heart. Last year the director of the program commented on how much our small school was able to provide for others who are less fortunate. Our efforts do make a difference! The school food drive will begin on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and continue through Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. We will keep track of the number of items each class brings in. The class with the most donations will enjoy a special thank you from Mrs. Van Brunt. So spend a few moments thinking about what your family might be able to contribute to this effort for others. Even one canned or boxed item will help to fill someone’s empty belly in the near future. Canned soup, chili and stew are especially appreciated. Remember all items must still be in the original, unopened packaging. Thanks again for opening your hearts to others who have less than us.

## Easy Donation Opportunities

Giveline.com is a revolutionary online store created for the community-minded shopper. Every transaction in our store generates a financial contribution to your favorite school. With our unique supplier relationships and efficient new technology, this contribution is significant and truly makes a difference. Giveline contributes between 7 and 33 percent of product sales to the selected organization, with a store-wide average of nearly 16 percent per transaction. The amount to be donated varies by product; however, our "open book" policy includes displaying the exact amount on every product page as well as throughout the checkout process. Simply go to [www.giveline.com](http://www.giveline.com) to sign up, and start shopping today!

Washington Mutual has a fundraiser called "WaMoola for Schools." If you enroll your Washington Mutual Debit Master Card at [www.wamoolaforschools.com](http://www.wamoolaforschools.com) every purchase you make using your card designates a portion to the school of your choice.

Target offers a similar program called "Take Charge of Education." By using your Target "REDcard" and designating Madrona as the recipient, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to our school.

Don't forget about eScrip. By registering your Safeway Club Card with eScrip, you make a donation every time you shop! Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or call 1-800-400-7878 to register.

We also still collect Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup labels, used printer cartridges, cell phones, and plastic grocery bags. All of these tremendously help our school, and we thank you for your support!

## Parent Conferences

As a school, and as parents, we have an obligation to our students to meet periodically and talk about their progress. Please make sure you take this important opportunity to meet with us.

- ❖ Make an appointment you can really keep.
- ❖ Be on time and make sure you ask the questions you need to ask.
- ❖ Listen to suggestions from your child's teacher.
- ❖ If you cannot attend, make sure to make arrangements immediately to schedule a different time to talk to the teacher.

Your child's success in school impacts his or her future. Please don't miss the chance to make a difference in his or her life. Your input and questions are important! We look forward to seeing you on either December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Special Events



You will notice that I often invite parents and family members to join our school for special events like assemblies and performances. I need your help with a small problem that occurs sometimes when you do attend. We need you to sit in the chairs provided along the walls of the gym. There are usually plenty of seats for all the parents who come. If you sit in the seats in the middle that are set up for our students, it causes a problem for the little guys behind you. They simply can't see over your adult bodies. Our gym floor is not sloped theatre style so we seat kids somewhat by size in those rows. The primary students sit on mats on the floor and the upper grades sit with third in front, fourth in the middle and fifth at the back of the rows. Even doing that, some of our kids really have to stretch to see. So please, look for a chair along the sides of the gym. If there are no seats available, ask me and I will get one for you. Thanks so much for your consideration!

## Free Meals!



You mean there really is such a thing as a free meal? At Madrona there is! Breakfast is free every day for **EVERY STUDENT!** We offer a selection of nutritious, healthy, hot meals, including milk, fresh fruit or juice for free. How could you pass that up?

## Good Nutrition At School



The Federal government regulates school nutrition for all students who eat meals using our food service. Along with that is a healthy eating act that all school districts are obligated to address with supporting policy. For elementary students we encourage all students to make good eating choices each day both in the cafeteria and when we have events in our classrooms. Parties have specific suggested menu guidelines that encourage offering some healthy food snacks such as fruit trays, vegetable trays with low fat dips and things like light popcorns, trail mix, and pretzels. Some high fat and high sugar items can be offered, but should not be the only choices at parties.

In the same light we want to strongly encourage parents who pack their child's lunches to keep that same kind of balance in what is provided. Make sure lunches are balanced with healthy portions of fruits, vegetables and lean proteins. Limit the carbohydrates and high sugar or fat items. Make sure that dairy items are included whenever possible. We also appreciate parents limiting items like candy, cakes, cookies, and chips in school lunches. Please consider sending juice, milk or water for drinks rather than soda. These efforts are made to help your child to grow up healthy and strong and to have the chance to learn to how to make good food choices for themselves when the opportunities arise. Your child's good health habits are a lifetime gift you can begin giving now.

## Education of All Disabled Children/Young Adults

Public law 105.17 known as I.D.E.A. (Individualized Disability Education Act) requires that school districts provide a free and appropriate education to all disabled children/young adults ages 0 to 21.

Three Rivers School District requests the identification of any disabled children/young adults between the ages of 0 to 21, who are not enrolled or currently being served by the district schools.

If you know of any disabled children/young adults between the ages of 0 to 21 who are not receiving educational services, please call the Special Education Department of the Three Rivers School District. The phone number is 862-3111.

## No Child Left Behind

Our school receives federal funds for Title One programs that are part of the No Child Left Behind Act. Under this law, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). If you request this information, the district will provide you with this information in a timely manner. You have the right to request the following information:

- If the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction
- If the teacher is teaching under an emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived
- The type of college degree major of the teacher and the field of discipline for any graduate degrees and certificates
- If your child is receiving Title One services from paraprofessionals and if so, his/her qualifications

If you would like this information, please contact Madrona Elementary School.

## State Assessment Tests



Each year all third, fourth and fifth grade students are assessed in both reading and math achievement. At some grade levels, writing or science may also be assessed. These assessments are aligned with the state learning objectives for each grade level in these areas. These assessments are one of the indicators that a student has successfully learned the skills needed in that subject area. Soon, our students will begin those assessments. Our students work hard along with our teaching staff to achieve those goals. You can support good learning success by making sure your child is doing their homework each week and that he or she is reading at home on a regular basis. Good attendance, reasonable bed times and your interest in what is happening at school are all ways you can help your child to achieve to his or her highest potential. Talk to your child each day about what they like in school, what is difficult and who they enjoy as their friends at school. Just showing interest reminds your child that you value them and their school experience! Last year our students showed excellent gains towards meeting and even exceeding statewide learning goals. This year, we hope to continue that success with your help! Thanks for being our partners in this amazing learning journey!



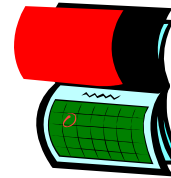
## November Events



- Nov. 3** – Lockdown Drill Practice
- Nov. 3** – Perfect Attendance Recess 1:20pm
- Nov. 5** – Announce top jog-a-thon winners
- Nov. 5** – Breakfast with the principal
- Nov. 7** – Rock Star Van Brunt visits 7:45am in the gym
- Nov. 7** – Extra recess for jog-a-thon kids
- Nov 10** – No School – Staff Development
- Nov. 11**– No School – Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 12**– Parent Conference information goes home
- Nov. 12-21** - Community Food Drive
- Nov. 13** – Limo rides for jog-a-thon winners  
Limo #1 11:00am : Limo#2 12:00pm
- Nov. 13** - PTO meeting 2:10pm in the library
- Nov. 14** – OMSI is here-“Gollyology” presentation 12:40pm in the gym
- Nov. 19** – Parent/Student Thanksgiving Lunch in Cafeteria at appropriate student lunch times
- Nov. 20** – Site Council meeting 2:10pm in the library
- Nov. 21** – Pride Day Assembly 1:00pm in the gym
- Nov. 25** – Perfect Attendance Recess 1:20pm
- Nov. 26** – No School – Clerical Day
- Nov. 27** – No School – Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 28** – No School – Vacation Day



## “Tentative” December Events



- Dec. 1** – No School – Clerical Day
- Dec. 3** – Regular School Day – Evening Parent Conferences
- Dec. 4** – No Classes – Parent Conferences
- Dec. 9-10** – Santa Shop
- Dec. 11** – PTO meeting 2:10pm in the library
- Dec. 16** – Winter Program – Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades – 6:00-7:00pm in the gym
- Dec. 17** – Parent/Student Holiday lunch in the cafeteria at appropriate student lunch times
- Dec. 18** – Site Council in Library 2:10 pm in the library
- Dec. 19** – Pride Assembly 10:00am in the gym
- Dec. 19** – Class Parties 12:45pm
- Dec. 22 –Jan. 2** – No School- Winter Break  
**School Resumes on January 5th, 2009.**

There could be changes in dates, as well as additional upcoming events. We will keep you posted. Thanks!



# Lifeskill Winners for October "Courage"

## Kindergarten:

Jayson Grossen  
Mason McCue  
Ashtyn Tenison  
Alicia Quintero  
Logan Dove  
Arora Davis  
Marco Ordaz  
Allie Therson

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

Christopher Dillon  
Sean Marrs  
Megan Mathiasen  
Wyatt Smith  
Colten Davis

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Chrissy Davies  
Brooklyn Hurd  
Garrett McGinnis  
Jenelle Hurley  
Charlie Fraser-Lindsey  
Glenn Rossi  
Robert Pettijohn

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

Mattia Sakraida  
August Curran  
Taylor Decker  
Cody Milburn  
Aubrey Richner  
Dane Backes  
Julie Bradley  
Michael Dillon  
Caitlan Heath

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Bailey McGinnis  
Ruby Madden  
Alex Jarvis  
Carly Cubic  
Tori Casperson  
Dustin Davidson  
Hailey Pettijohn  
Gabe McLaughlin

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Sierra Dykeman  
Ashley Luter  
Noah Nutting  
Owen Stevens  
Arrnani Arnold  
Lolly Fowler  
Adrienne Still  
Gabe Young

# Math Masters for October

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Kali Henderson  
Lexi Guzman

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Alahna Staten  
Megan Schiavone  
Emily Schiavone  
Nick Graeber  
Sydney Schultz  
Kim Kuykendall  
Tyoma Loginov  
Sierra Dykeman  
Tonnie Hanks  
Braham Berge-Butts  
Dylan May  
Tanner Prince  
Nick Stark

# Accelerated Reader Achievements

## **Independent**

Tyler Andrews  
Eva Bernard  
Tyler Cook  
Cameron Hooker  
Brooklyn Hurd  
Alex Jarvis  
Tara Klose  
Tyler Krun  
Ashley Luter  
Levi Luter  
David Pitts  
Glenn Rossi  
Sydney Schultz  
Duane Spicer

## **Super Reader**

Julie Jarvis  
Tara Klose  
Dalia Linares  
Reed Sandys  
Grace Satterfield  
Nicholas Spangle

## **Super Reader 2**

Kasey Copeland  
Taylor Decker  
Kali Henderson  
Kitty Kurutz  
Lorelei McNally  
Cody Milburn  
Jazzmin Morton  
Reed Sandys

## **Super Reader 3**

August Gannett  
Kali Henderson  
Ethan Hill  
Christopher Pearson  
Marcus Peckham

## **Super Reader 4**

Jenelle Hurley  
Brianna Stark  
Latecia Torres

## **Advanced Reader**

Dane Backes  
Mary Backes  
Kenneth Frankel  
Pasquelina Godfrey  
Samantha Heath  
Kali Henderson  
Alexandra May  
Autumn McLaughlin  
Lillian Melvin  
Christina Nielsen  
Megan Schiavone  
Makayla Watts

## **Advanced Reader 2**

Tonnie Hanks  
Alexandra May  
Jared Scherrer

## **Advanced Reader 3**

Armani Arnold  
Dylan May  
Bailey McGinnis  
Zachary Smith

## **Advanced Reader 4**

Emily Adams  
Chase Allen  
Callie Hippler  
Elizabeth Therson

## **Star Reader**

Zachery Morris

## **Star Reader 3**

Ruben Martinez  
Nicholas Stark

## **Star Reader 4**

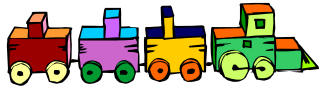
Tanner Prince

## **Classic 3**

Michael Staykow

# Community Corner

## Christmas Bazaar



North Valley High School is holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 9:00am – 4:00pm. This is the most talked about craft fair in the area, featuring some of Southern Oregon's finest handcrafts. There is free admission, raffles throughout the day, and Famous Taco Soup, sandwiches and yummy desserts. The Proceeds will benefit the Class of 2009 Drug and alcohol free graduation celebration.

## Basketball Sign Ups



The boys and girls club is starting their basketball registration. They have divisions for all ages, Kindergarten through High School. Sign ups are on November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at the Boys and Girls Club. If you are interested, there are flyers in the school office. Have your child pick one up, or come in and see us!

## Free Screening Clinic



This free screening is being offered by experts from Shriners Hospitals for children in Portland, and can treat children from birth to 18 years old who need treatment for:

- Problems with bones, joints or muscles
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida
- Scoliosis (curvature of the spine)
- Hip disorders
- Hand and foot disorders
- Club foot
- Skeletal growth abnormalities
- Cleft lip/palate
- Burn scars

**Date:** Saturday, November 8, 2008

**Time:** 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

**Location:** Three Rivers Hospital  
500 SW Ramsey Ave.  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

**Information:** 474-3092  
479-5126

## Girls Softball



The GPHS girls' fast pitch softball league is starting FREE open field practices on Sunday afternoons. It is open to girls ages 6-14. Officially the season opens on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Donny Bellum at 472-8757 for more information.