

Fruitdale Elementary School

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www.threerivers.k12.or.us



DECEMBER 2011

Message from the Principal

Dear Fruitdale Families,

As winter quickly approaches and the first trimester draws to a close, the Fruitdale Panthers are hard at work. First trimester report cards will be sent home the week of December 5th. If you have any questions regarding your child's academic progress, please don't hesitate contacting us.

Double Dose Groups

Fruitdale is a school-wide Title One School. We have set aside much of our resources to not only provide academic support in our reading, writing, and math classes but also to provide a "double dose" opportunity. All Fruitdale students were given a variety of assessments at the beginning of the school year including DIBELS and STAR. Teachers used this data as well as other classroom assessments to determine those students below grade level or in need of some extra support in order to ensure academic success.

Our students in our double dose groups receive an extra 30 minutes of either math or reading instruction

four days a week. Double dose students are then monitored every other week in order to check for progress on their academic goals. Once students have made progress (usually six to twelve weeks), they are removed from the double dose group and another student is then able to take the open place. Throughout the year, we should be able to provide this opportunity for many students.

OAKS Testing

Fruitdale third, fourth, and fifth grade students have completed the first round of OAKS testing in reading and math. For those of you who are not familiar with OAKS testing, it is our State-wide Assessment tool. As with every academic year, this year's OAKS test has some changes. Most notably the standard has increased in reading, very similar to the changes that were made last year in math. Our data from our first round of testing will be analyzed by teachers. All students will be receiving two more opportunities to take the OAKS test, the second of which will be

taking place in March just prior to Spring Break. It is always exciting to compare the results of the first round of testing to those of the second round. The progress is always substantial and we would expect nothing less this year.

Upcoming Events

As December approaches, we are looking forward to several events. All students have been busy preparing for their annual music programs. Please mark your calendars. Our kindergarteners, first and second graders will be performing the night of December 13th. Our third, fourth, and fifth graders will be performing the night of December 15th. All performances will begin at 6:00pm.

I would like to thank all of our families for their support of Fruitdale. I appreciate all that you do.

Heather Yount
Principal
Fruitdale Elementary School
heather.yount@threerivers.k12.or.us

Important Dates

December 2nd: No School, Clerical Day

December 6th: Site Council Meeting
2:00 Conference Room
PTO Pizza Card Fund Raiser Begins

December 9th: PBIS Assembly 1:00

December 13th: PTO Meeting 2:15
Library

December 13th: K-2nd Grade
Christmas Program 6:00-7:00 PM
Gym

December 15th: 3rd-5th Grade
Christmas Program 6:00-7:00 PM
Gym

December 16th: Class Christmas
Parties after lunch

December 19th to January 2nd:
Winter Break

January 3rd: Classes Resume



There are still some outstanding books and fines. Please help your student to learn RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY by returning books and paying fines. It is very hard for me to deny a child access to library books because of a few dollars. I am happy to create a payment plan and will take as little as a few cents at a time toward fines.

The BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION program is an important fundraiser for our library. Check out how your child's class is doing by counting the birds on a wire in the library window.

The student store is open on Fridays during lunch! This year we have wonderful Japanese erasers and Smencils. Smencils are \$1.00 and erasers range from \$1.00 - \$5.00.

Consider helping your student to participate in the program called *Reading is an Investment*. This literacy and financial education program is offered by our Oregon State Treasurer Ted Wheeler. Readers keep track of the minutes that they read, are required to read at least three books from a recommended list and are able to enter up to 10 times before the March 31, 2012 deadline. There will be a drawing for an opportunity to win a \$500.00 Oregon College Saving Plan account and the winner's school will also receive \$500.00. Look for information @ www.ost.state.or.us/read or visit the library for reading lists and forms.

I am looking for donations of American Girl dolls and accessories. I would like to be able to check out the dolls to readers who read and take AR tests on the AG stories about the dolls. Thanks.

Mrs. Marr
Library Manager

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Three Rivers School District Board of Directors announces that three positions on the Budget Committee have expired. These positions are for a three-year term.

The Board will be accepting applications for appointment to fill the expired vacancies. All applications must be submitted to the District Office no later than January 13, 2012. Applicants must reside within the Three Rivers School District. Further information and application forms may be obtained at: District Administration Office located at 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527; by calling the Board Secretary at (541) 862-3111 ext.: 5217; or accessing the district website at <http://www.threerivers.k12.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=4619>

Parents - please remember that school is out at 1:55 PM. It is very disruptive to the entire class when a parent goes to a classroom to pick their child up early. We also have some concerns with the amount of traffic in the hallway at the end of the day. From 1:35 on, no one will be permitted in the hallways. As always, if you are volunteering, please check in at the office before you go to the classrooms. We ask that you respect this important teaching time. Thank you.

