



# Fruitdale Elementary School

1560 Bill Baker Way Grants Pass, Oregon 97527 (541) 476-2276

## PANTHER PAWS NEWS

April 2009

[www.threerivers.k12.or.us](http://www.threerivers.k12.or.us)

### Principal's Message

April is almost upon us and we are over two-thirds of the way through this school year. I am amazed as I walk the halls and visit the classrooms at Fruitdale Elementary School at the learning and hands-on participation our students receive everyday. Our kids are engaged with opportunities that are life learning and practical. They come to us each morning refreshed and ready to learn and play and practice. They are the future and I am proud to be involved with this process.

We have had many activities this past month from sleepovers to field trips to science works. Everyday our teachers are prepared to face the challenges our students face by exposing them to different concepts and traditional experiences. With cutbacks in spending and the dismal future we see, our teachers still find a way to proceed with activities and lessons that engage our students and encourage their attendance. What a great institution.

As we head into spring, please remember the importance of keeping focused and on task. In our everyday lives remember to enjoy life, remember to encourage our kids; remember to take the time to see to each other's needs. This is truly a trying time for so many families and we feel the grief and sometimes hopeless feelings that fester in our society as of late. No matter how difficult life may seem, I encourage each person to live in the moment and not take life or its challenges for granted. Take the opportunity to read to your wonderful children; take a few moments to help with their homework; show interest in their school activities, their teachers and friends.

I believe as we pull together as families and friends we will see these hard times turn to a positive future.

There are so many opportunities ahead. We are looking forward to a great spring. I introduced in our last newsletter the Fruitdale School Community garden project. I am happy to report the gardens are well under way and the generosity of the people in our community is overwhelming. We are ready to build planter boxes and run the plumbing for water. We are still looking for wood to build the planters, but feel it is forthcoming. Susan Calvert is a Fruitdale neighbor who is heading this project and she comes to us highly qualified and eager to make this a strong reality. I look forward to the lessons that will be learned by working the gardens and understanding that food doesn't just come from the grocery store. If there is anyone out there who is interested in helping with this project, please call the school and give your name and phone number and someone will return your call soon.

I could go on and on, but suffice it to say, I couldn't find a better school than Fruitdale. I love the staff, I adore the students, and I am committed to making this the best school in Southern Oregon. Please know my door is always open and I enjoy meeting and greeting you and knowing your connection to our kids. As always, I am here to serve. Have a great spring.

Sincerely,

Kelly Christensen



**Rotary Student of The Year**

**Lilli Stephens**

Lilli was surprised that she was chosen as student of the year. She lives with her mom, dad, big brother, 4 cats and 2 dogs. She is ten years old and was born in Portland, Oregon on June 13, 1998. She moved to Grants Pass last year. Her favorite color is baby blue, favorite subject is writing and art. What do her friends have to say about her.....

“I think Lilli is kind to everyone!” Said Jordan Mitchell. “She always turns her work in on time,” said Ariona Pennington. “Lilli participates in everything and is fun to be friends with,” said Jadyne Acevado. We here at Fruitdale wish to congratulate Lilli on her accomplishment, her great attitude and wish her the best on her journey to Middle School. Way to go Lilli!!!!



**Kindergarten Round Up**

The Fruitdale staff is looking forward to welcoming you to join our ranks at a very **Special Kindergarten Round-Up** on Thursday, May 7th from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. Your child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2009 to be enrolled in Kindergarten for the 2009/2010 school year. You will need to bring proof of immunizations and a birth certificate. If you have any questions please call the office at 476-2276. Look forward to meeting you and your “new student”!

**Kitchen News**

\*\*Please remember to keep your child’s account current\*\*

**A memo from the office**

Please remember to call the office when your child is absent for any reason at all. THANK YOU!



## **April Calendar**

**April 1st-** April Fools Day

**April 1st-** Jr. Great Books

**April 2nd-** Chinese Folk Art Concert @ the Performing Arts Center 10:00am (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

**April 2nd and April 3rd-** Middle Rogue Steel Headers (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**April 7th-** Rogue Valley Symphony 9:00am (Gym)

**April 8th-April 14th-** Book Fair (Library)

**April 9th-** Love of Learning Night 6:00pm-8:00pm

**April 13th-** Josephine County Courthouse field trip (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**April 14 th-** Parent pack meeting 5:30pm-6:30pm

**April 15 th-** Keep America Singing Performance (4<sup>th</sup> grade) GP Performing Arts Center 9:30am

**April 15 th-** Farm To Market (Gym)

**April 16th-** Kidzone 5:30pm-7:30pm

**April 16th-** Personal Safety Program (Kinder, 1st grade and 2nd grade)

**April 21 st-** Site Council Meeting (conference Room) 2:00pm

**April 21st-April 24th-** Talk about Trees

**April 25th-** Battle of the books 8:00AM (Fruitdale Library)

**April 29<sup>th</sup>-** Breakfast with the Principal

**April 30<sup>th</sup>-** Oregon Rangers 10:00am (4<sup>th</sup> grade)

\*\*If Opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. \*\*

\*\*The best bridge between despair and hope is a good night's sleep. \*\*

\*\*The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook. \*\*

\*\*Be kind. Every person you meet is fighting a hard battle. \*\*

\*\*An open mind collects more riches than an open purse. \*\*

\*\*The manner in which it is given is worth more than the gift. \*\*

\*\*An apology is the superglue of life. It can repair just about anything. \*\*

\*\*A final thought.....  
You can either complain that rose bushes have thorns- or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses. \*\*



# LIBRARY NEWS

## APRIL 2009



Get ready for the Scholastic Book Fair in the library April 8 – 14. Students will be able to fill out wish lists during library time. The Book Fair will be open during our Love of Reading night on April 9. I will be ordering Christian books. Is there a volunteer to open the fair during times that The Edgewater Fellowship meets here? Visit our homepage at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/fruitdale> where you can sign up to volunteer and preview books.

There are various ways to help raise money for our school and for our library:

-Sign up for e-scrip at [e-scrip.com](http://e-scrip.com), a percentage of your expenditure is given back to Fruitdale.

-Keep those Box Tops coming! Remember, your child will have a different teacher next year. You can save your Box Tops until the fall or give them to me. Dr. Lorain Abel did a wonderful job for the last 5 years. We raised \$546.80 this year (5,468 Box Tops)! Regina Corley has kindly offered to take over as Box Tops coordinator next year.

-Oregon Books donates 5% of the purchase to us when you mention Fruitdale. Support our local bookstore, They support us.

Thank you so much Carla Carter, Anna Chapman, Regina Corley and Holly Seable for so much help in the library.

If your students have overdue or lost books or fines please set a good example by taking care of them. Their library record will follow them and they will not be able to check out books. Feel free to contact me with questions.

Constance Palaia –Marr



### Planning Ahead for May

**May1-** Crater Lake Field Trip (4<sup>th</sup> grade)

**May4th-May 8 th-** Teacher

Appreciation Week

(Please don't forget your teacher)

**May4th-** Smokey the Bear (Kinders & First Grade)

**May7th-** Kindergarten Round Up

6:00PM-7:00PM

**May12th-** Parent Pack Meeting  
(5:30pm-6:30pm) Conference Room

**May 18th-** Regular Board Meeting  
(Evergreen Elementary) 7:00PM

**May19th-** Site Council Meeting  
(2:00PM Fruitdale)

**May21st-** Oregon Caves Field Trip  
(4th grade)

**May 21st-** KidZone Night  
(5:30PM-7:30PM)

**May21st-** Jr. Great Books (8:00am)

**May27th-** Breakfast with the Principal

## Student Council Updates

Fruitdale Student Council members are busy helping our school. They are working in the cafeteria at lunch time; helping out at the Student Store on Tuesdays and Fridays (look for a new shipment of Smencils, smelly pencils made from recycled newspaper, they will cost \$1.00 each); collecting Pennies for Peace and have begun a new project recycling drink pouches like Capri Sun.

Every year BILLIONS of drink pouches end up in dumpsters and landfills across America. TerraCycle, Capri Sun and Honest Kids are working together to put an end to this awful loss of resources. As an eco-friendly innovator, TerraCycle is going to convert the used drink pouches into unique fashion bags, tote bags, and pencil cases for kids and adults! TerraCycle is proud to team up with the largest producer of drink pouches in the country, Capri Sun, and a young organic entry into the market, Honest Kids, to help address this problem from all angles! Together with your help we CAN make a difference!

The Capri Sun & Honest Kids Drink Pouch Brigade™ program allows almost any organization or individual to save drink pouches from taking up space in our landfills. Capri Sun and Honest Tea will donate \$.02 for each Capri Sun, Kool Aid and Honest Kids drink pouches, which will go to our school!



## Fruitdale Fundraiser

**Join us for fun in the KidZone at ClubNorthwest every third Thursday of the month. The cost is \$5.00 per child with \$2.00 of that going back to the school. The teachers chaperoning for the month of April are Mrs. Duewel and Mrs. Bohannon. Please come join them on April 16<sup>th</sup>. from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Hope to see you there!**

