

# Buzzin' Around Madrona

October 2013



Welcome Back to School!

We are so happy to have the opportunity to serve you and your child. Please let us know how we can help. Call us at 541-476-6624 from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If you have a bus issue, you may call First Student at 541-476-7733.

## Parent/Teacher Relationships

How to Establish a Working Relationship with Your Child's Teacher:

Meet the teacher in the fall. Tell the teacher about your child's special needs, outside activities, health and home study habits.

Look for the positive. Share with the teacher something you appreciate regarding the teacher's role in your child's life. Express your appreciation by sending a note of thanks when something special takes place in the classroom.

Let the teacher know you want to support work that's being done in class. Ask for suggestions for expanding school activities into home activities.

Be willing to participate in or set up a conference when necessary, such as when: your child's grades plunge; he/she does not seem to have homework; he/she seems deeply upset about something that happened at school.

Source: University of Illinois Extension Service (Medford Mail Tribune)



### October Events

- 10 – Progress Reports go home
- 10 – PTA Meeting @ 2pm in Library
- 11 – **No School**-Inservice Day
- 17 – Site Council Meeting @ 2:10 pm in Library
- 18 - **No school** – Staff Development Day
- 25 – Pride Day Assemblies



### How to reach your teacher:

There are several ways to contact your child's teacher. When you need to ask questions or share information, you can email your child's teacher by going to [www.threerivers.k12.or.us](http://www.threerivers.k12.or.us) and click on "Schools", Select "Madrona", and then click on "Staff Directory. Click on "send email" and that opens up an email dialog box that you can use to contact the Teacher. You can also write a note, call the office and leave a message so the teacher can call you back, or you can stop by and leave a message. Mornings are teacher prep times for getting materials and lessons ready for students. We try our best not to interrupt that time unless there is an urgent reason. Teachers are generally most available for meeting with or talking to you from 2:10-3:00 most days. Please be aware teachers do attend some meetings in the afternoons and may not be able to return calls until the following day. Most meetings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We ask that parents avoid dropping into the classrooms first thing in the morning as teachers are preparing for their teaching at that time. However, you are welcome to drop by the office in the morning and we can leave a message for the teacher to contact you as soon as possible! We want to help! If you are volunteering in the classroom, keep in mind you are there to serve the class and not just your child. Avoid taking up teaching time to ask personal questions, save those for an after school talk.

## Special Occasion Foods



We cannot serve any foods that are not prepared in a professional and certified kitchen. This means unless it comes from a licensed kitchen we cannot serve a food item. Food items should come in the original, unopened packaging. Students can bring homemade items for their own lunches, but cannot share those items with others. We cannot allow homemade items to be served at any school function during the school day. Thanks for following this standard at all times. Please remember this if you are supplying treats for any type of classroom celebration.

### November Events

- 11 – **No School** Veterans Day
- 14 – PTA Meeting @ 2pm in library
- 21 – End of Trimester
- 21 - Pride Day Assemblies
- 21 – Site Council Meeting @2:10 in Library
- 22 – **No School** Clerical Day
- 25-27 - **No School** Furlough Days
- 25-29 – **No school** Thanksgiving
- 30 - PBIS Big Event
- 30 – End of Trimester



# Attendance Reporting

As you know, students who have excellent attendance are more likely to have solid achievement at school. We can't teach them if they aren't here! It is required by law for the school to average 92% attendance or higher each year. For students to reach that goal, they must miss no more than 12 days of school over the entire year. That means missing on average no more than 1 day per month. Parents are the most important decision makers about attendance. You have the choice to schedule appointments, shopping, dance lessons and vacations at times that will not impact your child's attendance. Be aware and make good choices for your child.

Please remember that **school begins at 7:40am**. Student arriving after that time are marked "Tardy" and must come to the office to receive a late slip. Student attendance is based on being here the full day. If a child missed too much of the day, it will be marked as an absence. We know that sometimes it is unavoidable to schedule appointments during school time, and those are notated as "Office Tardy" which means that they are "excused", but they still count as a Tardy, and are counted against perfect attendance. Children can only earn a perfect attendance award if they are not tardy or absent for the time noted on the award. That would be for a month, a trimester or a year. Those are the types of attendance awards we give.

**A parent must excuse student absences. It is required that you let us know when and why your child is absent.** You can help us with this in two ways. You can **call us** the day of the absence and tell us why your child is out, or you can **write a note** and send that in on the day your child returns to school. Absences are only excused for illness, doctor or dentist appointments, death in the immediate family and family emergencies. All other absences are unexcused. We call every day if we have not heard from you, or if the absence reason is unexcused. Make sure you have called or sent a note within 48 hours, or your child's absence becomes unexcused regardless of the reason.

## S.M.A.R.T.

SMART® stands for "Start Making A Reader Today." SMART is a statewide nonprofit program that matches caring adults with children in kindergarten through third grade. SMART is looking for volunteers at Madrona Elementary to read just one hour a week with two children from October through May. Children in SMART discover that it's fun to read and show more interest in learning. To make a difference at Madrona Elementary and your community call SMART at (541) 734-5628 or visit [www.getsmartoregon.org](http://www.getsmartoregon.org) and help start making a reader today!

## A Word From Our Family Advocate

We have a Family Advocate program at our school which is designed to provide services to families such as assistance with clothing, shoes, and other hygiene items. Everything is completely confidential, and handled with sensitivity. Our advocate, Andrea Rodgers, also calls families to alert them about meetings and to help with attendance issues.

We keep a good supply of clean, extra clothing here at the school in case a student spills something on their clothes and needs to change. If you have any clothing items to donate, please bring them to the office. Thanks for helping keep our Madrona Hornets comfortable!

Andrea Rodgers- Family Advocate

## Free Meals!



Breakfast is **FREE every day** for **EVERY STUDENT!** We offer a selection of nutritious, healthy, hot or cold meals, including milk, and fresh fruit. Please plan for your child to take advantage of this.

Our **lunch menus** are now available on line. We will not be sending menus home unless a parent requests one. You can access them by going to our public web site at: [www.threerivers.k12.or.us](http://www.threerivers.k12.or.us) then under the heading "Schools" select Madrona. On the left side, there is a heading for "Food Service Information", then select "Food Service Menu". You will also notice that there is a link to pay for your child's meals if you are using a credit card as well. Please contact our new Cafeteria Manager, Jenniffer Richardson at 541-476-6624 if you have any questions. We're here to help!

## BUS INFORMATION

We hope your child's ride each day is a safe and comfortable experience. Sometimes there are problems. Please do not hesitate to call our bus company, First Student, to ask questions about a drop off or pick up time, location of a stop or to voice a concern about a problem on the bus. They are eager to help resolve any issues for our families. The number is 541-476-7733. They open at 5:00a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. If you don't feel a problem is being addressed you can also call and talk to our staff or Mrs. Van Brunt. Our office is open at 7:00 a.m. and closes at 3:30p.m. We do not have an answering machine so no one answers after hours.

## 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.

## *Extra, Extra! Read all about it!*

Title One funds are critical federal funds that help our school in many ways. Our Title One funding also pays for more than half of our teaching assistant positions and helps provide extra supplies, library books, after school programs, and other resources for our classrooms. Please make sure you have filled out the form for free or reduced meals if you are eligible. Even if you don't intend to use that service, by filling out the form and qualifying, you help determine the level of Title One funding received at Madrona.

## Notes required!

Please be aware that the bus drivers require a bus pass issued by the Madrona office anytime your child is going to ride the bus anywhere other than his/her normal stop. The only way that a bus pass can be issued is by **BOTH** children having a note from their parents. At no time is a child allowed to get off at an undesignated stop, or to ride a different bus without a pass issued by the office. Thank you for making those plans ahead of time and ensuring that your child has a note.

## Y-Hall

An After School Program at the Grants Pass Family YMCA for grades K-5<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer at school or contact the YMCA at 541-474-0001 for more information.

## Volunteers

Dear Parents,

The policy for volunteers has changed. We need all parents to fill out a volunteer form for us in order to be working anywhere on the campus or on field trips. You will need the names and phone numbers of three people ( not family) who can vouch for your ability to work with kids in a safe and appropriate manner. We will not process any forms that are returned incomplete. An approved volunteer form is required to help with parties, work in the classroom or library, work on campus for PTA events or go on field trips. The quicker you get those forms into us the sooner we can approve you to begin helping. We know how disappointing it can be to miss going on a field trip because your form was not in on time. It generally takes around two weeks to make all of those calls and get back to you. So please make sure you ask for a form soon! You can call Mrs. Rauch or email her at [Julie.rauch@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:Julie.rauch@threerivers.k12.or.us) and ask for the volunteer form to be sent home with your child.

## OPEN HOUSE

Thanks to all parents who attended one or both of our Open House events this year. We hope you enjoyed the experience of seeing the classrooms and visiting with teachers. Many of you also took the time to sign up to volunteer as a helper in the classroom, as the Room Parent and help with parties or even to arrange another time to talk privately with your child's teacher. Those are all good things and we are thankful for your involvement.

## Coalition for Kids

Child care center @ RCC. For more information there is a flyer in our office or you can call 541-476-4996. [www.roguecc.edu/childcare](http://www.roguecc.edu/childcare)

# Renaissance Learning

## A Parent Resource

Renaissance Learning is an online program that supports Madrona in reading. This program has a parent resource section that has helpful Parent Guides, answering frequently asked questions about our assessment, teaching, and learning tools.

You can access it from the following website.

<https://Hosted58.renlearn.com/293424/HomeConnect>

The student login and password is the same as the one they use at school.

## Automated Phone Calls



We have a system that will periodically make telephone calls to all our parents. This system is called "Synervoice". What a wonderful tool this is, and we hope that it will help us to communicate with you. We use this system to notify parents of upcoming events, attendance, days that are impacted by inclement weather, emergencies, or other reasons which may require us to reach everyone in a timely manner. When you receive a call from Synervoice, you must say "hello" to activate the message being sent to you. If you don't say anything when we call, you will not get a message. It is also connected to our student information system, therefore it is very important that the information you provide to us on your students' enrollment form is accurate and kept up to date. If you have a phone number change or disconnection and we try to send you a message, you will obviously not receive it. So, please help us keep you informed by notifying the school office when personal information changes.

## Fundraisers!



There are some very simple opportunities for us to earn money for our school. One way is called eScrip. All you have to do is register your Safeway Club Card, and use it every time you shop at Safeway, and Madrona gets a percentage of your total bill. Every shopping trip counts, all year long! It's easy to register by going to [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) or by calling 1-800-400-7878. Please don't hesitate...do it today! It's easy!

Target also has a "Take Charge of Education" program. All you have to do is call 1-800-316-6142 or go to [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe), enroll your Target credit cards, and Madrona will receive a percent of everything you buy with your card. It's that simple!

## P.T.A. News

We are having a Box Top/Campbell Soup Label Drive fundraiser from 10/05-10/22. Send them in with students and we will be collecting them in the classrooms. The top grade will get a root beer float party! Saturday, November 16th, is our Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser 8-10a.m. at Applebees. We will be sending more information home in the next few weeks.

Our PTA uses every penny wisely to support activities like field trip transportation, assemblies, items for our classrooms, and big ticket items like new computers, classroom tables, library and computer lab needs. Our PTA's fund raising efforts are a crucial part of how our school provides new and better learning opportunities for our children. Please support our PTA and their efforts.

Next PTA meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2:15 in the Library.

Spirit Day is October 25th-Wear your Madrona Hornet Colors for free popcorn or .50 to buy.



Are you looking for fun and camaraderie? Maybe girl scouts is for you. Troop 30179 meets on Tuesday's at the grange at 4:30-6:00 pm. Contact Lisa Fontes at (541)226-8708 or [fonteslisa1@hotmail.com](mailto:fonteslisa1@hotmail.com) for more information.

## Madrona Song

We have the tradition of singing a short, silly song at the end of our awards assemblies. Many of our students are learning it for the first time. I'm providing the words below so your child has the opportunity to practice for fun at home. Go Hornets!

Words to Madrona Song:

Up and away Madrona Hornets.  
Up and away upside down!  
Up and away Madrona Hornets  
Keep your stingers off the ground!  
When you hear the school bell ringing,  
And you see the kids rush in,  
Then you know Madrona Hornets,  
Have turned their homework in!

Then we cheer:

M- A- D- R -O -N- A! Madrona, Madrona, Yea!!!!

# Common Core State Standards for Parents

**Something big is happening in education in Oregon, something that all parents will want to know about - the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These newly adopted standards in English Language Arts and Math are important for your student's future success!**

## Here's why:

- **The standards are the same wherever you go.** Common standards mean that students in Oregon are learning the same thing as students across the country. Students moving into or out of Oregon will have a smoother educational transition because learning goals will now be the same across states.
- **They're modeled on success.** The Common Core are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- **College and career ready is the name of the game.** All students graduating college and career-ready is the goal of the CCSS. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in whatever they choose to do after graduation.
- **Real life is really important.** What students learn in school should be directly related to what they'll be required to do once they leave. The Common Core places a strong emphasis on reading informational and technical texts to prepare students for the demands of college and the workplace.
- **College should not begin with remediation.** Too many students entering Oregon universities and community colleges require remedial classes in English and Math. The CCSS are designed to make that a problem of the past by fully preparing students for college-level coursework.
- **Increased access to learning resources.** Common standards mean that learning resources and teaching and learning materials can be shared across states.
- **21st century skills for 21st century jobs.** These standards will prepare our students for career success in the rapidly changing world of work.

Find out more about Common Core on the ODE web site at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore>

And check out the CCSS Parent Guides from the National PTA at [www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398)

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Common core state Standards

### **Q: What are the Common Core State Standards?**

A: The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-language arts and mathematics. The standards are the result of a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSS for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, state education leaders, teachers, school administrators, and parents. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English language arts. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS supports the college and career ready expectations of Oregon's new graduation requirements.

### **Q: Why does Oregon need common educational content standards?**

A: Today, each state has its own process for developing, adopting, and implementing standards. As a result, what students are expected to learn can vary widely from state to state. We know that our graduates will compete for jobs with students from other states and countries with more rigorous standards. Common standards help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. Common standards will help ensure that students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. Common standards will provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to serve the needs of students.

### **Q: Will the Common Core State Standards limit flexibility to tailor instruction to individual students?**

A: No. The Common Core State Standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills will help our students succeed. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and others will decide how the standards are to be met. Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and school boards will continue to make decisions about curriculum and how their school systems are operated. Standards help teachers figure out the knowledge and skills their students should have so that teachers can build the best lessons for their classrooms.

### **Q: What are some ways Oregon will benefit from common educational content standards?**

A: The CCSS will

- Help prepare students in Oregon and in the nation with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and careers
- Allow states to align curricula to internationally benchmarked standards
- Allow for more focused pre-service education and professional development

- Create potential economies of scale for curriculum, instructional resources, and assessment
- Help students who move between states
- Help evaluate policies that affect student achievement across states
- Help prepare students in Oregon and in the nation to compete for good jobs in a knowledge-based economy.

**Q: Will the new Common Core State Standards replace Oregon’s existing academic content standards for mathematics and English language arts?**

A: Yes. These two new sets of standards will **replace** Oregon’s current standards in English language arts and mathematics. While the new standards are similar to Oregon’s current standards, some content has been shifted to ensure college and career readiness at the end of high school.

**Q: The Common Core State Standards are more rigorous than existing state standards. Will it be harder for schools to meet state and federal requirements?**

A: Parents, students, and teachers should understand that lower scores will not mean students know less than they did the year before or that they are somehow “doing worse in school.” The new standards require a higher level of mastery of information and concepts and this higher bar will impact student scores, at least initially. Communities must recognize that it will take time for students to catch up to these more rigorous standards.

**Q: What is ODE doing to help schools transition to the Common Core Standards?**

A: ODE has

- Convened a CCSS Stewardship Team composed of educators, administrators, and education stakeholders to develop a comprehensive implementation timeline, plan, and identify resources for instruction and assessment.
- Helped to establish the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium that will build a CCSS common assessment for the partner states to be implemented in school year 2014-2015.
- Provided mathematics teachers with an annotated crosswalk table (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3211>) that compares the CCSS to the current Oregon mathematics standards, illustrating what content has moved to different grade levels.
- Provided English language arts *and* subject-area teachers with the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/literacyframework>) that supports implementation of the CCSS in English language arts and all other subjects. A number of states are using Oregon’s Framework for this purpose.
- Completed two new sections of the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework: a Writing section comparable to Reading and an extensive Reading professional development portal for coaches and teachers.
- Provided Strand 4 Oregon DATA Project training featuring implementation of the Reading and Writing CCSS and Essential Skills using the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework.
- Collaborated with other states to provide educators with a variety of tools and resources, including shared curriculum. Collaboration is ongoing.

**Q: How will the economies of scale benefit Oregon in implementing the CCSS?**

A: The economies of scale that the CCSS will bring will save our state money in these ways:

- Oregon will no longer need to revise and update English language arts and mathematics standards on its own.
- Instructional resources designed to support the CCSS can be *shared* among the states.
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium partner states will *share* the costs of developing and implementing a common assessment.
- Assessment resources including formative assessments will be *shared* among the Smarter Balanced consortium.
- It is anticipated that textbooks and curriculum materials may be *shared* through open source environments.

- A **Joint Taskforce on Mathematics** that includes members from all major mathematics education organizations plans to provide a CCSS implementation website to *share* tools and resources for teachers.
- A **Common Core Curriculum Mapping Project** funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has designed and *shared* CCSS English language arts curriculum maps for districts.

**Q: When will students begin to see these changes in the classroom?**

A: Students could begin seeing Common Core content as soon as next school year (2011-12). Districts will first need to work with teachers to make sure everyone understands the knowledge and skills contained within each learning expectation. Teachers at each grade level need to understand what new content they are responsible for teaching at their grade-level and what is no longer in their grade-level. While many of Oregon’s existing Academic Content Standards align to CCSS, some content is introduced in earlier grades in CCSS.

**Q: What is the CCSS common assessment?**

A: States adopting the CCSS will implement a student assessment system aligned with the CCSS for mathematics and English language arts beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

- Along with 30 other states, Oregon is a member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>) which has formed to create an historic assessment system.
- The common assessment is a natural continuation of the work already underway in Oregon and builds on our current assessment system and the work of the Oregon DATA Project.
- By partnering with other states, Oregon will be able to leverage resources, share expertise, and produce a system that will meet the needs and expectations of Oregon students and teachers.
- Until the common assessment is designed, piloted, and implemented, however, ODE will continue using the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) to assess students in math, reading, and writing. Oregon will continue to assess science and social science using OAKS until CCSS are developed for those content areas.

To find out more about the common assessment visit [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) .