

Buzzin' Around Madrona



November & December 2010

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 held our annual jog-a-thon in October, and kicked off our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) program for all students. There are many rewards to be given out to students who choose to be safe, be respectful, and be responsible every day at school.

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

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 or leave early often miss both the opening of class, instruction in reading, and explanations regarding homework. This has a very negative impact on these students. Many of the students will experience set backs in their academic progress due to tardiness or leaving early.

It is important that parents recognize the importance of getting their child(ren) to school on time and avoid leaving early. 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.

P.T.O. NEWS

Our jog-a thon was a success. We raised about \$8,000! This is almost \$1,500 more than last year! Students earned a variety of fun prizes including school bracelets, extra recess time, gift certificates for books, and even limo rides and pizza at Abby's.

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 7-8.

The PTO is desperately seeking a few parents to help support making popcorn for the kids on Pride Days. These only occur once a month. The job takes about 3 hours total. That includes popping, bagging and selling the popcorn. Remember those kids wearing their school colors get a bag free. When we don't have enough willing volunteers, great things like this for kids have to go away. So if you have three hours once a month or even every other month, please consider volunteering for this simple job. It gives much joy to our students. If you are willing, please call our PTO president Chrystal Hyde at 541-761-5746.

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.

Lost and Found



Please mark all of your child's sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, jackets, backpacks, lunch pails, etc. with a name. If a name is found on an item, we can promptly return it to the owner, so please, please make sure you mark those clothes. Also, remember to check periodically in our lost and found if you think your child has left something here. It is located on the wall to the right as you enter the cafeteria. The Lost and Found will also be out at conference time.

Lunch Money



Parents, please remember to put your child's lunch money in an envelope with his/her name and classroom teacher on it! 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. You can also prepay lunches on line by going to our public website at www.threerivers.k12.or.us Then select the "Departments" tab and click on "Sodexo Food Services". Select "Meal and Menu Information" on the left. Then select "Pay for Meals". Thanks for keeping your child's account current.

Toys For Tots

Madrona will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for the “Toys for Tots” toy drive starting in November.

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.

Donations Needed

We try to keep a few nicer clothing items on hand in case of spills, etc. Sweat pants are always welcome in any size.

Thanks for helping keep our Madrona Hornets comfortable!

Andrea Rodgers
Family Advocate

Free Meals!



Breakfast is **FREE** every day for **EVERY STUDENT!** This year we must enter student numbers to re-qualify for our breakfast grant, but there is still no cost. 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.

Easy Donation Opportunities

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 or call 1-800-400-7878 to register.

Albertson’s also has a similar program called Community Partners. You can enroll your Albertson’s card by calling 1-877-932-7948 or on line at www.albertsonscp.com/lc.

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

Parent/Teacher Relationships

In our October newsletter, we listed many ways to reach your teacher, but we didn’t list probably the easiest and fastest way! You can always email your child’s teacher by going to the Three Rivers School District website at:

www.threerivers.k12.or.us

Then select Madrona Elementary School from the list of “Schools”. On our Madrona home page, go all the way to the bottom and click on “Staff Directory”. The list is in alphabetical order, so find your teacher and click on the yellow envelope at the right hand side of their name. It pops up an email dialogue box for the person you selected and their email address will already be placed in the “To” box. It’s that simple!

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 1st or 2nd.

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, or in the very back rows after all classes are seated. If there are no seats available, ask me and I will get one for you. Thanks so much for your consideration!

Feeding Your Picky Eater Class

We were delighted that some parents attended the class on how to help your picky eater eat better. Our nutrition teacher from our OSU Extension Grant, Alex Steiner, brought lots of neat information and ways for parents to use natural, low cost, low fat, low sugar foods in new ways. They made smoothies with things like pineapple, swiss chard, yogurt and fruit juice. They made several different kinds of smoothies with a variety of ingredients. Parents got to taste these creations for themselves. The response was yum! We also had 8 students who attended and they had lots of fun working with our Master Garden volunteer Mrs. Lilly Pattee. Mrs. Pattee provided some fun pumpkin games and the kids got to plant some plants in our school garden. Later they decorated small pumpkins and took them home. The kids enjoyed snacks, too. Thanks to everyone for attending this fun evening.

Positive Behavior Intervention & Support

PBIS is a program we implemented last year to support good student behavior at school. The hope is that with students making better behavior choices throughout their day, less time is lost from instruction, thus everyone achieves more while at school. If we help kids learn to alter their behavior and make good choices, they will benefit. Using positive feedback, setting expectations and teaching the expectations to kids on a daily basis, helps students grow more rapidly. We have begun a school wide reward system to help acknowledge students who are making good choices at school and on the bus.

Students earn the tickets by following rules and procedures on the bus and at school. Adults will hand the tickets out to let kids know when they are meeting the expectations. The tickets will be turned in and used in monthly and trimester drawings. Students whose names are drawn will be eligible for small privileges and sometimes goodies like Madrona T-shirts, water bottles, special school supplies, or other things of that nature. Privileges can be small like having the opportunity to help somewhere at school, to attend a special event, or to do a special project in art. Kids love to have those privileges and will work hard for the recognition and opportunity to do something different at school.

Please encourage your student to work hard at school each day by following our three main rules of being safe, respectful and responsible. Those three rules cover just about anything that we do at school. You can always ask when talking to your child about his or her behavior, Was it safe to do at school? Was it respectful to others? Was the child's action responsible and aimed at learning? Your discussion around behavior

choices can really help your child to know that you take their education at Madrona seriously.

Another way to involve and support students in positive behavior choices will be attendance at trimester assemblies with special fun themes. These special 30 minute assemblies will be to thank kids who have managed their behavior at school well for the trimester. Students who demonstrate poor choice making at school or on the bus, will not have the privilege of attending the extra fun PBIS events. Students with a total of 6 or more slips to the Ed lab for poor behavior in either the classroom or on the playground will not attend the assembly. Students with more than one office behavior referral or more than one bus citation during the trimester will also lose the privilege of attending the assembly. Our next PBIS event is a Pajama Day on Nov. 19th. Students who earn the privilege will be invited to wear their favorite, comfy P.J.'s to school. Mrs. Van Brunt will be visiting classes to deliver milk and cookies to those earning the PBIS privilege. We will have a Pajama Day Parade prior to the Pride Day assembly. If a student has lost their PBIS privilege, they will not wear P.J.'s to school, and they will have school work to do in Ed Lab during milk and cookie time and the assembly. Thank you parents for supporting our students by talking to them about this program!

Madrona Art Work

Savanna Ablott, a Madrona 3rd grade student, earned a PBIS reward for her good behavior and chose to draw a picture for our monthly newsletter. It is on the following page. Thanks, Savanna!

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.

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. Our students will begin those assessments in November. 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, eating a nutritious breakfast, and your interest in what is happening at school are all ways you can help your child to achieve 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!

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

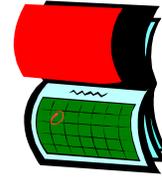
If you would like this information, please contact Madrona Elementary School.

November Events



- Nov. 1 – Perfect attendance recess
- Nov. 2 – Symphony 11:30am – 1:00pm
- Nov. 4 - PTO Meeting 2:20 in the library
- Nov. 10 – Parent holiday lunch with students at appropriate lunch times
- Nov.11 – **No School** – Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 18 – Site Council Meeting 2:10pm in the library
- Nov. 19 – **2 Hour Late Start Friday - School begins at 9:40am**
- Nov. 19 – Pride Day Assembly
- Nov. 19 – End of Trimester
- Nov. 22 – **No School** - Clerical Day
- Nov. 23 – **No School** - Clerical Day
- Nov. 24 – **No School** – Vacation Day
- Nov. 25 – **No School** – Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 26 – **No School** – Vacation Day

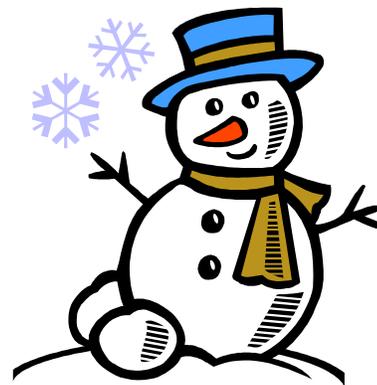
“Tentative” December Events



- Dec. 1 – Evening Conferences 3:00-7:00pm
- Dec. 2 – Conferences 7:00am-7:00pm
- Dec. 3 – No School
- Dec. 7 – Parent/Student Holiday lunch in the cafeteria at appropriate student lunch times
- Dec. 7-8 – Santa Shop
- Dec. 9 – PTO meeting 2:20pm in the library
- Dec. 14 – Winter Program – K-4th grades – 6:00pm in the gym
- Dec. 16 – Site Council in Library 2:10 pm in the library
- Dec. 17 – Pride Assembly 10:00am in the gym
- Dec. 17 – Class Parties 1:00pm
- Dec. 20 –Dec. 31– No School- Winter Break

School Resumes on January 3rd, 2010.

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



October Citizens of the Month

Strickler – Kindergarten

Noah Horban
Madison Williams
Megan LaCombe
Nolan Proudfit

Witcher – 1st Grade

Cristal Madris-Delgado
Spencer Tatom

Kramer – 1st & 2nd Grade

Troy Johnson
Selah Sandys

Fisher – 2nd & 3rd Grade

Lindsey Eells
Marco Ordaz

Simpson – 3rd & 4th Grade

Brooklyn Hurd
Joseph Gerson

Goodin – 4th Grade

Breanna Barandi
Taylor Ivy

Law – 5th Grade

Jazzmin Morton
Alex Silver

Buscher – 5th Grade

Kitty Kurutz
Dalia Linares

Fearsome 15 Fact Program

We have started a new way for students to practice and remember math facts. These facts are identified by research as being the most difficult for students to learn. That is why we are using this special approach. Students will still have other facts in their classrooms as well. We are posting the “Fearsome Fact” for each week on the white board, writing them on spelling lists, or maybe having students say the problem and give the answer to receive a ticket to get a special place in line. There are many ways to make a game out of learning. Be creative! Each month, we will give you the Fearsome Facts for each week, so that you can work along at home. This month’s Fearsome Facts are:

Week 5 Nov 1-5	Week 6 8-12	Week 7 15-19	Week 8 Dec 6-10
7+5 4*7	8+4 6*9	9+4 3*7	7+6 4*8

Week 9 Dec 13-17	Week 10 Jan 3-7
8+5 7*8	9+5 3*8

(Remember that * means multiplication)

Accelerated Reader Achievements October 2010

Independent Reader

Breanna Barandi
Cambrie Quicke
Erin Stewart

Super Reader

Billy Barnes
Jonny Burgess
Maiah Combs
Aubrielle Garcia
Maliah Obien
Alex Silver
Wyatt Smith

Super Reader II

Calen Clem
Damin Decker
Aubrielle Garcia
Taylor Ivy
Megan Mathiasen
Brayden Morris
Wyatt Smith
Brycen Stevens

Super Reader III

Garrett McGinnis

Super Reader IV

Jared Anderson

Advanced Reader

Arthur Corbett
August Curran
Megan Mathiasen
Cody Milburn
Erin Parise
Tenley Williams

Advanced Reader II

Eva Bernard
Michael Dillon
Joseph Gerson
Cody Traughber
Tenley Williams

Advanced Reader III

Robert Pettijohn
Kaleb Phillips
Cody Traughber

Star Reader

Mattia Sakraida
Kenneth Willaman

Classic

Mary Backes
August Gannett

Community Corner

Christmas Bazaar



Hidden Valley High School is holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 6th, from 9:00am – 3:00pm. This is the most talked about craft fair in the area, featuring some of Southern Oregon's finest handcrafts. There is free admission, and snacks available to purchase. The proceeds will benefit the Class of 2011 Drug and alcohol free graduation celebration.

YMCA Youth Activities

The YMCA is offering youth basketball for ages 3-8 on Tuesdays. The cost is \$35 for non-members, \$20 for members. It runs for 4 weeks, November 16 through December 14 (skip Nov. 23). The times are:

4:30pm 3-4 year olds
5:30pm 5-6 year olds
6:30pm 7-8 year olds

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 4th and December 2nd 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!

ARCHERY

The YMCA is offering archery classes for ages 8 and up. Bring the whole family! The cost is \$30 for members, \$45 for non-members.

Mondays, from 4-5pm

Fall Session 2
November 1-29th