

# Fruitdale Elementary School

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

## PANTHER PAWS NEWS

March 2009

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

### Principal's Message

What a pleasure it is to visit, observe and evaluate, and to build quality relationships with your children. For the most part, every day brings new challenges and goals and expectations that require choices, actions, and decisions necessary to maintain relationships and positive life changes. I honestly see growth each day, and I am so proud of our students for meeting expectations and congratulate them for their desires to make life a better place.

February has been an awesome month and we have accomplished many things to be grateful about. March is here and we are anxiously waiting for Spring Break and all the other things that come along such as the end of the trimester, and parent/teacher conferences. February brought us the opening of the student store. We are opened for business every Tuesday and Friday during lunch recess with a variety of different items that are priced pretty low and kids seem to really enjoy. As far as safety issues go, we had our monthly fire/earthquake drill and we also had a school bus evacuation drill. We had a very successful dental screening which helped many of our students.

March is here and we have an exciting month ahead. The first week in March is "Classified Appreciation Week." We have a team going up to Eugene for a PBS (positive behavior system) conference, as another step in the direction for implementation of this great program. The trimester ends on March 10<sup>th</sup> and there will be a clerical day on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and your students will not come to school that day. The following week will be parent/teacher conferences.

They will be like last fall, so we will provide opportunities for conferences after school on Wednesday and all day and night on Thursday and then there will be no school on Friday. That leads right into Spring Break, so actually your Spring Break will begin on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March until Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

As you can see we have plenty going on; however, there is something of great importance that will also be happening. We are going to have a school vegetable garden. This project was presented to me by Susan Calvert who comes to us with a vast amount of experience not only as a horticulturist, but also as an advocate for our kids. This is a huge project that will serve our students but will also serve the community on many different levels. If you have a desire to help with this project, please call the office and leave your name and number and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We are going to serve every classroom with space and an opportunity to learn the process of gardening. The staff is very much on board, as is the Panther Pack. Any help you might be able to give will be most appreciated.

Here is to another great month at Fruitdale. Please continue to know I am at your service and thank you for your support and encouragement. Thank you for taking care of your children and for building them up during hard times. Thank you for being great parents/guardians to these precious children. Without community help and support, it would be a tragic place in which to live. Have a great month.

Sincerely,

Kelly Christensen



## **March Calendar**

**March 2nd**- Dr. Seuss Day

**March 2nd** – Read\*a\*thon (5<sup>th</sup> gr.)

**March 2-6<sup>th</sup>**- Classified Appreciation Week

**March 3rd & 4th**- Spring Pictures

**March 9th**- Board Mtg.  
7:00-9:00pm (District Office)

**March 10th-March 11th**-Icare Party (4th&5th grades) 7pm-7am

**March 9th,10th,12th,13th** – Science Works (4th & 5th grade)

**March 10th**- End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester (59 days)

**March 10th**- Parent Pack Meeting (5:30pm-6:30pm)

**March 11th**- Clerical day (No School)

**March 13th**- Breakfast with the Principal

**March 17th**- Site Council Meeting (2:00pm)

**March 17th<sup>th</sup>**- St. Patrick's Day

**March 18th**-Breakfast with Principal

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**-Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00-7:00pm

**March 19th**- Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00am-7:00pm  
No School

**March 19th**- KidZone Night (5:30PM-7:30PM)  
Duewel/Bohannon

**March 20th**- No School

**March 23rd-March 27<sup>th</sup>**- Spring Break

**March 30th**-School Resumes

**March 31<sup>st</sup>**- Chinese Folk Concert (Grants Pass Performing Arts Center) (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)



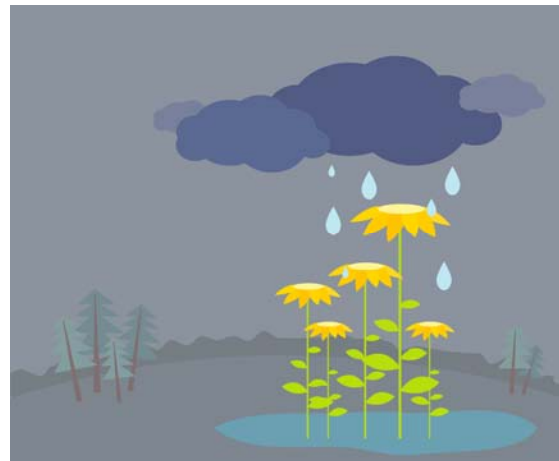


**All Three Rivers School  
District Parents  
Federal Programs Review  
Meeting  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
6:30 PM  
Three Rivers School District  
Office  
Murphy, Oregon**

**You are invited to a meeting to learn about our district's Title 1 and other federal grant programs. Our goal is that we receive parental input regarding use of funds so that schools are better able to make decisions regarding the best way to meet the academic goals of all our students.**

**Topics:**

- **Title 1**
- **Title IIA**
- **Title V**
- **Programs for Homeless, ELL, Migrant families**
- **McKinney Vento**
- **School and district initiative for instructional improvement**



**Spring Flowers Bring  
May Flowers**

**Planning Ahead for April**

**April 1st**- April Fools Day

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

**April 7th**- Book Fair Opens (Library)

**April 7th**- Rogue Valley Symphony 9:00am-12:00noon

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**- Parent pack meeting 5:30-6:30pm

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

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**- Farm To Market (Gym)

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**- Kidzone 5:30-7:30

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

**April 21<sup>st</sup>-April 24<sup>th</sup>**- Talk about trees

**April 24<sup>th</sup>**- Oregon Rangers to 4<sup>th</sup> grade

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**- Battle of the books 8:00am (Fruitdale Library)

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



## The Secret To Happiness

The secret to happiness and well-being is no mystery. All it takes is the ability to do the following:

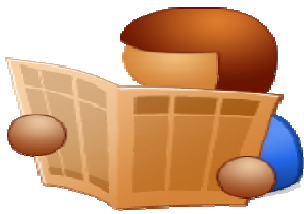
- \*Forget
- \*Apologize
- \*Admit errors
- \*Avoid mistakes
- \*Listen to advice
- \*Keep your temper
- \*Shoulder the blame
- \*Make the best of things
- \*Maintain high standards
- \*Think first and act accordingly
- \*Put the needs of others before your own
- \*Forgive

Seem like a tall order? Then try slipping as many of the “secrets to happiness” into your day as possible. You’ll soon be rewarded with a more positive outlook on life.



## PARKING LOT CHANGE OF SIGNS

We have had some concerned parents who are having a difficult time with picking and dropping off their kids in the front parking lot. Please take notice of the **NEW SIGNS**. Parking along the curb is **not** allowed anymore. That area is now designated for **drop off** and **pick up ONLY**. This will allow easier access before and after school and eliminate traffic. When you are planning on parking your car, or if you arrive early and have to wait for your child, please park in the designated parking lined spots. Please remember to also keep the flow of traffic moving.



## Library News

February 23, 2009

Here's the final tally of the boxtops by class

Anderson—337

Duke—254

Webb-262

Woodruff—307

Duewel—656

Gilbert—821

Haynes—558

Sheehan—1031

Ross—656

Garcia—203

Ellis—212

Bohannon--154

Christensen—64

And the winner is.... Ms. Sheehan's class with 1031

Second—Ms. Gilbert with 821 and

Tied for third—Ms. Duewel and

Ms. Ross with 656

Total—5515 boxtops.....that's over \$500 for the the.school library! Thanks to everyone for helping cut their box tops.

Also a very Huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Abel for all her counting, help and organization☺



**\*\*\*You can make more friends in a month by being interested in them than in ten years by trying to get them interested in you!\*\*\***

## From Ms. Ellis class



### Happiness is:

*a baby kitten. – Makayla*  
*banana on the way to the circus. – Breanna*  
*having a friend. – Dillon*  
*having a loving family. – Jacob C.*  
*a dog for a pet. – Summer*  
*dinner at Denny's. – T.J.*  
*my family. – Isaac*  
*running in the grass with my puppy. – Alexis*  
*riding on a pony. – Tamora*  
*the birth of Jesus Christ. – Molly*  
*sitting in the grass playing with my cat. –*  
**Tessa**  
*doing a front flip into a pool. – Anthony*  
*brownies. – Jacob R.*  
*my chinchilla. – Miyah*  
*riding a horse. –Cheyan*

### Note From Your Family

#### Advocate

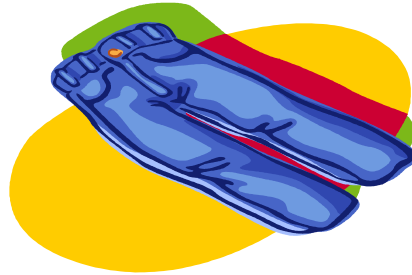
PANTS, PANTS, PANTS,....I need pants!

Sweat pants, Jeans, khakis...if you have them, I need them.

This time of year we have a rush of kids who need pants.

My supply is greatly dwindling. I need all sizes but in particular I

Am lacking small girls and boys sizes 6-10.



Your help is greatly appreciated!!

All donations can be left at the office

THANK YOU!!!!

Mrs. Kern (Family Advocate)

# Has your income or household size changed?

We are at a place in time where our community families are having tough financial times in the household. We want to make sure you have information about the Free and Reduced priced meal program within the Three Rivers School District.

If at anytime during the school year your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start receiving Food Stamps, you can apply or re-apply for Free or Reduced benefits for your kids that are enrolled in the School District.

**You may ask, who can get Free or Reduced priced meals?** Your child can get Free or Reduced priced meals if your household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Chart below. You only need to fill out one application for your household; please evaluate if your gross income meets these guidelines. You can pick up an application at your local school office or at the Food and Nutrition Services Office at 126 Ringuette Street, Grants Pass, Oregon 97527. Please send the completed application back to your child's school or bring it to the Food and Nutrition Services Office.

Have questions? Call Peggy or Donna in the Food and Nutrition Services Office at 541-476-4183.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Federal Income Guidelines

Household Size	Reduced Price Meals		
	Annual	Month	Week
-1-	19,240	1,604	370
-2-	25,900	2,159	499
-3-	32,560	2,714	627
-4-	39,220	3,269	755
-5-	45,880	3,824	883
-6-	52,540	4,379	1,011
-7-	59,200	4,934	1,139
-8-	65,860	5,489	1,267
For each additional family member add	6,660	555	129

### Household Savings

*Based upon household of four and two students eating both breakfast and lunch meals in an elementary school.*

Fully Paid Student Cost  
\$1032 annually

Reduced Student Cost  
\$285 annually  
(Savings \$747 annually)

Free Student  
\$0.00  
(Savings \$1032 annually)

**The average lunch cost from home is \$3.10\* or \$1054 annually (2 children). This does not include breakfast.**

\* Source = Journal of the American Dietetic Association, October 24, 2008 issue.