

Buzzin' Around Madrona



October 2010



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 with 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.

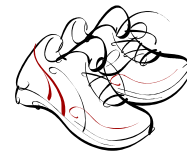
Be willing to participate in or set up a conference when necessary, such as when: your child's grades plunge; he does not seem to have homework; she seems deeply upset about something that happened at school.

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

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 call and leave a message so the teacher can call you back, you can write a note, or you can stop by and leave a message. Teachers are generally most available for meeting with or talking to you from 2:00-3:00 most days, except Wednesdays. 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!

Important Information.



Parents need to supply a pair of non marking sole shoes for P.E. If a child's daily shoes have white or light colored soles they are fine.

Shoes with black or dark colored soles leave a heavy mark on our gym floor. This wears on the finish and thus wears the tile out quickly. We ask that you check your child's shoes for this purpose. Mark any P.E. shoes with your child's name and send in to school. We will store for use throughout the year. These shoes do not need to be new.

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.

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.

Student Support Services Available

This year we are fortunate to have an excellent student advocate, Kelly DeLisle. She will provide many opportunities to serve all of our students and encourage the development of healthy mental health practices. In this role, she will sometimes visit classrooms to teach lessons, visit the playground to interact and get to know students better, and she will at times bring together specific individuals or groups to work on special needs. In the case of individuals or groups that will meet more than once, parent permission will be required. Our student advocate will also help us deal with crisis situations as needed. We are fortunate to have her great support this year! If you have any questions you can call her on Tuesdays all day or Thursdays in the afternoon. Please ask for her when you call us at 541-476-6624.

Pride Day



Our PTO will once again fund free popcorn for students wearing Madrona colors on Pride days. Pride Days are usually the last Friday of each month. Check our school calendar on line for specific dates. Students must be wearing an item of clothing that is mostly one of our school colors to qualify for free popcorn. Popcorn will also be available for sale on Pride days for 25 cents per bag. Our school colors are black and yellow. Madrona T-shirts are a good way for kids to display their school pride. T-shirts and sweatshirts are available for sale in the school office.

Life Skills, Second Steps, and Steps To Respect

Second Step is a specific curriculum we teach in our classrooms aimed at helping students to avoid violent behaviors and choosing appropriate social responses to various situations. Using Second Step along with our PBIS program, we hope to help our students gain social skills that will help them get along well with others throughout life and to make good personal choices.

We use an anti-bullying program called Steps to Respect in fourth and fifth grades. Steps to Respect focuses on students understanding what bullying behaviors look like including acts of exclusion and isolation and how to appropriately respond to those behaviors. It is the intent of the program to reduce the number of bullying acts that happen at school.

Each month teachers will be selecting up to 2 students for Citizen of the Month. This award is for demonstrating good behavior choices at school. These students model being safe, respectful, and responsible. Those students will be honored at our monthly Pride Assembly. Students who achieve a citizenship award will also be able to choose a book of their own from a large collection. This is our way of saying thanks for making good choices while at school.

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 the No Child Left Behind Act for the school to average 92% attendance or higher each year. For students to reach that goal, they must miss no more than 14 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.

There is a change in the way that we record students who **leave early** as well as those who **arrive late**. In the past, there was no notation if a student left before school was out. This year, we will be recording it as a "PM Tardy", and it will be counted toward the perfect attendance goals. There is no difference between a student missing school at the beginning of the day or the end of the day. Either way, it still impacts their learning. 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.

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, Dr. 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. For a student to earn monthly or yearly perfect attendance awards and privileges, they must have 0 tardies or absences.



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

S.M.A.R.T.

SMART stands for "Start Making a Reader Today." SMART is a statewide nonprofit program that matches caring adult volunteers with children in Kindergarten through second grade who can use a little help in reading. We are looking for a dedicated folks who are willing to work together to keep our program up and running. If you are interested in helping with this important learning opportunity for our struggling readers, please call the SMART office at 734-5628.

SMART is scheduled to begin mid month in October, but volunteers can begin at other times, too.

Safety Concerns

I just want to thank each of you who are following our drop off and pick up routine at Madrona. We are noticing that many of you are thinking about not only your child's safety, but the safety of other drivers and their children as well! We appreciate that everyone is observing the "Buses Only" sign and not driving in that area at all. **If we each pull as far forward as possible in the first parking lane, and have children to exit the car, it will keep things flowing smoothly for all.**

It is important that we all follow the driving laws as well as the school rules in order to make our parking lot a safe place to park in, drive through, and to pick up and drop off children. Please always make sure you have parked safely in the lot before leaving your car. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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 it is still free. 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.



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.



Mark Your Calendar!



- October 1** – Progress reports go home
- October 7** – Perfect attendance recess
- October 7** – Middle/High School conferences only – **We DO have school today**
- October 7** – PTO Meeting 2:20pm in the library
- October 8** - **No school** - Statewide In-Service Day
- October 14** – “Feeding Your Picky Eater” parenting class 6:00-7:30pm in the library
- October 15** – Kindergarten field trip to the pumpkin patch
- October 19-20** – Jog-a-thon
- October 21** – Site Council meeting 2:10pm in the library
- October 29** – **2 hour late start Friday** – **School begins at 9:40am**
- October 29** – Pride Assembly 1:00pm



Mark Your Calendar!



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



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 or by calling 1-800-400-7878. Please don't hesitate...do it today! It's easy!

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/llc.

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, enroll your Target credit cards, and Madrona will receive a percent of everything you buy with your card. It's that simple!

P.T.O. News

We now have a student store at school for students to purchase items with our Madrona Logo on them. Items might include water bottles, pencils, etc. Our annual Jog -a -thon will be held on October 19th and 20th. The pledge packets went home on September 22nd. I would like to encourage you to help your child participate even if it is with just a small donation. Our PTO 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 PTO's fund raising efforts are a crucial part of how our school provides new and better learning opportunities for our children.

Thanks to all the parents who came to Open House. It is a wonderful time to get to know each other better, celebrate a great start to the year and get an update on the changes and programs impacting our student's new school year. As we discussed at the Title One portion of our Open House meeting, our school qualifies for Federal Title One dollars based on our free and reduced lunch applications. Approximately 70% of our students qualify for support with meals. We use our funds to support the goals of our school-wide plan which in general are to improve student engagement, improve communication and collaboration at all levels within our school and district, to support student progress and growth in academics and specifically in writing and math, and to encourage behaviors at school that help students use learning time well and to be successful socially in the world. Our site council is the parent/staff group that meets each month make decisions that impact our implementation of the school-wide plan. No plan would be successful without parents. Madrona is a great school and our parents help make it that way. Your involvement in your child's education is the key to his/her growth. You are cordially invited to all parent meetings both site council and PTO. Please check our monthly calendar in the newsletter for the dates and times of those meetings. Our site council also recently reviewed and approved the school compact you will see in this newsletter. Please read and review with your child.

Title One funds help to supplement instruction in reading, writing and math. Our school program this year includes a half time Title One Teacher, Mrs. Patty Enoch. Patty is a highly skilled teacher who brings much experience to the position. She will be serving students throughout our school in a variety of ways. Some students will work directly with her in small groups during or after school. Students will be offered the opportunity based on need as determined by the teacher. Mrs. Enoch will also be involved in providing extra support and training to our staff. Along with that we have added some additional assistant hours to improve service to students and to further support our communication with parents. We have continued implementing the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program (PBIS) to help kids make safe, respectful and responsible choices at school. A portion of our funds will also support staff development activities to strengthen instruction. If you are interested, we

will have printed copies of our plan available for interested parents and community members in late October. As always, we are here to help and if you have questions, please contact either myself or Mrs. Enoch at the school.

Thanks for a wonderful first month,

Lise Van Brunt

Principal

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.

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.

Automated Phone Calls



We have a new system that will periodically make telephone calls to all our parents. This new system is called "Synrevoice". 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 Synrevoice, you must say "hello" to activate the message being sent to you. If you don't say

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 1 Oct. 4-7	Week 2 11-15	Week 3 18-22	Week 4 25-29
9+8 6*7	7+4 9*8	8+3 4*6	9+3 3*6

September

Citizens of the Month

Accelerated Reader Achievements

Strickler – Kindergarten

Jaime Guerrero
Kira Johnson
Kai Obien
Rylie Terpening

Super Reader
Ashley Zuanich

Witcher – 1st Grade

Hannah Bennett
Kloey Rich

Super Reader III
Jada Hurley

Kramer – 1st & 2nd Grade

Natasha Combe
Zachary Scott

Advanced Reader
Khylee Hornby

Fisher – 2nd & 3rd Grade

Sierra Combe
Jada Hurley

Simpson – 3rd & 4th Grade

Aubrielle Garcia
Peyton Hyde

Goodin – 4th Grade

Neill Dove
Jenelle Hurley

Law – 5th Grade

Autumn McLaughlin
Chris Pearson

Buscher – 5th Grade

Taylor Decker
Erika Simpson

Community Corner

Healthy Kids

Depending on family income, children may be eligible for free or low-cost health coverage for doctor visits, dental care, vision, medicines and more through the Healthy Kids program.

Three things determine if your child qualifies for no-cost or low-cost coverage:

1. **Age** – under 19 years old
2. **Residency** – Must live in Oregon and be a legal resident
3. **Income** - \$44,100 or less for a family of 4 qualifies for no-cost coverage: \$66,000 or less for a family of 4 qualifies for coverage on a sliding scale cost.

Call 1-877-314-5678 to have an application mailed to you or for more information.

Apply on line at: <https://apps.state.or.us/mbs/>

Boy & Girl Scouts

Both programs are currently enrolling students. Boy scouts will be having a parent/youth joining night at Madrona on October 12th, from 6:00-8:00pm. Girl Scout flyers were already sent home, and Boy Scout flyers should be coming home shortly.

Free Community Classes!



Oregon Health Management Services offers free cooking classes for parents and children. They have fun menu items, and all food is donated by Grocery Outlet. They are located at:

128 SW "I" Street
Grants Pass OR 97527

Please call to reserve your seat at 471-4208.

Kids Connection

We have after school care at Madrona! This is available to all Madrona students. It begins immediately following school until 5:30pm. If you are interested, there are packets in the office that you may pick up, or you can reach Trisha Marsh at 541-218-1255.