

Portland Village School Newsletter

August 2007
Volume 1, Issue 1

Principal Tom Klein
Vice-Principal Jackie Jaffe



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 21st

6:30 pm
PVS table at the Kenton
Park Summer Concert
(volunteers needed)

Sunday, August 26th

4:30 pm
3rd grade class potluck at
Kenton Park

Monday, August 27th

7:00-9:00 pm
1st grades' before-school
parent meeting at PVS

Tuesday, August 28th

7:00-9:00 pm
2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade
before-school parent
meeting at PVS

Wednesday, September 5th

First Day of School!!!!!!
(Kindergarten starts days
staggered, with 1/3 of the
class starting each day on
the 5th, 6th and 7th)

Parents are welcome to join
us in the "library" after
bringing their children to
class. We'll provide
beverages; please feel free
to add something healthy
and yummy.

7:00 pm
Board Meeting at PVS

Saturday, Sept 8th

10:00 am
Fundraising committee
meeting at PVS

Saturday, September 29th

Harvest Festival and School
Opening Celebration

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

We are in a busy and exiting time as we prepare for the opening of school on September 5th. We have been in our building for only six weeks and so much has been done. I would like to thank all who have worked so hard to get us to this point: The wood workers who have made the beautiful furniture; the landscapers who have transformed the playscape and the front of the building; the sewers who are making curtains, crayon pouches, bean bags and more; and the painters. With all that has been accomplished, there is still work to do: desks to be assembled and finished; shelving to be built in the classrooms; and many smaller tasks all to be completed in the next three weeks.

The Faculty, too, has been working very hard preparing for the school year. In July, we spent two weeks in Sacramento at a Waldorf workshop for teachers working in the public sector.

Throughout August we are receiving all kinds of training, completing home visits with all of our children, and doing lots of planning.

I have been very excited by the positive response we have had to our school: We have a strong enrollment; we have had an overwhelming response to our job openings, and we have many enthusiastic supporters who are neither parents nor employees.

I have enjoyed meeting all of you, and I look forward to a wonderful first year of the Portland Village School.

Tom Klein
Principal

Vice Principal's Corner

Dear Families,

As we wind down the summer and anticipate the new school year, there is much excitement in the halls at the Portland Village School: Volunteers are putting on the finishing touches of paint; teachers are planning, arranging their rooms, and meeting their families through various activities. It is truly a magical time.

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Open House on the 11th and to watch the children stream through the classrooms and halls at PVS; a nice preview of our year to come.

As you begin to prepare your family for school life, you might want to consider a few things. Elementary school children need a significant amount of sleep (10-12 hours) to be ready to participate in an active day of school. I know that over the summer our bedtimes creep later into the night, so it can be a startling adjustment to change the bedtime hour. One possibility, offered by our Kindergarten teachers, is to slowly move the bedtime earlier by a few minutes each night, or however much is needed, to achieve 10-12 hours of sleep time once school starts.

As well, PVS has requested that children not watch television, play video games, or have computer time during the school week. From my own experience, I know how challenging this shift can be. I offer you a similar tactic of incrementally lessening media time during the weekdays until you are close. This week day task might also be a chance to brainstorm alternatives to media related activities as a family.

I am so looking forward to getting to know you and all of your children throughout the year to come. Please stop in and say hi.

Jackie Jaffe
Vice Principal

Volunteer Updates

The Handwork and Curtain committees joined forces and have gotten a lot of work accomplished over the past two months. We have almost completed sewing the curtains for all the classrooms! We have also made over 80 bean bags, and are currently working on crayon pouches for all the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. We have also made many knitted animals, capes, and 7 babies for the Kindergarten classrooms. We have had a tremendous amount of help from dedicated volunteers and will be working feverishly until the start of school to finish our many tasks. If you'd like to volunteer your time please contact Rose Brooks at rosebrooks@hotmail.com or call her at 503-297-0646.

We would like to thank and recognize all of the volunteers who have helped get the school ready in every imaginable way with all of their tireless hours of dedication, sweat, and love. We know this thanks is a small token in comparison with the fruits of their labor.

We apologize if we are missing anyone.

Marc Adams, Jeremy Appleton, Deah Baird, Hailas Baatsch, Nicole Ball, Allison Bernat, Suzanne Bonham, Eric and Rose Brooks, Julius Correl, Steve Correl, Steve Curley, Craig Dermer, Edward Jacobowitz, Lisa Fenton, Stephanie Fajardo, Francis Fernandez, Brian Folger-Vent, Dan Garret, Christie Hancock, Gaye Harris, Wendy Hessel, Tom Hiebert, Kim Hillis, Tim Hills, Noah Homberg, Patsy Homberg, Sara Homberg, Aron Homberg, Kim Hutchison, Ashleigh Kayser, Rebecca Keating, Rhett Louviere, Ruthanne Kendrick, Christine Enkiri, Jennifer Lalime, Matthew Light, Linda Livermore, Maria Lisboa, Sage Lyden, Tim Lyden, Cydette Marshall, Marilyn Mauch, Lucia Mello, Teresa Molter, Gretchen Noll, Oscar Noll, Doolin O'Connor, Sherry O'Connor, Ariana Orton, Neil Brown, Rebecca Palmer, Alexis Pike, Ann Powers, Kathy Puma-Steele, Polly Puma-Steele, Gabe Puma-Steele, Tracy Rimel, Stephanie Schaaf, Lisa Ung, Osvaldo

Villanueva, Cynthia Williams, Joseph Wyatt, Atty Zschau, and Otto Wild.

We would also like extend special thanks to each of the lead organizers: Gaye Harris, Tim Lyden, Rose Brooks, Seth Truby, and Ariana Orton.

We are recruiting a volunteer-based Student Recruitment/Outreach Committee to continue PVS student recruitment and brainstorm further outreach efforts.

The newsletter is also looking for volunteers to help edit, organize, and contribute. If interested, please contact Jackie Jaffe at 503.445.0056 or at jjaffe@portlandvillageschool.org.

Office volunteers are also needed for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. You should be CPR certified and have general office experience.

Please contact Amy Lyden for more information at 503-445-0056 or alyden@portlandvillageschool.org.



Classroom News and Wish-Lists

Each Class has a list of items that they are requesting students to bring on the first day of school. Please check in with your child's teacher.

It's time to clean out your cupboards and find miscellaneous treasures!! If you can donate any of the following items to the classes listed, it would be greatly appreciated.

Lavender Kindergarten: Ironing board, broom, oval or round carpet, carpet sweeper, two kitty-litter sized plastic bins for water colors, and someone to assemble the utility cart.

Magnolia Kindergarten: oval or round carpet, doll beds from Community Playthings catalog, wooden people and wooden animals from Nova Naturals

catalog.

2nd Grade: Bean bag chairs, rocking chair, drift wood, and baskets.

3rd Grade: Dustpan, broom, beanbags, pillows, baskets for books, clock, Mason jars, baby food jars, Jenga and other classroom games, aquarium for vermicomposting, reading chair, stool, music stand, pots and pans, cutting board, and garden supplies.

*“Imbue thyself with the power
of imagination.*

Have courage for the truth.

*Sharpen thy feeling for
responsibility of soul.”*

-Rudolph Steiner

Fundraising update

The fundraising committee has had two organizational meetings.

Scrip is coming! I am thrilled to say we have decided to do an e-Scrip program (this is a way for folks to get a % of their money donated to the school when they shop at certain stores). We have a team of three veteran Scrip organizers who have volunteered to run our program: Annie Adams, Jen Fulkerson, and Ashleigh Kayser. We plan to start the program by the second week of school.

We've just submitted our first grant proposal to Adidas for help with the playscape, thanks to Tim Lyden. Also, McMenamins has offered to host a fundraising night for us in late October at The Chapel Pub. Lots of other fundraising ideas are percolating.

The next fundraising team meeting is Saturday, September 8th at 10 am at the school. We are looking for a few more members, so if you're at all interested, please join us . . .OR call, email, or visit me at the school. Thanks!

-Ann Powers

Other New News

Before and After Care:

The "Breakfast Club" and After Care Program are established! You will receive an email with details and sign-up forms soon; contact Amy Lyden with questions or come by the school to pick up a form.

Community Webpage:

Enrolled families are encouraged to log in to our community webpage for carpool connections, volunteer opportunities, events updates and special announcements. Go to www.portlandvillageschool.org; click "login" (lower left bar); click "register," and follow the instructions online. The page is updated weekly so be sure to check it often!