



# PORTLAND VILLAGE SCHOOL

Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 4

January 2009

## Calendar

**Wednesday, January 14 @ 8:45–10 am**  
Kaffe Klatch

**Wednesday, January 14 @ 7-9pm**  
Board Meeting

**Thursday, January 15 @ 7-9pm**  
PVPA

**Monday, January 19**  
No School – Holiday

**Thursday, January 22 @ 5:30 pm**  
3rd Grade Parent Evening

**Friday, January 23 @ 6:30–8:00 pm**  
Square Dance Social!

**Monday, January 26**  
Lunar New Year Assembly

**Wednesday, January 28 @ 5:45–7:30 pm**  
1st Grade Ms. Baldwin Parent Evening

**Thursday, January 29**  
1st Grade Ms. Lowman Parent Evening  
**5:30–7 pm**

4th Grade Parent Evening  
**7 – 8:30 pm**

5th Grade Parent Evening  
**7 – 9 pm**

**Friday, January 30**  
No School – In Service Day

## Principal's Corner

Dear Families,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday break. I want to thank everyone for being so generous with their gifts to the faculty. We all know how hard they work and how little recognition there can be in the teaching field. Fortunately, we are in a warm and supportive climate. Thank you. It was truly heartfelt and appreciated.

As we begin 2009, it is a good time to help your children ease back into the rhythms of school and the work at hand. The rest of the year will seem to fly by, so it is always a good time to take stock and re-center. Please make sure that your students have what they need for school success: a good night's sleep, proper clothing, healthy food, homework and practice work ready and prepared, a balance between scheduled and down time. The faculty is an excellent resource for helping families with ideas for addressing the winter blues as well as nurturing and appropriate stimulating activities. Tap into this invaluable source.

Best wishes in the New Year!

Jackie J Jaffe  
Principal

## PVS Faculty/Staff

### Faculty:

Lucia Mello, Lavender Kindergarten  
Ruthanne Kendrick, Magnolia Kindergarten  
Betty Baldwin, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Christina Lowman, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Melanie Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Lisa Fenton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Shannon McClure, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Theresa Molter, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Tammy Wagner, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Elise Bradley, Special Education

Joseph Wyatt, Spanish  
Patricia Thom, Handwork  
Gregory Filardi, Handwork Assistant  
Arehn McCarty, Movement  
Heidi Vorst, Folk Dance  
Emma Wood, Orchestra  
Christie Hannigan, Lavender Assistant  
Mindy Lee Hill, Magnolia Assistant  
Craig Dermer, Speech Therapist  
Lisa Porter, Occupational Therapist  
Megan Henry, Before and After Care Lead

Shaney Broome & Jessica Felkins,  
Before & After Care Assistants

### Administrative Staff:

Jackie Jaffe, Principal, x11  
Amy Brinkerhoff, Community Programs Coordinator, x15  
Amy Lyden, Communications and Enrollment  
Rebeckah Castillo, Office Assistant, x10  
Tracy Rimel, Accountant

# Lunar New Year Celebration

By Lucia Mello, Lavender Kindergarten Teacher

We Kindergarteners enjoyed the snow days. We missed the last day of school though, for we missed a wonderful celebration of Hanukah that we had prepared for. Luckily, we managed to “sneak” a day in that snow week and we had a beautiful celebration of Kwanzaa, where the third and first graders joined the Lavender and Magnolia kindergartens to a lovely storytelling and candle-lighting time.

In January, we plan to honor the Lunar New Year: a Buddhist, Taoist Festival and most important cultural traditional holiday honored by all Korean, Mongolian, Tibetan, Chinese, Vietnamese peoples around the world. It is also honored by the Taiwanese, Nepalese and Bhutanese. Now we will include the Village children on that long list!

The Lunar New Year falls on the day of the second new moon, after winter solstice (unless there is a rare intercalary eleventh or twelfth month in the lead-up to the new year. In such a case, the new year falls on the day of the third new moon after solstice, like in 2033).

The Lunar New year is a wonderful holiday for the whole family, where every one is eager to dress-up in traditional clothing (in China, red is the favored color for clothing and decoration) and to perform ancestral rituals in the morning. People make great efforts to see the first rays of the sun as it rises for the first time in the New Year!

Another wonderful tradition is the practice to honor and pay respects to parents and grandparents on the New Year. Children visit their parents and wish them a happy and lucky new year by doing a deep traditional bow, accompanied by traditional words of blessings for abundance of luck and good health. It is also customary that parents reward their children by giving them new year’s money in a red envelope and offering words of wisdom.

Many games are played, kites are flown, Dragon and Lion Dances are performed on the streets with great shows of fireworks and firecrackers. It is customary to decorate everywhere with red colors and to cook special foods.

The whole school will honor the Lunar New Year with an assembly on January 26. WE SUGGEST THAT ALL STUDENTS WEAR RED CLOTHES TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION AS A SYMBOL OF GOOD LUCK AND PROSPERITY. (BETTER YET IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ASIAN ATTIRE, THAT WOULD BE A GREAT DAY TO WEAR IT!)

“Saehae bok manhi badeseyo

## School-wide Assemblies

It is common in schools for there to be assemblies and school-wide celebrations during the day, and you will often hear about these or see them on the calendar. These are meant to create a shared culture amongst the students and faculty, as well as to foster and build particular skills. They are educational opportunities in which students can learn the qualities of being a good audience and practice active listening and public speaking. These are a vital part of the internal life of our school and families are not expected to attend. Should you be on campus during one of these events, you are, of course, welcome to come. If you do, please do so with the intention of helping by modeling good audience participation and by keeping your little ones close to your side.

When we have scheduled performances explicitly for families to enjoy, such as before school breaks, we will make sure to extend the invitation and that everyone knows. They will be listed on the chalkboard in the front hallway, on the web calendar, and in classroom letters and emails.

Thank you,

Jackie Jaffe,  
Principal



## PVPA Update

Portland Village School Parent Association

Dear Parents,

The parent association has been working hard to bring together the principal, board, teachers and parents. This is to help with communication and function of the school.

I have currently been working close with classroom representatives. The class reps are a parent, or parents, that have agreed to work with the parent association and with the teacher. They provide support to the teachers in field trip planning, class activities, etc. The class reps also represent the PVPA by helping spread the word of current PVPA activities. They will report back to the class each month after the PVPA meetings. If you have questions, concerns, or want to learn more about PVPA contact your classroom rep. Do not know who your class rep is? Ask your child's teacher. Each month the classroom reps will meet before the PVPA meeting.

**NEXT MEETING-** Thursday, January 15h. The education piece of the meeting will be a question and answer session from Virginia Berg. Ms. Berg is a former grades teacher who has taken a class all the way through (grades 1-8) at PWS. She also has been a high school teacher at PWS and is now the teacher mentor. She was formerly on our PVS board and is the aunt of a child at our sister school, Eugene Village School. She also gives lectures at the Michae-el Institute here in Portland. She is a mom of 2 boys, both at PWS. Questions are being submitted to Ashleigh Kayser as I write this. If you have questions about Waldorf education- come join us. **FAMILY SQUARE DANCE** hosted by the PVPA! Friday, January 23rd, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Do you remember Caroline Oakley, who played for us at the Harvest Festival? She is going to be calling this dance and has gotten musicians to come join her. This will be a fundraising event for the school. The musicians will be paid a nominal fee but money raised above and beyond will go to the school. Get your square dance outfits and cowboy boots on and come join us in the basement of church for a night of fun.

I can't wait to see you there. Hee- Haw!!

Annie  
PVPA Chair  
annieadams1@gmail.com  
503-286-9471

All meetings are the third Thursday of the month, 7-9 pm. They begin with a parent education hour; the second hour covers PVPA business.

Next Meeting:  
Thursday, January 15, 2009  
7 pm - 9 pm

Chair: Annie Adams  
Secretary: Atty Zschau

Sorry, no childcare is offered during PVPA meetings.

## Update on SCRIP Sales

Good news, our fundraising from scrip is up by about 30% from this time last year.

Not so hot news, only 30% of our parents are using scrip to pay for their groceries!

Did you know that if every Village family paid for all their groceries with scrip, PVS would get \$30,000 every year donated by the grocery stores?

Yes, that's right, folks, \$30,000. That's based on an average grocery bill of \$400/month/family over 10 months of the year.

As you shop for food, pick out those freshest fruits and veggies, talk to your kids, think about cooking that yummy dinner ....please remember your little part in raising \$30,000 for our children's education, and pay your grocery bill with SCRIP!

## Kaffee Klatsch

Wed. Jan. 14th, 8:45 -10:00

Join your fellow PVS parents for a coffee break in the basement! Kaffee Klatsch is german for a casual social gathering with coffee. Come on down after drop-off to relax and mingle with other parents. The Wee Villagers Playgroup also meets here on Wednesdays so little ones welcome, there's plenty of space. Feel free to bring a light finger food to share and donations accepted for coffee. Bring your own mug, if possible and see you soon!

## Board Committees

The following board committees are established to further the work of the Board. Committee meetings and membership are open to parents of PVS. Please contact the committee chair at [board@portlandvillageschool.org](mailto:board@portlandvillageschool.org) if you would like to attend a meeting or join a committee.

<b>Community Relations</b>	TBA, contact chair	Kirsten Rayhawk
<b>Student Achievement</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 2pm in Magnolia K room	Ruthanne Kendrick
<b>Fundraising</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 9:15 am, 7803 N Emerald St.	Gaye Harris
<b>Site</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, at PVS	Tim Lyden
<b>Finance</b>	10/13; 11/17; 12/15; 1/20; 2/23; 3/16; 4/13; 5/18 9:00 am; Cup and Saucer, 8237 N Denver Ave.	Ariana Orton
<b>Policy</b>	TBA contact the chair	Allison Bernat
<b>Governance</b>	Meetings limited to board/staff only	Deah Baird

## Community Relations Committee Update

Exciting news! Our Diversity and Community Relations committees have combined, formally recognizing the fundamental importance of diversity initiatives to our community. This will give us greater momentum as we work forward from the strong community base our school has so consciously developed.

Our formal purpose, adopted at December's Board meeting, is, "To proactively expand and strengthen relationships with different communities in which we participate or want to participate.

In both committees we have been contacting local groups, introducing our school and building initial relationships. The Board is considering statewide and national memberships with organizations that can support the work of PVS.

Within the school, most of the direct community-building work, including diversity considerations, of course comes from the parents, staff, and faculty; our role is to keep an eye out for holes and to make sure they are well filled.

As we move forward, you can help nurture all of these growing relationships by positively outreaching on a personal level. As an organization, we look forward to Portland Village School becoming an active part of Portland's cultural fabric, and as a committee we would

appreciate your conscious carrying of this goal. Portland's Waldorf community is gaining a national reputation for cooperation amongst its schools and families, and we are flowing naturally into this zeitgeist.

Kirsten Rayhawk, acting Chair

## Site Updates

For the latest on our PVS site search journey, check out this blog authored by Tim Lyden, Site Committee Chair @ <http://www.pvssite.blogspot.com/>

## 2008/09 Board of Directors

Board meetings are open to the community. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month, 7-9 pm at PVS

Allison Bernat (Parent)  
Ariana Orton, Treasurer (Parent)  
Ashleigh Kayser (Parent)  
Deah Baird, President (Parent)  
Dianne Garret (Parent)  
Eric Brooks, Vice Chair (Parent)  
Kirsten Rayhawk (Parent)  
Pamela Echevario (Community Member)  
Lisa Towne (Community Member)  
Ruthanne Kendrick (Parent, Faculty)  
Tim Lyden (Parent)

Email [board@portlandvillageschool.org](mailto:board@portlandvillageschool.org)  
or call the school at **503-445-0056** to leave a message.



## Employment Opportunity at PVS

If you enjoy working with children, want to make a difference in their lives, like a fast-paced work environment, and love food; then this is the job for you!

We need a lunch server from 11:40 am-1:10 pm, M-F.

This position is a temporary part-time position. It pays \$8.40/hour with no health benefits.

- The person must be able to acquire a food handler's card, if they do not already have one.
- The person must be able to pass a background check.
- The person must be able to lift 50 pounds and stand for a long period of time.

If you are interested, please submit your letter of interest and a resume to [hr@portlandvillageschool.org](mailto:hr@portlandvillageschool.org) or the front office.

Questions? Call Ms. Jaffe at 503.445.0056, ext. 11

## Before and After School Activities at PVS

### Before School

**Before Care with Megan Henry!** Hours are 7:30 to 8:30 am. \$5/hr. A light morning snack is provided. See Before and After Care flyers by the parent mailboxes for more information.

**Chess Club** on Fridays, 7:45 - 8:30 am. PVS Chess Club will meet every Friday morning in the 3rd grade classroom. If you have a PVS student who is interested in participating or you would like to volunteer to help with the club, please email Chris Kayser at [cjkayser@msn.com](mailto:cjkayser@msn.com).

### After School:

**After Care with Megan Henry!** Open 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm. \$5/hr. An afternoon snack is provided. See Before and After Care flyers by the parent mailboxes for more information.

**Kids' Yoga** on Mondays, 3yrs - K (2:00 - 2:45 pm); 1st - 5th Grade (3:15- 4:15 pm), in the folk dance room in the basement. Classes begin in January! Registration forms have been distributed via parent mailboxes; see our bulletin board for the flyer. For more information, contact Tanya Woods at [tanya.m.woods@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.m.woods@gmail.com).

**Paper Club** on Thursdays, 3:15 - 4:15 pm, in the 3rd grade classroom, for 7-10 year olds. Six week session begins January 22. See flyer on the PVS bulletin board; for more information and to register, contact Helen Hiebert at [helen@enlightenedpapers.com](mailto:helen@enlightenedpapers.com).

**Theater Arts** on Tuesdays, 3:15 - 4:15, grades 1 - 5, in the Magnolia kindergarten, with Miss Ruthanne and Miss Nicole. Classes start January 13. Registration forms are available at the bulletin board across from the parent mailboxes. For more information, contact Nicole Severson at [villageschoolcamp2008@yahoo.com](mailto:villageschoolcamp2008@yahoo.com).

We look forward to a fun 2009 with you and your children!

