



PORTLAND VILLAGE SCHOOL

Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 5

March 2009

Calendar

Wednesday, March 11 @ 8:45am
Kaffee Klatch & Wee Villagers (see pg. 6)

Wednesday, March 11 @ 6:30pm
Board of Directors

Friday, March 13 @ 6:00pm
5th Grade Class Play (see pg. 3)

Saturday, March 14 @ 1:00 – 3:00pm
Reflections Gathering (see pg. 6)

March 16 – 20 @ 1:45 – 4:00pm
Scholastic Book Fair! (see pg. 2)

Wednesday, March 18 @ 6:00pm
Ms. Fenton's 2nd Grade Class Play

Thursday, March 19 @ 7:00pm
PVPA Meeting

Friday, March 20 @ 2:05 pm
Spring Assembly

Friday, March 20 @ 5:30 - 7:00pm
Family Art Night (see pg. 3)

March 23 - 27
Spring Break

Principal's Corner

Dear Families,

As many of you know, we had our charter renewal hearing on February 12. Let me start by saying thank you to everyone who was able to make the event! (Many more appreciations on page 2) I know that we impressed the PPS subcommittee for charter schools just with our incredible turnout; we nearly filled the auditorium. We did an exceptional job of answering their questions, and I look forward to a positive result. On March 12, I will hear the superintendent's and the subcommittee's recommendation for renewal to the PPS Board. On March 30, the PPS Board will cast their votes, and we will have our final determination.

At the January PVPA meeting, I shared that the faculty was in the midst of a discussion on looping, so that we could set a school policy. There is an update on this conversation and process on page 3.

Lastly, we are facing challenging economic times. We have recently gotten news that there is a potential unanticipated shortfall for this year's budget. We are actively addressing this as we get more information. Please see Deah Baird's letter from the Board on page 5 for more information and for ways to stay abreast of the budgetary process and dialogue.

Sincerely,

Jackie Jaffe
Principal



PVS Faculty/Staff

Faculty:

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

Dear PVS Community,

During this time of economic stress, we are working hard as a school community to offset budget shortfalls. If you are at all able to support us in any of these endeavors, it would be greatly appreciated.

2nd Annual Auction

This spring we are looking forward to our annual school auction. It will take place the evening of May 16th, and will be held at the Madeleine Parish in NE Portland. Our theme is Oregon Local, and it will be a celebration of our wonderful regional food and local talent. We would love to see our extended families and friends of the school in attendance!

How you can help:

- Purchase tickets to the event! They will be available the second week of March.
- Donate goods or services, or help to procure commercial goods or services (contact me with your ideas!)
- Volunteer at the auction (set-up, take-down, food service, etc)
- Work on an auction sub-committee (decoration, food and beverage, publicity, ticket sales, etc)

School Library

We are officially opening our school library this week, and are in the process of collecting books and library funds throughout the month of March. We hope to acquire at least 500 additional books, which will more than double our collection.

How you can help:

- Drop off book donations! They can be left at the front office.
- Volunteer to work in the library as a guest librarian; read to the children, assist with book selection, and so forth
- Support our first Scholastic Book Fair! **March 16 - 20, 1:45 to 4:00 pm, and March 18th at 8:45 in the church basement** (50-60% of proceeds will go to PVS!)

Thank you so much for your continued support. Please contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions!

Amy Brinkerhoff
Community Programs Coordinator
abrinkerhoff@portlandvillageschool.org
503.445.0056, ext 15

Inspirational Story...

Nico Rand, in the fifth grade, recently had his birthday. He and his family were planning his birthday party and discussing how they would handle the recurring question of gift giving. In the past, they had requested donations to charities and felt that that was a great idea for this year. Nico's mom started to suggest some organizations like the Humane Society, but Nico decided that he would like the donations to be given to his school; yes, the Portland Village Charter School. The family asked for donations from the party guests, limiting it to no more than \$5.

Thank you, Nico and your family! It truly does take everyone.

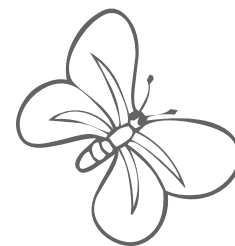
Special Thanks

to Those Involved with the Charter Renewal Hearing

I would like to thank the brave and articulate people who gave testimony on behalf of our school: Josh Seeds, Angel Dawson, Osvaldo Villanueva, and Lisa Towne. Tammi Bell was also charted to speak but did not get the opportunity. I also want to thank Nick Yardley for creating such an amazing video that magnificently showcased our school and Chris Kayser for helping to make that happen. Lastly, I had a great team help me anticipate the questions and develop thorough answers: Steve Correl, Lisa Towne, Allison Bernat, Ruthanne Noll, Pamela Echevario, and Tracy Rimel. I am forever grateful to all of you!

Warmly,

Jackie Jaffe,
Principal



About Looping at PVS

On the re-enrollment forms that went into boxes a few weeks ago, Ms. Jaffe and the administrative staff provided a list of the currently expected teaching assignments for next year. According to that list, each current grades teacher is continuing with their class next year (2009-2010).

Many of you heard about recent discussions of what “looping” might mean here at Portland Village Charter School. Looping is when a teacher moves with the students for certain grades, and then “loops” back to start with a new class while their original students (and families) move into relationship with a new teacher. Looping is an expected practice in a Waldorf school and increasingly practiced in other schools, as well.

As our school moves out of its infancy with a default looping policy of ‘it will be decided year by year and teacher by teacher,’ we considered adopting a more definite policy, partly to address parent uncertainty about teacher assignments. Some initial discussions have already taken place, primarily among the faculty.

Through this process, it has become evident that we need more time to decide how looping will work for our school: time to more fully involve our community, particularly the parent body; time for those who have been involved to dig deeper into the resources they have access to; time to consider how our model, of combining Waldorf methods with public school standards might affect certain grades (particularly 7th and 8th) such that the loop-duration decisions would shift.

Going forward, we plan to engage the community in constructive discussion about these decisions. This Spring, we will provide everyone—parents, faculty, and Board members—with information about looping and its role in Waldorf Education. Early next Fall, we will provide formal opportunities for everyone to discuss what we have learned and to weigh in on how looping should look at our school. In light of those discussions, the Board will adopt a formal looping policy before the enrollment cycle for 2010-2011.

Thank you for your patience and for communicating your concerns to our Board, Faculty, and Administration.

Sincerely,
Jackie Jaffe, Principal
Kirsten Rayhawk, Board lead on Looping



The Fifth Grade Play, “Perseus and Danae” will be performed March 12 at 9:30 am and March 13 at 9:30 am and 6:00 pm. This play is based on a story from Greek mythology, and promises to be an adventure! The paintings hung outside the classroom depict various scenes from the play.



Family Art Night a Success!

Our first family art night in February was a lot of fun. We made clayscapes as a community, and marveled at the results! The next Family Art Night will be Friday, March 20th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the church basement. Potluck dinner from 5:30-6:00, with painting from 6 to 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation per family to cover the cost of materials.

Questions? Contact Angela Molloy Murphy,
rowanberryschool@mac.com.



Happenings of the PVPA

Portland Village Parent Association

February PVPA meeting was a sweaty one. Our very own movement teacher, Ms McCarty, came and played games with us. It was a blast. We have some competitive parents in our group, that is for sure!! We laughed and tried to be good students for Ms McCarty. Thank you Arehn for making us play games and sharing with us a taste of the games our children play during movement class.

The March meeting's parent education topic is our school budget – where our funds come from, where they go to, what the budget shortfall means to us and why we rely so much on fundraising. Tracy Rimel, our business manager will come present and we will open the forum to questions and discussion.

What you can expect at most meetings-

- First hour parent education topic
- Ms Jaffe keeps us up to date on administration and is always available to answer questions you may have.
- The board and site committee give updates.
- Discussion of current school events.
- Fundraising updates
- Laughter
- Lively conversation
- Much more

Thank you to all that have been participating with auction, library, walking to the park with classes, and loving our school. It takes a VILLAGE.

Annie Adams
PVPA Chair



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, March 19
7-9 pm

Chair: Annie Adams
Secretary: Atty Zschau
Parent Rep Coordinator: Neah Douglas

Sorry, no childcare is offered during PVPA meetings.

Portland Village Family Network – we need your participation!

The Portland Village Family Network is being created to invite the extended members of your family (grandparents, aunts and uncles, close family friends) into our community. All you need to do is provide us with names and addresses and we'll be in touch a few times a year to keep your extended family abreast of PVS news, events, and fundraisers.

For the 20 some families who have already signed up - thank you! A personalized welcome letter from Ms. Jaffe with some info about our school and upcoming events has been mailed out to your family members.

It takes a village - lets expand ours! Please pick up a form from the bulletin board in the main hall and return your completed form to the front office ASAP.

Questions or comments - please contact Jenn Lalime (parent) @ j.lalime@comcast.net or 503/989-2428.

Chess Club News

Congratulations to the students in the Friday morning Chess Club. They placed second in the Chess for Success regional tournament! They also qualified for the state championship. The State Championship Tournament for 2009 will be held Friday March 13th, and Saturday, March 14th at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Thank you to Chris Kayser and the other parents who have helped in hosting this club.

Board Update

In the last month, a very successful presentation was made to the PPS Board subcommittee on Charter schools by our Principal and a dedicated group of Faculty, Board and Parent volunteers. All signs point to a positive outcome! Thank you to all those who stepped forward to help with this important effort.

Due to the overwhelming deficit in the Oregon state budget, the revenue provided by the state to Portland Village Charter School for each student was decreased for the current academic year. This is presenting us with challenges to this year's budget and will affect next year's budget as well. Between now and the end of the school year, budget discussions will be at the forefront of each Board meeting - with important decisions slated around salary scale and programmatic issues. As always, we will ground these discussions in our commitment to providing PVS students with an education consistent with the mission and vision of our school.

At the Board committee level, we continue to look to our Site committee for a clear path forward in dealing with site issues. Over the next months, plans for next year's site needs will be finalized and we will hear more about possible long term site solutions. The Diverse Community Builders will be preparing a Parent Satisfaction Survey for distribution to the school community this Spring. The Policy committee continues to contribute important pieces of policy for both Board-level and School operations; with a Personnel policy in the wings for future review. The Fundraising committee has written several grants this school year and is busily assisting with preparations for our Annual Auction.

Please consider attending Committee or Board meetings and joining in the very active behind-the-scenes work that is part of what makes our school run so smoothly. Our next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 pm in the Fifth grade classroom. Committee meeting times are posted on the Community bulletin board.

Deah Baird
Chair, Board of Directors

Next Board Meeting:
Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 pm

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 if you would like to attend a meeting or join a committee.

Diverse Community Builders	Kirsten Rayhawk
Student Achievement	Ruthanne Kendrick
Fundraising	Gaye Harris
Site	Tim Lyden
Finance	Ariana Orton
Policy	Lisa Towne
Governance	Deah Baird

2008/09 Board of Directors

Board meetings are open to the community. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30-9 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
or call the school at **503-445-0056** to leave a message.





Kaffee Klatsch

Wed. March 18th, 8:45 to 10:00 am

“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 are welcome, there’s plenty of space. Feel free to bring a light morning snack to share and donations accepted for coffee. Bring your own mug, if possible. Questions? Contact Amy Bean at 503-261-1687

Wee Villagers Playgroup

Please join us Wednesdays in the Church Folk Dance room from 9:00 to 10:00 for a gathering of Sprites, Fairies and Elves! A great opportunity for play and fostering parental connections. We have a great group of Wee Ones, Moms and Dads every week, so come meet someone you haven’t yet!

Coordinator - Third Grade Mama Amy Bean
(503) 261-1687 or empathicheart@comcast.net

Auction! Auction!

Our “Oregon Local” Auction is coming up May 16, but for those in our community who really love an auction and want to support local Waldorf education, Cedarwood’s auction is coming right up on March 14! “A Midsummer Night’s Dreamy Evening” is at 5 PM. Tickets are \$30 at the door. www.cedarwoodschool.org.

Reflections

**Next Gathering Saturday, March 14
1:00 – 3:00pm; in the church basement**

Reflections is a newly forming group of parents, teachers, and friends of Portland Village School who wish to develop and strengthen our diverse, multi-cultural community. We don’t often get the opportunity during the school week to slow down and truly appreciate the gifts that we all bring to this community. Reflections is the opportunity to connect, share food, discuss, and laugh to bring not only our lives together, but the lives of our children as well. Please join us!

Last week, the state economist projected a \$855 million hole in the current year’s budget and a \$3 billion shortfall for the 2009-2011 biennium. We all know there are incredibly difficult choices to be made in these times of increasing shortfalls. But we must protect kids and schools. Can you sign our petition to stop the cuts today?

Follow this link to sign the petition:
<http://www.stand.org/nomorecuts>

To learn more, go to www.stand.org/or/rally.

Boys Alive! Bring out their best!

If you love a boy or know a boy... this workshop is for you!

Saturday, March 28, 9:00am – 12:30pm

\$40/person; \$60/couple; \$5 off for Waldorf parents!

Janet Allison is a Parent Educator, Family Coach, and a substitute teacher at PVS. She is passionate about helping parents and teachers discover new ways with the “same old words.” She inspires confidence and helps create change, believing that language is the catalyst. For more information, call: **503-493-7404**.

***** Have school-related submissions for the newsletter? Contact Amy Lyden at alyden@portlandvillageschool.org. Deadlines are the third week of each month to be published the following month.