



PORTLAND VILLAGES SCHOOL

A Public Charter School

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 3

November 2009

Calendar

Wednesday, Nov. 4th @ 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Special Board Session on Looping (see pg. 5)

Thursday, Nov. 5th

Auction Kick-Off Meeting (see pg. 3) 9 - 10:00am

Lavender Kindergarten Parent Meeting @ 5:30pm

1st Grade Ms. Mohn-Johnsen's Parent Meeting @ 5:30pm

Friday, Nov. 6th, NO SCHOOL

Teacher Planning Day

Saturday, Nov. 7th @ 9:30 am

Magnolia Kindergarten Parent Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 10th @ 5:30 pm, Gammans Park

Lantern Walk, for Kindergarten - 3rd grades (see pg. 2)

Wednesday, Nov. 11th, NO SCHOOL

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, Nov. 18th

Lunch Orders Due

6:30 pm, Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 19th

5:00 pm, 4th Grade Parent Meeting

6:30 pm, PVPA Meeting (see pg. 4)

Friday, Nov. 20th @ 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Family Art Night (see pg. 2)

Tuesday & Wednesday, Nov. 24th & 25th

NO SCHOOL – Parent Conferences

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26th & 27th

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 4th, NO SCHOOL

Professional Development Day

Also see our live calendar at:

www.portlandvillageschool.org/calendar for updates and more.

Principal's Corner

Dear PVS Families:

Before I launch into the hot topic of looping, I want to remind you that conferences are coming up. These are important opportunities for you to have informative conversations about your child with the teacher. Please sign up outside your child's classroom.

The Board is going to decide upon a looping policy that will guide the school's practice. As I stated at the October 17th meeting, the faculty spent several weeks determining a recommendation for the Board. This process began with research. This included reading several articles and investigating what other Waldorf charter schools around the country use as their model for looping. Using this information, the faculty had large and small group discussions to weigh out the pros and cons of everything that had been shared. Together we decided on one recommendation.

The faculty's recommendation is for a 1-4, 5-8 looping model with the option to do 1-8. The rationales included nurturing long-term relationships with students and their families, carrying students through the "nine-year" and twelve-year changes" before switching teachers, seeing each of these loops as developmentally similar, identifying children for special education and supporting them through the eligibility process and the following year or so.

Please read the articles at <http://portlandvillageschool.org/Looping>. As well, please come to the Special Session of the Board next Wednesday, November 4 from 6:30-8:30.

Warmly,

Ms. Jaffe, Principal

PVS Faculty/Staff

Faculty:

Lucia Mello, Lavender Kindergarten
Ruthanne Kendrick, Magnolia Kindergarten
Jessica Mohn-Johnson, 1st Grade
Olivia Farrell, 1st Grade
Betty Baldwin, 2nd Grade
Christina Lowman, 2nd Grade
Melanie Walker, 3rd Grade
Thora Graham, 3rd Grade
Shannon McClure, 4th Grade
Theresa Molter, 5th Grade

Tammy Wagner, 6th Grade
Joseph Wyatt, Spanish K-3
Alejandra Schimpfoessl, Spanish 4-6
Patricia Thom, Handwork
Jessi Herbert, Handwork Assistant
Heidi Vorst, Folk Dance
Becky Kennedy, Movement
Mindy Lee Hill & Asher Brill, K Assistants
Orchid Jones & Emily Pitti, Before and After Care, ext. 34
Elizabeth O'Malley & Shawn Spencer-Mylet, Lunch Fairies

Special Education Staff:

Sandy Davis, Special Education Teacher, ext. 20
Craig Dermer, Speech Pathologist
Lisa Porter, Occupational Therapist
Judy Lamkins, School Psychologist

Administrative Staff:

Jackie Jaffe, Principal, ext. 11
Rebeckah Castillo, Office Manager, ext. 10
Shaney Broome, Office Assistant, ext. 15
Tracy Rimel, Business Manager, ext. 30

Events and Announcements

Let Us Brighten the Dark Evening with a Family Lantern Walk

November 10, 5:30pm at Gammans Park Kindergarten to 3rd Grade

By Lucia Mello, Lavender Kindergarten

In autumn, the leaves wither and fall, the trees grow bare, all flowering and fruiting life of the plants dies away. Nature no longer nurtures us with "warmth-laden gifts of the Sun". At this season, Nature has no more seeds, shoots, leaves, buds, blossoms or fruit. As the forces of decay press upon us, darkness increases and Nature withdraws herself, days grow shorter, nights are longer, darker and colder. We all feel that change "in the air" and we all look for ways to brighten our evenings.

At this time of the year, children of Waldorf Schools all over the Northern Hemisphere join in a lantern walk. The lantern walk is done in light of the second grade curriculum, where the second graders learn about many good and noble people, helpers of humanity who throughout history have been kind to the poor, outcasts, beggars and needy and have brought them light, warmth, food, comfort and care. The lantern is but a symbol of the gestures of kindness, light and warmth that can be shared among all people in time of need, now and throughout history.

Our Family Lantern Walk is Tuesday November 10, 5:30pm at Gammans Park for the kindergarten to 3rd grade. We will gather in the park, light our lantern candles and walk down the paths among the trees. Our walk will end in a circle in the middle, hear a song by the 2nd grade and depart in quiet reverence.

We would like to create a reflective mood of inner quiet for this family walk. Please be punctual and have your children by you at all times and please do not let them run around the park while we wait for all to arrive and depart. We ask that the families stay together for the whole walk and we will all be singing the lantern songs. The beauty of the lit lanterns shining in the dark can be a reflection of the light that shines within all of us.

Please help us maintain that reflective mood created by the walk itself, by singing along your children, by taking your children quietly back home at the end of the walk for a restful night filled with dreams of shining stars....

Gammans Park (97217) is located at N Burrage Ave. and N Buffalo St. (From N Lombard, take L onto N Burrage Ave.)

Family Art Night Returns to Portland Village School!

Join us for a family friendly evening of creativity in the Castle basement, on Friday, November 20th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We will have dinner from 5:30-6:00 and play with mixed media from 6:00-7:00. Suggested donation of \$5 per family covers the cost of supplies. You will end up with either an individual or family piece to bring home. Questions? Contact Angela Molloy-Murphy at rowanberryschool@me.com.

Materials' Fee

Dear PVS Community:

As some of you know, many schools send home a list of items and materials to be purchased for the first day of school. These include items such as tissues, snacks, binders, pencils, crayons, etc. Because our curriculum and method of instruction demand unusual or specific materials, we have decided to implement a requested materials' fee of \$50 per child instead, so that we can do bulk ordering of the exact items we need (Main Lesson Books, beeswax crayons, beeswax, etc.). This fee can be turned in to the office anytime; we hope to collect from each family by the end of 2009.

Thank you for helping us to provide this very special education to your children!



The Third PVS Annual Giving Campaign is Here!



Our third annual appeal hits full-swing this month, and YOU are invited to participate! Our operating budget relies on the success of this fundraising campaign and future grants rely on your participation! Remember the fact that you participate is most important; **no donation is too small.**



Goals of this year's campaign:

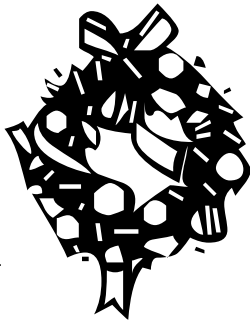
- 1. 100% participation amongst our enrolled families, board of directors, and faculty/staff**
- 2. Raise a minimum of \$25,000; \$2k over last year's total**
- 3. Conclude our campaign by Friday, December 4**

Help keep our light aglow by making your donation today.

6th Grade Evergreen Wreath Sale!

The 6th grade is selling beautiful, evergreen wreaths handmade by a local family owned business!

This fundraiser helps pay for outdoor school and other geology-related field trips so integral to the sixth grade curriculum. Sale continues through Nov. 10. Delivery on Nov. 20. 18" wreaths for \$20, and 22" wreaths for \$23. Pre-order by the scrip table. For more info contact Patsy Homberg at aphomberg@gmail.com.



BIG BIG Thanks to Pizzacato Pizza!

Our Pizza fundraiser was a tremendous success! Preorders included *46 Pizzas, 10 Salads and 11 Gift Certificates plus an untold number of PVS families who dined at the Fremont restaurant that day. Many thanks also go to the Store Manager Brian Isaacson, who not only came to speak with the PVPA in September (and brought pizza to the meeting), but also delivered the entire \$1100 preorder to the school the day of the event.

Dough for Dollars raised \$874.31 for our school! Special helpers to make this happen include Amy Bean, Rebeckah Castillo, Shaney Broome and Teresa Hill. Our gratitude to these great ladies and everyone who participated!

Auction Kick-Off Meeting

Please join co-chairs Megan DeBoer and Neah Douglas, who will be revealing some exciting new ideas about this year's auction - you don't want to miss it!

What: Auction Kick-Off Meeting
When: Thursday 11/05/09
Time: From 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Where: The All-School Space

The school auction and the annual appeal are the most important fundraising efforts of the year. Unlike other public schools, we operate on a reduced budget (20% less). Our charter school depends on raising about 5% of our operational budget (approximately \$44,000). The proceeds of this auction actually help to pay your children's teachers' salaries.

We hope to see you there!

Pears Pears Pears!

We raised close to \$900 in just one week. Many thanks to Mt Hood Organic Farms and John Jacobson, People's Co-op and Food Front for sponsoring the School Aid Foundation; and of course the families who helped bag, transport, store and sell pears! Mary Li & Becky Kennedy, Janice Lucas, Annie Adams, Lisa Baggetta & Tom McFadden - I couldn't have done it without your help. -Amy Bean

Thank you for all your support PVS parents!

SCRIP profits for this year are \$1687.00!

Remember that pre orders are due by Monday at midnight for delivery on Thursday afternoons.

On-hand SCRIP is also available at the table Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings during drop off and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at pickup. Yes! We have added another afternoon thanks to a new volunteer.

On line purchases can be made at <http://pvs.tofinoauctions.com/pvsscrip/>

Any questions? Sherry.oconnor3@gmail.com

PVPA Update

I was sorry to miss the October 17th discussion/ parent education focusing on the looping policy our Board of Directors is soon to be finalizing. I want to thank Mary Li, Kirsten Rayhawk, Lucia Mello, Betty Baldwin, Eric Brooks, all the board members, Jackie Jaffe and all those that took the time to attend the meeting. I heard good feedback and appreciate all the thought and concern that is going into the looping decision. The board and Ms Jaffe are interested and respectful of all thoughts and opinions. Let's keep the positive discussion going!

Our October meeting was on Thursday, October 15th. It was a short but sweet meeting. We discussed fundraising, the clothes closet, new parking rules, the upcoming folk dance, Chinook books and much more. We had a great conversation about the clothing closet. Everyone is very excited about this project. What a great addition to our school. Thank you Amy Lyden for heading this up and thank you to all that are helping Amy! I can't wait.

The PVPA is asking all parents to please fill out the volunteer survey that is available on-line and was put in each parent box as a hard copy. PLEASE OH PLEASE take the time to fill out this survey. It is very helpful to the whole school to know who we can ask for help when it is needed. THANK YOU. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for the survey link.

Also, your children's class room parents are going to be helping to collect information for the all school directory. The directory survey link is also in this newsletter. This directory will be a great resource so we need people to fill out the survey. The sooner we have all the information the sooner the directory can be put together. The room parents will be touching base with those families that have not yet filed out their survey. We want to have 100% participation, even if you do not want your information published!

Thank you to Naomi Hughes for all the great landscaping work that has been going on. The new fruit trees are wonderful and how fun to have edible landscaping. THANK YOU NAOMI and all that have been helping with landscaping.

Thank you to Amy Bean (and Teresa Hill) for the Pizzacato fundraiser. We earned almost \$850.00!

THANK YOU to everyone for all you do for our school. The parent participation is amazing.

Happy November to you. See you in the halls.

Annie

annieadams1@gmail.com
503-286-9471

Next PVPA Meeting:

Thursday, November 19

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Chair: Annie Adams

All meetings are third Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. They begin with a parent education hour; the second hour covers PVPA business.

Childcare is available. Please contact Annie Adams at least one week in advance if you will be needing child care (annieadams1@gmail.com).

This month's parent ed topic:

Math and Science in the Middle School

With Tammy Wagner (6th grade) and Jessica Mohn-Johnson (1st grade)



Board Update

Looping Policy Decision

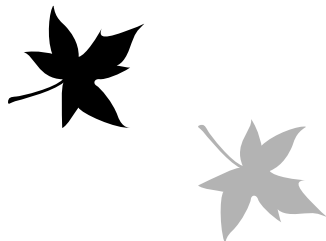
On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all of the faculty, parents/guardians, and board members who have participated in the decision process for the looping policy thus far. The board's decision process began formally on October 17th with a presentation by Betty Baldwin about the benefits of looping (teacher staying with their students for more than one year). I attended that meeting, and found both Ms. Baldwin's presentation and the discussion afterwards very beneficial.

Our looping policy decision has continued with the request that members of the PVS community submit written comments to the board as of October 23rd. Thank you to everyone who submitted your comments. The next step in our process is a special session of the board to be held on the evening of November 4th from 6:30 to 8:30. At this meeting the board will continue to gather sufficient knowledge about looping and the desires and opinions of the faculty and parents/guardians before it makes any decisions. This is a public meeting and you are invited to attend if you are interested. There will be time for your questions and comments. No vote on the looping policy will occur at that meeting. A vote will occur at a regularly scheduled board meeting in either November or December.

The board takes all of its decisions very seriously and it deliberately seeks to make informed decisions that are in the best interests of the school as a whole. This can result in tough decisions both for the board and the PVS community. While we strive to reach a strong consensus amongst ourselves and the PVS community this is not always possible.

The decision as to how many years a teacher stays with a class is important to our school- both the faculty and parents/guardians. Therefore the board is taking every opportunity to learn from published research as well as the experience of our community. All board members come to this decision with our continuing desire to create a strong vibrant school, a wonderful community, and a place where your children (our children) thrive.

Eric Brooks
PVS Board President



Next Board Meetings (in 6th grade classroom)

Wednesday, November 4, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Special Session on Looping and

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Board meetings are open to the community.

For the full 2009/10 schedule, visit www.portlandvillageschool.org/boardmeetings

Board of Directors and Committees

The Board of Directors for the 501(c)3 non-profit, The Portland Village School, is responsible for the long-term health and stability of the school, including fiscal stability, site adequacy, legal requirements and changes, and organizational relationships.

Members: Eric Brooks (Pres.), Diane Garrett (Treas.), Kirsten Rayhawk (Sec.), Melanie Walker (Faculty Rep.), Allison Bernat, Ben Brizuela, Tim Lyden, Lisa Towne

Board sponsored committees, as of September 2009:

Finance Committee (budget): Diane Garrett, Tracy Rimel (Bus.Mgr.), Jackie Jaffe (Prin.), Angel Dawson

Governance Committee (monitors organizational performance): Lisa Towne, Ben Brizuela, Diane Garrett

Site Committee (current site and search for potential future sites): Tim Lyden (Chair), Eric Brooks, Diane Garrett, Ben Brizuela, Marc Adams, Melanie Walker, Theresa Molter (Faculty), Seth Truby, Kathleen Sanchez

Fundraising Committee (grantwriting and capital campaign): Ben Brizuela, Eric Brooks, Tim Lyden, Kathleen Sanchez, Kimmy Scarpine.

Policy Committee (develops and edits organizational policies): Kirsten Rayhawk

All committees of the Board are hoping more people from our community will join us in the work we do to keep the school running; please contact any of the listed members or watch the main bulletin board in the hall for meeting times and places.

Email board@portlandvillageschool.org
or call the school at **503-445-0056** to leave a message.

Artists - Call for Entries!

In a creative way to combine efforts for the auction, school outreach, and a way to help some of our parents - there will be opportunities to display theme-based art late winter/early spring 2010 at local gallery space. Contact Neah Douglas for more information: neahbay@comcast.net

PVS Orchestra

What: An intermediate after-school strings class with our new after-school orchestra teacher Patience Dunbar.

Who: Anyone who has been playing their instrument for at least one school year. We would love to have violin, viola and cello players!

When: Tuesdays from 3:00-3:55 at PVS, Nov. 3-Dec. 15 (six classes).

Fees: We need at least 15 students to sign up for orchestra. The more students signed up, the lower the fees.

- **if 15 students, the fee will be \$55.**
- **if 20 students, the fee will be \$45.**

Registration forms are available in the front office.



Kaffee Klatsch

In observance of Veteran's Day, the NOVEMBER Klatsch will instead be held on November 18th (Third Wed)

Join us In the Castle at 8:45 for Kaffee, Pastries and GOOD Company! Let's build the PVS Community!

"Kaffee Klatsch" is German for a casual social gathering with coffee. Come over after drop-off to relax and mingle with other parents. The Wee Villagers Playgroup also meets here on Wednesdays so little ones are more than welcome. Please supply your own mug if possible and feel free to bring a light morning snack to share.

Donations accepted for coffee and all proceeds go to PVS.

Hosts Wanted! Contact Amy Bean at 503-261-1687.

Wee Villagers Playgroup

A gathering of fairies, sprites and elves happens every Wednesday at 8:45 in the Castle Library! This mixed-age playgroup is open to parents and younger siblings of children attending PVS. The children play, the moms & dads socialize and community is fostered through on-going connections with one another. Please join us!

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

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Wee-Villagers/>

The PVS Scrabble Club – come have fun with words after school!

The PVS Scrabble club will be a totally non-competitive environment for children to explore spelling and word creation, practice dictionary use and addition (score-keeping), and, most importantly, have fun! The November rains are coming, so there is no better time to pull out the board games. Don't worry if your child has never played Scrabble before – everyone is welcome to come and learn.

When: 3 Mondays – November 2, 9, & 16 after-school (3:00-4:30 pm)

Where: Ms. Graham's 3rd grade classroom

Cost: \$22 per student; donation to PVS

Who: Students grade 3 and up (12 student max)

Why: Have fun and raise some cash for our school!

This event is hosted and managed by Jenn Lalime, mom to Miles Kelly (3) and Carson Kelly (1). Please contact me directly to reserve a spot for your child!

j.lalime@comcast.net or 503/989-2428

Volunteer Opportunity – PVS Newsletter Content Editor and Graphic Designer

Do you have your finger on the pulse of our dynamic school? Do you enjoy using your editorial skills and/or design? PVS is looking for a volunteer to take over this great monthly publication. The template is set and training will be provided. This is a great opportunity to add to your portfolio while being in the center of the PVS "buzz". Must have 8-10 hours to devote over the last two weeks of each month. If interested, contact Amy Lyden at lydenmama@gmail.com. Thank you!

Have school-related submissions for the newsletter? Contact Amy Lyden at lydenmama@gmail.com.
Deadlines are the 20th of each month to be published the following month.