



# PORTLAND VILLAGE SCHOOL

A Public Charter School

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 2

October 2009

## Calendar

**Saturday, October 3 @ 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
PVS Harvest Festival, Kenton Park

**Mondays, October 5 & 19 @ 8:45 – 10:30 am**  
Village Handworkers (see pg. 3)

**Tuesday, October 6 @ 5:30 – 7:00 pm**  
Lavender Parent Meeting

**Wednesday, October 7**  
International Bike + Walk to School Day

**Wednesdays, every @ 8:45 – 10:00 am**  
Wee Villagers (see pg. 7)

**Thursday, October 8 @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
6th Grade Parent Meeting

**Friday, October 9, NO SCHOOL**  
In-Service Day

**Tuesday, October 13**  
School Photos – K, 5th & 6th

**Wednesday, October 14**  
School Photos – 1st & 3rd  
8:45 am, Kaffe Klatch (see pg. 7)  
6:30 pm, Board Meeting (see pg. 6)

**Thursday, October 15**  
School Photos – 2nd, 4th & All School  
6:30 pm, PVPA Meeting (see pg. 5)

**Friday, October 16 @ 7:45 am**  
First Day Chess Club (see pg. 7)

**Saturday, October 17 @ 10:00 - 11:30 am**  
Special Parent Ed. Session on Looping (see pg. 5)

**Tuesday, October 20**  
Pizzacato Fundraiser (see pg. 4)

**Wednesday, October 21**  
Lunch Orders Due

**Friday, October 30 @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
Family Dance – Día de los Muertos (see pg. 4)

For updates and more, see our live calendar at [www.portlandvillageschool.org/calendar](http://www.portlandvillageschool.org/calendar)

## Principal's Corner

Dear PVS Families:

Well, we are off to a running start. Now that we are settling in, I would like to address the matter of state testing. As many of you know, our students are mandated to take the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, otherwise known as OAKS, starting in third grade. Last year was our second year taking these tests. While some of our results were exemplary: 100% of students meeting or exceeding the state benchmark in 4th grade reading, for example, PVS is making a great push this year to yield better results in the areas that need more attention. While we are gaining experience taking these tests, which will positively affect our scores over time, I want to let you know some of the steps the faculty and I are taking in response to our most recent results.

Because the faculty and I are committed to providing the best well-rounded education possible to our students, your children, we are engaged in an ongoing evaluation and dialogue about our curriculum and the state assessments. While it is our aim to educate and nurture them to be responsible and caring world citizens, we also want to ensure that we are preparing them to do well academically and in the paths that they will choose after they leave PVS. These are some of the steps we are taking to ensure that this happens:

- In June, we worked tirelessly to develop a scope and sequence for reading, writing and math. We have a first draft that our new faculty-run Student Achievement Committee will fine tune; however, what we have is already being implemented. A copy of the draft will be available on our web site later this month.
- We are critically looking at our methods of instruction to make sure we are incorporating best practices: small-group instruction, differentiated instruction, one-on-one conferencing, daily practice, communication with the home....
- We are increasing allocated funds for professional development opportunities for teachers.
- We are purchasing tools and resources for teachers to use to aid them in their instruction: class sets of books, appropriate materials to support internal reading assessments....*(continued on page 2)*



## 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

## Nuts and Bolts

### Child Care During Evening Events

We are happy to offer child care during many evening events, including PVPA meetings and some parent meetings. Following are some policies and guidelines:

- Space is limited to 30 children.
- The minimum age is 3 years of age.
- The rate for child care is \$5 per child for entire event, not per hour. We also offer discounts for those who qualify for free and reduced lunch (\$4 and \$3 respectively, per child).
- Payment is made at the event and is preferred in cash, although checks are accepted.
- Should you need child care for PVPA meetings, please contact Annie Adams at [annieadams1@gmail.com](mailto:annieadams1@gmail.com) with at least one week's notice.
- Should you need child care for a class meeting, please contact your child's teacher with at least one week's notice.

### Before and After Care

Please note that the child care policies have not changed, in that we require 48 hours advanced notice to schedule. Should you need to schedule providing less notice, there is a convenience fee of \$8 in addition to whatever hourly fees are assessed. Enrollment is also dependent upon whether or not there is space available, so it makes sense to schedule ahead. Forms are available at the front office and on our website. You now may even pay online at [www.portlandvillageschool.org/before-after-care](http://www.portlandvillageschool.org/before-after-care).

### Communication

We would just like to remind everyone that whenever there is a problem or concern, it is best to bring that directly to the person involved. If you overhear or observe something that does not sit right with you, please bring it up with it up with that person, so they can directly address your needs and the situation. There is nothing more damaging than rumors or misperceptions being spread about a situation or individual.

*(Principal's Corner continued from page 1)*

- We are better training our faculty in administration of the tests, so that the students receive the benefits of all possible resources available to them.
- We are enlisting the help of families in this journey of test-taking by providing you with resources and a faculty developed list of tips to support your child, which will be available later this month.

Please feel free to speak to me or any faculty member if you have further comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jaffe, Principal

If you would like more information about the tests, please go to <http://www.oaks.k12.or.us/resourcesGeneral.html> and <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=201>

### The PVS Website:

Have you seen our updated website? If not, it's a must see! This year you will find many of the resources you need at [www.portlandvillageschool.org](http://www.portlandvillageschool.org), such as:

- Forms for before and after care
- The lunch menu and registration
- School-wide letters
- A live school calendar with class meetings, PVPA meetings, school and classroom events, deadlines and more
- Local activities
- Extracurricular activities taking place at PVS
- You can pay for lunch, before and after care, extended-day kindergarten, SCRIP and, of course, make donations.

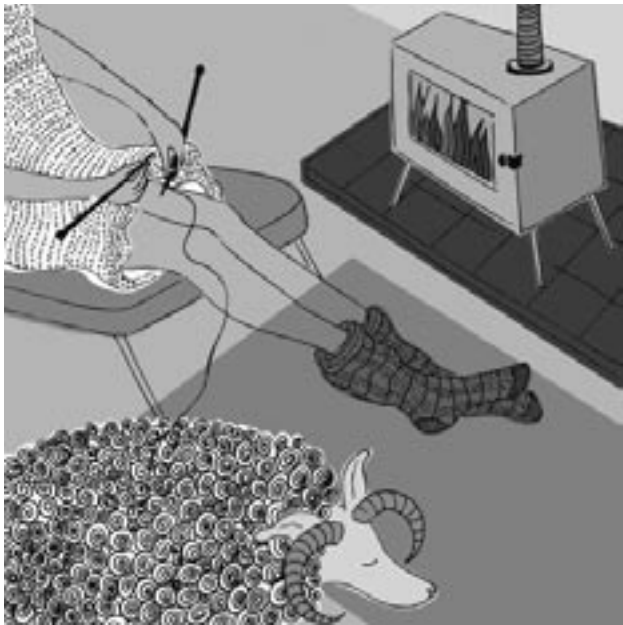
If you have suggestions for the website, let Ms. Jaffe know at [jjaffe@portlandvillageschool.org](mailto:jjaffe@portlandvillageschool.org).

## Nuts and Bolts

### Lost and Found Items

To conserve hallway space and reduce the accumulation of lost and found items, we will be removing all lost and found items every two weeks from the main school building. Items will then be reserved in the Community Clothing Closet for two more weeks. Rather than donating it to the Goodwill, we will then offer unclaimed items for exchange at the CCC.

Please be mindful of the clothing and gear you send to school with your child. Take a moment to look through lost and found when something is missing. If you are unable to find an item it may still be found in the CCC.



### Landscaping

I would like to bring to everyone's attention the beautiful gardens and landscaping that have been pioneered by Naomi Hughes and countless volunteers this summer. Thank you! While it is not completed yet, please do admire the beautiful work. We are quite fortunate to have such talent and energy within our community. In order to preserve this beautiful landscape, I ask that you help me by making sure that children are playing appropriately in the spaces and being gentle with the new plantings.

Kindly,  
Ms. Jaffe

### Community Clothing Closet Donations Needed!

A big thank you to Marc Adams and Grand & Benedicts who donated over \$550 worth of store fixtures to our upcoming CCC! We are also grateful to the many of you who have also generously donated your used clothing and outerwear. We are in need of more gear such as rain boots, rain jackets/pants and winter jackets. When you are clearing out your closets to make way for this years' sizes, please remember to donate your used items to PVS. With enough inventory, we will be able to open in mid-October. What a resource this will be for our community! Direct your questions or offer your help by contacting Amy Lyden at [lydenmama@gmail.com](mailto:lydenmama@gmail.com).

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### Handwork Tidbits

I am happy to introduce our new handwork assistant, Mrs. Herbert. She is a cracker-jack handworker of all sorts and previously taught art at the International School. Another fun fact about Mrs Herbert: she was in the Peace Corps in Lesotho working in primary education. Our handwork assistant from last year, Mr. Filardi, is working at Cedarwood School assisting the handwork teacher and other various teaching duties.

Last year, Carson Flores' grandmother, Ann Eames, volunteered one day a week all year and it was wonderful help. If you are interested in volunteering in handwork classes this year, please join me for a short meeting at 2:45 pm on Wednesday, October 14 at my office. If you are unable to attend or wish to contact me, please leave me a note at the front office.

Adult knitting classes are coming this fall/winter! Learn to knit hats, socks, and something special for you advanced knitters.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful handwork year!  
Mrs. Thom  
Handwork Teacher

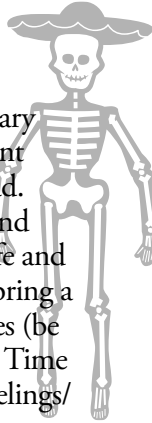
## Fundraising, Events and Opportunities

### Dia de los Muertos Family Folk Dance Friday, Oct. 30th 6:30 - 8:30pm at PVS

Mark your calendars and come to our first Family Folk Dance of the year (we'll have another in February and one more in June). This will celebrate the ancient Aztec tradition: Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead. We'll have an ofrenda (altar) with flowers, candles and whimsical skeleton figures (to remind us to enjoy life and to remember loved ones who have died). You may bring a photo or small object that represents your loved ones (be they human or animal) and place it on the ofrenda. Time will be set aside for those who wish to share their feelings/memories verbally during the evening.

All dances will be taught, and though they're from around the globe, our focus will be on Mexico. Come and dance with friends and family, while making new friends within our community. Open to all, ages 3 - 93. Live music...ole!

Requested donation: \$4 individual or \$12 per family.



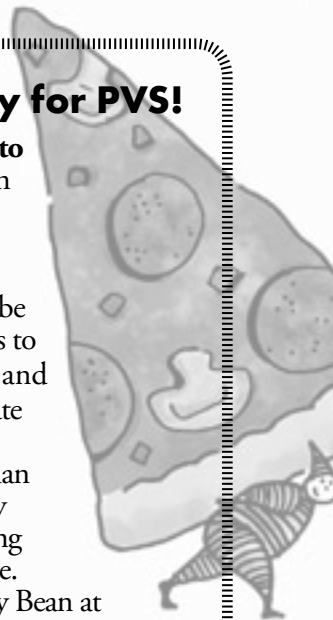
### Pizza + Pears = Money for PVS!

Join us for a day of pizza as **Pizzacato donates 20% of its sales to PVS** on October 20! Dough for Dollars is a program that offers direct proceeds to schools who participate on their designated day. Pre-orders that will be delivered to the school (more details to follow), dining in their NE 42nd and Fremont location and gift certificate purchases all apply on the day of.

Watch for more information and plan a pizza night! This is an opportunity to raise big bucks for PVS by offering this delicious and fun family favorite.

For more information, contact Amy Bean at [empathicheart@comcast.net](mailto:empathicheart@comcast.net).

Mt Hood Organic Farms Mt Hood Organic Farms generously donated bold delicious, organic and biodynamic pears to the School Aid Foundation each year. 100% of the sales go directly to PVS; last year we raised nearly \$1000! Each 5lb. bag costs \$5; a deal that cannot be beat. Pears will be for sale at the Harvest Festival and beyond.



### International Walk + Bike to School Day



Portland Village Charter School is registered to participate in the International Walk + Bike to School Day on Wednesday, October 7th. We are encouraging students to walk or bike (or skip, skateboard, scooter, etc) to school on this day!

Celebrated around the world, the day promotes healthy living through safe walking and bicycling to school. On Wednesday, October 7, 2009 over 4 million kids from around the world will celebrate International Walk and Bike to School Day. Here in Oregon, approximately 25,000 children and adults are expected to participate in the event.

PVS is using Walk and Bike to School Day as a kickoff event for sustained efforts to get children walking and biking to school on a regular basis. See you at the bike racks!

**SCRIP** has already raised \$800 for our school in September alone; keep those orders coming! Scrip is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and is available online at [www.portlandvillageschool.org/scrip](http://www.portlandvillageschool.org/scrip)

### Portland Village School Hoodies are Here!

We now have PVS sweatshirts available for sale thanks to Patty Scarpine, grandmother of Harmony and Hathaway. She has generously donated her time and talent to embroider these beautiful school sweatshirts. They will be available on SCRIP days for \$30 and \$40. PVS receives \$10-20 per sweatshirt!

### Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

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. We offer two options: 18" wreaths for \$20, and 22" wreaths for \$23. Sale begins Oct. 19. Delivery on Nov. 20. For more info contact Patsy Homberg, sale coordinator, at [aphomberg@gmail.com](mailto:aphomberg@gmail.com).

## PVPA Update

What a fantastic first PVPA meeting we had on Tuesday, Sept 29th. We had a great turnout. Thank you for all the new families that came, thank you to all the old families that came, thank you to the staff that made time to come and all the board members that made it. I was so thrilled to see so many people willing to come and help make the meeting a success. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Also thank you to those who contributed snacks and to Amy Bean for having the Pizzacato man show up with pizza. What a nice surprise.

Also a big thank you to all our new PVPA representatives who were at the first meeting, and room parents who were able to attend!

Each classroom now has a PVPA Rep and a room parent. If you do not know who your representatives are from class, ask your teacher. These people are a great resource to help with questions or concerns you might have. You will be hearing from each of these people many times throughout the year. The PVPA rep will keep your class up to date on current PVPA news, remind you of upcoming meetings, send a recap of the meetings and ask for help when the PVPA needs it. The room parent will be assisting the teacher with class related needs, events and business.

The meeting started with Ms. Jaffe introducing all of our staff members. WOW is our school growing. It is truly amazing. Then our Board of Directors chair, Eric Brooks, talked a bit about why we have a board and the boards function. He also introduced all our board members! Then I had the pleasure of introducing the PVPA secretary, Atty Zschau, and all of the PVPA representatives along with one of our auction co-chairs. Then it was question time. After our short break we got to hear from Patty Yardley, mother of Theo in 6th grade and Katrina in 1st grade. Patty and Lisa Ung are in the very beginning workings of a Waldorf Charter high school. They are applying for a grant and are asking people to fill out a survey so they can show how much support they have for a high school.

Ms. Jaffe gave her update, then we heard about all the terrific things happening around our school. Pizzacato fundraiser on October 20th. International Bike and Walk to School Day on October 7th, harvest festival, before and after school activities, and much more. See the rest of the newsletter for all of the exciting things happening.

Happy fall to you. We hope to see you at our next PVPA meeting on Thursday, October 15th!

Annie

annieadams1@gmail.com  
503-286-9471

*Next PVPA Meeting:*

**Thursday, October 15**

**6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

PVPA and School Business Only Session

Chair: Annie Adams

All meetings are third Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. They typically 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](mailto:annieadams1@gmail.com)).

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## PVPA Presents a Special Parent Education Session

**Saturday, October 17, 10:00–11:30am**

“The Waldorf Model of class teaching and the benefits of continuity in the classroom” presented by 2nd grade teacher Betty Baldwin. This special session will cover teacher/student relationships, efficiency, building trust, and looping. Childcare is offered at \$5 per child for the entire event.



## Board Update

The PVS Board is hard at work establishing our Committee members and goals for the year. This year we have restructured some of our Committees to refocus their direction and clarify some roles and responsibilities. More information about this structure will be provided at the next PVPA meeting on the 29th. I hope to see you there.

We have some big topics coming up this year which I will report on in the newsletter as they arise. As always we invite you to come to our Board meetings and Committee meetings. Our next Board meeting is on October 14th at 6:30. We publish the agenda for each Board meeting generally a week in advance. You can review the agenda at the front office as well as find out when and where each Committee is meeting. We do make time for people to address the Board during our discussions if they would like to do so. If you would like to suggest a topic for a Board meeting you can discuss it with any Board member or email me directly at [board@portlandvillageschool.org](mailto:board@portlandvillageschool.org).

Eric Brooks  
PVS Board President



Next Board Meeting (in 6th grade classroom):  
**Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 - 9:30 pm**

Board meetings are open to the community.

For the full 09/10 schedule, visit [www.portlandvillageschool.org/boardmeetings](http://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](mailto:board@portlandvillageschool.org)  
or call the school at **503-445-0056** to leave a message.

## PVS Chess Club Starts Oct. 16!

Learn and play chess with the chess club on Fridays at 7:45 am starting October 16 in Ms. McClure's 3rd grade classroom. Kindergarten to adult and all learning levels are invited! If you've never played chess before, now is your chance to learn. Last year students from our school placed second in the Chess for Success regional tournament! Thank you to Marc Adams and other parents who will help host this club which is available free of charge to the PVS community.

### Calling All Crafters (and aspiring crafters)!

Portland Village School has had an informal handwork group for the last few years and we are ready to reconvene! Help us work on projects for the annual auction, items for the school (curtains to crayon pouches), or your individual projects. Beginners are more than welcome; we learn from each other! Small children are welcome to come and play! 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8:45 am in the Community Room, downstairs. Questions? Contact Rose Brooks at rosembrooks@gmail.com



## Kaffee Klatsch

**Starting Oct 14th - All Second Wednesdays**

**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.

Questions? Contact Amy Bean at 503-261-1687.

## Wee Villagers Playgroup

Beginning October 7th - 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/>

### Save the dates and invite a friend! Friday, October 23rd & Saturday 24th!

Rahima Baldwin Dancy is Coming to Cedarwood Waldorf School

#### October 23rd, Friday Lecture 7-9pm

"The Wisdom of Waldorf: Educating for the Future"  
\$15 at the event OR \$10 if you pre-register and pre-pay  
Coffee and Sweets will be available for sale

#### October 24th, Saturday Morning Workshop 9am-1pm

"Family Matters: Creating a Harmonious Home Life"  
8:30am Coffee & Breakfast Foods Table  
9am Presentation by Rahima Baldwin Dancy  
11am -12pm "What's Working and What's Not?"  
An Interactive Question and Answer Session with Rahima  
\$25 OR \$20 if pre-register and pre-pay  
See the community bulletin board for more information.

### Boys Alive! Bring out their best!

Parenting a boy can be thrilling, exciting... and exhausting! Learn why 'boys will be boys' and how we need to parent them differently so they can do their best!

**Saturday, October 3, 9:30 - 12:30**  
**\$40/person; \$60/couple**

Janet Allison is a Waldorf Teacher, Parent Educator, and Family Coach. 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.

Reserve your place at [www.parenting-advice-from-mom.com](http://www.parenting-advice-from-mom.com) or call 503.493.7404

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