



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5109 SE 66th Ave. • Portland, OR 97206

Tel: (503) 916-6330 / Fax: (503) 916-2604 • Email: kevinc@pps.k12.or.us

ARLETA SCHOOL

KEVIN CROTCHETT, OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

May 20, 2011

Dear Arleta Families,

Each year I am amazed at the speed by which the school year passes, shocked to glance at the calendar and see that June is nearly upon us. May and June are busy months for schools, families, and students alike. We rapidly quicken the pace to wrap up the school year while simultaneously begin to reflect on our successes; planning for the next year while dreaming of sunny summer adventures. As my first year at Arleta begins to close, I reflect on what we have achieved and I look forward to our future. I admire the focus of our staff, the commitment of our families, and the engagement of our children.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity of meeting with a number of Arleta parents over coffee to present to you program impacts and changes for next year. And just a few days ago we celebrated the passing of the Portland Public School Local Option Levy. This levy maintained essential funding to schools. Important to understand about the Levy is that while the it succeeded, it did not provide us with additional funding, it only ensured that we do not have increased cuts for the 2011/2012 school year.

With the election in our past, I wanted to confirm our staffing plans with you in this letter. As you may know, national and state budgets have reduced school funding overall. Most significantly our Title I federal funds were cut by 50%. These funds were used to augment our general program offerings. I regretfully have to say that we have had to cut classroom and learning center assistants, reduce PE, and cut Art and Music/Stings from our 2011/2012 program. These cuts, while painful, maintain a priority focus on the core classroom teacher to student ratio keeping classroom number as low as possible. We will continue to offer library, PE, and media technology to students K-8. In addition, Spanish will be offered to our 6th to 8th graders as an exploratory class and 8th grade students will have the option of taking a full year of spanish instruction for high school credit.

An exciting focus for Arleta in the coming year is building on our work to provide students with increased academic supports. In this effort, we have focused our remaining Title I dollars to create an Intervention Support Teacher position. This teacher will work throughout the school with students and teachers providing targeted academic supports. I'm excited to say that Lisa Newlyn, currently our 6th grade LA/SS teacher has accepted this position. Karen Freiheit has accepted to fill the 6th grade LA/SS position and with her background in band instruction, we are able to create one section of band for our 6-8 grade students. This leaves Karen's vacated 4/5

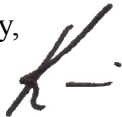
classroom open for a teacher from within the school district to fill. A team of teachers and I will be working in the weeks to come to find a someone best suited for Arleta and our children.

In our K-5 classrooms, we continue to believe and focus on our models of mixed age. The mixed age strength is in the building of our relationships with families and children over two consecutive years. With district changes in core curriculum at all levels, our K/1 team has made the difficult discussion to move from mixed age to straight grade looping classrooms. In the fall, Rose Hurner and Wendy Siri will lead our incoming Kinder students, staying with them in 1st grade in 2012/13. Marie Bellavia and Page Frisch will work with our 1st graders in the fall and return to teaching kindergarten the following year. To help plan for the transition and to understand the decision fully, a parent meeting has been set up for Monday at 5:30pm. Current kinder and 1st grade parents have already received an invite but any Arleta parent is welcomed to attend.

As we close the school year we will also be saying goodbye to a handful of teachers, assistants, and staff. I can not thank each and every one of these people for the work they do each and every day, for the giving of themselves fully to our students. With our best wishes and sincere gratitude we say goodbye to Michael Hurst, Elizabeth VanEngel, Kianne Williams, Amy Marquardt, Dawn Martin, Jaimie Turner, Dorothy Rowland, and Kathy Rose. Each has given of themselves to Arleta and will be missed.

Summer is still three and a half weeks off, but I wish you all an early, happy, safe, and warm summer. Hoping your days are spent with friends and family, enjoying the change of pace that summer life brings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Crotchett', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Crotchett (aka: Mr. C)