

Beverly Cleary K-8 Family Newsletter

Academic Excellence in a Caring Community

March 17, 2011

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Some of us have wondered if tomorrow would ever get here! All of the staff are ready for a break. I'm sure families are ready, as well. I know when my own children were in school, I enjoyed the time away from homework and the routine of school.

The weeks leading up to tomorrow have been jammed with one activity after another. I'm sure many of you attended the Science Fair this week. Students presented the results of their work, after having spent many weeks preparing their investigations and the presentation of their study.

Yesterday was the end of the second trimester, which meant that to celebrate our 6th, 7th and 8th graders had a dance. After the dance at the end of the first trimester, the students suggested we make some slight adjustments, which we honored. Judging from their comments and their participation, the students had a great time. In addition to the dance in the cafeteria, students also had basketball available in the gym and board games in one of our classrooms.

Enjoy your Spring Break!

Mr. Streckert's eighth graders walked to the Hollywood Theater last week to watch documentaries they wrote and produced. All of the documentaries were submitted to CNN in a contest for students. I watched all of them and was impressed with the students' research, photography, editing and presentation skills. Each video contained one or more interviews with an individual, who was an authority on the subject of the documentary. This is the second year Mr. Streckert's students have produced these documentaries.

Speaking of our eighth graders, have you seen the magnificent mosaic they created with artist Mark Brody? As many of you know, it is my desire that each eighth grade class leaves the school a legacy gift of art before they leave us, and this one is a wonderful addition to our main hall on the Fernwood Campus. Please remember to view it the next time you are in the building.

If you are the parent of a middle schooler you know your student has an enrichment class every day. Our middle school students are publishing some memorable books in Mrs. O'Brien's Creative Design class and each of Mrs. Edler's journalism students is contributing to a school newspaper and a weekly news show, which can be viewed by going to our school's website and clicking on [Mrs. Edler's staff page](#). We have some budding attorneys examining legal cases involving youth and "litigating" them in Mr. Streckert's Mock Trials enrichment class. Our band students are sounding better each day, under Mr. Anderson's direction, and Mrs. Hewig is helping her students understand the many influences that shape different styles of music in Music of the Heart and Soul. Mr. Gibson's students are developing an understanding and appreciation of the Asian culture through movement and art in his class, Art of the Human Form. Students in Mr. Short's Screenplay Writing class are learning how to write screen plays. Our students have reported that they are enjoying the offerings we have been able to give them this year.

I'd like to bring several students to your attention, who have been recognized for their knowledge of literature, poetry writing and geography. Ethan Ackerman, a seventh grader, has advanced to the State Geography Bee. Several of Tricia Barry's students were award winners in the State Poetry contest. Visit the second grade wing and read their award-winning poems.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Christine Putnam and her auction co-chairs of Christine Ognall, Amy Hekker and Kate Dernbach one more time for their tireless efforts on the Beverly Benefit earlier this month. It was another expression of the generosity of

our families, who raised funds that we will be able to apply to our staffing later in the spring.

Enjoy your spring break. We all need the time off to rest and rejuvenate because when we return it's one fast "race to the finish!"

Teri Geist
Principal

BEVERLY CLEARY SCHOOL NEWS

Local option levy on May ballot: Operating money to pay for teaching positions In the May 17 election, PPS voters will decide on a five-year replacement local option levy that would pay for teaching positions starting next year. In short:

State funding is 75 percent of PPS general education funding; the governor's budget proposal for the State School Fund could leave PPS with an \$80 to \$90 million shortfall over the next two years.

The levy would provide an additional \$19 million a year. This will pay for more than 200 positions in our schools: teachers and classified educational staff.

Superintendent Carole Smith will propose a 2011-12 budget that has two staffing levels for schools: with and without the additional local option funding. The difference could be roughly 1.5 to 2.5 teaching positions at most elementary schools, 2 or 3 at middle schools and 5 to 7 at a community high school. (Precise numbers will be available when the budget is proposed in April.)

The rate, at \$1.99 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value, is 74 cents higher than the 2006 levy it would replace. The levy will cost the typical homeowner an estimated \$24.45 a month, an increase of \$9.09 a month over the current levy.

The additional funding from the renewed local option would help retain educational staff, programs in our schools and class sizes. However, PPS would still need to make substantial budget cuts.

The school facilities bond measure, by state law, may only raise money for building needs and cannot pay for teaching positions. The local option is the Portland School Board's only tool to increase operating revenue to pay for teachers and other staff.

Garden News There has been some winter activity in the gardens at Beverly Cleary School, including a few winter gardens being grown by different classes. As spring is approaching, you can see signs of even more activity in the gardens at school. Beds are being prepped, weeds pulled, and supplies gathered. You will also see new composters at both sites. A special thank you to Karolyn Moghaddam for securing three composters through the Jeanne and Dick Roy Food Composting Grant; BCS was awarded \$1717.75! Two will be placed at Fernwood and one at Hollyrood to help with composting cafeteria food scraps.

We have also recently received a \$5000 grant from Lowes to build a fence and gate around the garden at Fernwood. Work on the structure begins soon. Lowes has offered to volunteer in the garden on Friday, April 1st (no fooling, see below for details). Thank you to Lynn Raube and Kathie Eastman-Tell for all of their work on this grant!

And for those of you ready to get your hands into the dirt, there are two work parties:
Friday, April 1st - Garden Work Party with Lowes
9:00am-11:00am (or less) at Fernwood
3 volunteers needed (bring gloves!)
We'll be cleaning out debris and amending soil in the 8 raised beds.

Earth Day, Friday, April 22
9:00am-11:00am at Fernwood
Many volunteers needed (bring gloves!)
We'll be planting native plants in the swale, spreading bark chips, assembling composters, and having a demonstration of how to use composters.

Please sign up outside Blake Robertson's room or contact Lynn Raube at lynnraube@integra.net for both events.

Beverly Cleary School thanks Jeanne and Dick Roy and Lowes for their generous support!

Grant Park Off-Leash Dog Park Lately there has been concern voiced to Mrs. Tabshy about off-leash dogs at Grant Park. During certain hours, dogs may play off-leash in the designated off-leash area. The area is north of the field and surrounded on the north, south,

and east sides by path. Please take the time to look at the dog area map and rules posted at the 35th Place entrance of the park. [See map](#)

Dogs are never allowed on sports fields and courts or on the playground, which includes the covered area when school is in session. In addition, they may not be on the playground before the bell rings in the morning or before 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. The Hollyrood field is next to the dog area; the dog area is not in the field. This is for the safety of the children, cleanliness of the area, and to protect the turf and courts from the impacts of extensive dog use.

Dogs are not allowed to be off-leash during school drop-off and pick-up times. The off-leash area has specific hours where off-leash play is allowed. These schedules were made to keep dogs that are off-leash away from the school area during school times, and during sports play. That is why on weekends and in summer the schedule is more flexible. The schedules were created with much public involvement with the neighbors and school partners, to keep the park safe for all.

Spring - March 16 to June 14:
Weekdays: 5 am - 8 am; and 7 pm - midnight.
Weekends: 5 am - midnight.

Summer - June 15 to August 15:
Weekdays: 5 am - 9 am; and 7 pm - midnight.
Weekends: 5 am - 10 am; and 7 pm - midnight.

Fall - August 16 to November 15: (Use the alternate area to the west)
Weekdays: 6 am - 8 am; and 5 pm - 10 pm.
Saturdays: 6 am - 10 am; 5 pm - 10 pm.
Sunday: 6 am - 10 pm.

Winter - November 16 - March 16:
Weekdays: 5 am - 8 am; 4 pm - midnight.
Weekends: 5 am to midnight.

Thanks for your help making the school experience and the park a better place.

Save the Date: RUN FOR THE ARTS is coming April 27th The Beverly Cleary School community, parents, students and teachers, value the arts and want to keep the tradition of bringing performers, artists-in-residence, and performances to the school. We need all students, K-8th grade, to help in this endeavor. For our kindergarten students, this will be their first time to collect sponsors from family and friends, run on the Grant HS track and raise money for the arts at Beverly Cleary School. The run will be held on April 27th (or if it rains, on April 13th). We will have a schedule of running times so you can volunteer to help with the run or come and cheer your student(s) on.

Parking at BCF Please remember that parking spots in the front and rear of the building on the Fernwood campus are reserved for staff, with the exception of the designated space for the auction winner. Please do not park in any space on the Fernwood campus until after 10:00 a.m. This includes parking and waiting in your car for the bell to ring. Thank you.

Yearbook Orders The Yearbook order forms went home to families and can be returned to Rosanne or Kelly in the main office. You may purchase them for \$17 until June 3rd. Please make checks payable to: BCS (*not BCS PTA*)

Please remember to check in at the office if you need to speak with your child during the school day. It is very disrupting when parents visit classrooms unannounced. Thank you.

Ill Children Please refer to our [Family Handbook](#) for information on our policy regarding when children, who have been ill, should return to school. Generally, children should be fever-, diarrhea- and throw-up free for twenty-four hours before returning to school.

News from the Cafeteria We have reached the end of the second trimester, and report cards will be sent/mailed home on April 1st. Please be aware students with negative balances of \$5.00 or more on their lunch cards will not receive their report card until the balance is paid off. Those of you, who are notified of balances less than \$5, are also asked to clear them. Notifications from the auto dialer and written notices go home from the

cafeteria, as necessary, to alert parents of the negative balances. If you have questions, please contact Kay at BCF or Katy at BCH or e-mail them directly at ns249@pps.k12.or.us. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. You can also go online to www.mylunchmoney.com to clear your acct.

Please note, as well, that all students with any balance on their account at the end of the year will have their report card held until the account is cleared.

PTA NEWS

Art Cards Each year the PTA offers art cards. These are sets of note cards with a reproduced image of your child's artwork on the front and their name, age, title of work, and school on the back. Artwork submission form click [here](#). Contact Cynthia Mosby with any questions at cynthiamosby@comcast.net

Raising Healthy, Thriving Daughters and Sons The BCS PTA partners with the PTAs of Sabin and ACCESS to present Dr. Kathy Masari and her talk, "Raising Healthy, Thriving Daughters and Sons."

Wed., March 30 -- 7:00-8:30 pm BC Fernwood Cafeteria

What struggles are boys and girls up against today? Boys face "tough guise" cultural messages, whereas girls wrestle with low self-esteem and feel pressure to be sexy, materialistic, cool, and "the best." Come hear pediatrician Dr. Kathy Masarie talk about what our sons and daughters really need in order to grow into responsible, compassionate, independent young adults.

Kathy Masarie is a pediatrician, parent coach, mom, and founder of Family Empowerment Network at www.family-empower.com. Her parenting guides, *Raising Our Daughters* and *Raising Our Sons* provide parents with proven tools to strengthen family through community.

Scrip Why does the PTA have to raise money? Because we're money hungry and can never have enough in our coffers. Kidding! The PTA uses the money raised through Scrip to buy classroom supplies and equipment that the district cannot afford to provide but that our children need to get a quality education. [Read more](#)

RAISE \$\$\$ FOR OUR SCHOOL BY EATING PIZZA!!!

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, April 12th is Pizzicato Dough 4 Dollars Day
Pizzicato on 42nd Ave and Fremont donates 20% of its sales on April 12th to Beverly Cleary.

Pre-orders forms are due Friday, April 8th

Order forms will be emailed out and sent home with your child - just return them to either school office by April 8th.

OR Go directly to Pizzicato on April 12th to get your meal, buy a pizza or gift certificates - 20% of all sales still goes directly to our school!

PTA Reading Challenge Reading Challenge has been going strong since the beginning of the school year. Each month we have about 50 students participate in grades k-5. This program is sponsored by Beverly Cleary PTA! If you have any questions, Patricia Furrer-Hatzikos can help answer them. Hatzikos@comcast.net

BCS FOUNDATION

Did you know that BCS has a Facebook page? It's updated by members of PTA and Foundation, but you can contribute too. If you are on Facebook, you can post your own announcements, photos or events on our page, or simply keep up with the latest info. First, though, you have to "like" us--search on Facebook for "Beverly Cleary K-8 School" and click the "like" button at the top. Students 13 and older are welcome to get updates too.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We are frequently approached with flyers, messages, and announcements from and about sports clubs, neighborhood events, community centers, etc. Because these things are not affiliated with PPS or the Beverly Cleary PTA, they are not included in the newsletter. In order to keep families well informed

about events happening in our community, we will be putting information about these items on the Community Events Page of our website www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/beverlycleary. More information about events such as these can also be found in the racks in the lobby of the two schools.

Northeast Emergency Food Program [NEEFP](#)

Safe Routes to School For more information about Safe Routes to School, check out their website: www.SafeRoutesPortland.org

Join Deborah Kass-Ray, MS, LCSW to understand more about adolescent brain development. Participants will also learn practical strategies to help effectively deal with the challenges of living with teens. Free and Open to All. Questions? Call 503.544.4355 [Teen Brain Facts May 17th](#)

BEVERLY CLEARLY SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 21-25	SPRING BREAK
Wed., April 13	Late Opening
Wed., April 20	Spring Class Picture Day @BCF
Thurs., April 21	Spring Class Picture Day @BCH
Wed., April 27	Run for the Arts (Inclement weather alternate date is 4/28)
Wed., May 11	Late Opening
Thurs., May 12	BCS Art & Curriculum Night
Wed., May 18	Coffee Chat BCH 8:30am
Thurs., May 19	PTA meeting @ BCF Library 6pm – 9pm
Fri., June 3	Field Day
Mon., June 13	Promotion Clap-out 8th grade
Wed., June 14	Last Day of School

Portland Public Schools Nondiscrimination Statement
Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. All individuals and groups shall be treated with fairness in all activities, programs, and operations, without regard to age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.
Board of Education Policy 1.80.020-P
District Title VI & Title IX Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503-916-3183)
District 504 Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503-916-3183)
American Disabilities Act Contact: Suzy Harris (503 916-3152)