



Markham Elementary School BACKPACK BULLETIN

PTA Edition



Editor: Lisa Sickler / lisasickler@gmail.com

September 9, 2011

Volume 2010-2011

Visit us at www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/Markham

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- Board of Education Policy 1.80.020-P



**Markham Parents
and Guardians:
Please join us for
Back to School Night!**

**Thursday, September 22,
6:30—8 pm**

*Come meet the teachers and
learn about your child's classroom!*

Back to School Night will begin at 6:30 pm in the Markham auditorium, where Principal Shawn Garnett will share information about the school. Adults will then go to their child(ren)'s classrooms to meet the teachers and hear presentations about the curriculum.

There will be a meeting with interpreters available for our parents for whom English is not their first language, to share some of the basic information about school and our procedures.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

This is a parent-oriented event. Childcare will not be available this year as we do not have enough supervision to ensure the safety of the students.



Support our School!

Scrip is now available. We will be in the hallway outside the office on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings, or you can send your order to school with your child. Sign the waiver on the back of the order form, and we will send your Scrip home with your child. It's that easy! An order form is attached. Don't delay—order your scrip today! Thanks for supporting Markham.

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ, COMPLETE AND RETURN ALL OF THE FORMS INCLUDED IN YOUR OPENING DAY PACKET. THANK YOU!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, September 13

Site Council Meeting in the library at 3:15 pm.

Wednesday, Sept. 21

10:45 am LATE OPENING – Portland Public Schools open 2 hours late for professional development.

Thursday, September 22

Back-To-School Night. Starts in the auditorium with Mrs. Garnett at 6:30 pm, followed by individual teacher presentations in the classrooms.

Backpack Bulletin Assembly—5:30 pm in the PTA Workroom.

Friday, September 23

Backpack Bulletin—Principal's Edition goes home.

Friday, September 30

Picture Day—Practice your smile!

Wednesday, October 5

PTA Meeting—6:30 pm in the Markham Library

Thursday, October 6

Backpack Bulletin Assembly—6:00 pm in the PTA Workroom

Friday, October 7

Backpack Bulletin—PTA Edition goes home.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Site Council Meeting in library starting at 3:15 pm.

Friday, October 14

NO SCHOOL for students - Statewide Inservice Day.

Wednesday, October 19

10:45 am LATE OPENING – Portland Public Schools open 2 hours late for professional development.

Friday, October 21

Backpack Bulletin – Principal's Edition goes home.

Wednesday, Oct. 26

ESL Meeting for Wilson Cluster schools, 5:30 pm
TAG Information Night for Wilson Cluster schools, 7 pm. Both meetings will be at Wilson High School.

SHAWN GARNETT - PRINCIPAL

Dear Markham Families,

Welcome Back! We are off to a wonderful start. The first day was a scene of eager, smiling faces ready for school. It has been a very positive, busy beginning with the Multnomah Day Parade kicking it off. The day was beautiful, and we had a nice turnout considering that families were getting in the last bit of vacation/family time for the end of the summer break. Our Community Care Day followed the next weekend. Participants were able to put a rather big dent in sprucing up the grounds. PTA stuffed first day packets and prepared bus tags in order to assist in making the first day of school go smoothly. Starbucks on Capital Hwy and Barber Blvd. donated coffee for Community Care Day and a basket full of school supplies on Wednesday. Last week, the company sent four area Starbucks employees to assist in cleaning out and straightening up our bookroom along with complimentary coffee with all the fixings for the staff. I have been pleasantly overwhelmed with the level of commitment, dedication and support exhibited for Markham students by all. I would like to extend a big thank you to all who participated and helped to make these events successful.

Please remember to fill out pertinent forms and return promptly to the classroom teacher. These forms are stapled together in the Back to School Packet with an attached yellow reminder note to return materials on or before September 16th.

Also, in the Back to School Packet, you'll find important PTA information. Please take a look and consider the many ways and opportunities there are to volunteer and support Markham in efforts to maintain our nurturing and academic environment.

Picture day is September 30th. Information will be sent home two weeks before the date. Retakes will be November 9th.

Our first late opening is September 21st. School will start two hours late. On Wednesday the 7th, your child brought home a Markham SUN Community School Fall Activities Packet. SUN School offers a "Sunrise Event" where students participate in a variety of activities on late opening days. You'll find more information and the registration in the packet. Students must be registered to take part in the late opening activities. If you have questions contact Emily Neve, SUN School Coordinator at (503) 544-6433.

Once again welcome back, and I am looking forward to a prosperous school year.

Sincerely,

Shawn Garnett
Principal



School Directory

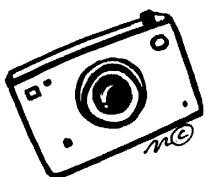


As a service to our school community, the Markham PTA compiles a directory of Markham families. The directory is distributed **ONLY** among Markham families and may not be used for sales or marketing purposes of any kind. The directory information is helpful for families to contact each other to arrange play dates and communicate about school events.

Your family WILL NOT BE LISTED in the directory if you do not return the form giving permission to the PTA to include you. This form is in your Opening Day PTA packet.

You may opt to send your information in an email to markhampta@gmail.com. Please include your child's name, teacher and your phone number. Your address and family email are optional as well. If you have a parent with a second address we are happy to include it.

**FORMS/EMAILS ARE DUE
SEPTEMBER 30th
TO MAKE OUR PRINT DEADLINE.**



We Need Your Photos

As you attend Markham events this year, bring your camera and take a few pictures for our yearbook. It's never too early to start—first-day-of-school photos are welcome. Send your

photos to Robin Atkinson at robinatk@msn.com.



CAFETERIA NEWS

It's good to be back!

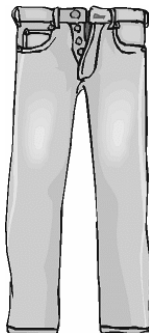
I want to thank parents for their continued support for our programs. Feel free to join us for lunch in the cafeteria any time — price is \$3.95.

- **We are still featuring the Harvest of the Month.** September features cherry tomatoes grown by our local farmers just for us!
- New Free and Reduced Lunch applications need to be returned to me in the cafeteria. I will be sending them back home if things are missing, so please take the time to go over them carefully. **Applications are due no later than October 11, 2011.** Non-reduced prices are \$2.40 lunch and \$1.10 for breakfast.
- When your student's account is low or out of money I will contact you by phone. If the account remains unpaid, your student will receive an emergency meal consisting of milk, fruit and vegetables.
- Please, please make sure if you are sending a check to put the child's name on it, especially if the child's name is different from yours. I don't always know every child, and we want to be sure we credit the correct account.
- Please remember that if your circumstances change, you can come in and fill out the Free or Reduced Lunch forms at any time.

Again, thanks for your support!
Cory in the cafeteria

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

- If you received **more than one** 2011-12 menu calendar or Markham Handbook calendar, the office would like to have the extras so we can save them for new families who register later in the school year. Thanks!
- Please review, update and sign the student verification form, the red emergency contact information form, and all the forms that were sent home and return them to school as soon as possible. **Thank you!**
- We need extra pants and shirts—especially small sizes. If you have any to donate, we would appreciate it!



SAVE PAPER BY GETTING YOUR BACKPACK BULLETIN ELECTRONICALLY

If you would like to receive a pdf version of the bulletin, please email markhampta@gmail.com and we will add you to our list.

MARKHAM PTA NEEDS YOU!



We still need chairpersons for the following committees:

- **Back to School Night** (9/22/11)
- **5th Grade Promotion** (6/13/12)
- **Book Fair** 11/14–11/18/2011
- **Email Flash**
- **Grandparents/Special Friends Day** (11/18/11)
- **Green Team** (co-chair)
- **2012 Kindergarten Social**
- **Reader Board Updates**
- **Picture Day** (9/30/11)
- **PTA Website**
- **Reader Board**
- **Used Book Sale**
- **Field Day** (6/13/12)

Please take a moment to look at the yellow volunteer pages in your Opening Day PTA packet. There are many, many ways to get involved. **Email Courtney Duke (courtneytheduke@gmail.com) and let her know how you can help.**



SHINING STARS

NEW PTA OFFICERS:

President: Jessica Christiansen

Vice President/Volunteer Coordinator: Courtney Duke

Treasurer: Linda Lagraff

Secretary: Marci Forbes

Officer at Large: Mark Bennett

COMMUNITY CARE DAY / CAMPUS CLEANUP:

Thank you to all who came to help tidy our school grounds before the start of the year. Thank you also to volunteers from Starbucks, West Portland Park Neighborhood Association and Neighborhood House.

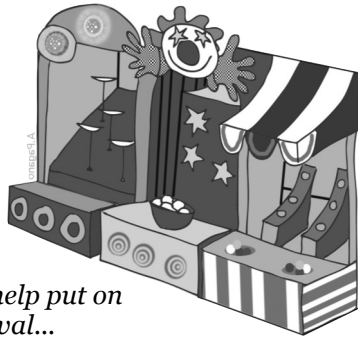
KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL: Thank you to Courtney Duke, Owen Stark and Marci Forbes for serving ice cream.

BUS TAG VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to Brenda Jamsgard, Marguerite Rogers and Robin Atkinson for taking time on the first day of school to get this important job done!

YOUR NAME HERE: What committees/events can you help with this year? **WE NEED YOU!**

CARNIVAL TIME IS COMING!

Friday,
October 28th
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm



Calling all volunteers to help put on the 2011 Markham Carnival...

The Carnival is upon us! This event is fun, well-loved and well-attended. Kids can dress up in family-friendly costumes (no masks or pretend weapons allowed). There are many games with prizes for all.

It also takes a lot of volunteers to pull off! So please sign up in your child's classroom on Back to School night to do a 30-minute shift at your classroom game.

If you want to get involved with your child's school this is the way to jump right in. We need volunteers before the event to help with game preparation, volunteer sign ups, classroom coordinators, poster/flyer making, food and set up. Then on the actual night, we need lots of help to man the games, serve food (we offer pizza and drinks for sale) and help keep the fun going ... and then, of course, clean up! You don't have to be available during school hours—many things can be done at home, in the evenings, or on the night of the carnival. So if you have a little time or a lot of time, we have a job for you!!!

Contact Brenda Jamsgard (503-246-4656 or brenda@freshtwistglass.com) or **Karen Baines** (nerakba@yahoo.com) if you can help.



Please volunteer and definitely plan to attend!

Thanks,
Brenda and Karen

NEXT PTA MEETING:

All are invited!
Childcare
is provided.

Wednesday, October 5th
in the Markham Library

Please enter through the door by the gym as the front doors of the school will be locked.

**WE NOW HAVE SPANISH AND SOMALI
INTERPRETERS .**

Join us if you can!



Markham Gras Auction

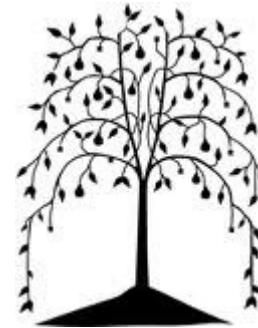
**Save the Date:
February 18, 2012**

The Auction is Markham's biggest fundraiser event of the year. We are already at work to make this year's event the biggest and best yet. But we need everyone's help to succeed. This is a great way to help out on a variety of levels and get involved with your child's school. There is a contribution opportunity for all.

Watch upcoming newsletters for details about how you can:

Buy Tickets ~ Invite Guests ~ Donate Items ~ Host a Board Party ~ Organize a Classroom Project ~ and MORE!

If you would like to help with this event, email Dixie Menaker (dxyleemen@yahoo.com) or Brenda Jamsgard (Brenda@freshtwistglass.com).



Virtual Giving Tree*

Mrs. Keebaugh, our dedicated Markham Library Assistant, would like the following new or lightly-used books by Shel Silverstein:

Where the Sidewalk Ends (4 copies)

A Light in the Attic (4 copies)

Falling Up (4 copies)

Thank you!

**The Virtual Giving Tree section of the newsletter is a place where staff members can request items they would like to have for their programs. Markham families who would like to and are able may respond by donating the items.*

Meet Emily Neve, Markham SUN School Coordinator...and more!



This is Emily Neve, and she is one busy lady! Here at Markham, she:

Coordinates the SUN School program and she is always looking for people willing to come in and teach a SUN School class. A wide variety of skills are welcome, so if you knit, draw, run, dance, etc. please consider sharing your time and talents with Markham children after school.

Organizes Markham Friday Food Backpacks every Wednesday from 4:00–5:30 pm. She needs help filling backpacks and also needs backpacks donated throughout the year (no food donations are needed at this time).

Organizes the Markham Clothes Closet and could use donations of new or gently used clothes in a variety of children's sizes. If you're cleaning out closets and drawers, please consider donating items. She especially needs children's shoes, new underwear and new socks. Leave your donations in the main office or at Emily's office door on the stage in the cafeteria.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Emily at eneve@nhweb.org

Be an Art Volunteer

We are excited to announce that ALL Markham students will get art instruction this year from our incredibly talented Artist in Residence, Erica Huber. You can make their experience with her even better by coming in to volunteer during art class. Please check with your child's teacher for their art schedule (the calendar printed in the handbook is incorrect), or look at the sign-up sheet in the main Markham entryway. Ideally, Mrs. Huber would

love to have 3 volunteers for each class. If you can help, please contact Courtney Duke (courtneytheduke@gmail.com).



Clothing Center Volunteers Needed:

The PTA Clothing Center, which is located at Marshall High School in SE Portland, provides free clothing to families in need who have children in the Portland school system. Twice a year, Markham PTA is responsible for finding 3-5 parents willing to assist at the Center from 9:30 am– 1:30 pm, assisting families in finding clothes. It is quite fulfilling.



Markham's volunteer dates this year are 10/3/11 and 1/26/12. To volunteer, contact Courtney Duke (courtneytheduke@gmail.com).

We are actively collecting juice pouches (like Capri Sun), toner cartridges and Box Tops. For each item we turn in, Markham earns money. Every little bit helps, so please save these items and bring them to Markham! (Box tops and juice boxes can be turned in to the office. Toner cartridges are stacked in the PTA workroom). Thanks!



Family Volunteer Nights at the Emergency Food Box Program

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your community and make a difference in the lives of your neighbors. Neighborhood House recognizes that many families would like to instill the value of community service in their children from an early age. Unfortunately, many non-profit agencies are unable to accommodate families with children in their volunteer programs. Neighborhood House would like to extend a warm welcome to families interested in volunteerism by offering a bi-monthly open house on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 6:00-8:00pm. During this time our Emergency Food Box Program will be open to families interested in stocking pantry shelves, repackaging bulk food items, and/or working in our community garden. This program is ideal for families with at least one child under 16 years of age. Please note that we would like you to sign up in advance, as space is limited. Please sign up to join us on our next available date by contacting Kyrsten at 503-246-1663 ext. 2117, or ksorensen@nhweb.org.

Upcoming Family Volunteer Night dates: Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 6 and Dec. 2.