



# YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AT HARRIET TUBMAN

## Newsletter



“EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGINS WITH A DREAMER.” ~ HARRIET TUBMAN (C.1820-1913)

### PTA President's Corner

Welcome to the last half of the school year. February 2nd saw the end of the 2nd quarter which means as a PTA we are now marketing our school to new students for the 2012-2013 school year. The current school year is flying by.

The PTA board needs your help recruiting girls to attend our school. Superintendent Carole Smith has said that the Portland Public Schools administration estimates that PPS will be facing a gap of \$27.5 million next year. This means cuts yet again and we need to recruit girls to Young Women's Leadership Academy to help us thrive in the 2012-2013 school year.

We are having interest meetings for our school on Feb 14, 15, 28 and 29 and March 13 at 6:00 pm. It would be greatly appreciated if you can make it to these meetings being held in the school's cafeteria to share your daughter's experience. We are headed out to other PTAs throughout the school district (you can join us too) and we would love for you to speak to other parents you meet in your day to day activities about your experience and why they should come to YWLA. If you have time, please contact me at 971-235-2045 or [kngatkinson@gmail.com](mailto:kngatkinson@gmail.com).

I have recently been asked about what PTA is doing. One project we are continuing to work on is the clothes closet that benefits your daughters. This closet has uniforms for students who are unable to afford a uniform or are out of uniform when they arrive at school. We are in need of some larger white polos. Several girls have not been able to get into uniform due to the smaller sizes we have. Most shirts are a youth size rather than women's medium, large and extra-large. If your daughter has outgrown any of her shirts please donate them

to our clothes closet. We are also in need of sweaters in those sizes.

To be part of the Oregon PTA, we need to participate in the district wide clothes closet project. To fulfill this obligation we need to have three volunteers help out at the Clothing Center. We are short volunteers at the moment and are looking for volunteers for our obligated time on Monday, February 6 from 9:30-1:30. Carpooling is available since the Clothing Center is at the former Marshal High School site.

If you have a project you would like PTA working on in the last half of this school year, I would love to hear. Please contact me at 971-235-2045 or [kngatkinson@gmail.com](mailto:kngatkinson@gmail.com).

Kristin Atkinson  
PTA President

#### Invite Students & Families You Know to YWLA Information Night!

##### Upcoming YWLA Information Nights:

February 14 @ 6:00 PM

February 15 @ 6:00 PM

February 28 @ 6:00 PM

February 29 @ 6:00 PM

March 13 @ 6:00 PM

## Principal's Corner

### Happy New Year Young Women's Leadership Academy families!

We are busily spreading the word about next school year 2012-2013! The conductors at the Young Women's Leadership Academy at Harriet Tubman are "full steam ahead!"

The remainder of this year is a crucial time for us to get the word out about our school. We need your help! I know many of you have stories about how the YWLA community has been a great place for your daughter to learn and thrive. Please share them with others in your communities and around the Portland Area. In addition to your stories, here is some information about our school that you can share:

- The YWLA is the ONLY all-girl public school in Oregon.
- The staff at YWLA provides a personalized and rigorous academic program which focuses on supporting young women in math, science, technology and leadership.

### Teacher Wish List

Our teachers have been asked to provide a wish list that parents could help fulfill. Each newsletter will showcase that list. If you can provide any of these items please bring them to the parent room and PTA will get them to the teacher in need.

- Parent volunteers for field trips – drop your name and availability by the parent room and we will contact you.
- Kleenex style tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- White polo shirts sized M to XXL
- Zip or flash drives

Thank you for supporting your daughter's school!

- In our all-girls school, we recognize the specific developmental and academic needs of girls and we strive to develop their individual leadership skills.
- All middle school students at YWLA take a second science, math or technology course as an elective.
- All students at YWLA have the opportunity to apply to participate in the AVID college preparation course at the middle and high school level.
- High School students at YWLA participate in a study hall that is used for college and career preparation with the counselor and is also used for volunteering, job shadowing and leadership training.
- High School students have access to Middle College courses at PCC.
- High School students have access to Science Research course for PSU credit.
- Middle school students take high school courses when they are ready.
- The YWLA block schedule two days a week provides for extended learning, discovery and enrichment in all courses.
- Students are required to wear uniforms which help break down the socio-economic issues around clothing. It also keeps the cost of shopping for school clothes reasonable when having to only buy just a few uniform items.

It has been a privilege having your daughter at YWLA! We are looking forward to your daughter continuing to grow and flourish here next year. Please invite others to join us!

Bonnie Hobson  
Principal, YWLA

## School Events & Activities

### Student Government

Since October of this school year, student representatives from each of the 5th period classes have been meeting in Ms. Thompson's classroom. With President—Alex Baron, Vice President—Faith Barchers, Secretary—Eliza Henderson and Treasurers Mackenzie Aaby and Madeline Morris, meetings have been held from 3:30 to 4:30PM on Thursdays. Each meeting is open to the public, but voting is only held for the representatives.

The first fundraiser directed by Student Government occurred in December with the sale of Winter Grams. Winter Grams are cards that wish the recipient a happy winter; some included candy. The profits from the Winter Grams are now being used to create a Middle School dance called "Under the Sea" and a Winter Formal for the High School, February 2nd. Throughout the year, Student Government will hold fundraisers to pay for numerous events it will sponsor. Student Government conducts itself aiming to create more excitement for the students at the Young Women's Leadership Academy. Dances, Fun Days and Spirit Days are sure to come. Stay tuned as Student Government creates a student body with more school spirit. Go Dreamers!

### Mercy Corps Leadership Training

Forty of our high school students have been participating in leadership and community mobilization training at Mercy Corps on Wednesday morn-

ings. Mercy Corps is an international organization that works to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities ([www.mercycorps.org](http://www.mercycorps.org)).

Our students have already participated in two sessions and we have one more at the end of January. Because of the large number of students participating, we have two shifts and some of the students have had to arrive at 7:15 am even though it is a late opening day.

Some of the comments I have heard from students are:

"We talked about issues that impacted our world today, such as the struggle for access to clean drinking water, and education for girls living in rural parts of the globe. But we didn't just sit down and learn about these issues, we played fun community building games too which helped us realize what type of leaders we are and taught us how to work effectively as a team."

Shrada Pulla, Junior

"The leadership training was challenging but all worked together and we learned a lot about each other."

Zhiara James, Sophomore

Amy Henry, school counselor

### Leadership Class Fundraisers

For Valentine's Day the Leadership class is sponsoring a Sees Candy fundraiser. All students at YWLA are encouraged to participate, with the top six fundraising students receiving

a lunch out at the Lloyd Center food court! All profits from the sale will go directly to student activities for this school year. The Leadership class is also leading the school in a community fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. "Pennies for Patients" will take place February 6th through the 24th. The girls are busy planning fun, schoolwide activities to share the word and raise money for this very worthwhile organization.

### Nike School Innovation Fund Team at YWLA

The Nike School Innovation Fund (NSIF) was established to help schools create a cycle of inquiry around improving teaching and learning outcomes for students and lower the achievement gap.

The NSIF Professional Learning Community Team at YWLA, comprised of Bonnie Hobson, principal, Amy Henry, school counselor, Cal Jackson, high school math teacher, Dawn Schlegel, middle and high school English teacher, and Lisa Piantes, special education teacher, has been hard at work developing a cycle of inquiry model to be used in the years ahead, here. The team has worked with the school staff to identify a Learner Centered Problem: 49% of students at YWLA do not proficiently write complex sentences that use correct punctuation. They then identified a Problem of Practice: Teachers do not explicitly teach students how to write complex sentences that use correct punctuation. The next step in the cycle was to identify a high leverage, low maintenance teaching strategy

## School Events & Activities

for teachers to use school-wide, that would address the Learner Center Problem. YWLA's team selected the research validated strategy that has teachers regularly using mentor texts which contain examples of well written complex sentences, and pointing out the characteristics of those sentences, then allowing students to develop their own complex sentences.

Parents can support the NSIF work at YWLA! By noting complex sentences in written material with students at home, and by looking at the writing students bring home, you can guide your student toward developing more complex sentences in their own writing.

### GirlStrength Self Defense Course

As part of our Health Class, students will be participating in the GirlStrength Program offered through the Portland Police Department. GirlStrength is a free comprehensive self-defense course that focuses on empowering girls and demystifying fear while also teaching verbal assertiveness and physical self-defense skills. This eight week program is designed to:

- Demystify fear around safety that has been built into our media-driven society.
- Build confidence to ensure that girls grow up believing in themselves.
- Provide girls with physical self-defense skills and non-physical escape options.
- Make learning fun and give girls the opportunity to enjoy being a girl!

- Foster awareness and assertiveness to help keep girls safe.

To find out more details, use the following link: <http://www.portlandonline.com/police/index.cfm?c=49818&a=234215>.

### Healthy Cooking Competition

Last year, the Young Women's Leadership Academy was awarded an Oregon Youth In Action Grant by The American Leadership Forum In Oregon. Our girls traveled to Salem, Oregon where Governor Kitzhaber presented the award.

This year we started implementing this grant to help promote healthy eating and physical activity. A portion of the grant included teaching our girls how to identify healthy recipes, learn how to create a shopping list, and empower them to become smart consumers. This was accomplished through a cooking competition held on December 17, 2011. The girls competed to create the most nutritional



and tasty breakfast recipe. Each group chose a member to shop for grocery items which required them to stay within a designated budget. Five



judges were used to score each group's breakfast. Everyone had a fabulous and joyful experience.

### Bicycle Safety Course

This Spring, our 6th grade girls will be given the opportunity to participate in the Bicycle Safety Program through Ms. Smith's Health Class. The Program is a comprehensive curriculum that will teach traffic safety through classroom activities and on-the-bike skills practice. Students will learn skills such as helmet use, hand signals, traffic signs, maneuvering through intersections and out of driveways. The bicycle training will be run on the school grounds and surrounding community streets.

### Reading Challenge

This school year, all students are challenged to read at least 20 books and respond in writing to each one!!! For every 5 books they read & respond to they can choose a new book from our stash!! At the end of the year, all those who have 20 books done will qualify for a drawing for the grand prize.....an EBook !!!

So READ, READ, READ!!!!

## School Events & Activities

### Read Across America Week Feb. 27 - March 2

Join us in celebrating Read Across America Week Feb. 27 through March 2!!! Visit the 5th annual YWLA Book Fair. There will be many books to choose from in all price ranges. The Fair will be open during lunch, 5th period and after school and special activities will be planned for throughout the week.

### YWLA Science News

- YWLA high school students will be collaborating with two community organizations -- Portland Parks-City Nature West and the Clean Rivers Education Program with the City of Portland Environmental Services. They are participating in two stewardship projects at Washington Park.
- YWLA is one of 10 schools across the nation that will be awarded a Woolly School Garden, courtesy of Plastics Make it Possible. (Woolly Gardens are made from recycled plastic.)
- Science inquiry gets at the heart of science by bringing personal and social relevancy to science, promoting and encouraging curiosity, giving students the tools to pursue the answers to questions in their own lives and asking students to create their own evidence-based research. Ms. Kittrick's Science Research class prepares students to create high quality inquiry work samples that can provide evidence of proficiency at the state level. The students' work can also become presentations for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and

the Portland Public Schools Science Expo, the local affiliate of the fair.

- YWLA is delighted to announce that every one of our students is being mentored by Portland State University graduate students through two partnerships, with Dean of Engineering at PSU, Dr. Ren Su and The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) at Portland State University. These partnerships are dedicated to enhancing the undergraduate experience for students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

### OAKS State Testing

The first round of OAKS State Testing wrapped up in early January. The testing window continues through May, with students receiving three opportunities to test. If your child passes a test, this year you may request that she not be retested. Your child's scores will be sent to you by early February, along with information about this new policy.

### YWLA Participates in America Recycles Day

Since 1997, communities across the country have come together to celebrate America Recycles Day. It is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling in the United States. On November 15th YWLA students participated in a learning event that featured three local women in science and focused on "reduce, reuse, recycle" activities. YWLA students heard from Sherian A. Wright, retired mechanical engineer

and published author of "Master Gardening with Mason Bees," Rita Hansen, VP of Operations and Service at Agilyx, Inc. and Rebecca Percy, a local woman entrepreneur and owner of Queen Bee Creations.

### Tubman Times Back in Business

This year the school newspaper club plans to publish two editions of *The Tubman Times* with students' stories on Portland Public Schools issues plus local, national and international topics. The newspaper club was started last year as a volunteer effort by Beth Slovic, a politics reporter at *The Oregonian*. Students in the newspaper club meet Wednesday mornings before school, from 8 am - 9:30 am in the Parent Room. The club is open to all students, regardless of experience. They will get one-on-one help generating story ideas, requesting public records, learning interview techniques, writing and editing articles and designing the final product. Guest speakers and field trips are essential components of the learning process.



Want more information? Parents and students can feel free to contact Beth Slovic at [bslovic@oregonian.com](mailto:bslovic@oregonian.com).

# School Events & Activities

## Tubman Dreamers 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team in Action

The team picked its name from a quote from Harriet:

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

–Harriet Tubman

The dreamers are seeking fans and cheerleaders! If you are interested in starting a cheering squad, please contact Manager Melanie Knight at [kellyn-melanie@gmail.com](mailto:kellyn-melanie@gmail.com). Upcoming games and locations follow:

2/4 1:50 PM Location: Lane Middle School. We are playing Marysville Lions  
2/11 9:00 AM Location: UPCC – We are playing Aster Lady Eagles  
2/18 10:10 AM Location: UPCC – We are playing Lee Leopards  
2/25 11:20 AM Location: UPCC – We are playing George Mustangs

UPCC -University Park Community Center 9009 N Foss 503-823-3631	Lane Middle School 7200 SE 60th 503-916-2910
--	--

Playoffs will be the first two weekends in March. Watch the website school calendar for details!

Melanie Knight, Manager – 8th Grade Tubman Dreamers



## YWLA Spelling Bee Results

Congratulations to all of our YWLA Spelling Bee participants and especially Fiona Wilcox, our Spelling Bee Champion! Fiona's winning word, astrophysicist, places her at the next level of competition as YWLA's representative! Good luck, Fiona! Thanks to Ms. Tews for organizing the Spelling Bee!

## Adventure Club Is Back!!!

This year Adventure Club will be working in partnership with the Portland Parks Bureau to offer outdoor activities. All trips will be offered through Matt Dishman Center, located a few blocks from our school at 77 N.E. Knott Street.

Through Adventure Club, our girls will gain an appreciation of nature, grow through team- focused activities and be encouraged to attempt new challenges fostering peer trust, courage and self empowerment. Some of this year's winter activities include hiking, snow shoeing, snow tubing, and cross country skiing. The next two trips to Mt. Hood are scheduled as followed: February 20th-Cross Country and March 17th-Snow Tubing.

For more information, contact Ms. Smith at [kmsmith@pps.net](mailto:kmsmith@pps.net) or call Matt Dishman Center 503-823-3673.

## YWLA Sweatshirts for Sale

The purple, crewneck YWLA sweatshirts are available in all sizes for \$15 ! See Mrs. Hibbert for your sweatshirt. Parent sweatshirts are available by special order (quick delivery). Call Lisa Hibbert at 503-916-5630 (Option 2).

## Reminder from Nurse Lynn

Nurse Lynn reminds us to keep our school community healthy by paying close attention to your child's symptoms and taking appropriate action.

Keep the following symptom chart for reference when your daughter is feeling under the weather.

## When Should I Keep My Child Home?

Student's Symptoms / Diagnosed Illness	Student May Return to School When
Fever greater than 100.5 degrees (orally)	Temperature below 100 degrees (orally) for a minimum of 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or other fever-reducing medicine
Rash or rash with fever – new or sudden onset	Rash disappears. Written or phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Colored drainage from eyes; brown / green drainage from nose with fever of greater than 100.5 degrees; skin lesions that are "weepy" (fluid or pus-filled)	Discharge must be gone or student must have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and have a written or phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Vomiting	Symptom-free for 24 hours
Diarrhea: 3 loose or watery stools in one day	Symptom-free for 24 hours
Cough: Deep, barking, congested, or productive of colored mucous	Symptom-free or student must have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and have a written or phone consent from doctor to school nurse. Antibiotics are not effective for viral illnesses. When antibiotics are prescribed for bacterial infections, take all medications as prescribed until gone
White, clay-colored, or bloody stool	Written / phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Yellow color of skin and / or eyes	Written / phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Brown or bloody urine	Written / phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Stiff neck or headache with fever	Symptom-free or written / phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Unusually sleepy, lethargic, or grumpy	Symptom-free or written / phone consent from doctor to school nurse
Strep throat diagnosed by health care provider	Must have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and have written / phone consent from doctor to school nurse. If no antibiotics given, call school nurse before sending child to school
After an illness of two or more weeks, surgery, or other change in health status	Written instructions from doctor and / or parent regarding medication or special health needs must be provided to the school nurse. Call school nurse before sending student to school

## A Seasonal Reminder – Dress for the Weather

Some students have been caught off guard recently with the rainy and cold weather of the winter season. Please remember to dress in warm outerwear and

protect yourself from the rain during your commute. Concerned that your feet might get wet on the way? Bring an extra pair of dry socks to change into at school!