



Buckman Arts Focus Elementary School Wednesday News Bulletin

January 20, 2010

From Our Principal...

Dear Buckman Families,

I want to start by recognizing the incredible work that went into our assembly to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last Friday. Our guest speaker, Michael "Chappie" Grice, was truly an inspiration. And he could not say enough wonderful things about our student performances. Events such as this one fill me with indescribable appreciation for Buckman. A special shout-out to Chisao Hata, Michael Simmons and Regina Pirruccello for coordinating this assembly and for all of their extra effort. Thanks, also, to each teacher, student and volunteer for their contributions.

In response to the devastating earthquake and suffering in Haiti, we have decided to collect coins to help support recovery and relief efforts there. Each classroom will have a place to collect coins if you are able to contribute to this effort. Money received will be donated to Portland-based Mercy Corps. Thanks to Diane Meisenhelter for coordinating this drive. Even a small amount will help in their time of tremendous need.

Take care and thank you for all you do for our children.

Brian Anderson

Events

TAG Testing January 21 & 22 The District TAG Team will be here on Thursday and Friday, January 21 and 22. If a student misses the days of testing, his or her parents will need to call the district office to arrange another day and time.

Tuesday, January 26, is Election Day for Measures 66 & 67! Your vote is extremely important! Ballots must be received by Tuesday. YES votes would support tax increases passed by the Oregon Legislature and maintain current funding for schools, public safety, health care and other services. NO votes would eliminate the tax increases and require the Legislature to rebalance the 2009–2011 budget with \$726 million less. **What is the potential impact on PPS schools?** The equivalent of 18 days of school for students, or 270 teaching positions. The Oregon PTA, Stand for Children, the Oregon Education Association and the Portland School Board, among many other organizations, endorse a **YES vote on Measures 66 and 67.**

TGIF—Friday Coffee January 29 Plan to stick around school next Friday morning for some informal social time with other parents. Join us in the lobby at 8:45am for coffee and a time to catch up with friends, network and put faces together with names. Pick up some SCRIP from our wonderful volunteers doing table sales. Find out what's going on with your class auction project. Hear the scoop on student art projects for the Art Show & Sell. Sneak a peek at the third-graders practicing *Portland: The Musical* with Ralph Nelson in the cafeteria (yes, we'll need to keep the volume down). Bring questions and bright ideas or just stop by to say hi.

Kindergarten Roundup on February 3 Buckman's Kindergarten Roundup will be held Wednesday, February 3, from 6:30 to 7:30pm. This event is for Buckman neighborhood families. Please help spread the word if you know of families with incoming students. Info and flyers about enrollment and tours are at buckmanelementary.org.

Dance to the Bantuz to Kick Off Healthy Heart Month On February 5 at 6:30pm, in our own cafetorium, SUN and Buckman PTA will sponsor the annual Family Dance. We'll have fantastic music by Buckman parent Loveness Wesa, a renowned Zimbabwean performing artist, leading her band, the Bantuz, in an evening made for dancing delight. Buckman's own Youth Marimba Ensemble will play a few songs to get the evening rolling. Donations at the door will support marimba program scholarships for low-income families.

Shaking the Tree Studios's Latest Play Features Chisao Hata Shaking the Tree Studios, 1407 SE Stark St., will be running *Memory Waters: A Story of Love, Loss & Liquid, Inspired by the Many Sightings of La Llorona* (The Weeping Woman) from 1502 to 2006, by Andrea Stolowitz, from January 22 through 30. Directed by Buckman parent Samantha Van Der Merwe and starring Buckman teacher Chisao Hata, the "art/dance" piece is recommended for ages 12 and up (or mature fifth-graders).

Mark Your Calendar

1/20

- Site Council Meeting, 4 – 5pm
- Buckman Foundation Meeting, 7 – 8pm

1/21 & 1/22

- TAG Testing

1/26

- Election Day (Ballots due for Measures 66 & 67)

1/29

- Friday Coffee Front Lobby 8:45 – 9:30am

2/2

- Communications Team Meeting, 5:30 – 6:30pm, Library

2/2

- Buckman School Tours Begin, 9:30am

2/3

- Kindergarten Roundup for Buckman Neighborhood Families, 6:30 – 7:30pm

2/5

- Buckman Family Dance, 6:30pm

2/15

- SCHOOL CLOSED (Presidents' Day)

2/17

- LATE OPENING (School Begins at 10:40am)

3/12 & 3/13

- 20th Annual Buckman Art Show & Sell

3/15

- NO SCHOOL for Students (Teacher Planning Day)

Volunteer News

Academic Enrichment Volunteers Still Needed There are a number of classes still in need of volunteers for the academic enrichment program. Please consider spending 30 to 60 minutes per week leading a small group of students who are ready for additional challenges in reading and math. You do not need to have a child in a classroom in order to volunteer. For more information, contact Frances Kappes at frances.kappes@gmail.com.

Volunteer Recognition There is no shortage of photo opportunities around Buckman. Thanks to Ellen Regal, a fifth-grade parent and photographer, for spending numerous days at school capturing the amazing work that goes on each day. Thanks also to photographer Jason Locken, first-grade parent. Jason and Ellen were both on hand to photograph the Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly so we'll all be able to treasure the memory of that great event. Look for photos on the website and on BigTent soon.

Additional Important Information

Hope for Haiti We will be holding a drive to raise funds for water and emergency food and shelter in the wake of Haiti's earthquake. Though the death toll is expected to climb to 100,000, even more will perish if basic needs can't be met quickly. International relief efforts and long-term development support are critical. Money can be placed in the giant labeled water containers that are in the classrooms, SUN office and main office. No amount is too small to help and time is of the essence, so please act soon.

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications Always Accepted You may apply now or at any time of the school year for assistance with school meals. If your household has experienced a change in income, your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. If your household size goes up, if your income goes down, if you lose your job, or if you start getting SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamps) or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), it is possible that you qualify. You may submit an application for the first time or you may reapply if previously denied and your income has changed. Forms (which include qualifying income guidelines) are available in the school office or the SUN office. Scholarships for SUN classes are also based on whether you qualify for free or reduced lunch and have completed this form. *The information is kept confidential.*

For more information and to apply online go to www.nutrition.pps.k12.or.us or call Kendall Rundberg at (503) 916-3247.

Calling Student Artists to the Buckman Art Show & Sell The student art gallery at our annual show is always a highlight. Buckman students (and alumni) can participate in the show and take home the same 70% of proceeds as the adult artists. All student art is welcome but you must sign up to get price stickers in advance and follow the guidelines for pricing and packaging. Art must be turned in the week prior to the show (which takes place March 12 and 13). Get creative and get busy. Details will be posted on the main lobby bulletin board soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions e-mail jngcdewson@msn.com or cmcnagle@yahoo.com.

SUN News

Great News! Lehzan, a third-grader in Mr. Vestal's class, will be meeting President Obama at the White House this week with his SUN mentor, Willie, as part of National Mentoring Week. This is a great honor for both Willie and Lehzan!

Free Dental Sealants for Second-Graders OHSU is partnering with Buckman SUN to provide dental hygiene education, screening and sealants to all second-grade classes. Your child should have brought home information on a free dental sealant program (up to a \$240 value) last week. Please send the paperwork back as soon as possible whether or not you want the sealants so that we can get ready for dental screening by February 5. While fluoride is also offered, you can request that it not be given to your child and still obtain the sealants. Students returning paperwork will get a small prize and will be eligible for a bigger prize drawing.

Winter SUN Classes If you need to make any changes, please fill out a change form near the SUN door before the second Friday of the term (January 22). Please remember SUN payments now that you have your schedule. If you cannot pay the full amount, please contact us with a payment plan or to discuss other options.

Mentors Needed SUN is still looking for one-on-one mentors to meet weekly with students, particularly as they prepare to transition to middle school. If you know of solid adults who might be willing to make a commitment, please have them contact Diane in the SUN office.

To submit Buckman School-related news items to this weekly bulletin, please e-mail newsletters@buckmanelementary.org. **All submissions (50 words or fewer, please) must be received no later than 3pm on Sundays to be included in that week's bulletin.** Staff and teachers, parent committees, PTA, SUN, BCP and the Buckman Foundation are welcome to submit news items.