

November, 2016

Tom McCall ELEMENTARY



541-526-6400

<http://www.redmond.k12.or.us/>

Drew Frank, Principal

- Dates To Remember -

- Nov. 1 PTC MTG @ 6:00 pm
- Nov. 2 Wing Color Day
- Nov. 3-4 No School—Conferences
- Nov. 3-4 Book Fair!
- Nov. 8 Picture Re-Take Day
- Nov. 8 Election Day!
- Nov. 9 Portland Opera Performs!
- Nov. 10 Spirit Wear Day
- Nov. 11 No school—Veterans Day
- Nov. 11 Blazer Game
- Nov. 18 Favorite Sports Team Day
- Nov. 18 PBIS Assembly
- Nov. 21-25 No School
- Dec. 2 Hat Fundraiser
- Dec. 16 Crazy Holiday Wear
- Dec. 19-30 No School—Winter Break

- Principal's Message -

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that September and October have already passed us by and we are now beginning to look forward to the Thanksgiving Break. At this point, your child is part of a firmly established class community, is being asked to persevere through new learning and some accompanying points of frustration and is learning from both their successes and mistakes. Our goal at Tom McCall is not perfection - it's persistence, especially in the face of adversity. No doubt you're curious as to what happens in the daily life of your child. Asking "How was school today?" might not get you the information you're seeking. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened? What wasn't so cool?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?"

Conferences and Book Fair

I'd like to thank you in advance for attending your child's conference. One of our goals is to strengthen the Parent - Teacher relationship. The goal is increased communication from teachers to parents about what students are learning, their current progress, the strengths and their areas for growth. We aim for parents to feel more connected to their teacher and our school than ever before. A positive step in this direction is these Parent/Teacher Conferences. We strive to meet with 100% of families. Our teachers will strive to provide a conference time that works for you! Conferences will be held the week of October 31st - November 4th with the bulk of them occurring on the Thursday and Friday. We're excited to conduct our annual Scholastic Book Fair during this year's conferences. Our Book Fair will run from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm on Thursday and from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm on Friday.

Fun Run

Once again, I'd like to thank our PTC and all of our wonderful parent volunteers and sponsors who make our annual Fun Run possible. This event has become a hallmark for our beginning-of-the-year fun and our largest fund raiser. Our goal this year is \$18,500. This is ambitious, but we believe with the inclusion of an on-line payment method, we can reach it. In reaching our goal last year, Mrs. Hamann and I were "slimed" in front of the entire school. This made a lasting impression for students and prompted us to make this year's reward for our top two money earners the opportunity to join me in dressing crazy and being "slimed" as well. Thank you so much for your financial support and for sharing the payment link with friends and family. There is rumor that the link allowed a student to raise over \$600. This isn't an expectation, but is certainly exciting as it will allow McCall to continue to provide enrichment through the "Arts," increase our technology and support additional resources.

Cell Phone Watches

Teachers are noticing many students in their classes wearing cell phone watches. These devices fall under the same regulations as use of cell phones and are not allowed to be used during school. Already we've had students receiving texts during class, excusing themselves to the restrooms to make texts and contacting parents to pick them up during recesses. These are examples of related functions of this technology that is impacting students' abilities to learn and the teachers' ability to teach. Please see a portion of our District Policy addressing cell phones and cell phone watches. If a student chooses to bring their cell phone or cell phone watch to school, it must remain in their backpacks or individual cubbies until school is out. Both of these devices will be confiscated by teachers and returned to parents. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Students and staff should be allowed to complete their tasks without the interruption of communication devices such as pagers, cell phones or audio headsets (other than for school use) while attending school or school associated activities, on or off the school property. Exceptions are: police officers, school administrators, staff and active members of the emergency medical technicians.

A personal communication device is one that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. If the communication device disrupts the educational environment it may be subject to being confiscated and forfeited to the district.

FEELING
GRATITUDE
AND NOT
EXPRESSING IT
IS LIKE
**WRAPPING A
PRESENT**
AND NOT
GIVING IT.

~WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD~

Retake Day

Lifetouch National Studios will be back in our building **Tuesday, November 8th** to do picture retakes for any students who are new, were not in school for the first sitting or were not happy with the pictures they received. If you want to have retakes, you need to send the complete original set with your child on Retake Day so they can turn them in and get a new picture taken.

Don't Miss Oregon Battle of the Books

Do you have an intermediate student who loves to read? All 3rd-5th grade students from Tom McCall Elementary are invited to participate in the Oregon Battle of the Books Competition. If you are unfamiliar with this event, please go to our OBOB link on the library page of Tom McCall's website and read all about it! In order to compete, your student must read 4 of the 16 titles by December 5, 2016. Our school "battles" are held during school hours and they will begin after the first of the year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Miller in the library @ 541-526-6400 ext. 4745.



BAD WEATHER, DELAYED STARTS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

If there is a school closure or a delayed start you will be notified via our Auto Dialer system as soon as the decision has been made, usually around 5:30 am. You can also get this information by tuning in to the local radio and TV stations or on line at www.redmond.k12.or.us or on the RSD Facebook page.

If we do have a delayed start, buses still run; just 2 hours later than usual. So, if your child is picked up at 8:15 am they will be picked up at 10:15 instead. School will start at 11:00 and lunches are served on their normal schedule and we dismiss as usual.

Tech Talk

All grade levels are practicing keyboarding on a regular basis in the computer lab. Our students enthusiastically strive for improvement each time they practice!

When practicing keyboarding, students are asked to focus on proper use of home row (ask your child which fingers are placed on the home row keys), good posture and attention to looking at the screen, rather than the keyboard. Each of these elements are essential to successful keyboarding practice. In the computer lab, we focus on accuracy, not speed. We want to practice correctly so that the skills improve over time. With that accuracy, the speed will come.

I frequently remind students that practicing keyboarding is similar to soccer, football or basketball practice (or whatever your favorite sport may be): With practice, the skills become easier. With practice, we become better at whatever our sport may be.

Not just our school, but the entire school district, is committed to encouraging strong keyboarding skills at the elementary level.

BOOK FAIR

It's Book Fair time again!!! Once again, our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled to coincide with parent teacher conferences.

**Tom McCall Library
Thurs. November 3rd 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. & Fri. November 4th 8 a.m. - noon. The students always look forward to this library fundraiser! Hope to see you there!!!**

Online shopping is also available at scholastic.com/fair through Tuesday Nov. 8th!



NEWS FROM THE GYM



With the weather changing, we will now be spending our time in the gym. We've finished up fitness testing with 3rd through 5th grade, and are now moving into Volleyball and other net games. Our 1st and 2nd grade classes will also be engaged in activities to work on their hand-eye coordination. This is an essential skill we want all children to develop and improve.

FitnessGram reports will be handed out to all 4th and 5th graders at conferences. Remember that this is a baseline test for students to demonstrate individual fitness levels in muscular strength and endurance. We will be working on weak areas throughout the year. The goal is to see individual improvement in May.

Just a reminder that all students need to have sturdy athletic shoes for P.E. and must be able to tie them themselves. When children wear boots to school they need to remember to bring tennis shoes to change into when they arrive. Please check with your student to find out if they have been bringing their P.E. shoes. If they have a hard time remembering which days they'll be in P.E., it would be easiest for them to store an extra pair of tennis shoes in their cubby to be left there for the year. If you need assistance in getting a pair of shoes for P.E., we have a wonderful FAN advocate that can help you out. Thank you for your help in this matter, so all kids can participate safely in P.E..

Remember, "*Success is not measured in where you are, but how far you have come!*"
Mrs. Jones

jessica.jones@redmond.k12.or.us
541-526-6400 ext. 4727

PTC HAPPENINGS

The PTC wants to send out a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped out on Fun Run Day! We appreciate all of you who took time to volunteer! We would also like to thank all the amazing sponsors we had. This year was the first year we were able to bring in enough sponsorship to pay for the Fun Run shirts completely! So, THANK YOU!

Money is starting to come in from student's pledges and we will continue to accept cash and checks brought into the school through Friday, November 4th. Conferences are on the 3rd and 4th that week, so stop by the office with your child's pledge envelope for any final donations that need to be brought in. Our online donation system is working well for us this year and we will continue to take donations through there until November 4th as well! Be sure to get your student's link from their page on 99pledges.com/fund/tmfunrun, and send it out to family and friends. The fundraiser's top two earners (one boy and one girl) will be slimmed with Mr. Frank at our November assembly if we reach our goal of \$18,500.00!!

Our next PTC meeting is on Tuesday, November 1st at 6:00pm in the school library. Hope to see you there!

News From FAN

As the seasons change, don't forget to send your children to school with enough layers to keep them warm at recess. And if all those layers don't make it back home, please check our Lost and Found area outside the Nurse's office to recover your child's lost belongings. If you need help getting winter-wear for your children, I **have hats, gloves and some coats available**, so please give me a call.

As the cooler weather approaches, please be aware that, effective October 1st, **NeighborImpact's Energy Assistance Program** is available for income-eligible households with children 5 and under. This is in addition to also serving seniors and/or disabled clients beginning October 1st, as well. These families do not need to have shut-off notice to receive assistance. All other families requesting assistance at this time will need to have a shut-off notice in order to make an appointment. Call 541-504-2155 for an appointment.

Need help with the expense of doing your family's laundry? The **Laundry Love Project** provides all the supplies you need to help you do your laundry for **FREE** (laundry supplies, coins for the machines, etc.)! On the **10th day of each month from 6-8 pm, as well as the 4th Tuesday of every month from 6-8 pm** you can bring your family's laundry to **Cathy's Cleaners** (1604 S Hwy 97, across from Safeway.) What a great deal!

As always, if you have questions, needs, donations, time to volunteer or are just curious about what FAN is all about, give me a call at (541) 526-6400 ext 4715.

Jennifer Summerton
FAN Advocate

Health Happenings

Annual Health Screenings:

All students were screened for vision and dental health on Thursday, October 20th, 2016. 3rd graders were also screened for hearing and speech. If any problems were detected, we will be calling and/or sending a letter home to let you know, so that you can pursue any needed follow up. Our community partners, the Lion's Club and Kemple Clinic did the vision and dental screenings for us and we are so grateful for their help. So watch for those screening results to come home with your child for your records.

Immunizations:

Time off over the upcoming holidays is a good chance to update your child for any needed immunizations. Exclusion day will be in February! Any kids who are not current on their shots will not be permitted to attend after the exclusion date, until they become current again or until the parent completes the state-required process to get a non-medical exemption. If you received a letter from me stating that your child needs some immunizations please be sure to get those updated. If you are unsure of your child's immunization status, check with your health-care provider, or contact Nurse Kim and we can let you know what shots we have on record at the school.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up

When picking up and dropping off at the front of the school, please be courteous to other drivers and **DO NOT** block entrances to either parking lots! If you are waiting, use the red fire lane in front of our school, as well as, in front of Elton Gregory. **DO NOT** use the short entrance that goes into the two parking lots!! Thank you.