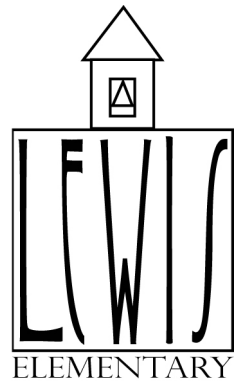


Meriwether Lewis Elementary School

Weekly Letter

503 916 6360 - <http://lewiselementary.org>

November 19, 2008



Principal Notes From Mr. Lauer

Parent Teacher Conferences November 24 and 25

We will be holding Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 24, and Tuesday, November 25 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you have not yet scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, please call the school office at 503.916.6360 and we will get you scheduled. As it is each year, our goal is to have 100% participation and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you and to optimize your child's work and school experience.

Conference Tips

Below are a few suggestions for parents as they prepare to meet with teachers.

- Ask about your child's behavior in class & if they are turning in their work
- Check with the teacher about how your child is progressing academically
- Ask what you can do to support your child academically.
- Find out what the teacher will do to support your child academically
- Ask to see examples of your child's work
- Tell the teacher if there is anything going on outside of school that might have an impact on your child's success such as a divorce, death in the family or a recent move.

Lewis Web Site and Information via E-Mail

I would like to remind our community that copies of this newsletter and other information can be found on the Lewis Elementary web site:

<http://lewiselementary.org>

In addition we have created a **Google Group** that can be subscribed to to allow you to receive notices and updates from the school office via email. Announcements and timely updates are available via this group email list. To sign up, please visit the link below:



<http://groups.google.com/group/lewiselementary>

Inclement Weather & Emergency Closures

When school closure decisions are made, the district instantly publishes the information through their web site at:

<http://www.weather.pps.k12.or.us/>

Television and radio stations get their information from this service, but sometimes their broadcast of updates is delayed. If you have internet access, the link above is the first place you should check for weather-related closure information. The site is available 24 hours a day. This information can also be reached from our web site, <http://lewiselementary.org> Please note, that unless it is pouring down rain, we go out for recess each day at lunch hour. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Julia Hamlin Returns

I am happy to report that Julia Hamlin has returned to Lewis. Julia will be helping us with gardening lessons and will be working to coordinate volunteer and family involvement related to our environmental and garden work. In addition Julia is our environmental and sustainability coordinator helping us with our efforts to lower our environmental footprint. Please join me in welcoming Julia back to Lewis.

Lewis Going Green Update: Cafeteria Trays

Lewis is continuing its Green Project. Last year, we bought reusable trays for the cafeteria to eliminate the use of the polystyrene trays. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who wash our trays daily, we have gone away with the polystyrene. We are continuing to move forward on these efforts. We are working on eliminating the plastic sporks that are used in the lunchroom. We are asking people to donate metal forks, spoons and knives to the school. If you have a donation, please drop it off in the office.

Drama Production Thursday Evening

This year we are fortunate to have Tori Padellford lead our Drama program. This is the third year that we have offered all of

our students a drama experience. The productions this year have a literacy focus and we are taking advantage of a technique called **Reader's Theater**. In Reader's Theater, the focus is on dramatic presentation and character development. Props and sets are minimal. On Thursday evening students from Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Gould's classrooms will perform for family and friends. In addition an afternoon performance is planned for 1:45 pm.

Ms. Tori is requesting donations or loans of black pants and black shirt or tops in various children's sizes for our reader's theater presentations. Donations will be used throughout the school year. Items on loan will be laundered and returned.

Lewis Homework Club

We have started a Wednesday morning Homework Club for students in grades 3 - 5. This is an opportunity for students to get some help and support with homework assignments. The group will meet each Wednesday morning at 7:45 am. If you are interested in having your child take part in Homework Club please contact your child's teacher.

Homework on the Lewis Web Site

Most of our Lewis teachers have started to post homework for the week on our website. To check on homework for the week just visit the Lewis web site at lewiselementary.org and follow the homework link at the top of the page

More Homework Help: Woodstock Library Homework Helpers at the Woodstock Library, 6008 S.E. 49th Ave 3:15-5:15 p.m. every Wednesday.

Homework Helpers are trained volunteers who give students one-on-one help finding the books and information they need to complete homework assignments. They volunteer whenever school is in session. Space at library programs is limited. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis <http://www.multcolib.org/events/homework.html>

More Bazaar... Items Still Available

We still have some items from the Bazaar that you can purchase in the school office. These include student made magnets, Busy Body Books (family organizer), Nosa Familia Coffee, and SCRIP. If you are interested please contact Tracy in the office.

Chinook Books Sale...

Chinook Books are on sale in the school office. Cost is \$20. These community coupon books, are filled with amazing coupons from OMSI, Burgerville, Portland Nursery, local bike shops, coffee shops, New Season's, and so much more! The savings are incredible and it's a great way to support Lewis PTA. Books cost \$20.00, 10.00 of which goes directly to PTA.

Lewis Library Volunteers Needed!

Do you love books? Would you like to volunteer, but you don't have a lot of time? We would love to have you help out in the library. We have tasks that can be done in 15 minutes, 30 minutes, or 1 hour or more. We have a great need for adults who would like to come in and help kids with book selection during class library time. This is a great way to help kids and Tori (our fabulous media assistant). If you would like to help out, please contact me, Kathy Bartlett at kathy.bartlett@comcast.net (there is a dot between my first and last name) or 503-775-4842. I would love to hear from you and will be happy to get you started. Hurray for Books!

PTA Auction - March 5, 2009

Our auction is scheduled for March 5, 2008. Today we are sending home a separate auction update letter. For more information please contact Angie at 503 775 3664.

**Drama Performance:
Gould / Bennett Classrooms
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008 6:30 pm**

Upcoming Events

- ★ November 20 - Bennett/Gould Drama Production
- ★ November 24 & 25 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- ★ November 26-28 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- ★ December 1 - Teacher Planning Day, no school
- ★ December 4 - PTA Meeting

Walk & Bike Day a Great Success

Today we had 107 students walk or bike to school! Thank you to our volunteers and students