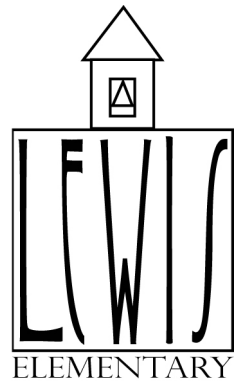


Meriwether Lewis Elementary School

Weekly Letter

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

December 3, 2008



Principal Notes From Mr. Lauer

Tardies and Attendance Reminder

With the end of our first trimester, this is a good time to review our policies regarding attendance and tardies. Unless a child is ill, we want him or her to be at school every day. We also want students here on time. Students who arrive to school after 8:45 am are considered tardy. Teachers work very hard to make every instructional minute count and we expect students to be at school at 8:40 and in class at 8:45.

During the first trimester we had 1042 recorded tardies.

Students who arrive late miss important instructional opportunities and cause disruptions to the instructional day. We will be continuing to work to lower this number and unless a child has an appointment, or there is a family emergency, we expect them to be in class at 8:45.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Last week teachers and parents had the opportunity to meet to discuss student progress during our parent/teacher conferences. We view this time as a tremendous opportunity for parents and teachers to work together to forge a partnership that help students succeed and grow at school. I would like to thank our staff and all those parents who took part. We know that we missed a few of you and if you are one of those that could not attend last week, I will be calling to help you set up a make up session.

NEW Vaccination Requirements for Pre-K & Kindergarten Students

Multnomah County requirements for Hepatitis A Vaccination have changed. Pre-K & kindergarten students that do not have 2 doses of Hep A by mid-February will not be permitted to return to school. If your child is currently enrolled in Pre-K or K, these requirements apply to your child. If you have questions, please our school nurse Martha Button, or contact MESD Immunizations at 503-257-1760.

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.

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>

PTA Clothing Swap:

Mid-January (date to be determined) we will have our first ever Lewis Clothing Swap. Get your gently used clothing (infants-grown-ups) ready! There will be bins set-up after Winter Break. All members of the Lewis Community are invited to participate. All left over clothing will be donated to the PTA Clothes Closet. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Lori @ L_hymowitz@yahoo.com

Lewis Eats Out night at Burgerville

This time teachers and students will help with your food orders! Rumor has it some of the 4-5 graders will be delivering food to your tables and Teacher Sarah might even cook your french fries! Please join us December 9th to help raise money for our school at this fun community building event - from 5-8 pm at the Burgerville on the corner of SE 26th & Powell.

10% of the profits will go to Lewis School. This is bound to be a great time. By the way, if you are interested in purchasing Scrip for Burgerville we have \$10 Scrip cards in the office.

Scrip Gift Cards...Support the Lewis Library

We are selling gift cards (scrip) to raise money for the Lewis library! We will have cards on hand for purchase on Tuesday and Friday mornings, beginning this Friday, December 5 at 8:40 in front of the main office. Remember that scrip is an even money exchange; if you pay \$50 you receive \$50 worth of gift cards. There will also be two more orders prior to Christmas, so this is a great way to buy Christmas gifts while raising money for the library! Order turn in dates: Monday, December 8 and Monday, December 15. Orders will be returned the Friday of each week.

Walk & Bike Day

The next Lewis Walk & Bike Day will be Wednesday, Dec. 17 work. "Are you ready to make every day a Walk & Bike Day?" The new Lewis Walk & Bike punch cards coming soon. Students can earn prizes for using their legs to get to school. More information will be sent home next week.

PTA Auction Meeting

TONIGHT! Wednesday, December 3, 7pm at Angie Toops house: 4225 S.E. Glenwood St. Please contact Angie if you have any questions 503 775 3664.

Garden Committee Meeting Next Monday

Everyone is invited to join us next Monday December 8th, from 2:00-3:00 in the staff lounge at Lewis. We are looking to form a group of volunteers who meet once every month to help plan, organize and encourage the Lewis Gardening and Environmental Education Program to grow to its full potential. Whether that means you want to help during workparties, with grant writing or fundraising, during gardening classes with the kids, putting on community dinners, organizing the spring plant sale, or in other ways. We can all work together to make our program the best it can be. Hope to see you there!

PTA Bingo Night

Friday, December 5, 2008

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Lots of food, fun, and prizes!

plus Popcorn from the PTA's new machine!!!

Concession sale proceeds will help 4th & 5th grade students go to OMSI Camp.



Upcoming Events

★December 4 - PTA Meeting

★December 12 - Report Cards sent home

★December 17 - Walk and Bike Day

★December 19 - Last day before Winter Break