

# Stafford Primary School Newsletter

WEST LINN-WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
19875 SW STAFFORD RD., WEST LINN, OREGON 97068



Dear Families,

The Science fair is almost here! On February 24th, students will have the opportunity to share their discoveries and experiments with each other. In addition to sharing with their peers, a group of students from West Linn High School will be here to give feedback to each participating student. This is a great opportunity for Stafford students to see and hear from older students who continue to be engaged in the inquiry process. The Science Fair is a wonderful event, where students from every grade level have the opportunity to explore and learn from the inquiries their fellow students have made.

Research and inquiry has been one of our themes this year and topic of discussion around the school. The process of inquiry comes naturally to children, as it gives them the opportunity to do what they do best- ask questions, investigate the world around them and share what they have discovered. Inquiry is not always an orderly process, and students do not always arrive at a pre-conceived answer. There is such value in going through the process of asking a question and investigating to find an answer. With the amount of information at our fingertips today, creating opportunities to sift through and analyze a wide range of information is important.

The science fair is a great example of inquiry in action. Each project begins with the student: their interests, curiosities and experiences. From these interests comes questions and ideas to investigate. As discoveries are made, students share that information with others, receive feedback on what they have done and more questions come from this experience. This cycle can continue or it can lead to other ideas, inspiring children to explore some more about the world around them.

Inquiry is an integral part of any classroom instruction. While inquiry is typically associated with scientific pursuits, it is really a process that is evident in every content area. Whether students are exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction, what the theme of a novel may be or what the causes of the Revolutionary War were, students are asking questions and seeking to understand. It is through this process of inquiry that there is depth of student learning. Simply telling our students what to do is not enough- working with them to form understandings about the world around them is what will lead to durable learning over time. This kind of complex instruction, where the teacher is a guide in the process of inquiry, is essential as we prepare our children for the challenges of the 21st century.

I hope you will be able to make it to the Science Fair on February 24th and join our students in a celebration of their investigations. If you have any questions about Science Fair or the process of inquiry, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 503 673-7154 or drop by my office.

Patrick Minor



# Messages From The Office



## Counseling Corner A Wellness Moment

February is Brain Awareness month so I am teaching class lessons on the brain and different ways of thinking. All of the students are learning about the importance of brain health. We take care of our brains and our bodies by eating a healthy diet, drinking plenty of water, taking deep breaths, getting exercise, and getting enough sleep at night. We also protect our brains by wearing a helmet when we are on wheels and fastening our seatbelt when we ride in a car.

The older students are learning about neurons, neural pathways and how their thoughts impact their feelings. The younger students are learning about "rock brain" and "squishy brain." These are two different ways of thinking which all people use at different times. When we use our squishy brains: we are kind and considerate; we are good sports when we lose; we are able to share and take turns. When we use our rock brain: we want what we want when we want it; we think only of ourselves; we fuss when we don't get our way; we may say and do hurtful things to others. In the words of a first grader, "Squishy brain is good at solving problems and rock brain fusses if he doesn't get what he wants." This is language that students, parents and teachers can use to help identify thinking that is flexible (squishy brain) or inflexible (rock brain).

It is important for all of us to develop healthy coping strategies for managing stress so our "squishy brains" stay in control and our "rock brains" do not take over. Here are some of the coping strategies I teach children to help them keep their minds clear and their bodies calm:

1. Take 3 deep breaths.
2. Count to 10 slowly. 1...2...3...
3. Think happy thoughts.
4. Take a break.

## February

- Feb. 19 BINGO Night 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 24 Science Inquiry Fair 6:00 p.m. (date change)
- Feb. 25 Birthday Book Club Jan/Feb 1:30 Library
- Feb. 25 Gr. 1 Penguin Night 5:00-6:30 in classrooms

## March

- March 2 Evening Conferences
- March 3 Evening Conferences
- March 4 NO SCHOOL / Parent Conference
- March 5 NO SCHOOL / Parent Conference
- March 8 Site Council 2:20 pm
- March 11 PTSA Meeting 9:00 a.m.
- March 12 Pancake Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
- March 22-26 NO SCHOOL / Spring Break

## WEST LINN—WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION

### Town Center School Accepting Registration for the 2010-2011 School Year.

The Wilsonville Early Childhood Center at Town Center School is now accepting registration for the 2010-2011 school year. The school serves 3 and 4 year old children in the Wilsonville area. To learn more about their program, come to on of the informational sessions:

Monday, March 1 at 4:30  
Tuesday, March 16 at 9:30  
Thursday, April 15 at 9:30  
Monday, April 26 at 4:30  
Thursday, May 13 at 9:30  
Monday, May 24 at 4:30

Preschool spots will fill up quickly. Preference for morning and afternoon are accepted on a first come, first-served basis.

Come see us at 29790 SW Town Center Loop E, Wilsonville, OR. Call the school office at 503 673-7375 for more information.

#### CREST Learning-On-The-Go Field Trip

CREST, the district's science center offers field trips on non-school days so students have an opportunity to get outdoors and explore the natural areas around them. All trips will be led by CREST staff.

Super, Spectacular Space Day  
Thursday, March 4, 2010

GRADES 2, 3, 4, & 5	FEE: \$40.00
	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Calling all space cadets! Join CREST on an out-of-this-world adventure! First we will go to CREST, where you'll have a chance to program a robot to travel through an obstacle course and view constellations in CREST's own portable planetarium. Then we'll journey to OMSI to check-out their new exhibit

*Space: A Journey to Our Future.* We'll even catch a space-adelic movie on their OMNIMAX theater!

Animal Exploration  
Friday, March 5, 2010

GRADES 1, 2, 3, & 4	FEE: \$40.00
	8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us at CREST for a full-day of outdoor exploration and learning about critters. You will definitely need boots for this excursion! We will be walking through a forested wetland looking for insects, catching aquatic creatures with nets in ponds, and looking for animal tracks and other signs of wildlife. We'll use binoculars to spy on waterfowl that live near CREST and you will also get a chance to hold CREST's reptiles and amphibians.

Wild Animals!  
Friday, March 5, 2010

GRADES 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8	FEE: \$40.00
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Are you interested in taking care of reptiles, amphibians, and other unusual animals? If so, then join CREST as we go on behind-the-scenes tours of the American Wildlife Foundation, a rehabilitation center for injured animals, and Brad's World Reptiles, a facility that raises and houses all kinds of unusual reptiles and amphibians. You will be able to see animals up close, learn about their care from experts, and will be able to hold some of them as well.

Learning-On-The-Go registration forms are available at your school office, the district office, and on the CREST website at: <http://www.crest.wlww.k12.or.us/lotg.htm> . If you have any questions, please call Vickie Lee at (503) 673-7010 or email at [leev@wlww.k12.or.us](mailto:leev@wlww.k12.or.us)

CREST 2010 Oregon Coast Spring Break Trip  
March 22– March 26, 2010

GRADES 4, 5, 6, & 7	FEE: \$335.00
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Spend a fun-filled week exploring the amazing Oregon Coast! We will explore the coastal forests, dunes, and seashores during our week-long, overnight adventure. Activities will include exploring tide pools, canoeing, a boat ride, campfires, and much more! Stay tuned for more information!

Spring break registration forms and information are available at your school office, the district office and on the CREST website at: <http://www.crest.wlww.k12.or.us/spring%20break.htm> If you have any questions, please call Vickie Lee at (503) 673-7010 or email at [leev@wlww.k12.or.us](mailto:leev@wlww.k12.or.us)

**Music and Arts Partners (MAP) asks for your support with our 12<sup>th</sup> annual “Dollars for the Arts ” campaign!**

March is “National Music in Our Schools Month” and “National Youth Art Month.” In connection with this, March is also MAP’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual “Dollars for the Arts” campaign. MAP invites every family in our district to donate \$1 or more in support for our schools arts programs. This year, campaign donations will support our district wide piano replacement program, strings program and the annual student art and music scholarship program. **Be a Music and Arts Partner! Keep the arts strong in our schools!**

You may contribute in three ways: 1) send your donation directly to your school office; 2) include it in the MAP envelope that will be sent home with your child in March and send it back to your school; 3) mail it directly to MAP at 1378 Leigh Ct., West Linn, OR 97068. MAP is a volunteer driven, non-profit organization working to bridge the funding gap for arts education in the West Linn-Wilsonville school district. Since 1996, MAP has returned over \$500,000 to all schools. For more information about MAP, please visit our **new** website:[www.musicandartspartners.org](http://www.musicandartspartners.org). **Thank you!**

Your MAP dollars at work for **STAFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

1999-00	Tone bars (4)	\$849
2001-02	Music stands (12)	\$217
2002-03	Cart for music stands	\$200
	Dorothea Lensch/ORCommunityFoundation grant	\$10,000
2004-05	Flip forms for staging and seating	\$2,229
	Dorothea Lensch/ORCommunityFoundation grant	\$10,000
2005-06	John Nilsen song writing residency	\$700
	Dorothea Lensch/ORCommunityFoundation grant	\$6,000
2006-07	Aaron Meyer, rock violinist assembly	\$180
	Violin program, gr.3, violins & cases rotating	\$806
	Donor gift	\$150
	Dorothea Lensch/ORCommunityFoundation grant	\$10,000
2007-08	Donor gift	\$200
1995-2009	Concession profits	<u>\$7,408</u>
	<b>TOTAL-grants, donations, concession profits</b>	<b>\$48,939</b>

**LOOK WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**2nd GRADE GIRL SCOUTS WANTED!** There's a new 2nd grade Girl Scout troop forming at Stafford. If your daughter is interested please contact Hallie Elduff at [HElduff@girlscoutsw.org](mailto:HElduff@girlscoutsw.org) or Sandy Parker at [sandysp@easystreet.net](mailto:sandysp@easystreet.net) to get involved. For more information on Girl Scouting check out: <http://www.girlscoutsw.org/cms/girls/join.aspx>

**Girls Softball and T-ball registration is now open** for the 2010 spring season. On-line registration and program information can be found at [www.wilsonvilleyouthsports.org](http://www.wilsonvilleyouthsports.org) An email reply to confirm is appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**FRIENDSHIP FARM PRESCHOOL** welcomes families of 3-5 year olds to attend our Open House & [Registration](#) Night for the 2010-2011 school year. It will be held on our farm at 23500 S.W. Elderberry Lane, in West Linn on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010 from 6pm-8pm. Please feel free to check out our web-site at [www.friendshipfarmpreschool.com](http://www.friendshipfarmpreschool.com) for more info about our school. We look forward to sharing with you about our fun and adventurous times where we "plant the seeds of caring, grow the wonders of learning, and reap the joys of loving". Please call 503-638-5949 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!!!

**The WLHS Theatre Arts Production of Shakespeare Romeo & Juliet** opens next Thursday 2/25 and runs 2/26, 2/27 and the following weekend 3/4 through 3/6. All shows start at 7pm in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$6 for students, \$8 for adults. All West Linn High staff members receive one free ticket. Please contact Annie Kaiser to reserve yours by email or see her in the Box Office at lunch Wed, Thur, or Fri to purchase additional tickets. You can also buy them online at [www.wlhstheatre.org](http://www.wlhstheatre.org)



**\$1**

**\$1 off any Large or Extra Large**

**\$1**

**BELLAGIOS PIZZA will donate \$1.00 for each coupon**

**Redeemed to Stafford School**

**West Linn 557-1406 Tualatin 691-7841 Sellwood 230-2900 Sunnyside 698-6699**

**Beaverton 466-2070 Gresham 465-8000 Goose Hollow 221-0110**

**Lake Oswego 635-8700**

**West Linn 557-1460**