

# Stafford Primary School Newsletter

WEST LINN-WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
19875 SW STAFFORD RD., WEST LINN, OREGON 97068  
(503) 673-7150 - [www.stafford.wlww.k12.or.us](http://www.stafford.wlww.k12.or.us)



Dear Families,

The second grade hosted their annual poetry night last Thursday and it was a wonderful evening. Listening to the children's voices rising up in song in the MPR, I was struck, as I always am, of the importance of our work and the incredible impact school has on a child's life. We strive to diligently create experiences and opportunities that foster confidence, compassion and ability to think deeply.

In each content area, our focus is to create opportunities for children to construct knowledge and understanding that is durable. It is important that children make connections between their current and new ideas. It is in the process of making sense of new thinking that meaningful learning occurs and is demonstrated when a child is able to apply their understanding to a novel situation. It is the application of thinking and the drawing from prior knowledge that a child demonstrates the durability of their learning. Related to this, it is important that children see the value of the work we ask them to engage in and see connections to their lives and interests. Within each content area, reading, writing, math, etc., teachers plan lessons and create a culture where this type of approach is at the center.

This year we have been focusing on our understanding of mathematics and instruction in four main areas:

- 1. Creating deep knowledge:** It is important that instruction focus on the big math ideas within a given topic. This helps to facilitate a child seeing the connections and relationships within that topic or concept.
- 2. Student discourse:** It is important that we help students engage in discussion with their peers and their teacher that extend and deepen their understanding of a given concept.
- 3. Connections:** Children need to see the connection between the knowledge they are acquiring in the classroom to their lives beyond the walls of the school. They also need to see the connections between mathematical ideas and concepts.
- 4. Higher order thinking:** We want students to fluently and accurately apply their understandings of concepts and skills to solve mathematical and real world problems. Students who apply higher order thinking skills are able to apply their knowledge not just to familiar types of problems but also to novel situations.

Seeing the tremendous work that teachers do each day – from planning a wide variety of lessons, to focusing on those instructional practices that foster engagement, from assessing each child to meeting with teammates, I am always impressed. Stafford teachers do wonderful work with their students and are great role models for what life long learning looks like. As we focus on mathematics, our understanding and skills in how to best meet the needs of each child is growing. The math residencies we did a week and a half ago are a tremendous example of the on going learning in which teachers are engaged. What an ideal model for children about the importance of being a learner.

While it is the middle of the year and the heart of winter, it seems important to find those valuable moments to step back and reflect on the wonderful children we get to work with each day. I just wanted to take a moment to update you on our thinking about math and to share my appreciations for each of you and your care for children. Thank you.

Patrick



# Messages From The Office



## MINOR MOMENTS

The response and interest in our school Science Fair has been tremendous! The enthusiasm of students, parents and staff has been wonderful to see. By helping to guide students through this process we can ensure that this enthusiasm continues. Students can become easily disengaged if they feel overwhelmed. In order to avoid this, it is important to help students design a testable question or a narrow focus on a topic in such a way that it guides the rest of the process. By doing an experiment or study that is narrow in scope, students feel like the task is more manageable and often the results are more meaningful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I will also be holding support meetings after school from 2:15-3:15 in the library every Friday until the Science Fair. The Science Fair will be held on February 24 here Stafford- this is a change in dates so please make a note of it.

## ENRICHMENT FEES DUE

Please make sure enrichment class fees are paid and sent to the office by Friday, **February 5th**. Thank you for your continuing support in making our enrichment program such a success!

### Chess Tournament Trophy Winners

On Saturday, January 30, 2010, Stafford Primary School played host to the twentieth annual Primary School District Chess Tournament. The tournament was well attended, boasting a final roster of 41 participants with all seven of our district primary schools represented. Under the direction of Bob Luck, students participated in 5 rounds of play which lasted approximately 5 hours. We are so proud of the Stafford students who placed! A total of 12 trophies were given out and Stafford students took away 1/3 of them! Go Stafford!



Peter Woltjer, 3rd grade, 1st place (not pictured),  
 Gregory Gandy, 5th grade, 2nd place,  
 Ryan Lew, 3rd grade, 2nd place  
 Sera Lew, 2nd grade, 2nd place.

## February

- Feb. 4           PTSA Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 12**       **NO SCHOOL / Staff Development Day**
- Feb. 15**       **NO SCHOOL / Presidents' Day**
- 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  
                   Gr. 1 Penquin 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

### CREST LEARNING -ON-THE -GO FIELD TRIPS FOR 2010

It's time for another CREST Learning-On-The-Go Field Trip and you're invited! 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.

SCIENCE OF SWEETS

GRADES 3, 4, & 5

FEE: \$40.00

Friday, February 12, 2010

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Got yourself a sweet tooth? If you do, then join CREST as we discover the science and chemistry behind making sweets! We'll learn how the professionals do it and have a chance to make and sample some of our own creations. Some of the things to look forward to include: root beer, rock candy, and ice cream! Make sure not to pack anything too sugary, because after today, you may need a sugar-vacation!

SUPER, SPECTACULAR SPACE DAY GRADES 2, 3, 4, & 5

FEE: \$40.00

Thursday, March 4, 2010

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!

CREST 2010 Oregon Coast Spring Break Trip

March 22 - March 26, 2010

GRADES 4, 5, 6, & 7

FEE: \$335.00

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:

[www.crest.wlww.k12.or.us](http://www.crest.wlww.k12.or.us) 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)

## 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@girlscoutsosw.org](mailto:HElduff@girlscoutsosw.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.girlscoutsosw.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.

**BOYS YOUTH LACROSSE:** Registration for West Linn Boys Youth Lacrosse, grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, is NOW OPEN. Go to [www.westlinnlax.com](http://www.westlinnlax.com) for information and to sign up. Practices and games start after spring break.

**OREGON SCHOOL SCRABBLE** Competition on Feb. 6, 2010 -- 5th Graders interested in participating in the School Scrabble competition on Sat. Feb. 6th (8:30 - 9:00 is registration, tournament ends at 4:55 p.m.) at the Chehalem Youth Center. Contact your teacher or Donna Paul at [scrabbleladyz@yahoo.com](mailto:scrabbleladyz@yahoo.com).

### Bottle Collection for Graduation Party 2010

The 2010 West Linn High School Graduation Committee will be collecting cans and bottles at Albertsons (10th St.) from 10:00—1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6. This donation will help defray the cost of the alcohol and substance abuse free party for all graduating seniors. Please call Kathy Cooley 503 974 9444 or Christina Guerins 503 650 1027 if you have cans/bottles you would like to donate and cannot deliver on Saturday.

**"Nite With the Lions"** -- an opportunity to support the high school basketball programs -- The last game will be played on Feb. 12 at Lake Oswego HS. Students wearing jerseys from West Linn Youth Basketball Association teams will be admitted free.

**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!!!



