

# Stafford Primary School Newsletter

WEST LINN-WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Dear Families,

Again, welcome back to a new year! I love the coming of September and to have the halls of the school once again filled with the laughter and voices of children. Their excitement and joy truly makes the building come alive with a sense of all that is possible in a new school year. It has been an excellent start and I know we are going to have a wonderful year together.

I had an amazing trip with my family to the East Coast this summer. Our trip was filled with the tourist life in Washington DC, Mary Poppins on Broadway and time in the wilds of the Adirondacks, where we went on a three day canoe trip. It was lovely to paddle from lake to lake with the necessities of life – shelter, family, food and transportation. This canoe trip was an incredible experience for Helen, now a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, and Norris, who starts 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this year. It was remarkable to see how much they grew over the course of three days. They were proud of their efforts in and out of the canoe and were impressed by all they had accomplished. They eagerly paddled each day, helped to ferry our equipment through many portages, aided in setting up the camp each night and took it all in stride. They were presented with a lot of challenges and meet each one with grace and perseverance.

I think that a canoe trip is a great metaphor for a school year. There is a lot of planning that goes into structuring a year. We have a set of goals that will guide our work this year. We will be focusing on mathematics, wellness and research and inquiry. Over the course of the year, there will be a lot of discussion and information sharing about these three focal points. Like canoeing across a lake, the beauty and possibilities arise the farther you paddle. Our year together will unfold similarly; as we go forward all that is possible will continue to present itself. It will be up to us collectively to grab hold of these possibilities and continue to foster an environment that holds student learning and understanding with such value as we all do. It is my belief that at the end of the school year, we will look back, much as Felicity and I did with Helen and Norris, and be impressed and proud of all that the children have achieved and accomplished. We will look back and marvel at their growth as learners, thinkers, and thoughtful members of our school community. I am excited that our year is underway and I look forward to our on-going partnership in making Stafford the exceptional place that it is.

Our next step along this journey is curriculum night, which will be next Tuesday, September 22nd. Curriculum night is about the learning your child will engage in this year and building the important relationship between home and school. I am so proud of Stafford teachers. They believe so strongly in the power of children and the importance of providing a challenging and engaging classroom environment. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

6:00 – 6:40 – Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

6:45 – 7:15 – Come to the gym to hear about the year from me and the PTSA

7:20 – 8:00 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

The Stampede this year was another huge success! Thank you so much to Yvette LeBlanc for all her time and efforts and to her crew for all they did. The school was buzzing on Monday with kids talking about all the fun they had on Friday. The Stampede is such a great way to start the year – thank you all for making it such a great event.

I also want to extend my thanks to Lisa Griffiths for her stewardship of our gardens. She spends a great deal of time weeding, watering, planting and organizing work parties. It is an enormous task and I am so appreciative of her care.

I also wanted to say thank you to Ryan Curdy and Courtney Kennedy for their time this past summer in helping to repaint the lines and map on the playground. We had a lot of fun brightening up the blacktop!

Stafford is a tremendous place and this is due to all of you, great teachers, and a collective belief in the power of children. Thank you for all your support, for your kids and here is to another great year!

Take care, Patrick



# Messages From The Office



## HEAD LICE DID NOT TAKE A VACATION PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD!

Dear Parent,

We wish to alert you that several cases of head lice was reported in various classrooms. Head lice are very common in children. If all parents will check their children's hair every day for the next two weeks it would help control further outbreaks. Please contact the school if you find lice on your child so we can track the number of cases identified. Your child will need to be checked by school personnel before they can re-enter school. We ask that you accompany your child to school when they are re-entering after being excluded for having head lice. They must be free of live lice to return to school.

Head lice are tiny, crawling bugs the size of a sesame seed. They cannot jump or fly. Nits are the lice eggs. They are the size of a poppy seed and are glued to the hair shaft by a type of insect "super glue". Nits can be found anywhere on the hairs of the head but mainly behind the ears and on the back of the neck. Nits may look like dandruff but are glued firmly to the hair shaft and can't be easily removed.

The most common symptom a person with head lice might exhibit is itching on the head. But some people have no itching. The only way to determine if a person has head lice is to do a thorough inspection of the scalp in a well lit area.

If you find nits or live lice on your child be sure to check everyone else in the household. Only treat those that have lice or nits. There are three steps that must be done at the same time.

1. Personal hygiene: Shampoo the head with a detergent shampoo, like Prell or Neutrogena, which doesn't have oils, scents, or conditioners. Dry the hair. Apply a head lice shampoo. Read and follow directions on the product carefully. Use a clean towel to somewhat dry the hair. Using good lighting, while hair is still damp, divide the hair into sections, remove lice and nits with a metal lice comb or your finger nails.
2. House hold Maintenance: Wash bedding, linens, and recently worn clothing. Dry on a hot setting. Vacuum rugs, furniture, mattresses, cars, etc. Anything that can't be washed can be placed in a sealed, plastic bag for two weeks, in a freezer for 48 hours, **or** in a hot dryer for thirty minutes. Wash all combs and brushes in hot soapy water. Lice sprays are not recommended.
3. The most important step—**REMOVE ALL THE NITS** (Lice eggs)

Vacuum furniture and floors daily. Recheck heads at least daily. If live lice or nits are found, remove them. Check with your health care provider before reusing the head lice medication if seven days have not passed since you last used the product. After seven days you can repeat the shampoo or treatment if the label recommends that you do so. Continue to check for lice for the next 2-4 weeks.

You may also refer to the Nurses Page on the District Website. You will find it by going to [www.wlww.k12.or.us](http://www.wlww.k12.or.us) click onto District Departments, then click onto Student Services, click onto Health Services and scroll down to the section on Head Lice. You will also find the link to the Head Lice Organization.

Resources: National Pediculosis Association—781 449-6847 or [www.headlice.org](http://www.headlice.org)

# Stafford Library



Welcome back to school! This year holds many wonderful experiences for students, families and friends in our community. Please be sure to stop by the library on Curriculum Night September 22nd, to meet the library staff and take a look at the rich resources and warm spaces your child will enjoy in the coming months.

## **Fall Book Fair**

Mark your calendars for the annual fall book fair coming to Stafford the week of October 19. Students will have the opportunity to buy classic books and recent releases at rock bottom prices. Hurray!!!

## **Birthday book Celebrations**

Participate in the Stafford Birthday Book tradition and help build our book collection. Assist your child in the giving of a new copy of one of their all time favorite books, in honor of their birthday. See Julie or Shelly in the library for more information.

## **Author Visit**

Stafford School is privileged to host a visit by Portland's own Deborah Hopkinson, author of many award-winning children's books. She will spend the day with us teaching and sharing her work on **February 2nd**.

## **Stafford Library Volunteer Committee**

Sign up to spend a little, or a lot, of time helping in the library. We need you shelving, organizing and display assistance. Plenty of guidance available, not to mention coffee and goodies. Stop in the library, call Shelly Buchanan or Julie Hoover at 503.7160, or email Shelly at [buchanans@wlwv.k12.or.us](mailto:buchanans@wlwv.k12.or.us) to get started.

## **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION SEPTEMBER 24TH**

If you are interested in being a volunteer in the classroom you will want to attend one of the following orientation sessions. The sessions will be on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. If anyone has questions they can contact Shellie Allen by phone at 503-744-0690 or by e-mail at [shellieallen@comcast.net](mailto:shellieallen@comcast.net).

## **PICTURE DAY: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30th!**

### **STUDENT PHOTOS and VOLUNTEER BADGES**

**Picture Day is Coming!** The order form will be sent home on Monday, September 28th. **Please return the order form with payment on Wednesday, September 30th** to your child's teacher. If your child misses school on this day or forgets his/her money, we will have a make-up day on November 4th.

**Need a Volunteer ID Badge?** Adult volunteer photos will be taken in the gym between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. The volunteer badge is \$3.00 payable in the office.

## **Become a Music and Arts Partner!**

Each year MAPS provides a generous donation to the schools to improve our music and dramatic arts department. An information/membership form was sent home earlier this week. Please return the completed form to the front office and show your support for this wonderful program. If you have any questions please call Lynne Derrick at 636-4443.

## **A Message From Our Counselor**

Dear Stafford Families,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me yet. I am the Stafford School Counselor and I am delighted to work with all of the Stafford students and families!

I will continue to work collaboratively with the staff at Stafford to sustain a child-centered learning environment. I will be working with the staff to promote our Wellness vision: "*How do we care for ourselves?*"; "*How do we care for each other?*"; "*How do we care for our community?*" My promise to you and your child is that I will pour my heart and soul into my work at Stafford.

Some of my responsibilities include:

- Support for children as well as support for teachers, parents and school administrators in their work with students
- Develop, implement and evaluate the school counseling curriculum to support the growth of all students
- Provide responsive services in the form of both prevention and intervention provide specialized, small group counseling for students
- Identify resources and find solutions to problems
- Collaborate and participate with staff in activities that contribute to the effective operation of the school

I look forward to knowing each of you and your children. Please don't hesitate to call or stop by for a visit.

Sincerely,     Laura Barbour

### **ALLERGY REMINDER**

There are a number of students in our school who have severe peanut and nut allergies. In order to keep the lunchroom environment safe and healthy for all students, we will be offering a "Peanut/Nut Free Table". Your child is welcome to sit at this table if they do not have peanuts or nut products in their lunch. Please help your child identify whether or not they have peanuts or another type of nut in their lunch. There will also be adults in the lunchroom each day that can offer assistance as needed.

### **PICKING UP STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL**

Please send a "Bus Note/Memo to School" for your children indicating a change in what they are doing after school. All children being picked up need to be met in the multi-purpose room at the end of the school day. A staff member will be on duty in the MPR to sign out your children.

Please, for the safety of our students, we ask that no students be removed from school before the proper sign-out procedures have been followed. Children are not allowed to meet parents at their vehicles.

### **ENRICHMENT CLASSES TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER!**

The Enrichment brochure will be going home October 1st. Look for new and exciting classes for the fall term! Sign up early for these fun classes that will begin the week of October 12th and run for 8 weeks.

### **INSTRUCTORS FOR ENRICHMENT ARE NEEDED**

If you have a talent or an interest you would like to share with our students, please call Patrick Minor at 673-7154. Classes are 45 minutes in length. This is a six to eight week paid position!

**WEST LINN / WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PREPARES FOR THE H1N1 FLU**

West Linn-Wilsonville Schools are preparing for what may be a more challenging flu season than usual. We are committed to taking the necessary steps to reduce the spread of the flu virus in our schools, and are working closely with the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon and Clackamas County health departments to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning the impact of the H1N1 virus in our schools.

As a district, we will provide a clean environment for students, as well as updated information to you in newsletters and our websites. At the present time, we ask that you join us in an effort to:

**Teach and encourage all of our students to wash hands frequently and carefully** - with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.

**Teach and encourage all of our students to cover coughs and sneezes** with tissues (thrown in trash afterwards) or elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.

**Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

**Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing medications. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected. *Each of our schools will contact parents and send students home if they exhibit signs and symptoms of the flu.*

Though the Oregon Public Health Division has said that school closures will be rare, we are preparing for the possible disruption of school if significant numbers of students are absent at any one time. Plans are being made to support student learning at home and will be shared with parents when they're available.

We appreciate your cooperation in the effort to minimize the impact of the H1N1 Virus in our school system. More information is available on the school district website at <http://www.wlww.k12.or.us/> Click on "H1N1 Flu Information" at the top of the page.

**West Linn High School Homecoming Celebration**

On behalf of the West Linn High School Homecoming celebration, the Associated Student Body (ASB) of WLHS invites your school to be part of the 2009 Homecoming parade. This year the homecoming celebration will be bigger and better than ever with a carnival, parade, and home football game to celebrate our new school year in the West Linn community! We're asking for participants from the community to design floats, or just be festive and walk in the parade. Homecoming will be the evening of Friday September 25th at West Linn High School. The carnival will start at 4:30 pm with the parade following immediately after at 6:15. The home game starts at 7:00 pm.

Parade participation is a way that the ASB decided could help create a larger community support for our high school. By including all the members of our youth teams, clubs, and elementary and middle schools, we're hoping to create a large support for our high school teams. If you know a team or club that would be interested, please contact the ASB for more information at [wlhsasb@wlww.k12.or.us](mailto:wlhsasb@wlww.k12.or.us) This is a great chance to improve our community support and join around a fun evening for all ages!

**Please remember: All students in middle and elementary school must be accompanied by an adult to all games.**

## MINOR MOMENTS

Welcome back to school! I am excited about all the wonderful new faces I will get to know and the fantastic projects I will see all of our students engaging in throughout the year. As Instructional Coordinator, I have the opportunity to see the hard work students and staff put in everyday. If you ever have any questions about any aspect of our school, I encourage you to contact me. I look forward to a great year and getting to know you and your child!

At our first assembly, we had a collection of students share their thoughts and feelings about Stafford. Each student started their thoughts with the words, "Stafford is a place where..." One of the submissions was by Rae Peters, a third grader in Mr. Roger's class. This is what she shared with our school:

*Stafford is a place where children learn and grow. Where kids meet friends, where we reach higher levels. Stafford is a place where we help children half way across the world, where children save the world by picking up trash, where we reduce, reuse and recycle. Stafford is a place where we make friendships with schools all the way across the world. Stafford is a place where children can change the world, where we can make a difference for others. We have a long future ahead of us.*

I hope your child has had a great start to the year and is excited by all the learning they have ahead of them. Again, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Patrick Minor

## SEPTEMBER

Sept. 22      Parent Curriculum Night  
                    K - 2nd grade, 6:00-6:40 p.m.  
                    Meet with Patrick Meigs/Susanne Nelson (PTSA President ) in the Gym, 6:45-7:15 p.m.  
                    3rd - 5th grade, 7:20-8:00 p.m.  
                    (Parking available on Stafford's playground, Buddhist Temple and Athey Creek)

Sept. 24      Stafford New Volunteer Orientation, 8:00-9:30 a.m., and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Sept. 30      Photo Day for Students  
                    Volunteer Photo for ID Badge 1:00-2:00 p.m.

## OCTOBER

Oct. 1          PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Oct. 5 & 6      Evening Parent Conferences  
**Oct. 7 & 8**      **NO SCHOOL**, Parent Conferences  
**Oct. 9**          **NO SCHOOL**, State In-service  
Oct. 19-23      Book Fair in the Library

**STAFFORD PARENT CALENDAR:** To keep up with all that goes on here at Stafford please check our calendar website. <http://ical.wlww.k12.or.us/stafford>