

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



Dear Families,

There seemed to be a collective feeling of calm around the school this week. September is always such a busy time. There is the rush to get ready for children, the Stampede, curriculum night and conferences. All of these things are so wonderful and they allow us to come to know children and families well. However, it is also nice to start October and settle into our work with children and each other.

As I have said before, we have had a great start to the year. The entire staff has come back in high spirits, energized for the possibilities that a school year can bring. One of the nice things about this year is that we do not have any big, new curriculum initiatives this year. We have spent the last few years bringing in new materials and thinking in the areas of math, spelling and literacy. While all of this has been great additions and has helped to grow our own learning, this year affords us the opportunity to settle into this work more deeply. We will be taking this year to strengthen our work in these areas. One of the important aspects of our work in schools is to continue to be learners ourselves. Roland Barth, an author I admire greatly, writes about the notion that the sign of a vibrant school community is when the learning curve is off the charts for all. We will be spending time this year engaging ourselves in our own on going learning, about curriculum and instruction; pushing our learning curve off the charts. Teachers will be in groups focusing on a particular area of interest and sharing their learning with the rest of the staff. This will give them the chance to dig deeply into an instructional practice and curricular area. The time given to share with the entire staff will afford us the opportunity to deepen our collective knowledge about a wide range of topics. Teachers are excited by this focus for the year. This type of workshop model is exactly what we want students to experience in class and our modeling of the process is important. The opportunity to explore an idea in depth and the chance to share their learning with others will be an exciting and significant part of our year.

On the construction front, we continue to wait for building permits. As soon as there is word of a start date, I will be sure to let you know. The anticipation of starting is hard, but the end product will be amazing.

I wanted to take this time to express my appreciation to the community for the support and good cheer throughout the start of school. From the amazing Stampede to the incredible lunch provided during conferences, the entire staff feels your warmth and care. On behalf of all of us here, thank you for all you do for us, and for the children at Stafford.

Take care,
Patrick



Messages From The Office



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Bullying and relational aggression have been receiving a lot of attention in the media lately but this is not a new problem. What is new is society's attitude towards bullying and relational aggression. What used to be accepted as just "a normal part of growing up" has changed because we now know that bullying has serious consequences. Young bullies may grow up to be abusive adults. Young targets may get hurt physically as well as emotionally. It is not just the bullies and the targets who are affected. Witnesses around them (bystanders) may be distracted, intimidated and upset. Bullying in school may interfere with students learning and teachers teaching.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is defined as: negative actions carried out by physical contact, words, making faces, gestures, rumors or intentional exclusion. Bullying can be physical, verbal and/or relational.

What is Relational Aggression?

Relational aggression refers to acts of emotional bullying hidden among networks of friends. Acts of relational aggression may include: exclusion, teasing, manipulation, silent treatment, rumors, gossip, insults, intimidation, and humiliation.

At Stafford Primary School, we are committed to addressing issues of bullying and relational aggression honestly and directly. We work with the children to create a school culture that does not tolerate bullying behaviors. Some students tell me, "We don't have any bullies at Stafford" while others report bullying behaviors in the past and present at school. Regardless of whether or not bullying is considered a problem, our primary focus is on prevention. Every student can benefit from gaining the knowledge and skills needed to safely and effectively handle bullying behaviors if they encounter it in any setting. Our goal is to empower children to stand up for themselves and each other. We are committed to maintaining a respectful, peaceful and safe learning environment for all of our students.

I want to share information with you that students at Stafford School learn about preventing bullying behaviors. Please read this information and discuss it with your child(ren). It would be helpful to reinforce what your child(ren) learn at school by asking questions and using the same language. My class lessons this fall will be focused on bullying and relational aggression prevention. Typically when I teach these lessons, reporting of bullying behavior increases. It is important that we listen carefully to children when they report injustices to us. Children are always encouraged to seek help from an adult to solve problems. We need to take these concerns seriously and ensure that children receive the support they are seeking.

FRIENDSHIP EXPECTATIONS

- **We will not bully others.**
- **We will help students who are being bullied.**
- **We will include students who are left out.**
- **If somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.**

"What should I do if a friend is bullying me?"

If you are being bullied by a friend:

- Walk away
- Use a safe comeback (Remember the 'tools in your toolbox!')
- Talk to an adult you trust
- Make new friends
- Try new activities
- Don't give your power away
- Find safe places and kind people

If you see a friend being bullied:

- If you feel safe, ask the person to stop
- Support your friend
- Tell an adult

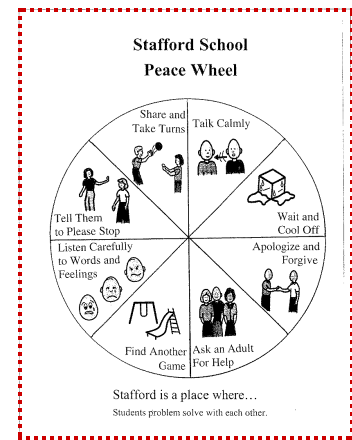
If you are bullying your friends:

- Give a sincere apology if welcomed and work to earn trust back
- Talk to a trusted adult
- Find positive and healthy outlets for your feelings
- Learn to communicate assertively rather than aggressively
- Develop your leadership skills
- Engage in community service work

What should I do if someone is teasing or bullying me?

If someone is teasing or bullying you, try the following strategies. If the problem gets bigger or you do not feel safe, please report the incident to a trusted adult immediately.

- Ask, “**Why?**”
- Turn an insult into a compliment, only if you feel safe.
- Agree (ie: “You’re right! Thanks for noticing!”).
- Change the subject.
- Act silly and goofy. Use humor in a harmless way.
- In a neutral tone, say “**So...Whatever...Who cares?**”
- Say “**STOP! I don’t like it when you....**”
- Walk away.



****These are strategies recommended by Trudy Ludwig.****

We will be teaching children strategies for solving small problems using the Peace Wheel. We can help children learn the difference between a small problem (“She’s staring at me!”) and a big problem (“My friend pushed me down at recess). Children can attempt to solve small problems on their own using the Peace Wheel. Big problems (ie: safety issues) require help from an adult.

Recommended Resources:

“Best Friends, Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Lives of Children” by Michael Thompson, Lawrence Cohen and Catherine O’Neill Grace. Ballantine Books, 2001.

“The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School-How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence” by Barbara Coloroso. Harper Resource, 2004.

“Building Moral Intelligence: The Seven Essential Virtues That Teach Kids to do the Right Thing” by Michele Borba. Jossey-Bass, 2001.

“Nobody Likes me, Everybody Hates Me: The Top 25 Friendship Problems and How to Solve Them” by Michele Borba. Jossey-Bass, 2005.

“Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls” by Rachel Simmons, Harcourt, 2002.

“Real Boys: Rescuing Our Sons from the Myths of Boyhood” by William Polluck. Owl Books, 1999.

MORE FROM THE COUNSELOR!

WHAT ABOUT BOYS?

Wednesday, October 20, 2010
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Class Description

Strengthening our Relationships with Boys.

Come to this impactful forum and share ideas about what makes boys tick! Discussion will include, boys biological development, learning differences, social pressure to follow "boy code", boys values and needs behind their actions, communication style and how mother and father can be supportive.

Speakers: Howard Hiton MS, LPC author: "Boys Advocacy and Mentoring", Kathy Massarie, Pediatrician author: "Raising our Sons" and "Raising our Daughters"

Fee \$5 per person, pay at door.

Location and More Information

Lorenzen Center Auditorium
Legacy Emanuel Medical Center
2801 N Gantenbein Ave
Portland, OR 97227

How to Register: Legacy Referral Services, 503 335-3500

Self Esteem

Self-Esteem, How It Affects Individual Relationships and Family Dynamics:

Saturday, October 23, 2010

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Marilyn J. Sorensen, PhD, an internationally recognized authority on recovery from Low Self-Esteem (LSE) and author of Breaking the Chain of Low Self-Esteem, will be talking about how a person's view of self affects personal and family dynamics--as well as a person's attitude, ambition, hope, dreams, creativity, and energy. What can a parent do to instill healthy self-esteem in one's children? Learn what it's all about, and how self-esteem positively or negatively affects millions of lives--both men and women equally.

FALL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Stafford from October 18th - 22nd. We are looking forward to another fun and successful event! The book fair will be open before and after school, during lunch, and on Tuesday evening from 5:00-7:00 p.m. As in the past, we ask that kindergartners and 1st graders not bring money to school to buy books. These students can use the guidance of an adult to help them select books and make wise buying decisions. Also, please do not send older children with large sums of money as lost bills make unhappy students. Times: 7:30-8:30a.m., 11:30-1:00p.m. and 2:00-3:30p.m. Friday the book fair will close at 3:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

YEARBOOK and 5th GRADE DVD PROJECT!

Order your yearbook through www.myyear.com. The cost is \$20 plus a surcharge of \$1.80. If you would like to order a yearbook with a check, those will be collected in the spring of 2011 through Judy Woodruff. Questions? Email Erica at: yraguen@comcast.net

DVD PROJECT

Erica Yraguen is looking for someone to take on the 5th grade DVD project. Please contact her if you are interested in collecting/scanning baby pictures and making the 5th grade end of year DVD. Email Erica at: yraguen@comcast.net

MINOR MOMENTS

This Winter, we will begin construction of a edible garden at Stafford through a grant from ProGrass called "Gardens for Kids." This grant has provided us with \$10,000 in labor and will be instrumental in creating a outdoor space where students can learn about and interact with the natural world. Last year, I visited several classrooms to have children design their "dream garden." These designs are being used to finalize our plans for the garden, incorporating many of the ideas of children, specifically in regards to what we should plant. We will also be forming a garden council involving students that will help to steward this project. Student voice in creating this space is important, so that students have a sense of ownership with this new part of our school.

This garden will be an wonderful place of inquiry for students, staff and families. We are incredibly fortunate to have the space and support to create a garden that can function as an outdoor classroom where students can take what they have learned about the world and see it in action. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the construction of this garden, please feel free to contact me at 503 673-7154.

CAN WE ACHIEVE OUR BOX TOPS GOAL?

Last year's goal was \$1,175.00. We surpassed it and collected \$1,330.00 for Stafford. Great job!!

This year's goal is \$1,596.00!We can easily do this if everyone clips Box Tops and submits them through their child's classroom.

*Buy products that carry the Box Tops label.

*Clip the Box Tops label before throwing the packaging in the trash can or recycling bin.

*Save them in a Ziploc-type baggie until you are ready to submit them to Stafford.

*Send them to school with your child(ren) who will give them to his/her teacher.

The Box Tops Committee collects the labels, sorts them, and sends them to Box Tops for Education for credit. Stafford's PE program is the recipient of everyone's great efforts! (Each label is worth 10 cents, so the money adds up very quickly.)

If you would like to join the Box Tops Committee to assist with "behind the scenes" volunteering, or should you have any ideas to enhance our program, please contact Laura Snyder at snyder219@yahoo.com. **Thank you to all our Stafford families for your great support.**

OCTOBER

Oct. 14	Gr. 1 Parent Social
Oct. 15	Gr. 5 Parent Social
Oct. 18	Next Scrip Order Deadline
Oct. 18-22	Book Fair in the Library
Oct. 28	Kindergarten Parent Social
Oct. 28	Birthday Book Club 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	Kindergarten Parent Social
Oct. 29	Spirit Wear Day
Oct. 31	Last Day of PTSA Membership Drive

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3	Picture Retakes
Nov. 3	PTSA Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Nov. 4	Second Grade Parent Social
Nov. 4	Vision Screening Day Gr. K, 1, 3 & 5
Nov. 5	Gr. 2 Parent Social
Nov. 11	No School/Veterans' Day
Nov. 12	No School/Furlough Day
Nov. 19	Spirit Day
Nov. 22-26	No School/Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 30	Birthday Book Club 1:30 p.m.

STAFFORD CALENDARS: To keep up with all that goes on here at Stafford please check our website.

<http://www.stafps.wlww.k12.or.us/> and click on *Calendar*.

WEST LINN—WILSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

ANOTHER UPDATED LINK TO THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD!

We redid our site so that you won't have trouble using it in other Internet browsers (like Firefox, etc). We are hoping that this link will encourage you to use the virtual community bulletin board which allows more people to see the flyers submitted without having to post them physically in the schools. Our attempt to be paper-less.

So take an moment to browse this site! There are many opportunities available to your student: Tutors, music programs, sports, camps, and dance . . . all this information at one location! (the updated website below)

<http://www.bond.wlww.k12.or.us/cbb/>

To review the revised District school calendar with furlough days log on to:

<http://www.wlww.k12.or.us/News/LatestNews/SchoolCalendars.asp>



CAMP FIRE CAMP programs are for boys and girls of all ages! Youth participate in fun activities, projects and events that promote the development of caring, confident youth and future leaders. For more information, call 971-340-1598 or find us on the web at www.portlandcampfire.org

CUB SCOUTS is a great opportunity to get kids involved in the community and do fun activities with friends. Cub Scout Pack 223 provides Stafford families with this fun and rewarding opportunity and we meet monthly at the school. Visit www.cubpack223.com or contact David Adams at 503-612-9796 to learn more about our Pack!

2ND ANNUAL FALL HARVEST FEST

The City of Wilsonville presents the 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Fest on Saturday October 16th. The event runs from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Stein Boozier Barn in Murase Plaza. There will be a kids and pet costume contest/parade, hay rides, and pumpkin decorating. Please call 503-570-1502 for more details!

HAUNTED TRAIL AT MARY S. YOUNG PARK!

Haunted Trail (and enchanted Trail for the younger ones) comes to Mary S Young Park.. The Teen Advisory Committee presents a new event for the community on October 23rd, starting at 7 pm. More information at www.westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec or by calling 503-557-4700.

West Linn Public Library has a Book Club Opportunity For 4TH and 5TH Graders!!

We're starting a Newbery Bunch Book Club for 4th and 5th graders. We'll be choosing our own Newbery winner and seeing if we can predict the ALA Newbery choices. The club is limited to 25 members, so sign up today at the Kids' desk of the West Linn Library, 1595 Burns St. Or call 503-656-7853 x4 (for the kids' desk) to save your spot. The Newbery Bunch will meet in the Library Community Room every other Monday at 3:30 starting Oct. 18.

ATHEY IDOL IS ALMOST HERE! Join us on Friday October 22 at 7pm, when the Athey Creek cafeteria will again be transformed into a magical performance hall with the greatest songs and our terrific singers providing the best entertainment ever. Snap your fingers and tap your feet as the Athey performers from 6th to 8th grade wow you, singing and dancing their hearts out. There are plenty of great seats available, so get your ticket orders into the Athey Creek Office quickly as we do expect to sell out for Friday night's performance. Can't make it Friday? Come to the dress rehearsal (October 21 at 6 pm - \$5 tickets at the door), where you will get a chance to preview the acts as well as vote for your favorite who just may become this year's **Athey Idol!**

The WLHS Dance Team is selling beautiful Poinsettias to raise money for competitions and costumes. You can order two sizes: Medium for \$16.00 or Large for \$24.00. Both sizes come in red, white or pink. Place your order by Thursday, October 28. Email Diane Harju at DianeHarju@gmail.com with your order, or you can contact your favorite West Linn Debutante for more information. Delivery arrangements will be made at the time of your order and will be available after December 1. Thank you for your support!

OCTOBER 14, 2010

Stafford Primary

PTSA

everychild. onevoice.

Stafford PTSA NEWSLETTER

IT IS TIME FOR HALLOWEEN

COSTUMES!!!!

Don't buy yours at the store or order online until you check out this great offer. You can purchase your costume at a **WHOLESALE PRICE** and benefit Stafford PTSA in the process.

Go to www.wholesalecostumeclub.com and use the promo code FUN503.

You will get your costume at a guaranteed low price and **Stafford will receive 15% of all sales processed with this promo code.** They have all types of costumes infant through adult. Forward this information to all of your friends and family to help our school.

Funds received through this event will benefit PTSA Community Service. These funds will be placed into an account for students at our school whose families need a little extra assistance paying for extracurricular activities (such as sports, summer camps, karate, or music). The PTSA will work with Laura Barbour to distribute the funds to those who need them. Just another way Stafford shows we care for each other!



Calling All Volunteers!!

Volunteers are still needed for November 3, Photo Retake Day and November 4th, for Vision Screening Day!! If you are available that day, please come lend a hand. Volunteer shifts are from either 8am-10am or 10am-12pm. Contact Erika Vincent at erikavincen@me.com to confirm.

Thank You!

Thank you to the families that helped provide lunch for the staff on Wednesday during conferences. Another big thank you to those who organized the luncheon. The PTSA and staff greatly appreciate your efforts!

Support our School Programs...Buy SCRIP!

*****Next order date is October 18th*****

The long list of vendors include: Starbucks, Albertsons, Safeway, Fred Meyer and many more. Check out the order form online at <http://www.stafford.wl.wv.k12.or.us/school/scrip> or pick one up in the main hallway.

The next order date is Monday, October 18th by the end of the school day. You will receive the scrip cards on Thursday, October 21st. Drop your order off at the front office with Kathy or send it via kid courier.

Questions? Contact Karen Wied at 503.781.1700 or stafford.scrip@gmail.com.

Directory Update.....

The school directory is headed to the printers and arriving back soon! They will be coming home with your child. If you would like to help with the distribution please contact Scott Rumsey at scottrumsey@earthlink.net.

A note from Brianna Currey, Community Service Representative:

“Barbour's Basket” was once again a huge success. Thank you to everyone who brought in snacks for their fellow classmates. I am sure it will make the year much easier for everyone. You are awesome!

Grade Level Parent Socials!

The PTSA is planning a social night for parents to get to know other parents in their child's grade level. These events were started last year and they were a huge success.

The following grade level dates have been set:

- **Kindergarten:** October 28th
Hosts: Steve Gass & Ellen Urbani
- **First Grade:** October 14th
Hosts: Jeff & Celeste Grannum
- **Second Grade:** November 4th
Hosts: Craig & Brittainy Tiffany
- **Third Grade:** Date TBD
Hosts: Chris & Briana Currey
- **Fourth Grade:** Date TBD
Hosts: Frank & Jennifer Peters
- **Fifth Grade:** October 15th
Hosts: Hardy Li & Iris Zhao

Each social event is set to begin at 7:00pm. Watch for an Evite with more details. Contact Brittainy Tiffany at brittainyt@yahoo.com or (503) 730-8044 with questions.

PTSA Membership/Annual Fund

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP AND WIN - OCTOBER 31ST!

Sign up for PTSA or donate to Annual Fund by October 31st for a chance to win a NIKE Employee Store Pass (just in time for holiday shopping!)

“I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!”

Through the end of this month . . . the class with the most parents who have joined PTSA as of October 31st will get an ice cream party! **Teachers...** that includes you! For each teacher who joins, that is 5 bonus points for your classroom.

Coming soon... Beginning this week, "birds will be flying high" in the Stafford entryway, for all of those who have joined PTSA to date - thank you!

Spirit Wear

Look for orders to come home with your student in mid-late October. Our next Spirit Day is October 29th.

If you missed the Spirit Wear order deadline, but still want to make a purchase, think about buying from the remaining inventory listed below. Items, quantity, and sizes are very limited. If you would like to submit an order, please contact Rebecca Demorest at 503.638.0868 or rhdemorest@yahoo.com.

ITEM	COLOR	AVAIL SIZES & QTY	PRICE
Girl's Hoodie	Grey	Youth M – qty 2 Youth L – qty 2 Youth XL – qty 2	\$16.00
Girl's Hoodie	Pink	Youth XL – qty 3	\$16.00
T- Shirt	Grey	Adult XL – qty 2	\$8.50
Girl's T-Shirt	White	Youth L – qty 2 Adult M – qty 3 Adult L – qty 5	\$10.00
Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt	Grey	Adult S – qty 1 Adult M – qty 2	\$22.50
Lanyards	Navy	N/A – qty approx. 75	\$4.00

Want More Information Regarding PTSA?

Try the **Stafford Primary Website** and click on PTSA: www.stafford.wlwy.k12.or.us

Co-Presidents: Joanne Masters (503) 635-2808 / joanne.gmasters@comcast.net - or-

Courtney Kennedy (503) 638-0989 / courtney@pickaback.com

Volunteers: Please Contact Erika Vincent (503) 723-9380 / erikavincen@comcast.net

Newsletter Inquiries: Please Contact Dardee Layne (503) 709-6295 / dardinel@hotmail.com