



# BILLIE NEWS!



Volume 1 Issue 12

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February 8 , 2010

Pleasant Hill Elementary  
36386 Highway 58  
Pleasant Hill, Or 97455  
Ph: (541) 736-0400  
Fax: (541) 736-0446  
School Hours: 8:00—2:15 p.m.  
Office Hours: 7:30—4:00 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Elementary  
Food Services  
Ph: (541) 736-0490  
Breakfast—\$1.00 served daily  
7:40—7:55 a.m.  
Lunch—\$2.00  
If you are planning on eating  
lunch with your child, please call  
by 8:30 a.m.



## Immunizations:

**A reminder to all parents February 17, 2010 any student who does not meet the current Oregon immunization requirements will be excluded from school until written proof of the required immunizations is received by our school office.** A letter has been sent to all families whose student's are lacking the required immunizations.



## Testing! Testing!

If you are the parent of a third through sixth grade student then you will be hearing a lot of talk around your house regarding testing. Students in these grade levels have been and will continue to take the computerized version of the Oregon State Assessment Test in the areas of reading and math. All students will be given up to three opportunities to either meet or exceed the test.

If your child is a fifth grade student they also get to take a computerized version of the OAKS science test. In addition, if your child is a fourth grader, they will also be completing the writing test beginning this week.

Our goal for this month is that all of our students complete their first round of testing. How can you assist your child? See that your child gets a good nights rest every night. Make sure that your child eats a good breakfast each morning. Please see that your child arrives at school on time, as we will begin testing each morning shortly after our day begins at 8:00 a.m. Encourage your child to do their best.

## Report Cards

Your child should have brought their report card home last Friday. If you

did not receive a copy, please contact your child's teacher.

## Attendance



Regular and prompt attendance is necessary and important in order for your child to get the best possible education. The majority of your child's learning experiences in the classroom occur through hands-on activities, demonstration, and classroom discussions, not to mention re-teaching and enrichment opportunities too. Written work is only a small part of what goes on in the classroom. The classroom is filled with academic and social opportunities for every child. Therefore, regular and prompt attendance is vital.

A tardy is just as disruptive to the educational process as absences. Any student arriving late must check into the office to receive an admit slip and have their absence corrected on their class attendance roster.

Under Oregon State Law Regarding Attendance, 339.065, parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend school regularly. Eight unexcused half-day absences or four full day unexcused absences in any four-week period are considered irregular attendance patterns. An absence may be excused when the student is sick, a

member of the student's family is sick or in an emergency. Other absences maybe excused for other reasons where satisfactory arrangements are made in advance with the principal or classroom teacher.

### Procedures regarding absences:

1. If your child is ill and unable to attend school, **please call the office (541-736-0400) by 9:00 a.m.**
2. Send a note with your child within 24 hours of the absence if you did not call.
3. **Do your best to schedule all appointments outside of the school hours if possible.**

## "Read For the Gold"



Last Monday, our PTO kicked off reading month, by sending home a letter and reading log with each of our students. Every Monday, during this month, your child will bring home a new reading log for you to record the



number of minutes that either you have read to your child or they read daily. In addition, you need to sign their log before returning it to school in order for your child to get credit for their minutes.

Each student's individual minutes will be tracked throughout the month. Each week students have an opportunity to enter a special drawing for a prize. At the end of the month, any classroom that has read at least a total of 1200 minutes, outside of school, will receive an ice cream party. So, please encourage your child to "Read for the Gold."

## Why Should I Read Twenty Minutes A Day?



(Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, America Reads Challenge. (1999) "Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader." Washington, D.C.)

Let's figure it out -- mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week;  
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.  
Student A reads 20 minutes x 5 times a week = 100 minutes/week  
Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.  
Student A reads 400 minutes a month.  
Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year  
Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year.  
Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.

By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits,  
 Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days  
 Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.

One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

*Which student would you expect to read better?*

*Which student would you expect to know more?*

*Which student would you expect to write better?*

*Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?*

*Which student would you expect to be more successful in school....and in life?*



## Book Fair



As part of reading month, Scholastic Book Fair is back. In the fall we held a BOGO, buy one get one free book fair, which Scholastic offers to each school yearly as a thank-you for hosting a traditional book fair designed to be a school fundraiser.

So, that we may continue to host a yearly BOGO book fair, this book fair will be our fundraiser book fair. The Book Fair will be open beginning today, Monday, February 8, through Thursday, February 18. Please drop by and shop from 7:30—9:00 a.m., 11:00—1:00 p.m. and 2:00—3:30 p.m. daily.

## Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up



Just a reminder that the center circular drive in front of the library and Katie's Lane is reserved for buses only before and after school until 3:30 p.m. We have two other circular driveways reserved for parent drop-off and pick-up, one in front of the school and the other by the band room, allowing older students with band instruments to place their instrument in the band room, before



classes start.

School ends daily at 2:15 p.m. Our K-2 teachers walk their classes from their classrooms to the bus loading zone on Katie's Lane then over to parent pickup in front of the office. Our 3rd-6th grade classes exit the building through the front of the building. If you are picking up your child, and don't see them already waiting, please park and walk up to the front of the building to meet your child. If you wait in your car in the parent drop-off / pick-up circular drive in front of the school be aware that waiting for your student in the car can cause a major back up of cars. Other drivers may decide to pull around you if you are sitting too long, creating a dangerous situation for children. Our objective is to keep our students safe during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.

Thank you to all of our families who have signed up for the Albertson's Community Partners program. We have just learned that **Albertson's is discontinuing this program at the end of this month.**



## Reminders

**Students can not be dropped off at school prior 7:40 am.**

There is **no supervision** for kids dropped off early. If you need to be somewhere early please arrange for appropriate child care.

**Lost and Found** - many coats, hats and sweat-shirts are left laying around daily. **Most** go unclaimed and you, the parents, end up buying new ones. PLEASE, take a minute and **put your child's name/room number** on the label so we can get these items back to their owners. Also, remind your child to check lost and found if you know they have lost a jacket lately.

If you are **keeping your child home**, for any reason, **please call the office** and let us know they are safe at home with you.

Remember that if a student is going home in a manner different than the norm, **we must have a note or receive a phone call from you requesting a bus note** or they will be sent home in their usual manner. Call the office for bus notes by 1:30 p.m. daily. We try to have them in the student's classroom by 1:50 p.m.

### Contact Information



You never know when someone from school may need to contact you due to a child not feeling well. If you have changed any of your phones numbers where we may reach you please call the office, so we can update your child's student information contact form. In addition, if someone you have listed as an emergency contact may have changed their number please let the office know.

## Site Council

Our Site Council meets monthly, the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the library. The purpose of site council is to develop and nurture our school improvement plan focused around student achievement, develop plans to improve professional development for staff and parents whenever possible, participate in looking at school policies and operations related to student achievement, and administer grants. We are looking to add an additional parent to the council. If you are interested in serving as a parent representative, please contact Mrs. Stoneberg.



### Calendar of Events:

February 8—School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. PHHS Library

February 8—18 Scholastic Book Fair

February 9—12 All 4th graders will be taking the Oregon Writing Assessment Test

February 9—PTO Meeting 2:30—3:30 in the 3/4 commons

February 10—Site Council 2:30—3:30 in the library

February 12—No School - In-service Day

February 15—No School President's Day

February 16—6th Grade Band Student's Field Trip to Symphony 10:30 a.m.

February 22—School Board Work Session, 7:00 p.m. PHHS Library

March 8—School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. PHHS Library

March 9—PTO Meeting 2:30—3:30 in the 3/4 commons

