



Branching Out

Special December 2nd Edition



Maggie Fromholtz
(PTA Minutes)

Dec 2008
P.T.A.

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John Blanck
Principal

Maplewood Elementary

Kathy Shimizu
Administrative Assistant



Wildwood Preschool
Open House
January 15, 2009
6:00 p.m.
503-246-1034
Wildwoodpreschool.org
Bring a friend!

Jordan, Calvin, Nash, Ben, Cory, Andrew, Jesse, Matt and Gavin

Maplewood "Cyborgs" Headed to State

We are so excited that this team of fourth and fifth graders has accomplished so much in so little time! The "Maplewood Cyborgs" attended the Intel sponsored First Lego League Robotics competition in Wilsonville last weekend. These 8 boys worked very hard and won 5th place and an invitation to compete in the State Tournament in Hillsboro next month! The trophy will be in the Maplewood Library for all to see.

Thanks goes to Matt Dinsmore, Maplewood parent, for putting in so much time and energy for this endeavor and to all the parents who helped.

Correction from the December Newsletter:
The email address in the Walk & Bike article should be luisihar@ohsu.edu not luisi-har@ohsu.

Every Little Bit Helps Community



If you shop at Lamb's Thriftway, you may already be aware of their school specific donation bins.

- Pop your receipts in the Maplewood section (above) every Saturday and our school receives a small donation.
- Recycle your bottles and cans in the Maplewood bin any day and we benefit.



(special thanks to Amber Kline for photos & info)



A Poem (by an exasperated parent)

'Twas the night before winter vacation,
and all through the house,
not a creature was stirring,
well,
except maybe one tiny louse.
All snuggled down in your
child's clean hair,
hoping to soon leave some nits deep in there.
With one tiny scratch of the scalp, who knew?
Soon an infestation would surely ensue.
We never thought it would happen to us, but heh
apparently lice will have their own way.
Anyone, no matter, clean, rich, or poor,
if your child attends school,
they will soon be at your door.
The best thing to do is to give a thorough check,
to the head of your child, and, oh what the heck!
why not check everyone just to be sure,
as the only way surely
that we can find the cure
is for all of us parents to put prejudice aside,
and recognize that lice on any child or person can hide.
And if we don't all check,
then this scratching won't stop;
it will just be passed along,
from head to head, hop-hop!

-Let's do ourselves a favor, as a community, and check our children's heads
for lice during vacation, and see if we can stop this incessant infestation!

Tips for checking:

- Use a bright light and magnifying glass
- Nit combs or fine-toothed combs are best
- If you find lice or nits, treat (there is a range of remedies, but experience suggests one treatment with a product, such as NIX, works best);
- If you find live lice continue to check every 7 to 10 days after initial treatment. Combing through the hair every day with a fine-toothed comb or nit comb is most effective;

There is lots of information on the internet; here is a good website from Harvard School of Public Health:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>



Headed to The Village?

The next time you visit the following retailers in The Village tell them Thank You for allowing us to set up our "Loose Change" Jars for the Scholastic One for the Books and donating their services for our Scholastic Book Fair.

- Switch Shoes
- Steve Ryan at Minuteman Press
- Post Hip CD
- Annie Blooms Bookstore
- Stitch in Time
- Thinker Toys
- Sweets, Etc.
- The Bead Shop
- Down To Earth Café
- Multnomah Dry Cleaners
- Indigo Traders

Thank you also to the following merchants for donating to our raffle:

- Switch Shoes
- Fierce Fitness
- Keen Shoes
- Columbia Sportswear

Your Feedback Wanted

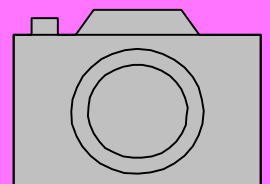
Remember, the PTA Board is interested in hearing from YOU. They are open to hearing your thoughts and concerns on how the PTA might better serve you and our community.

You can speak directly to Board members, drop a written statement marked "PTA Input" in the PTA mailbox located in the school office, or email Maggie Fromholtz at Maggie@vanderbeeks.com

Holiday Parties

Be sure to take plenty of photos at your classroom parties this year to share copies with our Yearbook coordinator, Jelena Mrdjan.

More yearbook information will come in future issues.



Help Neighborhood House

Starbucks Coffee in The Village has an "ornament" pull off donation garland along the side of their pick-up counter. You can choose from several ornaments requesting things like cookware or glassware. Just pull off the ornament with the gift you want to donate.

Principal's Update

Dear Community,

I received an email with good news for us, and lots of information, on proposals to the Board of Education for Portland Schools facilities projects - the proposals total a lot of money for some short term fixes (recommended to be done prior to the long-term fixes related to the 21st Century Schools concept). The short term plan has been recommended to a Board sub-committee, and the full Board will vote on it at the Dec. 15th Board Meeting. (I'll be attending that one!) The proposals for all our Portland Schools totals \$272 million dollars worth of work (\$60 million for the most immediate of issues under the category of "Safe, Warm, and Dry)) appear to be allocated/paid for with bond money, grants, etc., and NOT to be paid for out of the PPS General Funds.

Here are the relevant "first bond work effort" proposals for Maplewood:

- install a modular building (formerly known as "Portable") by the next fall
- convert to exterior door card key access
- replace steam traps (i.e., fix the heating to make it more even and manageable)
- work on the refrigeration control

Other Maplewood projects (with timelines in the "short term" but not as clear to me as yet when that will be) include:

- Covered Play Space - (this was a surprise to me, but is related to the state's mandate for more P.E. by 2017 and need for space to use outside in Oregon weather) They allocate a budget of \$478,000 for each school of the many schools proposed to get one.
- EMS Upgrade (I don't know what that is!)
- Install Emergency Exit Signage
- Install exterior building signage (checking to see if this means a "reader board" type of sign or not)
- replace emergency exit signage
- replace stage rigging
- seismic measure
- water conservation measure
- replace exterior lighting

In addition, all schools look to be slated for technology support, (e.g. data projectors) that will be paid for separately.

As I mentioned above, there are many questions to be answered about exact projects, timelines, etc. I will be asking specific questions in the next two weeks, and will be conferring with Facilities and the Board, as well. It still needs to be approved by the Board of Education, but I personally am commending facilities for their recognition of our need for more classroom space, and for their apparent ability to fund this without taking it from the General Fund. Our space has been an obvious challenge for our staff, students, and volunteers, so was relieved to see the modular classroom designated for us. (in looking at the current recommendations, we are one of three schools designated for new modules).

I will pass on more information when I get it, and will be watching for the final Board decision/vote. I will also continue our work with Facilities on scheduling time for our community's input into actual site of Modular Classrooms, characteristics of it, etc. Thanks for your patience with our facilities issues and challenges, and for your support of Portland Public Schools.

Best regards, John

Coffee and Cookie Dough are due in Friday. With winter weather as it has been, flexibility is the name of the game. Please be patient. The Co-Chairs will get information out as needed.