



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

December 5, 2011
Volume 6, Issue 4

Calendar

December

5 Mon

- Oregon Shakespeare Theatre assembly for grades 4-6.

5 Dec—6 Jan

- No Bridge program.

9 Fri

- Spirit Day ("Backwards Day").

11 Sun 1:30-5:30 pm

- E Wing teaching garden car wash fundraiser.

12 Mon 3:30 pm

- School Site Council/Climate meeting, Music Room.

14 Wed

- Assembly: Mrs. Smith and her book "Little Christmas Elf - A Story About Perseverance."

14 Wed 6:00 pm

- Title I Meeting, in the library.

14 Wed 7:00-8:30 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library.

16 Fri

- Spirit Day.

19 Dec-2 Jan

- Winter break – NO SCHOOL.

January

3 Tue

- School resumes.

11 Wed

- Power of One assemblies.

11 Wed 7:00-8:30 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library.

Next Korematsu Kids:
January 9

From the Principal

Working toward a socially just, fair and equitable school

With the upcoming winter break, it's important we continue to reflect on the good work of creating a positive school environment. For the last three months we have worked to create a community where all children feel socially just in an equitable inclusive environment.

In September we worked on building classroom inclusive communities. In October we presented the book "One" to our students, emphasizing the importance of speaking up for one another. And in November we worked on respecting our school, staff and peers.

We continue this work in December by asking our children and also our staff members and parents to embrace and celebrate each other by respecting our differences and similarities. It is important that adults model positive behavior, being conscious of their own talk and actions, especially in front of our children.

If we want children to respect one another, we as a community also must model respect to one another in our daily interactions on school campus, in the community and at home. If we want children to understand differences, then we also must model how to nurture and accept differences.

This winter, let's reflect on what kind of school we want for our children. We can continue to teach in the school we live in or we can teach for the school we want it to be.

- Ms. Ponce

Get Ready for Oral Language Fair Competition

We are gearing up for another Oral Language Fair competition. This annual fair honors the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (and others) and provides an opportunity for students to recite speeches and poems that relate to a social justice theme.

Each year there is a slightly different theme. This year's theme is "Lift Every Voice." All poems and speeches should relate to this theme. Please watch for information coming home soon via your child's teacher.

Some teachers participate with their whole class, while others allow individuals and small groups to participate. Entry forms are due Wednesday December 14. The competition will take place on February 9. Dr. King got his start in events like this, and we look forward to seeing our own Korematsu stars shine.

Vacancy on Site Council and Climate Committee

We have a vacancy on the School Site Council/Climate Committee. Members are elected by the school community, and monitor the implementation, evaluation, and updating of the School Plan for Student Achievement and support the District Climate and Equity Vision. If you are interested in running as a candidate, please contact the principal by Friday December 9. Meetings are held monthly on a Monday at 3:30 pm.

Solar Power Update

The 119.6 kilowatt photovoltaic power system in the main parking lot is operational. It will produce an estimated 161,407 kilowatt hours in the first year or about 80% of the energy supplied to the school. The projected energy savings will be about \$1,159 in the first year and \$532,000 over the next 20 years. To date, the system has offset 19,171 lbs. of carbon dioxide (CO₂), or the equivalent CO₂ reduction from 9.1 mature trees. The system was installed at no cost to the school district through a power purchase agreement with Solar City Inc. The system will belong to Solar City for 20 years; the school district buys the power generated at a pre-determined price. After a number of years, the district has the option of buying and owning the system.

New Format Planned for KPTO Auction

Next Spring, KPTO's primary annual fundraiser will be a Cinco de Mayo Auction Party, an off site, adult evening event on Saturday May 5. To help plan the event, please contact Gerrit Michael by email: gamichael1@earthlink.net

E-Wing Garden Carwash Fundraiser December 11

A car wash fundraiser will be held at the Nugget Market parking lot (Covell Blvd. at Pole Line Rd.) on Sunday, December 11, 1:30-5:30 pm. Proceeds will benefit the E wing teaching garden. Volunteers are needed – parents and kids – as well as towels/rags. To help, please email: sharindavis@sbcglobal.net

Reach Out to School Leaders

There are many ways students, staff and parents participate in democratic leadership at our school, including School Site Council and Climate Committee, KPTO (parents and teachers), Student Council, and staff leaders. Please make a connection with them; they would love to hear your thoughts about our school and how best to serve our students, families, and staff. Leadership rosters are on the websites listed at the bottom of this page.

Reminder: Don't forget to use your Nugget scrip card during the holidays.

Thank You...

- To over 90 students from all grade levels who participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Students raised \$1,024. Special thanks to Mrs. Janet Sitts and the student UNICEF ambassadors who enthusiastically donated their time and helped publicize this important international program that helps children around the world.
- Parents for donating food for conference week teacher meals, staffing the book fair, and helping at the craft tables and donation of treats for the craft fair.
- Melinda Swift and the hospitality volunteers for organizing and providing conference week teacher meals.
- Mona Siegler, Ruth Beckon and volunteers for the fall book fair.
- Tree Davis and Solar City for providing fifteen trees to shade and beautify our school.
- Police officer Wilson for the 3rd grade bike safety assembly and his work with students.
- Rebecca Detrick for her past service as KPTO fundraising chair.

6th grade parents: Immunization Requirement

A state immunization law requires all students entering 7th grade in the 2012-13 school year to be immunized with a pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine booster called Tdap.

Pertussis is a very contagious respiratory disease that can be severe and last for months. The immunity received from either early childhood immunization or pertussis disease wears off over time, leaving older students and adults susceptible again to pertussis. Immunization with Tdap can protect students, schools and communities.

Please bring a copy of your student's Tdap immunization record to the office as soon as you have taken care of this requirement. A waiver is available upon request. Questions? Please contact school nurse Anna Sulton at ext. 108.