



# Bridger News



October 2, 2008



## From the Principal

Dear Bridger Families,

Fall is here and with it we are looking forward to a number of important October events. Picture Day is October 8. Order forms are coming home in your child's backpack. Math Night will offer families an array of investigative math games—join us for the fun October 16.

If you have a Kindergartener, you know Bridger School was fortunate this year to add a second Neighborhood Kindergarten classroom. Room 32 is now home to that second classroom. Katherine Polizos, former English as a Second Language teacher at Bridger, is now our new Kindergarten teacher. She joins MaryAnn Sommerset and Sofia Melendez Contreras (Immersion Program) in teaching the youngest members of Bridger's student body. Michelle Schardt has been hired as Bridger's new English as a Second Language teacher, replacing Mrs. Polizos.

Finally, if you have a Bridger 6<sup>th</sup> grader, you can welcome him or her home this Friday at 1:30 p.m. The Outdoor school bus returns to school loaded with returning 6<sup>th</sup> graders at that time.

Tina Daily  
Principal

## Important Dates to Remember in October:

- **October 3—Outdoor School Bus returns at 1:30 p.m.**
- **October 8—Picture Day!**
- **October 10—NO SCHOOL, Statewide Inservice**
- **October 14—PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- **October 16—MATH NIGHT, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **October 23—Rights and Responsibilities Workshop for Parents in Spanish, 8:45-10:00 a.m.**
- **October 24—NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day**
- **October 25—Water Garden Work Party, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**
- **October 27—Site Council, 3:15 p.m.**

## MATH NIGHT

Join Bridger staff and families for Math Night Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Play Math games—

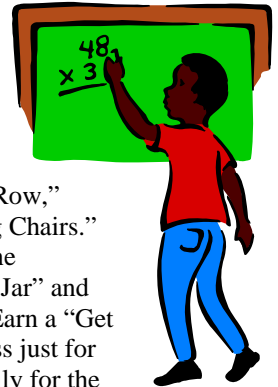
“Counters in a Cup,”

“Five in a Row,”

“Arranging Chairs.”

Check out the “Estimation Jar” and win a prize! Earn a “Get

Out of Homework” pass just for participating! Bring the whole family for the fun. This year Math Night will be sponsored by Student Council.



## NO SCHOOL!

Friday, Oct. 10

and

Friday, Oct. 24

## The Nightingale

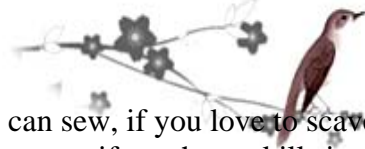
by Hans Christian Anderson

Bridger School will be producing the musical play “The Nightingale” in March and we need your help!

If you can sew, if you love to scavenge thrift shops for treasures, if you have skills in make-up and hair, or if you can paint we need you.

Please contact Ms. Lindee as soon as possible, because we will start preparing the play in November for a March performance!

Help us make this a special event to remember.



# Bridger Student Council

Bridger School has just concluded Student Council Elections, and we would like to congratulate all of the students who ran for office. Every candidate was enthusiastic, ran an excellent campaign, and gave a wonderful speech. Well done everyone, we are all very proud of you!

This year the structure of the student government has been changed and our Leadership Team of officers has been selected from the mid-level grades, with a Member-At-Large representative from the intermediate grades.

Introducing our 2008-09 Student Council Leadership Team:

Tien Nguyen, President  
Austin Agner, Vice-President  
Hannah Ortloff, Secretary  
Thao Nguyen, Treasurer  
Chris Molinar, Member-At-Large (gr. 6-8)  
Brenda Ciupei, Member-At-Large (gr.3-5)

We will also have two classroom representatives from each grade 3 – 5. We are looking forward to a very productive year with many opportunities for student involvement and input.

Ms Lindgren, Advisor

Mrs. Fugere, Advisor



## Notes from the Music Room

Wow! September was an exciting month. First, the music room moved out of the portable and into a terrific new room in the school building. We now have lots of room to sing and play and dance! Then, we officially started the year with a wonderful drumming performance at our very first assembly by a group of dedicated mid-level students. They came in the week before school and rehearsed on our brand new set of conga drums! Thank you to Josh, Derek A., Alex, Ben, and Mindy for all of your hard work and enthusiasm. We followed up that performance with a fantastic choral presentation in recognition of the Portland Pirate Festival. Mr. Pioli's Grade 5 class worked hard for two weeks to learn "The Pirate's Life" and they sang wonderfully at our September 22<sup>nd</sup> assembly. *(There were some wonderful pirate costumes as well.)* As you can see, this year promises to be bigger and better than last year, with many more opportunities to see and hear our very talented students.

We also have a number of co-curricular performing arts groups for the students to get involved in. Two groups, "Vocal Project" and "Recorder Ensemble" meet in the morning before school at 7:45 a.m.; and two groups, "Reader's Theatre" and "Sound Brigade" meet during the first lunch. I encourage all students to get involved, try new things, and discover new talents.

Mark your calendar now for our Winter Concert.

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** I know it seems like a long time from now, but the holidays have a way of creeping up on us.

Finally, this year we will be performing the musical play, "The Nightingale," based on the Hans Christian Anderson story. I am always looking for parents to help out, and this is no exception. We will need help with costumes, props, and sets, so if you have skills we can use, or you just want to get involved in our exciting drama production give me a call.

Please feel free to stop by any time, I'd love to meet you.

*Erica Lindgren*  
Music Specialist

## Free and Reduced Lunch Forms Due



We are encouraging all Bridger families to submit a confidential application for **free or reduced price meals for the 2008-09 school year**, if you think your family may meet the eligibility guidelines based on household size and income.

If enough Bridger families are eligible, our school may receive additional Federal funding to help support student achievement. This additional funding may be available whether or not your child chooses to use the free or reduced price meal benefits. But in order for us to receive it, your completed form must be returned to your school secretary and approved by the central meal application office by October 31, 2008.

Applications are available in the Bridger Office. Please stop by to pick one up. Call the office at 503-916-6336 if you have any questions.

# Bridger Water Garden



## Needs Your Helping Hands

In the fall of 2004, the Bridger School Community began work on its Water Garden. Located behind the school in the playground area, the Water Garden is a 12,000 square foot rainwater-fed, community-built native plant outdoor “classroom.”

The purpose of the garden is to divert surface water runoff from school building roofs and the parking lot and then use it as a central ingredient in the schoolyard garden. The runoff waters native plants within the garden area. The garden serves as an outdoor classroom, as a green space for the whole Bridger community, as a gathering spot for the Montavilla neighborhood and as a place for Bridger School children to explore nature and art.

This year we are working on disconnecting the downspouts so Bridger roof water goes into the garden. A grant to fund hiring an artist to work with students is in the works. The artist will work with student to create a new structure to release the water from the roof into the garden.

Work on the Water Garden continues this year under the coordination of Angeline Perla, Bridger PTA Volunteer Coordinator. Water Garden work parties are conducted every fourth Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to Noon. If you would like to help, please contact Angeline at [angepera@comcast.net](mailto:angepera@comcast.net).



## Fifth Graders Visit STARBASE

Fifth Graders in John Pioli’s classroom will begin visiting STARBASE in October. STARBASE is a program funded by the Department of Defense and offered through Portland Public Schools. Its goal is to raise interest and improve students’ knowledge and skills in math, science and technology by exposing them to the technological environment and positive role models found on military bases and installations.

Bridger Fifth Graders will attend five full days of classes on the Portland Air National Guard Base or Jackson Army National Guard Armory. Instruction will be offered in computer science, chemistry, physics and technology. Visit dates are October 7, 14, 21, 22 and 28.

## Bridger School attendance monitored by Autodialer

As part of Portland Public School’s plan to improve achievement, Bridger School is continuing to use the electronic attendance monitoring system called an autodialer. Each school day at approximately 10 a.m., the autodialer begins to call the homes of students who have been marked absent at Bridger School. Only those students who do not have an excused absence will be called. Students may be excused by a phone call from a parent or guardian before 10 a.m.

These phone calls are designed to alert families of absences at school. If a phone call has been made in error, please call the school office at 503-916-6336 to resolve the problem. We appreciate your assistance and understanding as we try to improve student attendance.

## Target's Take Charge of Education Helps Bridger



Through Target’s Take Charge of Education program, families and members of the community have an easy way to raise money for Bridger School. When you sign up and designate Bridger School, Target will donate up to 1% of every purchase you make with your REDcard to Bridger. Take Charge of Education dollars are donated to schools twice a year. Schools may use this money for whatever they need including books, field trips, new technology or supplies. If you shop at Target, we encourage you to designate Bridger School. Thanks for helping us provide extras for your students!

## Lost and Found

Can’t find that coat your child took to school last week? Don’t know where your child’s extra sweater is? Check out the Bridger School Lost and Found.

Lost and Found is located in the Bridger Cafeteria—a box and coat rack are just inside the Cafeteria doorway. Many wonderful clothing items are collecting there, waiting for someone to claim them.

