



Bridger News



June 2, 2009



From the Principal

Dear parents and friends of Bridger,

Here we are at the end of the year! It hardly seems like we have begun and we are getting ready to move into the 2009-2010 year. It has been a year of firsts: the year without CSS; the first year for immersion second grade; the first year to celebrate our eighth graders moving to high school.

We have had strong support from parents and friends, grandmothers and grandfathers, school staff and volunteers. This year we say goodbye to both, Mrs. Bennett, mid-level language arts teacher and Ms. Skeie, reading support educational assistant, as they retire and move on to other adventures.

As staffing rounds continue we look forward to welcoming new staff in the fall. So far we are staying solid and have not been affected by any lay offs yet.

I encourage you to read, read, read, with your children this summer. We will be sending home a summer reading log with a reading challenge for all children. Stayed tuned. What will the principal do to her hair if everybody reads? Read a lot and find out!

Have a great summer and we will see you in the Fall.

Tina Daily
Principal

Important Dates to Remember in June:

- Monday, June 8th: 8th Grade Celebration at Mt. Scott Community Center, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9th: FIELD DAY! 9:15-11:30
- Tuesday, June 9th, PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9th: 8 Video and Yearbook Signing
- Wednesday, June 10th: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, 8th Grade celebration.
- Tuesday, Sept. 8th: START of 2009-2010 School Year

June PTA Meeting

The Bridger PTA will meet June 9th at 6:30PM in the school library. Childcare will be provided.

Agenda

1. Vote on PTA budget for 2009-2010 school year
2. Goals and vision for next year
3. Status of music program for next year - will there be one?

Last Week Plans: Field Day, 8th Grade Promotion

The final week of school for 2008-2009 is filled with activities—Field Day, Year End Video and Yearbook signing, 8th Grade Celebration,. A schedule follows:



- ☐ Monday June 8, 2009: 8th grade field trip to Mt. Scott 10 am – 2:30
- ☐ Tuesday June 9, 2009: Field Day - 9:30 – 11:30
- ☐ Wednesday June 10, 2009
 - ☐ 10 am Video ala Erica
 - ☐ 11 am Yearbook signing
 - ☐ 1:30 pm 8th Grade Celebration

Year End Lunch Account Balances

Any remaining Cafeteria Lunch Balances (positive or negative) on students' meal accounts at the end of the year will be automatically held for students at their current school or transferred to students' new schools within the Portland Public School District. If your student is leaving the district, then you may call Pat Duvall, Cafeteria Lead at 503-916-6336 to arrange for a refund.

RETURN THOSE OVER DUE LIBRARY BOOKS!

Music Room

Well I can hardly believe it, but the end of the year is upon us, and what a year it has been! Our students had a very successful year learning new musical ideas and sharing their new skills and abilities in performances.

A few special accomplishments stand out in my mind as I reflect back over 2008-09. First, several very dedicated students helped to establish our honor choir, Vocal Project. These young singers came every Tuesday morning for a 7:45 am rehearsal and began my week with their enthusiasm for song. Second, an equally eager group of students came very Thursday on their lunch period to help create our amazing percussion ensemble, Sound Brigade. Their energy and creative spirit always left me feeling inspired. Finally, I was amazed and gratified to find a gifted group of young players who worked extremely hard across several months to put together a truly superior production of "The Nightingale." Every time I have raised the bar for our students they have risen to the challenge and done more than I expected.

I look ahead to next year with a sense of anticipation of even bigger and better things to come. Bridger will expand its musical elective offering for 6th grade to a full year, and this will allow me to create a true performing arts course that will incorporate drama and improvisation. We will be producing another wonderful play in March, "The Pied Piper," and I go forward knowing that I have a stable and talented core group of students to help me continue to grow our choir and percussion ensemble.

Have a wonderful summer. Take time to relax and hear the music of life that surrounds you, and maybe create a little of your own.

See you in September!

Erica Lindgren
Music Specialist

Library News



Thanks to everyone for helping your children become responsible library users! This year I've seen a huge turnaround in how our kids use the library.

Almost everyone has been checking out lots of books, and then turning them back in on time. This basic skill is important because it opens a huge world of future libraries to your child.

If your child still struggles with this concept, please help get those books back in, or if they are lost, pay for them so that no one misses special end of year activities. This is particularly important for EIGHTH graders, because next year they won't be allowed to check out any textbooks or other books until they have clean library records. I'm working on sending home overdue notices, but your child also knows if they need to return books. Report cards will be held in the office for kids who still need to clear their records. You may come and

return/pay for books until the last day the secretaries are here this spring.

Call me if you have any questions. 503-916-6336. It's been a pleasure getting to know your children this year.

Andrea Woodward
Bridger Librarian

PTA Elects 2009-10 Board

Congratulations to the newly elected PTA Board Members for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year:

President – Romanna Flores
Secretary – Kris Calvert
Treasurer – Jeanne Barrett
Volunteer Coordinator(s) – Hilda de la Garza, Jean Fendick
Fundraising Coordinator(s) – Andrea Woodward, Shelly Lufkin, Elizabeth Schneider
Member-at-large(s) – Rose Gustave, Maria Luna

With the new board comes the opportunity for those who would like to be involved. You can be a member of the PTA in whatever capacity fits your life and schedule. Being a member of the PTA does NOT require you to attend the monthly meetings or volunteer your time at school or PTA sponsored events. [Though, we'd love to see you!]

We can guarantee once you have helped out at just one of our sponsored events, seeing the students' excitement is infectious, you'll want to do more.

Next year, we will also have TWO committees that anyone can join: Water Garden led by Bridger parent Angeline Perla and Special Events led by Bridger teacher Bella Bishop. If you'd like more information on volunteering in these committees, please contact them individually.

In June, we will have our LAST PTA meeting of the year to discuss budget and goals for the next school year. If there are questions, please feel free to contact our President Romanna Flores or any of the current or future board members.

The Bridger PTA

Sports Physicals Now!

If your 8th grader is planning to participate in school sports in high school, he or she will need to get a physical before next school year. School-Based Health Centers offer sports physicals, along with a full range of health care services, at no cost to families. Bridger students are welcome at Multnomah County Health Centers, including Clark @ Binnsmead. For more information, go www.mchealth.org/sbhc. Multnomah County is encouraging students to get physicals now to avoid the last minute crush in the fall.

Summer Health Services for Youth

Summer services for school-aged youth are available at the following Multnomah County School-Based Health Center clinics June 22, 2009 through Aug. 21, 2009:

1. Eastside School-Linked Health Center: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 600 NE 8th Street, Gresham, OR 97030, 503-988-5488, Bus 4, 9, 12, MAX Blueline (@Gresham Transit Center).
2. Grant School-Based Health Center: Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 2235 NE 36th Ave., Room 102, Portland, OR 97212, 503-988-3372, Bus 10 (connects with 9, 77, 12)



Bike Rodeo Big Success

Bridger families could have not asked for a better day or turnout for the PTA sponsored Bike Rodeo and Montavilla Bike Ride Saturday May 30. Forty friends and neighbors got up early for a four mile bike ride in Montavilla. They were cheered on when they returned 45 minutes later and treated to Mexican and Chinese pastries and fruit - generous donations from Bridger parents. The Student Council did a fabulous job running the bike rodeo. Face painting, bike races, and learning the rules of the road awaited eager neighborhood children. We also had numerous neighbors and parents comment on the talents of the Bridger Sound Brigade directed by music teacher Erica Lindgren. "This event could have not happened without all the hard work that parent and staff volunteers put into this event," said PTA President Romanna Flores. "You have helped creating some wonderful memories for Bridger students and families."

