



# Bridger News



February 5, 2010



## From the Principal

Dear Bridger Parents and Guardians,

**AYP update:** We finished with the first round of the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade's state OAKS reading assessment. K-2 teachers are entering into the district reading profile assessments. We continue to assess and provide extra reading for small groups, focusing on specific skills such as decoding (sounding out words), fluency (how smoothly we read aloud), and comprehension (gathering information from what we read). Our reading support team lead by our reading specialist, Michelle Schardt, has been trained and is using three different reading programs to help our students close their gaps in reading. These groups are about thirty minutes per day.

Classroom teachers have attended some extra training in reading and have time during the week to work together. They look at assessment data to define strategies they will use. These strategies will help with improving learning through their classroom instruction. These strategies are supported by the School Improvement Plan.

The Bridger Site Council has reviewed the School Improvement Plan. They asked some very important questions. They made some suggestions for us to consider regarding parent engagement and student achievement.

**Some Safety Updates:** Leaving students off early: The cafeteria door will be locked as Monday, February 8, 2010. **WHY?** The time before school between 7:30 and 8:15 is unsupervised both in the cafeteria and on the playground. This is teacher time to get ready for their students without interruptions. **WHAT?** Students are to enter the building through the front doors. They may make their way to the cafeteria at 8:15 for breakfast.

**Electronic devices:** Please remind your children to leave all electronic devices at home. Bridger is not responsible for theft of these devices. If they are mis-used they will be confiscated and you will be asked to come pick them up.

Thank you for all you do to help the school-home connection. As we move into Spring, I will keep you updated about our school progress.

Tina Daily, Principal

## Sweetheart Dance

Wear your dancing shoes and learn how to waltz at Bridger's first annual Sweetheart Dance Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Parents make plans to join in the dance fun! **You and your child** are invited to spend a semi-formal evening full of music, dancing, refreshments, desserts, photos & more! Look for invitations that will be sent home with children soon. *Parents must be accompanied by a student.*



## Spanish Immersion Info Nights coming soon

Spanish Immersion Information Nights are February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Applicants to Spanish Immersion are required to attend one of these two meetings. Applicants must also complete the Portland Public Schools School Choice application by March 12 at 5:00 p.m. Tours of the program are available by calling the Bridger Main Office at 503-916-6336. For information on Bridger's Spanish Immersion Program, please visit [www.bridgerschool.info](http://www.bridgerschool.info)



## Kindergarten Roundup

Bridger School's Kindergarten Roundup is Thursday, Feb. 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. If your child will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2010, he or she is ready for Kindergarten next fall.



Find out about Bridger's Neighborhood Kindergarten program by attending this special meeting. Visit the classroom and meet the teachers. Registration papers and early childhood education information will be available.

## Late Opening

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010

(First bell 10:40 a.m. Tardy bell 10:45 a.m.  
Breakfast/snack at 10:20 a.m.)

## Late Opening Soccer Game!

Every Late Opening Wednesday, there will be a pick-up Soccer Game on the field starting at 9:00 a.m. The game is sponsored by Playworks and supervised by Coach Jay. The game is open to all middle school students.



## Notes from the Music Room

**2010** got off to a fantastic start with our Martin Luther King Jr. Day assembly. Grades 3 through 6 and Vocal Project did a wonderful job helping us to commemorate the life of this very important American. Thank you to all the parents who came out to support our students. Audiences are an essential part of successful performances.

*Did you know* that students who participate in the arts have been found to be more cooperative with peers **and** teachers, better able to express ideas, and more self-confident (Research at Columbia University, reported in *The Arts Education Partnership*). We see this at Bridger all the time! Through their participation in the different musical ensembles and dramatic casts our students are learning to work together effectively in teams. So I am especially excited to announce that a brand new ensemble will begin rehearsing this coming Friday! Watch for upcoming performances that will include our new Recorder Ensemble . . . and if you missed the sign-up and are still interested, stop by the music room to talk to me.

Finally, we are in the final month of rehearsals for our play, *The Pied Piper*. Please mark your calendar for **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** and come out for a wonderful evening of theatre.

*Erica Lindgren*  
Music Specialist

# NO SCHOOL!

Monday, Feb. 15  
(President's Day Holiday)

## Walking to Read

New reading groups began on January 6<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 1-6. These groups are 'flexible'. This means that every 6 weeks, the groups can change according to the needs of the learners. All students have their teacher for whole class reading instruction. Some students have their teacher for small groups, while others are "Walking to Read".

# Bridger School



# Student Council



January saw our Council students partner with the PTA to host another Family Game Night. It was really nice to see so many families come out to enjoy themselves with old friends and make some new ones.

With families in mind, our Council is leading the Bridger fund-raising effort to support the families in Haiti who have lost so much in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake earlier in January. We are starting a "Copper/Silver War" between the Houses starting Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and we hope that everyone will be very generous with their spare change. Pennies count as points for your House and all silver coins count as negative against your rivals. Let's have some fun and raise some money for some families in need. Let's show them that Bridger Wildcats care.

*Erica Lindgren*  
Primary Advisor

## CHOOSE YOUR SCHOOL— 2010 TRANSFER CYCLE STARTS SOON

Families in the Portland Public School District will soon begin the process of choosing a school for their students in 2010-2011. Families may enroll their students at their neighborhood school or request a transfer to another school. Transfers are accomplished by completing a School Choice application by the transfer deadline. Transfers are determined by a centralized lottery process. Space is limited. The process for High School students began January 22<sup>nd</sup> and ends February 26<sup>th</sup>. Bridger 8<sup>th</sup> graders follow the High School timeline. The process for Elementary and Middle School students began January 29<sup>th</sup> and ends March 12<sup>th</sup>. Visit the PPS School Choice website for more information: [http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools-c/make\\_a\\_choice.php](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools-c/make_a_choice.php).

## TAG CORNER

Check out the Saturday Academy magazines for class opportunities. Spring enrollment is going on now.



If your child was tested for TAG in January, Bridger should be receiving the scores by mid-February. At that time, the teachers will review the results and your students work samples to make a recommendation to the TAG Department. Notification letters to families should be received before Spring Break in March. The TAG Department will send a letter to each family, regardless of the determination.

# State Testing Update

Wow! Most 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders completed the first round of the state reading assessment, and we have lots of students who have already demonstrated grade level proficiency! The Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) is an online assessment. Each 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grader will take at least one reading test and one math test. Fourth and eighth graders take a writing assessment, while fifth and eighth graders also take a Science test.

February is our OAKS Math time. Most 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the math assessment early in February. Some of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders already finished!

After Spring Break, students will have another opportunity to take these assessments to work toward an improved score. You can help at home by encouraging independent reading and asking about what was read. (What happened in the story? What did the character mean by that statement? What does 'this word' mean?) Time, money, shapes, and calculations are on the math assessments, along with story problems. Here are some ways to support your student at home: allow them to count the change or total a bill, calculate the amount of time between activities or until their favorite show comes on, identify the attributes of a shape (sides, vertices, faces, angles...), have them explain their math homework and design a few extra equations or stories of their own to solve.

*Andrea Porter*  
Assistant Principal

## Dates to Remember in February:

- **Feb. 1—All School Morning Meeting**
- **Feb. 2—Site Council, 3:15 p.m.**
- **Feb. 3—Neighborhood Program Tour, 9:30 a.m.**
- **Feb. 3—PTA Movie Night, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Feb. 3—PTA Meeting, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Feb. 11—Neighborhood Kindergarten Round Up, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Feb. 12—Sweetheart Dance, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**
- **Feb. 13—PTA Care Day**
- **Feb. 15—NO SCHOOL, President's Day Holiday**
- **Feb. 17—LATE OPENING, School starts at 10:40 a.m.**
- **Feb. 18—Immersion Mandatory Meeting, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Feb. 23—Immersion Tour, 9:30 a.m.**
- **Feb. 26—Immersion Tour, 9:30 a.m.**
- **Feb. 27—Spirit Day**

# Reading Corner

*February Tip:* When you are reading with your child, ask, "Does this make you think of anything else?" We all make connections while we read although we may not be aware of them. Connections (text to self, text to text, text to world, text to media) help us understand at a deeper level. Talking to your child about connections will help make him or her more aware of the thinking that is involved in reading. Thinking about thinking is called metacognition and creates even more connections in our brains! Talk about connections! They are everywhere!



*Your Friendly Reading Specialist*  
*Michelle Schardt*

## Box top/soup label drive

Bridger School is collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels. Each is worth 10 cents to the school, so if everyone helps by sending in a few, the school will end up with lots of money to spend on kids! Box tops and labels can be found on hundreds of items, including cereal boxes, Ziplock bags, and Diapers. You'll be surprised at how many you can find in your cupboards. Librarian Andrea Woodward is collecting them in the library, and the school is using the House System (Lions, Tigers, Jaguars and Pumas) as an incentive. Thanks!



## No Early Arrivals Please!

Due to excessive numbers of students arriving before 8:20 a.m., the Cafeteria door will be locked before 8:20 a.m.

Please remember to drop off students  
**NO EARLIER than 8:20 a.m.**

Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. It is the policy of the Portland Public School Board that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation in any educational programs, activities or employment.

District Title VI & Title IX Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard,  
Compliance (503-916-3183)  
District 504 Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503-916-3183)  
American Disabilities Act Contact: Maureen Sloane, HR Legal  
Counsel (503-916-3025)

Portland Public Schools  
501 North Dixon Street  
Portland, Oregon, 97227-1807 - USA  
503-916-2000

## YEARBOOK LOVE LINES ON SALE NOW

Tell your child how proud you are of them or recognize their success this year with a love line in this year's yearbook. Love lines will be printed on class pages and on signature page and must be under 50 characters in length. Each love line is only \$5.00. Just fill in the attached form and return to Katherine Polizos in 32.

Recipients name \_\_\_\_\_ Payment method \_\_\_ cash \_\_\_ check  
 Recipients grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 senders name \_\_\_\_\_ please make checks to Bridger school  
 message  

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Recipients name: Jane Doe Payment method  cash \_\_\_ check  
 Recipients grade: 3rd  
 senders name: Mom please make checks to Bridger school  
 message  

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