

# The Village Voice



This is our school, Let peace dwell here  
Fill all the rooms with happiness.  
As many hands do make a house,  
So many hearts do make our school.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 1/3 Village School Kitchen Fundraiser at 16 Tons
- Monday, 1/4 School Resumes, 11:45 Dismissal
- Monday, 1/11 Building Development Committee Meeting 5:30-7:00pm
- Friday, 1/15 Village School Re-enrollment Forms Due

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK DECEMBER 11TH, 2015

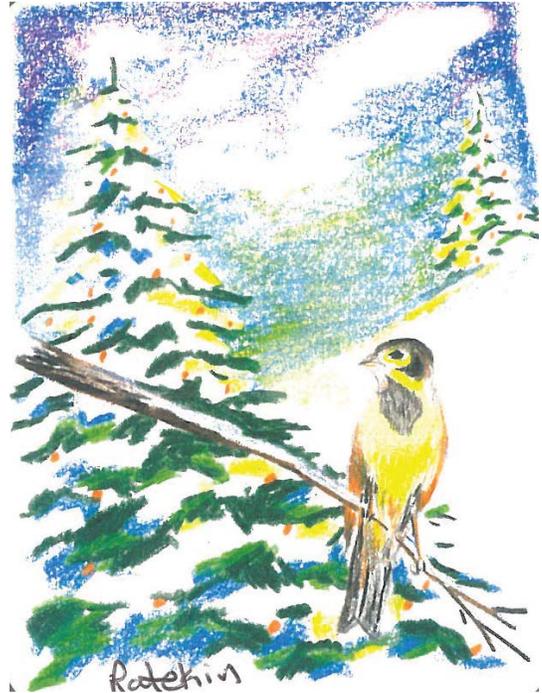
Greetings! Things have been very festive this week, with the Grade 8 Holiday Sale, the Downing Street Singers, the Grade Six play and just lots of great holiday arts and activities in the classrooms. The Grade 6 Play was really fun and they and their teacher, Sue Romatz, deserve a lot of credit not only for the crisp production but for the original script co-written by the class. Good Job Sixth Grade!

As you have probably heard, the new site is officially ours, the closing was December 2nd. Congratulations to the site committee and board on the successful navigation over the last few years to owning our own property! 2016 will be an exciting year for the Village School!

Our Board is having an all-day retreat tomorrow to re-examine our mission and policies and do a little remodeling on our inward structures as well as planning our outward work on the new site. We will keep everyone posted on our work and invite any parents who feel they would like to serve on the board to let any current board member know of your interest.

We wish everyone a happy and fulfilling break and look forward to our New Year's work together. (Remember our first day back is a half-day).

Thanks for all you do for our school, Happy Holidays!  
Kent



## VISIT OUR NEW SCHOOL OVER THE WINTER BREAK!

This holiday season, the Village School community has something special to celebrate: owning our own home for the first time! As we adjust to our new role as caretakers of our beautiful new school, we're learning about all the tasks we need to take on. We'll have plenty of fun ways everyone can help in the coming year.

For this Winter break, we encourage everyone to visit the new site. Because it has been vacant for so long, people have felt it was OK to vandalize or run the site down. Let's change that energy! Take walks through the grounds and imagine kids studying and playing. Peek in the windows and visualize the cozy learning spaces we will create. Pick up trash. Take sidewalk chalk, and decorate the sidewalks with beautiful drawings and wishes for our new school! Tell the office about anything unusual you see. Let people you see on the site know that we're moving in and that they are welcome to help us make it a beautiful community space. Tell everyone you know that the new Village School is on its way!



## SUPPORT OUR SPECIALTIES AS WE MOVE INTO OUR NEW SCHOOL!

Handwork Spanish Choir Guitar Marimba



### Annual Giving Campaign

December 2015–January 2016

Goal: 100% Participation  
\$15,000

All donations are tax deductible  
See back page on why 100% is important  
and how funds will be used.

You can make donations to the Village School’s Annual Giving Campaign with the following options:

Credit Card - To donate using your credit card, go to our website: <http://www.happyvillage.org/>

Check - To give by check, make it payable to “The Village School” and mail it to The Village School, 2855 Lincoln St, Eugene, Oregon 97405. Please earmark your gift to Annual Giving anywhere on the check or accompanying letter.

## RE-ENROLLMENT IS COMING!

Please check your family mailbox for your student re-enrollment form when you return to school in January. Return this important form to Sherri no later than Friday, January 15, 2016 at 3:00 PM to ensure that your children keep their places at the Village School, and notify the office of any siblings you wish to enroll for the 2016-2017 school year. You MUST submit a re-enrollment form by this deadline in order to be guaranteed that current students will have places in next year’s classes and siblings get priority placement. The Village School is not responsible for saving or reinstating spaces which are lost due to late submission of re-enrollment forms. If you have questions, please ask Sherri (541) 345-7285 ext. 102, [sherrim@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:sherrim@eugenevillageschool.org).

### KITCHEN FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD

Support the fundraising efforts to build the kitchen in our new school, enjoy food/drinks, and spend time with friends and family at 16 Tons located next to Market of Choice. They will donate 25% of the proceeds to the Village School! See you there!

## SUNDAY JANUARY 3rd



## ALL DAY! 8AM-9PM

16 Tons  
Cafe

### GREAT FOOD



Micro Roasted Coffee

### GOOD TIMES



Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Craft Beer, Wine & Cider



Open 8am - 9pm

## VILLAGE SCHOOL KITCHEN FUNDRAISER

Present this flyer on paper or mobile device  
& we will donate 25% of your total purchase!

## IMMUNIZATION FORMS STILL NEEDED!

Parents of children who have a religious exemption to immunizations signed before March 1, 2014, should have received a letter in October describing the new requirements needed to continue the exemption.

If you have not done so yet, there is still time to turn in your updated immunization forms. The office will be open next week to turn them in. Please turn in the information or your child may be excluded from school in mid to late February, 2016.

## VOLUNTEER IN THE MARIMBA CLASS!



Our wonderful Jennifer Sellers is looking for some parent volunteers to help on Tuesdays and Thursdays. No marimba experience required, but musical abilities would be helpful. Volunteers are needed for three classes (11-11:45, 11:45-12:30, 1:15-2:00). If you are interested email Jennifer at: Jrts57@hotmail.com

## FROM THE HEALTHY LUNCH LADIES: WE LOVE WHAT WE DO!



## FOR CHILDHOOD'S SAKE

### A FORUM FOR EXPLORING THE IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY ON CHILDHOOD

Unplug your kids: Get them off the electronics and playing outdoors (Part 1)

Parents today struggle to balance the benefits of modern technology with the risks. Children seem to be spending less and less time outdoors and more time interacting with their screens. Because online activities are so exciting it can be difficult to pull kids away for healthier activities. Below are some tips to help your children put down that iPad and get out and enjoy real life.

Do start with fun

It can be more fun to add new activities into your children's lives than limiting or taking away their technology. Often kids view their screens as the most pleasurable activity in their life so we should start by offering healthy yet enticing options. Make a family event of brainstorming and come up with a list for everyone of activities they previously enjoyed or have always wanted to try. Research unusual hobbies together and take advantage of wildlife organizations, zoos, aquariums, or nature foundations in your area. Filling the day with stimulating activities before we even limit technology means there is even less time available for sitting at a screen indoors.

This is an excerpt from an article written by Ann H. Steel, MD, MA, LMHC. She is a video game and internet addiction specialist in private practice in Bellingham, Washington. The rest of the article will be printed as a series in future Village Voice issues. You can read it online at:

[http://expertbeacon.com/unplug-your-kids-get-them-electronics-and-playing-outdoors/#.Vmj0-RorIT\\_](http://expertbeacon.com/unplug-your-kids-get-them-electronics-and-playing-outdoors/#.Vmj0-RorIT_)

We invite you to share your musings/ideas/practices on the topic of childhood, family, and media. E-mail Jane-Happy@aol.com or drop it in the Happy family box, and let us know whether or not you want your thoughts to be included in future VV issues.

## **CROSSWALK SAFETY**

### **A MESSAGE FROM TOM HAPPY, CROSSWALK VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

As we enter into 2016, let us all be reminded to practice safe street-side habits each day before and after school. The traffic cones and crossing guards work well to ensure safety at the crosswalks, but the biggest piece of the safety puzzle is each and every one of you. Adults, children, bicyclists, pedestrians, and (most especially) drivers of motorized vehicles must all be mindful of and practice safe transportation habits in order for everybody to be safe in getting to and from school each day. Despite the presence of cones and crossing guards, every day I witness unsafe actions on the part of drivers, walkers and bicyclists. With the goal of zero traffic injuries in mind, please review the following list of traffic safety reminders:

Being Safe is ALWAYS more important than being on-time for school!

-Obey the signals of the crossing guards

-Look both ways before entering a crosswalk, even when a crossing guard has flagged traffic to stop

-Approach crosswalks slowly when on foot or bike, to give guards and drivers time to react appropriately

-Exercise extreme caution at all times on the streets in front to school

-Be aware that every intersection is a legal crosswalk, even if unmarked

-Please don't ever park in the yellow zones, even for a few seconds. This severely hinders visibility for all travelers. It only takes a second of diminished visibility to cause an accident.

-Please do not stop in the street to let children out of your car. It is much safer to legally park curbside (not in a yellow zone!), or to use the drive through drop off zone in the lower parking lot.

- The hilly nature of Lincoln Street contributes to the problem of speeding through the school zone. Remember, the school zone encompasses all of the nearly 3 blocks of Lincoln Street in front of the school grounds. The speed limit of 20 MPH is slower than it seems, and it is safer to drive even slower in you can.

-Please don't ever park facing the wrong way. When parked this way, the driver's side of the car is against the curb, hindering visibility of oncoming traffic, and necessitating entering the oncoming lane of traffic to exit the curb. It is quite a surprise for a driver or bicyclist to suddenly have an oncoming car facing them in their lane of travel, even if only briefly, and it can be blinding if such a car's headlights are on. I have witnessed accidents, and once was nearly in a serious accident myself, due to this dangerous and illegal habit.

- Please always cross the street at crosswalks. Not doing so can be particularly dangerous when there is a solid line of parked cars along the curb, and a pedestrian suddenly appears from between two parked cars. Drivers do not expect to see pedestrians where there is no cross walk. This may not seem unsafe when there are few parked cars and little traffic, but certainly just before or just after school, it is unsafe.

Village School children have been injured in the crosswalks in the past. Thank you for helping us meet the goal of zero injuries now and in the future!

Have a wonderful and safe winter break.



## **THE VILLAGE SCHOOL TEXTS, TWEETS, AND IS ON FACEBOOK**

Sign up to get text messages from the Village School in addition to email and phone by texting the word "join" to 56360. You can also follow us on Twitter (@EugeneVillage) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/eugenevillageschool](http://www.facebook.com/eugenevillageschool) or search for The VillageSchool).

# New School News! 12/11/15

We now officially OWN the new building!...so it is time to roll up our sleeves and get started making it the school we all dreamed of!

If you are interested in joining one of the sub-committees, email Holly at [holly@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:holly@eugenevillageschool.org) and ask to be added to the group.

## Sub-Committee Reports

### **Buildings (interior & exterior) Sub-committee:**

The Buildings group has been continuing our walk-throughs of the new school, looking at it from many different angles. We've had people evaluate the exterior (lots of little things to fix, but nothing major), and some of the office spaces (quite dirty, but in decent shape), walk another lighting contractor through to get quotes on upgrading, and get a tutorial on how to run the aging heating system. We're learning a ton about our site's idiosyncrasies and are slowly coming to grips with all of the responsibilities of ownership. Please let us know if you're interested in helping evaluate or repair the rooms!

### **Fundraising Sub-committee:**

The Fundraising committee is encouraging families to complete the Annual Giving Campaign pledge form or make donations. The campaign ends February 1st, and we are looking for 100% participation from all families. Please give what you can, no gift is too small! Funds will be used to fix-up and enhance our specialty classrooms in the new school!

### **Kitchen Sub-committee:**

The project team has finalized the kitchen plan. Estimates for equipment have come in at \$50,000. The next steps involve looking at costs for installation, plumbing, electrical, wall modifications and finishes. The kitchen has a GoFundMe campaign. Share with others to help raise the \$120,000 needed build our kitchen. [gofund.me/villagekitchen](http://gofund.me/villagekitchen)

### **Transportation Sub-committee:**

With the help of Safe Routes to Schools, we continue to work on the draft Transportation Plan. The group met on to discuss "Six "E"'s: Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement, Evaluation, & Equity.

### **Moving Sub-committee:**

Long before we move the school, we need to sort through all the things we've collected over the years. If anyone is interested in helping with small organizing projects at the current site, please contact the office.

### **Grounds Planning Sub-committee:**

The grounds committee met last night and discussed the teacher survey which will be brought to the next staff meeting for all the teachers provide input. They have the goals of (1) designing and planning a clear vegetable garden area and it's edge details (low fence, drainage swale, chicken run) (2) planning and pricing deer fencing and (3) designing and planning part of the playground, probably including swings, a structure, some natural play elements and wheelchair accessibility. They are hoping to complete the planning for these three elements by Spring Break.

They discussed concrete work related to wheelchair accessibility, the benefits of keeping the relatively small flat area of lawn open for activities and designing the other elements around the edges. They also talked about dry stream beds for play, its location, potential for climbing, etc.



## Upcoming Meetings & Events

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday, January 11th | Building Development Committee Meeting<br>5:30-7:00 pm |
| Monday, January 25th | Building Development Committee Meeting<br>5:30-7:00 pm |

We are looking to have a big site cleanup work party in January, and K-5 main lesson classroom cleanups in February. Stay tuned!

Children are welcome, but childcare is not provided.

# VILLAGE CLASSIFIEDS

## HEALTHY BEES = HEALTHY GARDENS UPCOMING EVENTS

Honey tasting, pollinator crafts, and honey for sale (11am-2pm) at the Holiday Farmer's Market – Performance Hall – Lane County Fairgrounds – Sundays 12/13, 12/20 (11am-5Pm)



**OAK HILL SCHOOL**  
Asociación Si & Instituto Estatal de Atención al Migrante Guatemalteco and Instituto Estatal de la Cultura  
invite all families and community members to the 20 Year Celebration. Friday, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

**Pastorela & Posada  
Begins at 6pm**

The Oak Hill event takes place in the Gym. There will be ready-to-break pilafas, and, as always, there will be tamales, cafe, y ponche.  
This is a family event, and everyone is welcome! (There is no charge.)  
Bring warm clothes because it's going to be cold!  
For more information, call Armando Morales (Spanish teacher) at 541-744-0954 Ext. 125.  
Oak Hill is located at 86387 Eldon Schafer Drive in Eugene (next to LCC, off 30 Ave.)



Guest Artist: Eugenia Cano Puga

The family of Village School graduates Delta Starchild and Sylvani Starchild-St. Clair have lived across the street from our wonderful school for many years. We make and sell FlowerSticks juggling stick game at the Oregon Country Fair every year (with VS PE teacher Tim Taber helping teach this fantastic and fun game), but have a few left we'd love to send to wonderful homes this holiday season.

A set of FlowerSticks normally sells for \$49/set, including the center baton, one set of handsticks, an instruction booklet and a Lifetime Guarantee. For Village School families, we have an "Elf Special" that includes TWO sets of handsticks--allowing you to toss the center baton back and forth for family play--for only \$45/set! We will also donate \$5/set to Village School.

Please send an email to [fiora.starchild-wolf@gmail.com](mailto:fiora.starchild-wolf@gmail.com) to place your order, and we can deliver to Village School or you can pick up at the purple house across the street on 27th Place.

