



2855 Lincoln Street  
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# 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.



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eugenevillageschool.org  
@EugeneVillage

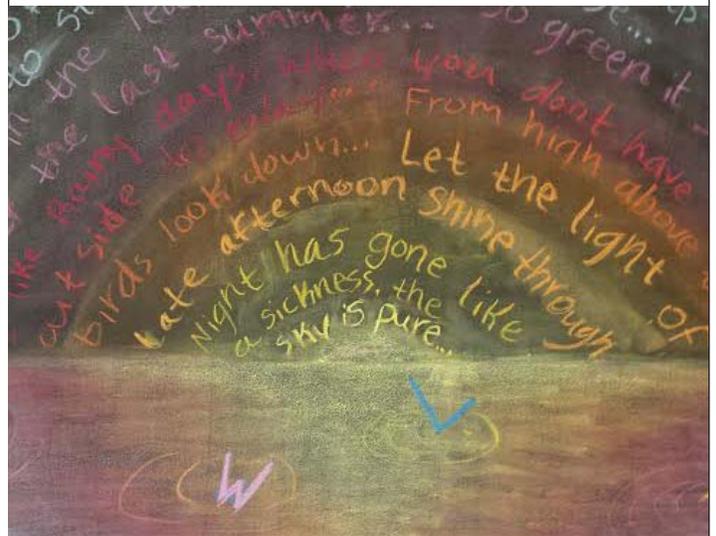
January 14, 2015, Volume 14, Issue 18

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 1/19	<b>NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Day)</b>
Tuesday, 1/20 3:05 PM	<b>Talent Show Auditions</b> Room 14
Wednesday, 1/21 8:30-9:00 AM	<b>Mr. Ratekin Meet &amp; Greet</b> Courtyard
3:00 PM	<b>Green Team Meeting</b> 16 Tons on Willamette
6:00 PM	<b>4th Grade Parent Night</b>
6:00 PM	<b>5th Grade Parent Night</b>
Friday, 1/23 5:30-8:00 PM	<b>Talent Show</b>
Monday, 1/26 3:00 PM	<b>Sibling Applications Due</b>
Friday, 1/30	<b>NO SCHOOL (Grading Day)</b>

## SUPPORT THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Our specialty programs, Spanish, Music, Handwork and Movement, rely on your support. We look forward to your contributions!



## REMINDER

NO SCHOOL MONDAY, JANUARY 19



IN HONOR OF MLK JR DAY

## MEET MR. RATEKIN!

Come welcome Mr. Ratekin to our school on Wednesday morning after dropping off your children. Drop by between 8:30-9:00 AM to introduce yourself and have a cup of coffee or tea.

## SIBLING APPLICATIONS DUE 1/26

Thank you for completing re-enrollment, everyone! Families wishing to enroll siblings for the 2015-2016 school year must return sibling applications to the office no later than Monday, January 26, 2015 by 3:00 PM to be given priority placement in our annual lottery process. If you have questions, please ask Maureen (541) 345-7285 ext. 102, village@4j.lane.edu.

## THE VILLAGE SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT!

Take your friends and family out for a fun night at the Village School's ALL-SCHOOL 7th annual talent show and spaghetti dinner!

Where:	Village School Cafeteria
When:	Friday, Jan. 23rd
What Time:	5:30-8:00 pm
Cost:	\$20 for a family of four (\$3 per extra person), \$6 per person (individual)

**Auditions are this Tuesday January 20th in Room 14 at 3:05 pm.** All acts must be 3 minutes or less. You must visit room 14 on Tuesday and tell the 8th graders about your act. Sign-up sheets are in each hallway.

## CHEERS FOR ALYSON BYAS!

For the last two weeks, as we prepared for the arrival of our interim principal, Kent Ratekin, Alyson Byas has been helping out as "teacher in charge". Alyson served here as a kindergarten, 3rd and 4th grade teacher from 2000-2010, and serves as a regular guest teacher in grades 1-5, but this is her first time helping out in the office. We have been very lucky to have her support, helping students, parents and staff. Her presence has made the transition period go smoothly. Thank you Alyson!

## SAFE CROSSING TO & FROM SCHOOL



We would again like to recognize and thank **Tom** and **Eamon Happy** for all of their crossing guard work before and after school. Putting out safety cones and helping students safely cross Lincoln Street is an important job, and it's a lot of work. Consider showing your appreciation for the safety cause by applying your parent volunteer hours toward crossing guard duty.

## CHANGES FOR 2015-2016

### 5th/6th Grade

One of the changes initiated this year was to move the 5th grade to the upper wing. Our vision was to connect the 5th grade with the lower grades, and create more of a buffer between them and the upper grades. At the same time we have taken basic steps to help 6th graders feel more a part of the upper grades, providing them lockers and desks like those in the 7th and 8th grade.

Since then, staff and board have approved a pilot plan for 2015-16 for standalone 5th and 6th grades, without the usual two-year loop. This will mean that Mr. Bigongiari will remain the 5th grade teacher, and Ms. Romatz will continue as 6th grade teacher in the coming year. We will re-evaluate the merits of the plan and whether to continue with it by January of 2016.

Amongst the major considerations is that the common core math curriculum is requiring a lot of practice and development work from both teachers to integrate this with existing Waldorf curriculum. Early EasyCBM test results suggest that this effort is paying off. We see value in our 5th and 6th grade teachers staying focused on their particular grades to further their mastery of the new sequence.

### Kindergarten

Beginning this fall, the State of Oregon will fund full day kindergarten. If you have children in grades K – 3, you may have participated in a quick survey to help us decide on some new offerings for kindergarten. Staff and board have decided to offer full day kindergarten with some special options based on your input. Full day kindergarten will be offered five days a week with an early release option of 12:30pm and Fridays being optional. Afternoon programming will take into account students' need for quiet time and recess.

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The library is in need of volunteers to help supervise students and check out books during classroom visits and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. New volunteers will receive training before working in the library. If you have any questions or are a new library volunteer needing training, please contact Sherri in the office.

## PARENT COUNCIL SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all who attended the Parent Council special presentation on Wednesday, and thank you to **Arun Toke** of *Skipping Stones* magazine for her presentation.

## GRANDPARENTS & GRANDFRIENDS DAY

Grandparents and Grandfriends Day is coming. On Thursday February 19th, two days before Heart of the Village, "grand" family and friends will visit your children's classrooms, sample some of our music and lunch, and get to know our school a little better. Last year's event was a great time, and we highly recommend it! Please pick up invitations in the school office.

## STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM NEWS



This continues to be an exciting year for the OEA Choice Trust Staff Wellness Program. In October, the staff collectively walked a total of 2,982 miles! As a reward, they rented out Cozmic Pizza on a Sunday night for a private New York pizza and karaoke party. It turns out that Justin can sing some mean James Brown, and Mr. E is quite a Rat Pack crooner.

The focus in November was gratitude, and staff members reflected on all of the good in their lives. To show our gratitude for the staff, they received 15 minute chair massages from parent LMTs **Andrew Jecklin** and **Emily Nance**. Winter made us think of hibernation, so the staff focused on getting more quality sleep.

This month, the staff is trying to laugh more and they are observing all of the health benefits related to humor and lightening up. At the end of the month, the staff is renting out the David Minor Theater to watch a comedy. In the meantime, they are sharing plenty of jokes--some are good, and others are so bad that you have to laugh anyway.



One program update the staff is very excited about is a new partnership with **Eugene Yoga**! This local yoga studio has offered our staff complimentary and discounted classes. Thank you, Eugene Yoga--we'll see you in the studio!

## TERRITORIAL SEED FUNDRAISER

It's that time again. The 8th grade is holding a fundraiser through the Territorial Seed Company. Order forms and books are available in the office. Orders and payment are due in the office by Thursday, January 29th. Don't miss this opportunity to get seeds to plant in your garden this spring and help raise funds for the 8th grade class trip.



## THE GREEN SCENE

There is a Green Team meeting this Wednesday, January 21, 3:00pm at 16 Tons by the Market of Choice on Willamette. We will discuss Earth Week, among other things.

### Garden News

I have a mountain of gratitude for all of our chicken caretakers over the winter break!!! Thank you to **Toña Aguilar**, **Hope Crandall**, **Melissa Hart** and **Maia Hart-Smith**, and the **Happy family**.

Our willow archway is about done, so come check it out in the main garden area.

Lesley McClintock, Garden Coordinator

## MIGHTY NEST

The Village School is now registered at [MightyNest.com](http://MightyNest.com)--a website that sells eco-friendly cookware and some natural toys. When you shop on their site, 15% of the proceeds of your purchases can be donated to our school! To check it out, go to [MightyNest.com](http://MightyNest.com) and click "Support your local school" to register Village as your school of choice before you make any purchases.

## SHOP LOCALLY OR ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR VILLAGE SCHOOL



We encourage everyone to use eScrip, Capella Scrip, and Unique Eugene Scrip. These programs help local vendors and bring fundraising dollars to our school.

To use eScrip, log onto [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com), and click: Sign up! Our Group I.D. is 9130886 (beware: there are several Village Schools). Register your Safeway, debit & credit cards (the site is secured), then shop at eScrip merchants, such as Market of Choice & Safeway. You can use your eScrip registered cards for all your purchases, and you can donate online when you use Amazon.com.



Go to [www.eugenevillageschool.org](http://www.eugenevillageschool.org) and click "[Shop for Village School](#)" on the left. Links will appear for Amazon.com. Click and shop from this link, and the Village School earns as much as 15% of your sales.

## GET VILLAGE SCHOOL NEWS VIA TEXT, TWITTER, AND 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](https://twitter.com/EugeneVillage)) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/eugenevillageschool>) or search for The Village School).

## A SAFETY MESSAGE FROM EUGENE 4J SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear families,

You may have seen in the news that a Eugene man has been arrested on a charge of stalking a 12-year-old girl. Eugene Police have asked us to share this information with families.

Anyone with additional information to report is asked to contact police. This incident also offers a good opportunity to review personal safety information with your children.

The Eugene Police Department stated in a news release, "Gabriel James MacIsaac, 40, was arrested by Eugene Police [on January 8] for Misdemeanor Stalking. Officers arrested MacIsaac, of Eugene, after repeated unwanted contact with a 12-year-old female, for a period of several years." Police added that MacIsaac also goes by the name of James Smith.

"Further investigation by Eugene Police Violent Crimes Detectives indicates the encounter may not be an isolated incident and the potential for other stalking victims exists.

"Anyone with additional information or who has had similar unsolicited contacts with MacIsaac [is] asked to contact Detective Dan Brazier at 541.682.5836."

### Additional Information for Child Safety

While abductions and other offenses by strangers are extremely rare (most offenses against children, including abduction and sexual offenses, are committed by people that they know), Eugene Police and Eugene School District 4J want to remind all families that because such crimes do rarely occur, it is important to teach children about personal safety. Crime prevention specialists offer the following tips:

1. Explain the danger. Parents often tell children, "Don't go with strangers." This is vague and doesn't help children protect themselves—most abductions are by relatives anyway! Better advice would be, "If you are lost or need help, sometimes it's okay to ask strangers for assistance—but strangers shouldn't be asking you for help or to go with them. You should not go somewhere with strangers unless you need their help in an emergency."
2. Who is a stranger? A stranger is anyone you don't know. Make an agreement regarding who is safe to go with, and that they must say "NO!" to anyone else, no matter what! Teach your child to stay at least arms' length away from a stranger who approaches them.
3. Don't be polite! Parents teach children to be "polite"; they should also teach that it's OK to be assertive and not talk to strangers. Adults should ask adults for help, not children!
4. Home and phone safety. Teach your child not to open the door to strangers except in a real emergency. Explain

what an emergency might be, such as a medical problem or a fire. Tell them not to answer probing questions from strangers. Tell them to come get you, or to call you instead. Make sure they know how to reach you wherever you might be. Teach them how and when to call 9-1-1.

5. Make a code word. Teach the child a code word. If a visitor comes to get them, the visitor must know the code word, or the child should not go with them.

6. Pick their routes. Avoid alleys, wooded areas, parking lots and spontaneous shortcuts. Choose areas where anything out of the ordinary would be noticed by neighbors, business owners, pedestrians, etc. Most importantly, help them avoid isolation. Arrange for them to walk with trusted friends. Consider providing them with a cell phone so that they can call for help.

7. Identify trusted adults. Pick stores, schools, churches, and homes of safe neighbors. Make sure your child knows these "safe places" that they should go if they need help. Remember, it's generally safer if the child picks the adult!

8. NO-GO-TELL. If approached by somebody who is scary, or who asks them to do something that seems wrong, a child should yell "NO!" then GO immediately to a trusted adult and TELL what happened.

9. Teach what to do in an actual kidnap attempt. If a child is screaming, a passerby may think it's a child having a tantrum, and fail to recognize an actual abduction. Children who are victims of attempted abduction should repeatedly yell "HELP! I DON'T KNOW THIS PERSON! I'M BEING KIDNAPPED!" Children have been saved by doing this! Be sure your child knows that resistance—yelling, kicking, scratching, biting—is acceptable under these circumstances. Depending on the age of your child, encourage them to remember details: vehicle description or model, appearance of the person involved, what was said, etc. Call the police immediately.

10. Practice with role-plays. Have a friend participate, and have your child GO and TELL. Reward and coach your child.

Additionally, parents interested in learning about convicted sex offenders in our community who may be a danger to children can go to <http://sexoffenders.oregon.gov> for information about area residents designated as "predatory" sex offenders, or call the Oregon State Police Sex Offender Unit at (503) 378-3725 x44429 to request a list of all registered sex offenders living in their zip code.

*Village Voice submissions are due to Maureen on Thursdays at noon: [village@4j.lane.edu](mailto:village@4j.lane.edu).*

## 2015 Volunteer!

### Join **Walama Restoration Project**

@ **Alton Baker Park** to help restore critically imperiled Willamette Valley habitat via ~

#### **Non Chemical Prairie Restoration:**

- ~Mulching ~selective invasive species removal
- ~Native wildflower planting
- ~site prep using shade fabric

No experience necessary

Gloves, tools, instruction and refreshments provided

**All work parties 9:00 - 12:00**

#### Family Friendly Days @ the Butterfly Meadow:

Jan 19	MLK Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day
Nov 11	Planting Veterans' Day

#### Community Saturdays @ the Butterfly Meadow:

Selective Vegetation Control /site prep / seed collection

Mar 21	Jul 18
Apr 25	Aug 15
May 09	Sep 19
Jun 06	



#### Community Saturdays @ Whilamut Passage:

May 30	Shade fabric maintenance
Oct 17	Shade fabric removal

**Butterfly Meadow:** meet @ the end of Day Island Road by the yurt  
**Whilamut Passage:** meet @ the North side of Knickerbocker Bridge

For more info please contact [nicole@walamarestoration.org](mailto:nicole@walamarestoration.org)  
Office phone 541-484-3939, Cell 971-235-3693

Visit [www.walamarestoration.org](http://www.walamarestoration.org)