



2855 Lincoln Street  
Tel: 541-345-7285  
Fax: 541-242-6874

# 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.



village@4j.lane.edu  
eugenevillageschool.org  
@EugeneVillage

## November 21, 2014, Volume 14, Issue 13

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 11/23      **Stair Safety Work Party**  
12:00-4:00 PM
- Monday, 11/24      **Home Depot Supply Giveaway**  
5:30 PM      Cafeteria
- Thursday, 11/27      **NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Day**
- Friday, 11/28      **NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break**
- Thursday, 12/4      **Winter Concert**  
6:30-7:45 PM      First Congregational Church
- 12/9-12/11      **Holiday Craft Fair**  
2:30-4:30 PM      Cafeteria
- Wednesday, 12/10      **Parent Council**  
6:30-7:30 PM
- 12/15/14-1/5/15      **NO SCHOOL: WINTER BREAK**

NO SCHOOL: 11/27-28



GRATITUDE, FAMILY, AND  
THANKSGIVING

*Rick Reynolds, Principal*

Yesterday I had the pleasure of spending time in our wonderful Kindergarten. Interacting with our children, with all their wonder and immersion in the present, always helps me remember to slow down and focus on the joy of the present moment. For example, as we sat in a peaceful circle and listened to **Ms. Leela** read us an engaging story, we each worked with a piece of beeswax. When the story finished, the children shared the beautiful objects they had created with me: a cave, a cake, even Rapunzel's hair. I myself had been inspired by the story to attempt a soaring eagle, and I enjoyed the opportunity to share my small creation, as well.

This month I have been reflecting on gratitude in a special journal created by our great Wellness Committee. It is helping me to remember just how much I have to be thankful for, including the children and all the other joys and challenges that come with serving our school community, the healthy delicious food I get to enjoy each day, and the wondrous beauty of the natural world. It has also helped me to prioritize those things I treasure most, especially my family and friends. Unfortunately, my

parents are both dealing with serious health challenges back in Connecticut. My dedication to the school has kept me here as the problems have been compounding back home, but I am very thankful for my sister, who lives near them and has been a tremendous help. Nevertheless, I have reached the conclusion that I need to be more available for them.

I am happy that my wife Krista and I will be able to visit my family during the winter break and do what we can to help, but the demanding job of being principal for the remainder of the year will keep me from doing all that I feel I should do. Therefore, it is with great regret that I notified the Board of Directors and the staff this week of my intent to step down as soon as a suitable interim principal can be found.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve the school community, and I have learned so much from you all in the short time we have known each other. In particular, **Andy Pears**, our exceptional executive director, has been an invaluable support, as have the amazing **Ms. Maureen** and **Ms. Sherri**. The Board of Directors is also a talented, dedicated group of volunteers that has helped me along the way, including **Stephanie Niedermeyer**, **Chanin Santiago**, **Mike Ware**, and **Kay Cosby**, who also serve on my administrative support committee, but also **Erik Swinney**, **Mike Magee**, **Bev Parrish**, **Teresa Kennedy**, and **Chris Hecht**. So many other staff members, students, and parents have also been a steady source of inspiration and helpful feedback. And **Dr. Sandy Ludeman**, my wonderful mentor, has been a critical support and will continue to help during the transition.

Getting back to **Ms. Leela**, if you have not yet heard, she is stepping down as Kindergarten Assistant next month. We are so sad to see her go as she has brought such steady, loving support to our children day in and day out. But we are happy for her as she plans to move to Portland next month to be closer to her significant other, and we have begun the search for her replacement. The children, staff, and everyone who has gotten to know her will greatly miss Ms. Leela and we wish her all the best with the next chapter of her life.

I hope you understand why I also need to leave, but again I am committed to serving the school as long as I am needed, and I look forward to doing everything I can to help the students, staff, and the rest of the school community in my remaining time with you. At this time of Thanksgiving, I hope you all have the opportunity to reflect on what is most important and express your gratitude to everyone who adds to the richness and meaning of your lives.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is with the sincerest gratitude that we recognize Mr. Reynolds for all of his exceptionally energetic and insightful contributions to our school, in such a short time frame. We extend our sympathies for the family challenges he faces and wish him fortitude in the time to come. We also wanted to let the community know that our Board of Directors is already working on finding an interim replacement for Mr. Reynolds. Teachers and administrative staff are also collaborating to develop and prioritize a sound transition plan. We will keep our community apprised of our progress.

## STAIR SAFETY WORK PARTY 1 1/2 3

Hello, parents,

Two weeks ago I worked with two others to put safety tape on one flight of stairs at the school. It took a couple of hours. This coming Sunday the rest of the stairs need taping. This involves washing the stairs, drying them and laying the tape down. It will take about 15 hours for just me and my husband to do it. So, I am begging for more volunteers!!!! We are meeting at **12:00 PM** at the school. If you can make it PLEASE come! If you have any of the following items you could bring please do:

- \* blow torch
- \* heating gun(s)
- \* Simple Green
- \* scrub brushes for wet and dry work
- \* towels
- \* buckets

Thank you everyone!  
Evelynn Larson

## HOME IMPROVEMENT SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

The Village School Families are invited to participate in our 8th Home Improvement Distribution Event. The Village School has partnered with the Home Depot on Seneca Street to receive donations of surplus items. The Village School has taken what it can use, but has several pallets worth of items to distribute to Village School families! This is a great chance to pick up home improvement materials for free.

When: Monday, Nov. 24th, 5:30 pm  
Where: The Village School Cafeteria

### Some Highlights:

- Very large volume of floor tile,
- Counter top and wall tile
- A small amount of hardwood flooring
- 6-8 Medicine cabinets - various sizes
- A vanity cabinet
- 5 bathroom vanity tops
- Several kitchen/bathroom cabinets
- 6 storm or screen doors
- 6 Front doors, some fancy
- 5 ceiling fans
- Several shutters
- 2 Chandeliers

## WALK A-THON FINAL RESULTS

We want to give a big round of thanks to everyone who helped out with raising funds for our 4th Community Service Walk-a-Thon. The funds raised support our kitchen and garden, and provide crucial funding for our eight community partners. Our illustrious 3rd graders raised the most money, \$2,520.50, and will create the wild and crazy beard for Mr. Reynolds. Coming in second place with \$1,743.50, the 1st grade came will craft the silly beard for Mr. Peara. We can't wait to see how ridiculous our administrators will look, hopefully soon, with their new facial adornments. Again, many thanks to everyone who made this year's Walk a Thon a wonderfully successful expression of our commitment to our kitchen, garden and community.



## THE GREEN SCENE

An early Happy Thanksgiving to you all! As the holidays approach, there are lots of ways we can enjoy them without all the waste and impact to Mama Earth that is often involved. For your Thanksgiving feast, think about sourcing some of your food from local places and in bulk to reduce the packaging. For the up-coming gift-giving frenzy, start thinking now about gifts that aren't "things" but rather experiences and services you can provide. To get ideas and inspiration for every day of the month right through Christmas, check out the Center for a New American Dream's website: [simplifyholidays.org](http://simplifyholidays.org), which includes a calendar.



Want to make a stand against rampant consumerism? Join others around the planet who participate in "Buy Nothing Day" the day after Thanksgiving.

Stay tuned for more ideas about how to make Earth stewardship a stronger tradition in your family and at the school.



### Garden News

Thanks to the 1st graders, we have now mulched the entire inner garden paths with a layer of cardboard and wood chips! This is a tedious process, and sometimes it takes an hour to cover 4 feet of ground!

Thanks to Tom Bettman and the U of O urban farm, we can receive some free apple trees. We plan to start planting them in the next 2-3 weeks. Please join us in the garden! Also, we hope to do a pruning and/ or grafting workshop with the new trees and our current apple tree in January.

Thanks!

Lesley McClintock  
Garden Coordinator

## REMINDER OF OUR SCHOOL CLOSURE/ SNOW DAYS PROCEDURE



The Village School follows School District 4J's school closure decisions. If you are unsure whether there will be school due to weather, many local TV and radio stations will report closures as soon as they receive notice, or you can check the school district website: [www.4j.lane.edu](http://www.4j.lane.edu).

Kindergarten parents, please note: in the case of a "delayed start," Kindergarten will be cancelled that day.

## WINTER CONCERT ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, @ 6:30 PM FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Village School's Annual Winter Concert is just around the corner. The event will be held at a different location this year--the First Congregational Church at 1050 E. 23rd St. in Eugene on Thursday, December 4th from 6:30-8:00pm. This is a very special event for our students and families, during which each class offers a gift of song to our community.

Please spend some time with your students reflecting on appropriate ways to present and receive these gifts. Each class has worked hard to prepare for this concert and are presenting their songs not only with excellent performing skill, but also with the heartfelt desire to truly share the power of music. Let's honor these gifts with our respectful attention and with appropriate applause. Enter our new venue with quiet anticipation and open our hearts to the beauty of our children's voices and join with them in the joyful spirit of the season!

Students in grades 1-8 will be performing. Students are expected to sit with their teachers and classes for the entire program. Chaperones are needed to sit with each grade to help supervise the children during the event.

We welcome friends and relatives to join us for this lovely evening of music and community. This is a special Village School holiday event, so all students and families in attendance are asked to dress for the occasion. We ask for your "Sunday best."

Also, our wonderful Handwork team has created lovely works of art to be raffled off at this year's Winter Concert. Raffle tickets are now available in the office. The cost is 1 ticket for \$1 and 6 tickets for \$5.

## 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) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/eugenevillageschool>) or search for The Village School).

## 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. If you plan to have a grand parent or friend attend, please fill out a form in the office before the winter break. We will be sending out invitations mid December.

## 8TH GRADE TRIP FUNDRAISERS



### Pizza Sales and Bake Sales

Every Wednesday, the 8th grade class sells either Cosmic pizza or baked goods after school to raise money for their 8th grade trip. Come support the 8th grade and indulge yourself with something yummy.



### Holiday Wreath Sale

Orders will be available for pick up at school on Monday, December 1st and Tuesday, December 2nd after school. Happy holidays, and thanks for supporting this year's 8th Grade class trip.

## 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.

Please submit Village Voice entries by Thursdays at noon to Maureen at [village@4j.lane.edu](mailto:village@4j.lane.edu).