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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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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS



Wednesday, 9/3	<b>First Day of School</b> <i>11:45 release-no Kinder Aftercare</i>
10:00-11:00 AM	<b>New Parent Orientation</b> <i>Cafeteria</i>
Wednesday, 9/10	<b>All School Meeting with Title I</b> <i>Cafeteria</i>
5:30-7:30 PM	
Tuesday, 9/16	<b>Parent Council New School Year Kick-Off</b>
6:30-8:00 PM	
Wednesday, 9/17	<b>Board Meeting</b>
5:30-7:00 PM	
Wednesday, 9/24	<b>School Pictures</b>
Friday, 9/26	<b>School Pictures</b>

### PLEASE REMEMBER, ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

- \*New Parent Orientation is at 10:00 AM\*
- \* School lets out at 11:45 AM \*
- \* There is no lunch service\*
- \*There is no Kindergarten Aftercare\*
- \*There is no Village Care\*

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Village School families,

As we get ready for another wonderful school year, we just want to remind everyone about a few important details:

- It is very important to arrive at school on time each day; all classes begin at 8:25 sharp, so please leave enough extra time to avoid rushing and disrupting classes. This can also lead to safety concerns, especially with cars on Lincoln Street and in the parking lot. A student was hit by a car a few years ago, and we need to all help ensure that this never happens again. In particular, please remember to drive slowly and do not park in the yellow zones on Lincoln. The student was hit because parked cars obstructed visibility. We will also be recruiting a Village Crossing Crew to help with the effort.
- Families of students in grades 1-4 are expected to walk their children into school each day. For families of students in grades K-2, that should also include personally greeting the teacher each day. If families



of grade K-2 students arrive late, they are asked to get a late slip from the office (like all students who arrive late) and then wait in the hallway outside the classroom until morning meeting is completed.

- We do not allow the use of cell phones and media entertainment devices during the school day. If students need to make a call, they may do so in the office if they have a note from their teacher. The office is also happy to relay messages to students. Please remind your students about these rules and help us to protect our special learning environment.

And now to some exciting news!

- In case you haven't heard, we are creating a school library with additional small group spaces. In fact, we have a work party tomorrow for the library and neighboring natural space at 9AM if you can join us. Many staff, parents, and students expressed the need for an inspirational library. Two key volunteers, Hope Crandall and Jan Hoertkorn, both passionate retired school librarians and Village School grandparents, have stepped up to help lead the effort. A planning committee has been formed, so please let me know if you would like to be involved. We have been fortunate to receive many wonderful donated books, and are accepting additional donations for our K-8 library, with nonfiction (animals, biographies, world cultures, etc.) being a particular need.
- Angela Larsen, a wonderful special education teacher with two exceptional students of her own, has just joined The Village School community. Eric Estling, who is also very energetic and committed to helping all students thrive, has been hired as a special education assistant, and we are so happy about this exceptional new team.
- As I mentioned in the welcome letter you should have received, we are thrilled that Kathleen Rockwell will be teaching grade 1-5 Spanish and Pamela Pearce will be teaching grade 6-8 Spanish. Both are highly experienced and creative educators, as well as fluent speakers who have lived extensively in Latin America. Passionate about the language and culture, both are Waldorf-trained and have taught in both Waldorf and regular public school settings.
- Another exciting addition is Mandy Walker-LaFollette, a virtuoso marimba player and teacher who has been playing the Zimbabwean instruments since she was a toddler. A recent graduate of the University of Arizona with degrees in astronomy and physics, she is also an accomplished instructor, having taught with Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center, Zimfest, and other marimba festivals around the nation. We are so lucky to have her share her passion for African music and culture with our students.
- We are interviewing candidates to teach movement.

Ms. M (Beth Monterrosa) accepted a position as a full-time 8th grade teacher at Coburg Charter School, but we are happy that she will remain an integral part of our community as a parent and we wish her great joy and success in her new endeavor.

- Matthew Bigongiari is finishing the move of his beautiful 5th grade classroom to the upper wing (room 6), and Jon Bilenki will be ready to share his love of guitar in the lower wing (room 12). This room will also be shared by Pamela Pearce for grade 6-8 Spanish.

We are so appreciative of your support of our mission to fully engage your children and youth: head, heart, and hands. Our warm, arts-integrated, Waldorf-inspired environment, combined with an understanding of multiple intelligences, helps us to create a rich, family-like community of people. Plus, our amazing scratch kitchen continues to inspire us with healthy, scrumptious meals prepared using mostly local and organic ingredients, many from our model school garden. I hope you will agree that we are all incredibly lucky to be part of such a remarkable school, and it is your love and commitment that make it possible.

In service and gratitude,

Rick Reynolds, M.Ed, Principal

## GRANDPARENTS DAY AT THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Thursday, February 19, 2015 will be our second Grandparents and Grandfriends' Day at school! The event gives grandparents and special friends an opportunity to experience and enjoy their Village School students' educational world. Our guests will begin the day with a continental breakfast. After breakfast, they will join the children for Main Lesson, followed by student performances and lunch in the cafeteria. The event is two days away from Heart of the Village, thereby giving Grandparents and Grandfriends an opportunity to sample more of the life of our school.

Please complete the pink Grandparents and Grandfriends Day form which was sent in your back to school packet so that we can send your special guests invitations to this event, information about seasonal events happening at our school, an opportunity to sign up for receiving our Village Voice via email, and more.

## SCHOOL PICTURES WITH NORTHWEST EXPOSURES PHOTOGRAPHY



This year, the Village School will have school pictures taken by Eugene's own Northwest Exposures Photography. Details were sent home in back to school packets.

## THE STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM MARCHES INTO IT'S SECOND YEAR



The Village School staff have been awarded a second grant year with the OEA Choice Trust School Employee Wellness Program! This year, the Wellness Committee will continue to focus on activities for staff members to decrease stress levels, improve emotional health and increase physical activity. There will be a variety of wellness challenges, presentations, and classes organized for staff members to optimize their health.

Last year the program greatly benefited from the assistance and contributions of parents and community members. To ensure continued success, we need your support.

Please let us know if you are a wellness professional and are willing to contribute to the program in some way. Are you or someone you know looking to donate fitness equipment (like yoga mats and props) or do you have connections to getting equipment at a discount? Please let us know! Contributing your time to our staff wellness program is a great way to earn volunteer hours! Please contact Maureen in the office or email her at [village@4j.lane.edu](mailto:village@4j.lane.edu) to help with our staff wellness program.

## 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. You can also 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 send Village Voice submissions to Maureen at [village@4j.lane.edu](mailto:village@4j.lane.edu) by Thursdays at 12:00 PM. Thank you!

# VILLAGE CLASSIFIEDS

**House Help Needed:** Looking for help caring for home and garden one block from The Village School. Prefer a "type A" personality who can help with house-cleaning, errands, cooking and gardening 6-10 hours a week during the school day. \$10/hr. Background check required. Please contact Ann Magee at [amagee@comcast.net](mailto:amagee@comcast.net) if interested.