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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

April 17, 2015, Volume 14, Issue 29

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Monday, 4/20 1:00-4:00 PM | Garden Work Party |
| Tuesday, 4/21 10:40-11:20AM | Environment Awards Assembly |
| Wednesday, 4/22 6:00-7:00 PM | Earth Day + Bling Your Bike 5th Grade Play |
| Thursday, 4/23 10:15-11:15 AM | 5th Grade Play |
| Friday, 4/24 | Professional Development Day: NO SCHOOL |
| Tuesday, 4/28 5:30-7:30 PM | Mentorship Evening |
| Wednesday, 4/29 8:40-11:00 AM | 3rd Grade Field Trip |
| Thursday, 4/30 10:15 AM | Spring Guitar Assembly |



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Greetings! Things are starting to heat up, weather-wise and school event-wise. The Upper Grades Track Meet was today--hundreds of middle schoolers running around, what could be more fun? Next week is Earth Week, which will be filled with activities, an awards assembly, skits, and challenges. See our separate article on page two for all the times and events. The Medieval Games, Greek Games, two more class plays, and May Day are just around the corner. Wow, strap yourself in for the end of the year ride!

Our Dunn inspections are coming back favorably. The site committee is getting ready to put together their negotiation plan for the purchase of our possible new home. If you have questions, concerns, or advice, don't hesitate to share them with Andy Pearsa or myself.

Finally, we are in the midst of Smarter Balanced testing and as we move into the actual process, concerns from parents continue to arise. Last night we held a special meeting to clarify the school's position and to hear all concerns. It is the school's greatest desire to work collectively with all our members; staff, Board, parents and community, to provide the best solutions and learning opportunities for our children. Thank you all for your work, your concerns and your willingness to listen to each other with respect. --Kent

NO SCHOOL FRIDAY 4/24:



UPPER GRADES TRACK MEET



Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the Upper Grades Track Meet today! **Ms. Kimbell** did an outstanding job organizer her first meet, and both **Tim Tabor** and **Bob Danehy** were enormous help in making it all happen. Three cheers for Ms. Kimbell, Tim, and Bob! It was a beautiful, warm day at the South Eugene High School track, and students from our school, Eugene Waldorf School, and Madrone Trail had a great time. Be sure to see next week's Village Voice for photos!

REVISION TO LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: FRIDAY JUNE 12TH

The last day of school has been changed to Friday June 12th, with dismissal at 11:45am. The calendar for 2015 included two additional days to adjust for possible snow days. Since we did not have any snow days for this school year, we are adjusting the last few days of school. Previously the last day was scheduled for Wednesday June 17th, and Friday June 12th was a no-school day.

This change also affects last week of school activities, moving the rose ceremony and 8th grade farewell up to Wednesday, June 10th, and making field day and 8th grade graduation take place on Thursday, June 11th.

PARENT SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

This is a reminder that we are conducting our annual survey on your family's experience at the Village School this year. The survey asks your opinion about school climate, your child's experience, and behavior policies. This is an opportunity to let us know areas where our school is successful and where it needs to improve. Please check your email for a link to the survey; surveys were emailed last Friday. Thank you for your participation!

THE GREEN SCENE

It's Earth Week next week! We're going to have some fun at the Village School. Here is the line-up.

Monday (4/20): Garden Work Party! 1-4pm

Volunteer to help weed, plant, and spread wood chips. The 3rd and 5th graders will be working on this during the school day. Anyone is invited to pitch in after school.

Tuesday (4/21): Assembly 10:40-11:20am

Everyone is welcome to come see our school get presented with three (!!) awards for our green efforts. The awards will be presented by the 4J superintendent and Mayor Kitty Piercy. There will be a skits by 3rd & 7th graders. The finale will be a goofy teacher skit. Don't miss it!

Wednesday (4/22): Bring your bike so you can "Bling Your Bike" with MECCA after school.

Storytime with Justin will take place earlier in the day.

Thursday (4/23): VS Parent + BRING's Brett Jacobs presents on recycling and RRRR

(Do you know what the 4th "R" are?)

Friday (4/24): School's out, so take your Mama Earth-loving ideas home and do something like....

--> Start a compost pile or a worm bin. Don't know how? Master Composters and other resources can help, including our very own Garden Coordinator, Lesley.

--> Quality-check your recycling and garbage bins--ask a VS student to help you find out if there's recycling in your garbage and garbage in your recycling. **Pop quiz:** Are yogurt tubs lids recyclable? How about paper cups?

--> Buy used-- clothing, dishware, toys, and more. Buying used cuts out one of the biggest carbon-producing culprits: all the steps required to transform the ores, fossil fuels, and other raw materials into the products we purchase new.

--> Walk, bike, bus, skateboard someplace---try out a new route to school. Pump your muscles, not the gas!

--> Make a meal from local ingredients--the Farmer's Market is open again on Saturdays in Eugene.

--> Give a non-material gift--tickets to a concert, go to someplace fun, like Skate World.

--> Sit under a tree and just sit; something magical might happen.

Pop quiz answers: lids are not recyclable, they contain softeners that make them different from their container. Paper cups, napkins, plates, and towels are NOT recyclable. They repel water and do weird things when pulped and mixed with other paper.

See you next week!

The Village School Green Team

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2015

Our specialty programs, Spanish, Music, Handwork and Movement, rely on your support. Thank you to all who have already made contributions; we hope to see 100% participation! We have raised \$3,800 to date.



DRESS CODE REMINDERS

We have all been enjoying some lovely spring days, and as the weather changes, so does our clothing. Please review our dress code in the family handbook with your students. Remember: no visible underclothing and no revealing clothing (short shorts/skirts, low-cut tops, etc). Students found in violation of the dress code will be asked to change into other clothing they may have at school or into spare clothes kept in the school office. If a suitable change of clothing isn't found, parents will be called and asked to bring clothes to school.

MAY DAY CELEBRATION 2015



Spring is finally here! May is just around the corner and with it, our Annual Village School MAY DAY Celebration.

Families are invited to attend on Friday, May 1st from 1:15 to 2:30pm. All students from Grades 1 through 8 will be performing in our Celebration of Spring, performances of music, song and dance, and winding and weaving the colors of the rainbow around our May Pole. Other festivities include making flower garlands, face painting, enjoying fresh fruit snacks, plus an assortment of fun games! During the few days leading up to our May Day celebration, several classes will be making May Baskets to deliver to houses around the neighborhood. Please check in with your child's teacher to see how you can help with this project.

On the morning of our celebration – Friday, May 1st – we will need LOTS of fresh flowers – for decorating the May Pole, making flower garlands and filling May Baskets as we are no longer receiving flower donations from Trader Joe's. Please share the beauty of your gardens with the school! We would also appreciate any donations of fresh fruit to share with the children at the Celebration. Please bring flowers, greenery and fresh fruit to the office at the beginning of the school day on May 1st!

ADVERTISE IN THE YEARBOOK

Do you have a business that you would like to advertise in the 2014-15 Village School yearbook?

Ad sizes and pricing are:

- Business card size ad: \$25
- Quarter page ad: \$40
- Half page ad: \$65
- Full page ad: \$120

The ad submission deadline is May 15th. Contact Sherri in the office at 541-345-7285 or sherrim@eugenevillage-school.org to set it up.

FRIENDLY STREET PARK NEWS

Friendly Park is being maintained pesticide-free at the request of park users, many of whom are VS families. In lieu of the need for pesticides, park users have agreed to do some work one morning per season.

This Sunday April 19th from 9:00 to 12:00 will be the spring workday. Mostly the labor consists of spreading wood chips and working on the vegetation of the park borders. We hope to have a good turn-out of families who value the park as a pesticide-free area.

FREE FAMILY NATURE NIGHT WITH WHOLE EARTH NATURE SCHOOL

Every Wednesday Fox Denizens of all ages (even parents!) delve into the natural world together as we explore nature crafts, ancient skills, storytelling, games, and more! Each week we begin with a welcome circle that leads into a skill-challenging game.

As everyone eats together, we hear adventures of Whole Earth Nature School staff and mythic stories of animals and people across the world to get inspired for the evening activity. After the meal, we'll share what we're thankful about from our week.

The evening "entre" will be different each week. Foxfire and friends will guide Fox Denizens in making crafts, playing games, puzzling over riddles, and learning ancient skills, just like at our Coyote Kids and summer camp programs! We've had faerie feasts, earth ninja sneaking challenges, survival fort contests, and even made wizard wands to cast spells based on plant names! We will also give everyone a chance to share their own stories each week. At the end, we will join together again and share how we'll take what we've learned into our lives.

Fox Den provides an opportunity to have fun, build skills, and make new friends! Come join us for free!

Sponsored by Whole Earth Nature School and Off the Waffle.

Please submit Village Voice entries to Maureen on Thursdays by noon at village@4j.lane.edu.

GOT AN HOUR TO SPARE BEFORE PICKING UP THE KIDS?



Spring has arrived, and the grass is growing up a storm of glorious green. We have a few areas that need mowing, and would love it if you could spare some time, whether it's an hour or two, whenever the office is open. We've got a nice mower and a very powerful, walk-behind wacker. Let us know if you can lend a hand.

SCENES FROM THE VILLAGE KITCHEN & THE BOUNTY OF OUR GARDEN!

It doesn't get much better than this!



THE 3RD GRADE BUZZ

The third grade is continuing their journey as bee defenders! They have teamed up with Jen Hornady, from Healthy Gardens=Healthy Bees and recently took a field trip to Glory Bee Foods to pick up a new hive of bees. On Friday, several students had a chance to put on bee suits to place the bees into their new home on the slope above the garden. The class will continue to learn about, advocate for, and teach the school about honey bees this year and beyond! Stay tuned for more!



SHOP LOCALLY OR ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR VILLAGE SCHOOL



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

To use eScrip, log onto 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.

amazon.com

To shop for Village School on Amazon.com, go to www.eugenevillageschool.org and click "Shop for Village School" on the left. Click the Amazon.com link, and shop. The Village School earns as much as 15% of your sales.



When you shop at MightyNest.com, a website that sells eco-friendly cookware and some natural toys, 15% of the proceeds of your purchases can be donated to our school when you select us when shopping! To check it out, go to MightyNest.com and click "Support your local school" to register Village as your school of choice before you make any purchases.

VILLAGE CLASSIFIEDS

IMAGINE THAT SUMMER ADVENTURES

There are still a few spots left in the July 6 - 17th **Imagine That** summer camp (the Blueberry camp).

If your child is between the ages of 7 and 13, loves to be creative and would be interested in participating in putting on a magical musical extravaganza performance. Look at our website for details:

www.eugeneimaginethat.com

LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY APRIL 17th!



SUN. APRIL 19TH CONFIDENT CYCLING FOR FAMILIES CLASS 9AM-NOON - VILLAGE SCHOOL

To register: <http://eugenerts.org/events/confidentcycling/>



For more information contact:
Shane MacRhodes
rhodes_sh@4j.lane.edu
541-556-3553

Class attendees will not only learn about basic traffic skills but also learn how to perform a bicycle safety check, how to properly fit a helmet, how to size a bicycle for a child, and how to properly carry things on a bicycle. Information will also be provided about gear and clothing, proper lighting, use of lights, and locking a bike. Half the course will be conducted indoors and the last portion will be held in the parking lot with skills & drills before a final ride on neighborhood streets.

This class is made for parents AND kids so all participants are asked to bring a bicycle and a helmet with them to class. Some reduced cost helmets will be available. Anyone requiring a loaner bicycle for the class is asked to state that in the comments section of the registration form. This class is geared towards children ages 5 - 13 and is free and open to all families but registration is required.