

August 22nd, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of The Village School, I would like to wholeheartedly welcome you back! With a new school year upon us there is plenty to look forward to including some new staff. Please welcome Jesse Gammon, 7/8th grade Language Arts/Humanities teacher, Alyson Byas, 1st Grade Teacher, Cara Patton, Kindergarten Assistant, Meridith Kidder, Title 1 Assistant, and, we are in the process of hiring a Handwork Assistant. As you know, 5th grade teacher and founder of the Village School, Matthew Bigongiari, is on sabbatical this year. Matthew Rutman will be filling Matthew B.'s shoes; upon his return, the two Matthews will job share on a trial basis. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing, well-qualified staff to nurture and educate our students.

Our school is dedicated to educating the whole child. We model best practices with an arts-integrated curriculum combined with an understanding of multiple intelligences and a foundation of Waldorf practices. We create a rich, family-like environment where a community of people join hands and work together for the well-being of all. This year, we are exploring the possibility of implementing Restorative Justice in Education (RJE) school-wide. RJE prioritizes relationships, builds community, creates a just and equitable learning environment, and transforms conflict. We are very interested in hearing your point of view on this subject, and are asking that you take a moment to complete this very simple, 5 question survey. Please click on this link:

<http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?A286EAF2A4E6FEF5A7>.

Please check in with your classroom teacher or with Carrie Mack to see how you can volunteer. Molly Bautista, Librarian, and our fantastic team of OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) volunteers will continue this year as well. "High-five" our unique and exemplary kitchen staff as they begin their eighth year of serving healthy and delicious meals to our staff and students! These are just a few offerings at our amazing school!

Included in this packet are the following forms: calendar highlights; back to school essentials; school menu; letter from the healthy lunch ladies; supply contribution form; and the free and reduced meal application. (*Everyone is encouraged to apply even if you think you may not qualify. The more families that qualify the greater our chance to increase Title I funding.*)

**ALERT! All classes begin 8:25am SHARP! Gr. K-4 dismissal 2:45pm. Gr. 5-8 dismissal 3:00pm.**

*There is a direct correlation between student achievement and strong student attendance, including punctuality.*

*Let's set a goal for ALL STUDENTS TO ARRIVE ON TIME AND BE PREPARED TO LEARN. If you need support in this area such as carpool set up, bus to school, etc. please call the office.*

### **September 5<sup>th</sup> -- The FIRST DAY of School is a HALF DAY**

New Parent Orientation is from 8:45-9:45 am in the Commons. NOTE: Lunch will NOT be served on this day. All students dismissed at 11:45am. Breakfast is available for students at the existing rates (see kitchen letter).

**September 7<sup>th</sup> -- Rose Ceremony** 9:00 am, location TBA

**September 11th, 12th, and 13th -- School Picture Days** Each grade will be notified of the day their photos will be taken. Order forms are due by Monday, Sept. 10th.

**September 19th -- All-School Meeting, Title I Annual Meeting, and Class Meetings: 5:30-7:30pm**

Essential for all. First, we gather in the Village Commons to meet new and existing staff members, review changes to our school, hear a School Board report, and more. Parents will also go to their student's classroom where teachers will provide vital information. Many questions will be answered at this meeting. Childcare is provided.

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – Walk-a-thon Assembly** @ 2:00 pm. \*Come learn about what will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**September 26<sup>th</sup> – Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting** @ 5:30 pm. Childcare is provided. *RSVP for childcare by Friday, Sept. 21st.*

**October 10<sup>th</sup> – Walk and Bike to School Day** All students and staff either walk or ride bikes to school.

**\*October 11<sup>th</sup> – Community Service Walk-a-Thon** The Walk-a-Thon raises crucial funds for our kitchen and garden; plus, each grade level sponsors one of eight like-minded community organizations. It is a fun and educational way to help our community partners. The event is at the South Eugene HS track during the school day.

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – No School, In-Service Day**

I am looking forward to seeing you all very soon. Please contact the front office if you have any questions.

In the Spirit of Service,

*Carla La Fleur, Principal*