



ASTOR NEWS:

January 2020

We all belong at Astor. We honor diversity, celebrate differences and seek to understand all perspectives. We strive to be an inclusive, safe and respectful school community. We all belong at Astor and together we are stronger...

Some Words from Our Principal...

Dear Astor Families-

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and rejuvenating break! I have seen a surge of renewal and excitement as students have come back to school ready to continue their learning and growing as Astor student scholars. Let's keep this momentum going! **Here are a few items I'd like to highlight as we move further into this school year:**

Attendance: I would like to reiterate that we are still focusing on student attendance. I realize that it can be challenging to come to school every day and be on time, however, in order to learn everything needed, it must be a priority. Even missing a few days each month impacts student achievement. As it is, we don't have enough time to fit in all of the standards and requirements for our students. Every minute counts! If your students are having trouble getting to school on time, please do not hesitate to call or come in, and we can problem solve together. We want ALL Astor students to have every opportunity to learn. When we make improvement as a school, we all benefit.

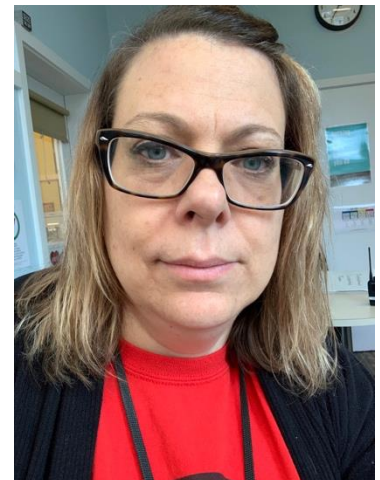
Principal Coffee Chat: I invite all parents/guardians to our next monthly Coffee Chat on Feb, 21 @ 8:00am in the cafeteria. This is a short and casual meeting where parents/guardians can come to drink coffee, hear about what is happening at Astor, and ask questions. Again, my door is always open for questions and concerns, but this is a regularly occurring opportunity to connect with others and hear about your school. I leave the agenda open so that there is always time for topics that may come up. If you have specific subjects that you would like me to address in future meetings, please don't hesitate to email, stop by, or call. Hope to see you there!

Traffic Around Astor: Please obey all traffic laws around Astor!

Speeding, double parking, blocking traffic, parking backwards, and stopping in the middle of the street when dropping off or picking up students is not safe and puts our students at risk. We have very dedicated parents out there every morning to support traffic safety and to keep students safe. Please be respectful of their volunteer efforts and especially **slow down.** We have a newly formed Traffic Task Force to analyze the issues and come up with solutions to keep our students safe. If you would like to be kept in the loop with this important work, participate in monthly meetings, volunteer or share ideas, please email me to get on the mailing list.szabel@pps.net

Thank you for sending such amazing students to school everyday!!

With appreciation,
Sarah Zabel,
Principal



January Character Trait: Imagination



Remember!! FRIDAYS are Astor Spirit Days! Wear your Astor t-shirts, sweatshirts, or school colors, black and red!!

Important Dates in January and February

January 31st – Character Assembly 9:00am
February 6th – Kindergarten Connect – 6:00pm
February 17th – President’s Day – No School
February 21st – Principal Coffee Chat 8:00 am
February 28th – Character Assembly – 9:00am

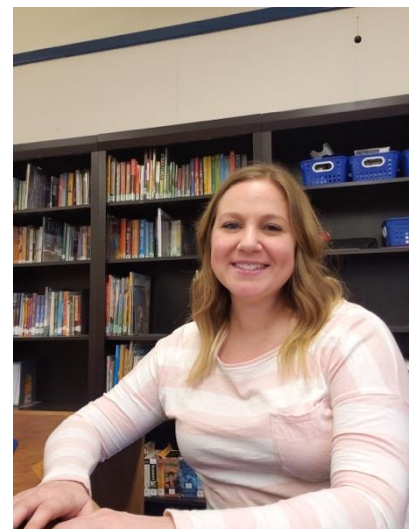
Watch Our Eagle Eggs Nest Grow... Astor’s Positive Behavior Supports

We hope you have been hearing a lot from your child about “Eagle Eggs”. When we observe students being safe, respectful and/or responsible at school, we pass out Eagle Eggs. The Eagle Eggs then go into a classroom drawing where K-5 students are celebrated and recognized, and can earn also prizes on Fridays during lunch. Teachers have classroom recognitions as well. We hope every student is picked out of the basket for a prize, however, it is not always possible. Students are recognizing that the more Eggs you get, the more likely you could be picked each week. It is so wonderful to see and hear our students clapping and cheering for their classmates! Way to go Astor K-5 students, our Eagle’s Nest is growing!! In Middle School, students collect their Eagle Eggs for prizes. Prizes are then delivered to students on Fridays. This has been very motivating for our 6-8 graders, and we want to keep these positive vibes going! We LOVE to celebrate students who are doing the right things!

Astor has a new Librarian...Veronica Hughes...

Hi Astor Families!

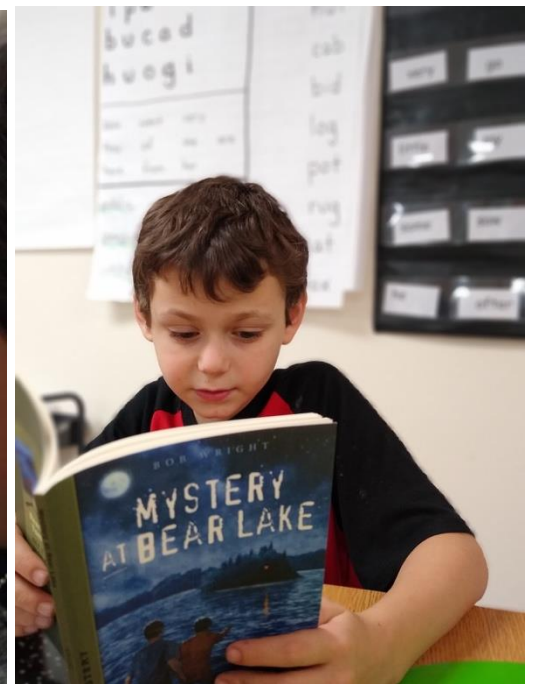
I am Veronica Hughes, the new Library Media Specialist at Astor School. New to both Portland and Portland Public Schools this year, I hail from the Chicagoland area and have loved the opportunity to live and work in a new environment so far this school year. I have been in education for 10 years, primarily at the middle school level. I taught English Language Arts for several years before feeling a calling to the library, where I have been for the past five years. As an avid reader and learning enthusiast, I try to make the library a place where students of all ages actually want to spend time as it can be a source of inspiration, relaxation, and information. My goal is to help students discover the type of reading that suits them best as it is a skill and practice that can serve them for the rest of their lives. Through lessons, discussions, and projects I will also work with students on improving information literacy and technology skills as well as digital citizenship. I’m quite excited to see what the rest of this school year has in store as I get to know and work with your children.



3rd Grade Reading Support at Astor with Ms. Christina Brown

Third grade students are reading mysteries as part of their current reading unit. Mysteries help students to infer, to notice clues and to wonder more about them, and to predict what will happen next in the story. Students are learning to describe the characters, visualize the setting, retell and summarize what happens at the beginning, middle and end of a chapter, as well as predict outcomes. I teach third grade reading intervention groups. Each group works on targeted literacy skills to improve reading fluency and comprehension.

I have two daughters, ages 9 and 7. My husband and I take turns reading to them before bed every night. We have read several Harry Potter books, The Chronicles of Narnia, and are now reading Ronald Dahl's books. My daughters ask us questions if something is confusing or if they hear a new vocabulary word and want to understand the meaning. We also ask them questions such as: What do you predict will happen next? What is the problem? How can it be solved? Who are the characters? Would you want to be friends with them? Why or why not? We talk about the setting and ask each other if it would be a good place to live or visit. I love reading to my girls. It is a special time for us to make memories and connections. I hope you read to your students and learn about all kinds of new things together. I believe educators and parents must work together to help children acquire the skills necessary to navigate literacy through this world.





Calling all Volunteers ...

Our Benefit (formerly known as the auction) is on Saturday, March 7 at 5pm at the University of Portland. We are looking for volunteers to help make our biggest fundraiser for our kids a success. The benefit provides funds to promote academic excellence and experiences for all our students. This year, the PTSO is funding all field trips and working to expand the outdoor natural play spaces.

Our next meeting is on Feb. 4 at 6 pm in the library. There's also a Google doc sign-up with tasks listed. If you can help in any capacity, please sign-up at the link provided below. If you have questions on how you can help, you can contact Kim Saam, PTSO Vice President, at fundraising@astorptso.org.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NLUWK7QDNJ4_aozT8kvdhkkOneQMtBhX_gq5dYmxsJ4/edit?usp=sharing

8th Grade Fundraising ...

Enjoy a night out and support both our Astor PTSO and the 8th Graders' Summer Field Trip! The PTSO will be holding a 21+ Trivia Night on Friday, January 31st at Advice Booth Bar, beginning at 5:30pm.

Need childcare to attend the Trivia Night? Drop your child(ren) at Astor from 5:00 – 8:00pm. Mr. McDermott and other Astor teachers will care for your child while you test your trivia skills!

PARENT'S DATE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Support the Eighth Graders' educational trip to Europe while enjoying a night out on the town!



The Astor Eighth Graders are fundraising for their trip to Europe are offering date night childcare on January 31st, from 5-8pm.

Children in grades K-5 are welcome for dinner and a night of movies, pizza, and board games, fun with friends. Supervision (and fun!) provided by Astor Teachers.

Cost: \$30 per child, \$20 for each additional child.

Where: Portables 1+2 (near the playground)

Email Mr. McDermott to reserve a spot!

rmcdermottepps.net