



D. A. Grout Elementary School

THURSDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

503.916.6209 www.pps.net/grout Facebook: facebook.com/GroutSchool Twitter: @Grout_School
October 31, 2019

Calendar

Nov. 1	NO SCHOOL- Teacher Plan Day	Nov. 5	Picture Retake Day
Nov. 2	ESL Parent Academy at Grant HS		Dine Out at Pizzicato
Nov. 3	Daylight Savings Time Ends- Turn Clocks back 1 hour	Nov. 6	PTA Board Meeting- 7-8 pm
		Nov. 11	NO SCHOOL- Veterans Day

October 31, 2019

Dear Parents,

It is with excitement and some sadness that I share news of my retirement from Portland Public Schools. This will be my last year as the Principal at Grout Elementary School and I will be working through June 2020.

Over the last six years, I have enjoyed educating and caring for your amazing children and I will miss their smiling faces, daily greetings, and love of learning. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and I have appreciated all of your support along the way. I will also miss working alongside the wonderful Grout staff, but it is a comfort to know they will be here to continue the thoughtful education of all students and will continue to advocate for the ones who need it most.

My husband is semi-retired and we plan to spend much of our time with our six amazing grandchildren. They make me smile every day and I look forward to spending more time with family. We plan to go to soccer games, cheer competitions, choir performances, and volunteer in their elementary, middle, and high schools.

I look forward to seeing the future success of Grout Elementary School.

Most respectfully,

Principal Annie Tabshy

Important Information:

Beyblades – Family help needed:

Beyblades are a popular toy that is causing some problems at school. As per school policy, toys are not to be brought to school. We are asking that parents remind their children not to bring them to school. We have had a handful of Beyblades stolen and school is not responsible for them. If Beyblades are found at school, staff will keep them until the end of the day. If the problem becomes chronic, Principal Annie will keep them until the end of the school year. Thank you for your support with Beyblades.

Library Fine Notices

We received word from BESC last week that Wednesday – Friday evening Library Email Auto **FINE** Notices will go out to your students, to coincide with the first quarter grading period. For the most part these notices will be for overdue library books turned into fines that have been on student accounts since last school year or longer, and/or any materials marked lost on an account or fines added to an account since school started. **IF you have questions or concerns, you may come in to the library before or after school, or call or email. You can also pay the fines in Grout's SchoolPay account.**

Thank you!

Diane and Lynn

ESL Parent Academy at Grant High School Nov. 2, 8:30-12:30

Dear ESL Families,

We hope you will join us for our ESL Parent Academy at Grant High School on Saturday, November 2nd from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

8:30am-9:00am: Coffee/Tea, Check-In and Childcare Check-In

9:00am-9:50am: Title III ESL Services Family Presentation

10:00am-12:00pm: Get ready for Parent-Teacher School Conferences Explore Multnomah County Library: K-12 study resources, early reading support, homework help

12:00pm-12:30pm: Lunch

Parent Academy presentations will be held in your language. Lunch and childcare will be provided for children 3 years and older. Transportation options available in some areas. Please contact your ESL Community Agent to sign up and confirm your attendance. For questions in English, call (503) 916-6525 For questions in your language, call your ESL Community Agent

The SafeOregon Tipline aims to increase student safety

Keeping with our commitment to student safety, PPS joined school districts across the state a couple years ago in using the SafeOregon Tip Line. SafeOregon was funded by the Oregon Legislature as part of a statewide effort to improve school safety. It provides a secure means for anyone to anonymously report suspicious or imminently unsafe situations, such as threats of violence, fights, drugs and alcohol, weapons, bullying, harassment, intimidation or self-harm. Anyone, from students to parents to community members, can access the system in a variety of ways, including:

- The “Report unsafe behavior” button found on every PPS school’s website
- The SafeOregon website
- A live call/text (844-472-3367)
- An email to tip@safeoregon.com
- The mobile app that can be downloaded from your Smart Phone via iTunes or Google Play

Trained staff are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to respond. Please be sure to share this information with your friends and family. Remind your students: **If you see or hear something, say something - immediately.** Let’s work together to keep our community safe.

Donation and Volunteer Requests:

Volunteers for Picture Re-Take Day Needed

Grout needs 1 or 2 parent volunteers for to help during picture re-takes on November 5th from about 8 to 10 am. Volunteers will help pick up students from classrooms, help keep them organized while waiting their turn for photos, and take them back to class. If you are interested, please sign up on Konstella or stop by the Main Office to let us know. Thanks! – Grout Office Staff

Girls Inc. Volunteers Needed!

Girls Inc. needs volunteers to help inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold! After-school Girls Groups provide girls with the confidence and self-esteem to access a bright and economically independent future. Girls Inc. provides volunteers with the training, curriculum, supplies, and support that they will need to co-lead an exciting and successful Girls Inc. program. Girls Groups meet at Grout on Thursdays.

Apply to volunteer online and attend an upcoming training on either Tuesday, November 19th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm or Friday, November 22nd from 1 - 4 pm

Contact Allie at allie@girlsincpnw.org with questions or to register for a training. Volunteer application: https://jobs.workstream.is/girlsincpnw/cbfaeff1?referer_source=http://www.girlsincpnw.org/girls-guides

Super busy? Volunteer at home or for a quick visit to help ART at Grout.

Be a photographer/uploader to get student art onto Artsonia, our online portfolio sharing and fundraising website. If you even have only **10 minutes**, you can stop into the workroom and/or pickup student work to photograph at your leisure. Each time someone uploads a classroom (24-30) art projects by a class, we earn proceeds from any Artsonia keepsakes sold. This means in 10 minutes, you might earn the school \$10-20 of proceeds, plus kids get to keep a copy of their work privately or publicly in an online portfolio. Instructions from Ms. Yao are available at <https://tinyurl.com/ya8n7ke9> Want to volunteer for your child's class or a younger class (Grades K-2)? Just contact Ms. Yao at kyao@pps.net.

Levy Information

https://www.pps.net/cms/lib/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/4/2019PPSLocal_option_levy_factsheet.pdf

Dear Grout Families,

Portland Public Schools has referred renewal of a levy that currently funds teaching positions across the district for voters' consideration on the November 5, 2019 ballot. Approximately one in three Portland Public Schools teaching positions is funded by the current levy.

At Grout, the levy funded 5 teaching positions in the 2018-19 school year. Over the past five years, the levy funded an average of 825 teaching positions annually throughout the district. If the levy is renewed, that average is estimated to be maintained.

If renewed, the levy is estimated to produce \$99.9 million for Portland Public Schools in school year 2020-2021 and would fund teaching positions and classroom supports, such as Special Education services, at every school in the district.

These teachers would:

- Represent approximately one-third of all teaching positions in Portland Public Schools.
- Teach core classes, as well as enrichments for elementary and middle grades, such as library services and physical education, and electives in varied interest areas and disciplines for high school students.
- Teach career and technical programs and STEM programs, including computer science education, and college and career readiness skills.
- Provide specialized academic support for students, such as additional instruction in areas such as reading and math.

The proposed levy would not be a new tax. It would be a renewal of the current levy, first approved by voters in 2011 and renewed in 2014. Currently, homeowners pay \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed home value for the levy. If approved by voters, homeowners would continue to pay the same rate for an additional five years. If passed, this local option would require independent citizen oversight so that tax dollars would be used for purposes approved by local voters. Funds would be placed in a sub-account to facilitate oversight and accurate reporting. No funds from this local option levy would be used for district administration.

If the levy is not approved in 2019, the levy rate would not be renewed and Portland Public Schools would not receive an estimated \$99.9 million in tax revenue in school year 2020-21, which may result in the loss of funding for up to 825 teaching positions.

This school district is funded through state, local and federal dollars. While the Oregon Legislature did increase funding for school districts, there is still a difference between what the state funds for K-12 education and what is budgeted for Portland Public Schools to fund the staff and services currently serving all students. If approved by voters, the proposed levy would provide funds for the difference in the budget.

Ballots are due by Tuesday, November 5 at 8pm. If you plan to return your ballot by mail, one first-class stamp is necessary. According to the Multnomah County Elections Division, October 31 is the last day for voters to safely mail ballots. You can also drop your ballot at an official drop box. Ballots delivered to an official drop box never require postage. Visit multco.us/dropsites to find an official drop box.

However you choose to vote, I encourage you to vote in this election and in every election.

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.

PTA News

GROUT FALL FEST came, saw and rocked the house, I mean school! A huge shout out to all our volunteers and rock star leads! This event could not have occurred with you! Special shout outs to Grout S.U.N. for managing and staffing the carnival games and our Fall Fest Committee members for planning and putting their heart and soul into this family engagement night! **Thank you!**

Save the date, Nov. 13! Join us at our next **PTA general meeting** where we'll be talking about **how to keep your kids safe online** this holiday season and beyond! We'll also be announcing the winning project from the Sept. fundraiser survey, sharing our year-over-year numbers from Fall Fest, PTA membership and donations, vote on the PTA budget (members only) and provide a glimpse of what's on deck for the April 4 auction! Door prizes will be awarded, plus if you also bring a min. \$10 value bottle of wine to donate to the Auction's wine wall you'll have an extra chance to win!

GROUT AUCTION COMMITTEE – Open Call to Fill Remaining Committee Spots!

[Get involved today](#)—more hands mean less work! Here's what we still need:

- **Decorations Director:** Help lead the theme decision process and plan event decorations.
- **Art Enthusiast Classroom Projects:** Seeking 2 more individuals to help work with Teachers and students on their classroom art or basket project to be sold at the auction.
- **Auction Software Sales Lead:** Seeking 1-2 individuals to help review our Auctria software and create training how-to sessions in the Spring for our volunteers and manually complete data entry (procured items).
- **Music Lead:** Help determine the music for the evening whether it be performance based or playlists.
- **Extra:** This role is perfect if you want to get involved & can pick up small tasks but can't commit to a larger role—5 spots left.

GROUT OBOB NEWS from 10.16.19 – Missed the meeting? We posted the how-to details on the [OBOB committee](#) page! If you plan on being a parent coach, please don't forget to sign-up on [Konstella](#).