



FRIDAY NEWS NOTES



Friday, November 1, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4:
LOCK OUT Drill,
10:05am

November 11:
Veteran's Day Holiday,
PPS CLOSED

November 12:
1st Dance Open Class
Soulas: 9:45am

Site Council, 3:00pm

PTA Meeting - 6:00pm

November 14:
K Dance Open Class
Bussey: 9:15am
Graham: 9:50am
Evans: 10:25am

1st Dance Open Class
Batty: 12:00pm
Pawol: 12:35pm

November 15:
Book Fair Set-Up, 2:15pm
in the Wet Space

Sunday, November 17:
Foundation Top Golf
Fundraiser, 12:00-3:00pm

November 18-26:
Stephenson Book Fair

November 22:
Grandparents and Special
Friend's Day, 8:30-11am

November 25-26:
Parent/Teacher/Student
Conferences, AM/PM/EVE

November 27:
NO School for Students
and Staff, Bldg. CLOSED

From Principal Galindo...

أهلا وسهلا • 歡迎 • Welcome • ברוך הבא • ようこそ • 환영 • Добро пожаловать • Soo dhawoow • Bienvenidos • Chào Mừng
STEPHENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Dear Stephenson Learning Community,

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 Stephenson, 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 2020-2021, 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.

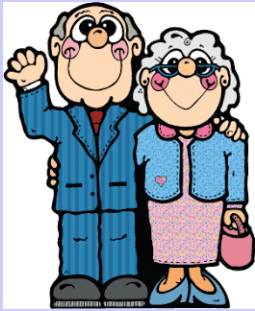
Ballots are due by Tuesday, November 5 at 8pm. If you plan to return your ballot by mail, one first-class stamp is necessary. According to the Multnomah County Elections Division, October 31 is the last day for voters to safely mail ballots. You can also drop your ballot at an official drop box. Ballots 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.

A special **Thank You** to our **PTA leadership Joy Franz, Jessica Schimkowitsch and Ashley Geltosky** for organizing this year's Fall Fun Night. They could have not done it without the many volunteers who stepped up to make this year's event successful including: Katy Haley, Dana Weiner, Lori Finzer, Lori Fregonese, Patty Murphy, Katy Beth Allen, Lisa Pruett, Kim Martin, Stephanie LaCarr, Kim Fisher, Ellen Luby, Lindsay Martin, Jerilee Olmstead, Meg Drury, Julie Laufer, Kristen Kolasynski, John Walker, Heather Abbott, Mackenzie Moore, Gretchen Toperosky, Tiffany Hammer, Cesar Villaca, Luba Ackerman, Jon Clausen, Miriam Hajj, Jen Newman and many wonderful volunteers who provided baked goods for the bake sale.

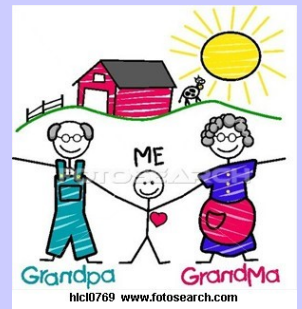
Thank you to our classroom teachers for their support by providing classroom space to accommodate the activities and to SCCA for their flexibility on Friday evening. Overall it was a huge success.

Remember to set your clocks one hour behind on Saturday evening. One hour of extra rest. Thank you for your support and dedication to students and staff of Stephenson Elementary.

Respectfully,
Carlos



Mark Your Calendars!! Grandparent's and Special Friends' Day Friday, November 22nd, 2019 8:30am – 10:55am



Your child will get to invite their grandparents or a special friend to see his/her classroom, take a photo, and visit the book fair. Invitations will be sent home in backpacks on Thursday, November 7th. Due to limited space, please limit the number of adult guests per student to 2-3 and we ask that Stephenson students not attend other grades' sessions, since classroom space is limited.

Please email Principal Galindo cgalindo@pps.net if you are willing to help and volunteer for the event.



Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK** an hour Saturday night/Sunday morning... Remember we Fall Back and get an extra hour of sleep.



Stephenson is Raptor Ready!

Portland Public Schools began implementing a new visitor/volunteer management system this school year. Part of keeping students and staff safe is knowing who is in our buildings at all times.

We now have this new system up and running at Stephenson so visitor and volunteer check-in procedures will be different. Upon entering Stephenson, please proceed directly to the main office. All visitors and volunteers will need to present a government issued ID (driver's license, passport, consulate card, etc) on your first visit.

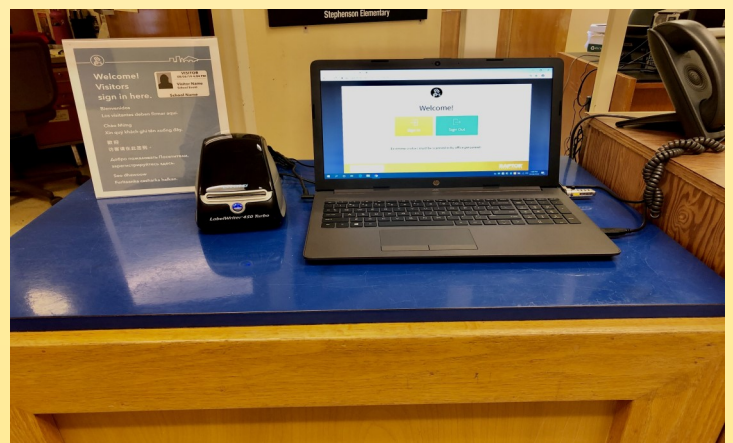
The Raptor system automatically checks all names against the sex offender registry and registered sex offenders will not be permitted to enter the school grounds. (View Policy: Registered Sex Offenders 3.10.015-AD or <https://www.pps.net/domain/4814>).

All visitors and volunteers will need to wear the Raptor printed name tags that identify their name, the date of the visit, and where in the building they are visiting. The system creates a record from the ID that includes a scanned photo, name, date of birth, and last 4 digits of the ID number.

Approved volunteers who have cleared a PPS Volunteer Background Check will already have their names in the system. However, they will still need to provide their ID on the first visit. On subsequent visits, visitors and volunteers will be able to search their name at the computer in the main office and print their own name tag for each visit. Volunteer hours will be able to be tracked more easily in the new system.

If you're interested in volunteering with the school but haven't submitted a PPS Volunteer Background Check please visit www.pps.net/volunteer. We will not be able to permit any volunteers to help in classrooms, attend a school field trip or participate in school-wide activities when children are involved that haven't completed and been cleared through this process.

Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and support of enhancing school safety protocols at Stephenson. Please bear with us over the next few weeks while we implement this new system, as it may take longer to sign-in with our office staff.





SafeOregon is a program that allows anyone to anonymously report and respond to student safety threats. Access the SafeOregon Tip Line via the “Report unsafe behavior” the SafeOregon website, calling or texting 844-472-3367, emailing tip@safeoregon.com, or downloading and sending information through the “SafeOregon” mobile app. Let’s work together to keep our school community safe.

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. We want to remind you about this important resource.

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.



Lost and Found... Remember to check the lost and found located to the left of the main doors as you enter the building. And PLEASE label your students clothing. If items have names on them will make sure that they get back to the student. We will box up the current Lost and Found Items on November 1st, 2019 and keep them at school for 1 month. On December 2nd, 2019 we will donate the items to the PTA Clothing Closet.



Dance

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Open Classrooms

Taryn Johnson (Dance) is excited to open her doors and welcome families into her classrooms. Students will demonstrate their learning to you in a fun environment. Parents, you may even have an opportunity to participate in singing, movement or games! Open Classrooms give an opportunity to see what your child learns during a dance and/or music class at Stephenson; it is a snapshot of our learning process.

For space reasons, we ask that only 1 adult per child attend each open classroom. There will be three dates throughout the year where parents, guardians, and other special adults are invited. We understand everyone has busy schedules, so if you cannot make one date, you are welcome to attend another. Please fill out the linked google form to register your attendance. <https://forms.gle/i4mXCZ15DxmonLKUA>

We thank you in advance for preparing your child by letting them know if you will or will not attend.

Per PPS policy, visitors are required to check-in at the office. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early to allow all guests time to check-in, as our classes will start and end on time.

K Grade Dance:

Bussey: Thursday, November 14th 9:15-9:45am
Graham: Thursday, November 14th 9:50-10:20am
Evans: Thursday, November 14th 10:25-10:55am

First Grade Dance:

Soulas: Tuesday, November 12th 9:45 - 10:30am
Batty: Thursday, November 14th 12:00 - 12:30pm
Pawol: Thursday, November 14th 12:35 - 1:05pm

January/ February and May dates will be announced by December 1st.

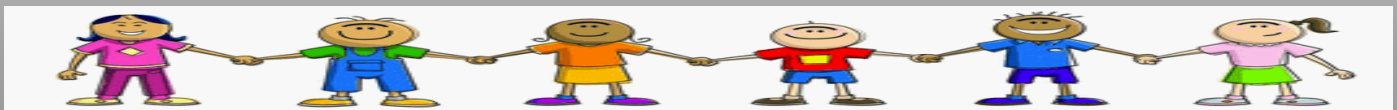
Any questions can be directed to Dance Teacher Taryn Johnson TJohnson6@pps.net

From Mr. Seavey...

It's hard to believe Quarter 1 is now over. Students are off to a great start to the year and I really enjoy seeing students working together, gaining strong friendships, learning new skills, and reaching their goals. I continue to support students by counseling lessons in every student's classroom throughout the year. My focus for the fall has been:

1. 5 lessons K-5 on growth mindset lessons from: <https://biglifejournal.com/>
2. Small group counseling groups including: 1st grade buddy group and 4th grade team work group.
3. 4-5th grade individual goal setting for all students (I will be done with this by December 2019).
4. Peer mentors for younger students who need support.
5. Checking in with students throughout classrooms for student and teacher support.
6. Creating school-wide themes each month: November theme will be **Perseverance**.

Let me know how I can provide support to help our students have a successful year.



Volunteer at the Stephenson Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at our school on Nov. 18 – Nov. 26 and Grandparents and Special Friends Day is scheduled on Nov. 22nd.

If you have some time to help us set up or volunteer at our Book Fair this year, please email me at mrocha@pps.net.

We are so grateful for your support!

Sincerely,

Michael Rocha, Book Fair Chairperson, mrocha@pps.net



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If you are unable to attend the Book Fair this year.

You can order online through [Scholastic.com/fair](https://www.scholastic.com/fair)

from November 13th to 26th.

Thank you for your Supporting our library!

Dear Stephenson Families,

Our community has become increasingly aware of the natural disasters that are happening around the world. We would like to be prepared for any disaster that might possibly occur in our neighborhood. Since we love and care for your children, the Stephenson staff are asking for families to prepare an emergency kit for each child to be kept at school. Please look out for a letter that will be sent home early next week. The letter will contain a list of items to include in each emergency kit.

Thank you,
Stephenson Safety Committee

Student Emergency/Comfort Kit

In a one gallon zip-lock bag labeled with your child's first name, last name and room number on the outside of the bag, please include the following:

- Change of underwear
- Two 6 oz. cans or plastic bottles of juice - no boxes please
- 3 small packets of snacks that are commercially sealed and preserved (e.g., dry fruit, beef jerky, granola bars, crackers, etc.) - NO loose snacks that could attract pests
- Small flashlight with fresh batteries
- A note from you explaining to your child to follow the teachers' directions, that you will pick him/her up as soon as you can, to remain calm and not to worry
- A family picture

Make sure that your phone numbers are always up to date with the office.
Please turn in your child's kit in to their classroom teacher by Monday, November 4th.

Student Emergency Kit

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In the event of a major emergency, Stephenson is asking parents and guardians to please prepare a personal emergency/comfort kit for each student. This one gallon zip-lock bag will contain the items listed on the back of this page. An example of a completed kit is in the display case by the front doors.

Please turn in your child's kit in to their **classroom teacher by Monday, November 4th, 2019.** This is also a good time to make sure that your emergency contacts are updated in the office if you haven't already done so this year. Remember that a child may only be released to a person listed on the registration form that is filled out at the beginning of each school year. The non-local contact is requested so that if the local phone lines become inoperable, long distance lines may still be available.

These kits will be stored at school and will be returned to you at the end of the school year for you to save and replenish for the next school year. Please contact the office if you need assistance providing a kit for your child.

We would greatly appreciate anyone who is willing to donate some extra items (i.e. water and snacks) for families who need assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about providing this kit, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you,

Stephenson Safety Committee



Foundation News...

TOPGOLF FUNDRAISER - TICKETS!



Swinging for Stephenson Top Golf Function,
Sunday, November 17th from 12:00-3:00pm.

TOPGOLF

Tickets on sale NOW!
Student Tickets: \$40.00
Adult Tickets: \$95.00
Includes 3 hours of play, lunch and prizes.



<https://stephenson.schoolauction.net/totallyrad2019/catalog>



A huge thank you to all our volunteers for your incredible support at Fall Fun Night: What a treat for all the Stephenson students and families!

Pastini Pastathon – Dining Out Fundraiser: The Pastini Pastathon is on! Pastini in Bridgeport Village will host a **TWO DAY** dining out fundraiser for Stephenson on **Monday, November 18th** and **Tuesday, November 19th**. For two days, Pastini will donate **50% of their net proceeds** to our school, and that includes both lunch and dinner AND take-out too! Make sure you mention Stephenson when you order to ensure the funds are directed to our school.

Winter Gift Bazaar: Please join Stephenson Elementary on **Saturday Dec. 7th** from **10am till 4pm** for shopping, treats & a fundraiser benefiting the PTA! Over **30 local vendors** will be selling handmade goods. Organic bath products, art, toys, home decor, clothing, greeting cards & more! Plus treats, wreaths & seasonal tabletop decor all of which will benefit the Stephenson PTA. **Shop local & support small business** this holiday season in SW Portland!

Evening November PTA Meeting: Our next PTA Meeting is **Tuesday, November 12th** at **6:00PM** in the library.



Art Literacy: Has your child's class received their first Art Literacy lesson this year? If not, they soon will! Art Literacy is just one of the programs funded by your donations to the PTA. This lesson is on Illustration: the different types and elements of illustration and how it enhances an author's work and helps us understand words and thoughts.

As shown in the accompanying photo, students employed watercolor materials to create their own illustrations to complement a famous literary quote. What quote captured your child's imagination? What can they tell you about it? What did they illustrate to partner with the author's words? Our thanks to the 30+ parents who are volunteering for this program!

Konstella - PTA info on your smartphone or PC: Stay connected to your Stephenson PTA with our app **Konstella** and it's free to use. This is **THE BEST way to stay in the know on school-related info, events and fundraisers.** You do need a special code to connect with Stephenson. Check out the flyer attached to this week's News Notes or email stephensonlionPTA@gmail.com. If you don't have a smartphone or just prefer to use a web-based program, you can sign up online here: <https://www.konstella.com/>.

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