

# Astor Connection



## Character Trait of the Month/November & December

### Citizenship

Acting in a way that helps the school community succeed. Behaving in a positive and productive way.

## News from the Eagle's Aerie

Dear Astor Community,

At this Thanksgiving season, I would like to take a moment to express how grateful I am to be working with the families and staff at Astor School. As an administrator, I am thankful for students who come to school every day, ready to work hard and learn, parents who encourage and support, and amazing teachers who are so dedicated and truly care about each child. I am thankful for our PTSSO and Site Council who do all they can to make Astor a great place to be. I am truly grateful for the opportunities I have experienced during my few short months here.

Thank you for your help, support, understanding and warm welcome. There is no other place at this time I would rather be. I hope your five days off consist of spending some much needed quality time with family and friends. This is what I am most looking forward to.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and relaxing Thanksgiving Holiday!

Sarah Zabel

Principal

## Important Dates

### November

- 21st Chinook Book orders due
- 21st 8th Gr Shadow Day - Roosevelt HS
- 21st Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- 22nd No School - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 23rd No School - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 24th No School - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29th 87th & Meatballs Fundraiser begins  
(see attached PTSSO newsletter)
- 30th PTSSO General Meeting 6:00pm

### December

- 15th Coffee Chat w/Principal Zabel

### I am thankful for:

- "...the trees because they give me air." - Cruz
- "...for bacon." - Paul
- "..for my warm, safe home." - Ms. Yovu
- "...for my sister, Haley." - Nelle
- "...for the world." - Audrey
- "...for my mom and sister..." - Lakayla
- "...for children." -Mrs. Thomason
- "...for my mom and dad." - Isa
- "...for my family." - Madison
- "...for my cats." - Emilyn
- "...for a good night's sleep." - Mr. Knoblich
- "...for my 2 cats and 2 dogs." - Harley
- "...for a roof over my head." - Ms. Colleen
- "...for my parents and life." - Montral
- "...for the yellow leaves." - Nurse Bill



# TRAFFIC PATROL UPDATE

Thanks to your support and diligence in avoiding the following traffic violations we've seen an improvement in safety around the school especially during morning drop-off.

## **COMMON VIOLATIONS:**

- Parking in no-parking zones (parking in these area limits visibility for students crossing the street).
- Blocking bus zones (staff need to see students entering in the school from the bus).
- Parking too long and double parking (this limits the flow of traffic for everyone).
- Parking the wrong way (pulling out from the wrong side causes possible head-on collisions).
- Blocking important spaces (please don't block driveways, hydrants, and corners).
- Dropping off in the middle of the block (please pull over and have your students walk to a corner).
- Yield/stop for students and parents at crosswalks and corners (speeding through intersections causes a false sense of security for students crossing).

## **WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP TRAFFIC AROUND THE SCHOOL:**

- Walking, biking, skating or carpooling to school means less cars on the streets around school (additional bike racks coming).
- If you plan on parking for drop-off please avoid parking on the N. Monteith and N. Van Houten if you can.
- Obey traffic and parking signs (if it says 5 min parking or no parking please obey; it helps with the traffic flow).
- Remind and review traffic safety with your students.
- Watch out for students participating in safety patrol.
- Leave 5 minutes early so you aren't in a hurry.
- Volunteer with the traffic safety team.
- Take a deep breath and remember that we all want all of our kids to get to school safely.

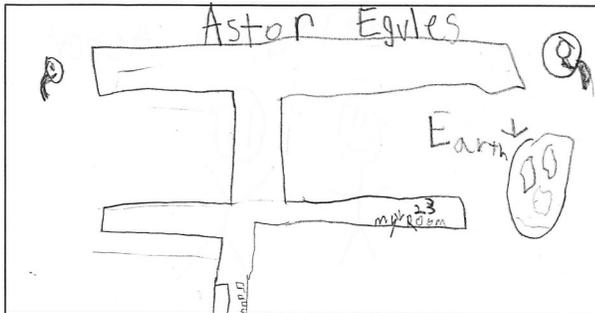
The traffic cones placed in the middle of the street on N. Monteith has helped decrease the overall speed there. Thank you to parent Kim Schmer and Turner Construction for donating the cones. If you or your employer would like to donate for more traffic supplies it would be greatly appreciated.

We are always looking into ways to make the streets and intersections around the school safer. If you have any ideas, feedback and/or would like to volunteer please let the front office or PTSO desk know.

# The Written Word

## Student Writing at Astor

### 2nd Grader - Emmet F.



This is **ASTOR!**  
It is the **BEST**  
**SKOOOL** in the  
**WORLD!** Earth... OK,  
OK, back to the skool  
part. This skool is  
shaped weirdly... It is  
shaped like a 'h'. I  
know right? Next!  
Chapter!



Do you know who  
I can be freinds  
with in Astor? ... Everyone!  
Everyone is nice!  
There is 500 peple  
in the skool! They  
are all my freinds!

### 4th Grader - Vivian E.



First to prep you lather up,  
Your cauldron with a buttercup,  
Wipe the top with lemon juice,  
Rub it on a well-behaved goose;

Now, it's time to make your potion,  
Put on some slimy blackberry lotion,  
Next, put in 12 books and a thought,  
Some keyboards, stars, and writer's block;



To make sure you're in Witch's HQ,  
Make sure you add a case of the flu,  
Get a librarian, maybe a quiz,  
We're almost done, you're a witch wiz;

Then boil a frog's stinky toes,  
Plant the legs in four inch long rows,  
Roast it until it smells like a rose,  
Add in a rock that looks like a nose;



Deep-fry some leather for the cover of the book,  
Sizzle a snowman for a really nice look,  
Rename a bunny and season a fly,  
At last predict when your flowers will die;



Now you're finished, I'm proud to say,  
Still you must wait for four months and a day,  
And while you await the results of your potion,  
I'll tell you this; it makes a nice smelling lotion;

Yet your lotion will do something as you will see,  
It will make Book Characters come to be!





**DonorsChoose.org**  
Support a classroom. Build a future.

**Donate to our STEM classroom through**

**DonorsChoose.org!**

Mr. Nagle, Astor's STEM teacher, has a DonorsChoose campaign to raise funds to purchase five new Chromebooks. Students in his classroom will make music, create album covers, make 3D projects and much more with these Chromebooks. The laptops students currently use are not powerful enough to support the software they need to create their projects. New Chromebooks will help them make functional and creative designs.

You can help by visiting Mr. Nagle's DonorsChoose page at [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org). This campaign ends February 26th.

**Thank you for helping our STEM students!**

 **Grandparents**  
**and**  
**Special Friends**  
**Day!** 

We cordially invite Grandparents and Special Friends to share your special day with your student.

**Tuesday, November 21st**

1:00pm - We welcome you in the Astor Cafeteria

1:05pm - Entertainment begins

1:30pm - We invite you to share a craft activity and a photo opportunity with your grandchild or special friend

2:00pm - You may take your grandchild or special friend home to enjoy the rest of the day

*Grandparents and Special Friends*

fill the world with





There are many ways you can volunteer at school: in your child's classroom, on field trips, or assisting with school-wide projects are just some of the ways you can help! Contact your child's teacher, the Astor PTO or the school office to find out about volunteer opportunities.

All volunteers must complete a background check prior to volunteering. It's easy! Just go to the website: [www.volunteer.pps.net](http://www.volunteer.pps.net) to fill out a volunteer application. You will be informed when your background check is cleared.

**We appreciate all our volunteers! THANK YOU!!**



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District Title VI & Title IX Contact: Carolyn M. Leonard, Compliance (503) 916-3183

District 504 Contact: Tammy Jackson, Student Services (503) 916-2000

American Disabilities Act Contact: HR Legal Counsel (503) 916-3246



## ASTOR PTSO NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 | Issue 2 November 2017



### Astor Parent Teacher Student Organization

Mission Statement: Our mission is to build community and enrich the learning environment while empowering parents, teachers, and students at Astor School.

## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

**21st** Grandparents & Special Friends  
Day 1-2pm

**29th** through Dec. 5th 87<sup>th</sup> and  
Meatballs in St. Johns

**30th** PTSO General Meeting 6pm

### December

**5th** Poinsettia pick up day

**15th** Coffee Chat with Ms. Zabel

### March

**17th** Astor Auction

## Around Thanksgiving, and always...

we are thankful for...

we are thankful for... *You*

– for being part of our community

we are thankful for... *Our teachers*

– for being there for our kids

we are thankful for... *Our staff*

– for supporting, cleaning up after, filling the gaps, providing food, organizing messes

we are thankful for... *Our kids*

– we'd have no reason to be here without you. You make us laugh, cry, jump, splash, and dream with you



**Come eat amazing, locally-made, pasta and meatballs while raising money for our school (vegan and vegetarian options). 87th and Meatballs will donate \$.25 of every meatball sold from Wednesday Nov. 29th through Tuesday Dec. 5th to Astor. Located in downtown St. John's at 8737 N. Lombard, they are open daily from 11am to 9pm. Psst...spread the word!**

**Question: Would you be at Astor?** We are looking monitor traffic safety. The volunteer parents Michael parents to help. This could per week depending on what out to Michael, Darrell or



**willing to help with Traffic Safety** for more parent volunteers to help Safety Patrol kids along with and Darrell could use a few more be a one day a week or multiple days your schedule allows. Please reach someone from the PTSO.

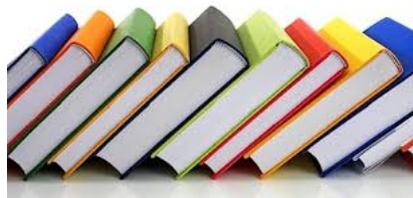
**We still have openings to chair several committees:** Green Team, SCRIP, Book Fair...please ask us questions about these positions.

**Astor Auction:** March will seems. Mark your the Astor Auction. event, so start thinking kids, so you can come Astor parents, teachers, and friends.



be here sooner than it calendar for **March 17th**, This is an adult-only, of sitter options for the and enjoy a night out with staff, neighbors, families

**Fall cleaning?** Do you have pass on? Bring them to the PTSO is at the desk in morning and afternoon. we'll store them for our spring



used books that you'd like to the PTSO. Someone from the main hall every school Bring books anytime, and Used Book Sale in the

**PTSO General Meetings** – We welcome you to join any/all general meetings. We offer free pizza and free childcare to make it more accessible. For those who came to our last meeting, when we ran out of pizza, first we're sorry; and second, we'll have more at our next meeting **Thursday Nov. 30th, 6pm in the Cafeteria.**

The PTSO offers several events and fundraisers throughout the year. We welcome you to participate in any and all that you'd like. The money generated funds a variety of things like: school field trips, class projects, classroom supplies, special requests from teachers, movie nights, school dances, educational speakers at the PTSO meetings, and special projects like the mural, trees, benches, and turf on the playground. Donations are always welcome. At most PTSO events there will be a Donations Jar – if you feel able and inclined to give – feel free and thanks.



### **Astor PTSO Board 2017- 2018**

Co-Presidents: Miranda Roberston & Sofia Yrazabal

Co-Vice Presidents: Kristen Carter & Jessi Thurston

Co-Treasurers: Jill Bartell & Manny Batule

Co-Membership Coordinators: Marla Doughty & Samara Omundson

Co-Events Coordinators: Nicole Blanchette & Amy Lepper

Co-Volunteer Coordinators: Sarah Umberhandt & Alsea Sarre

Co-Secretaries: teacher Renee Espinoza, Heather McPhee & Nora Twichell

Teacher Liaison: Judi Drexler

CONTACT US: [board@astorptso.org](mailto:board@astorptso.org)

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