

MARY WOODWARD PSO NEWS

September 21, 2007

The Mary Woodward Parent Support Organization (PSO) was established to promote quality education, communication, and understanding among the students, parents, faculty and the community of Mary Woodward Elementary School. The PSO sponsors various academic and social programs, coordinates volunteer activity and conducts fundraisers, all in the spirit of providing enrichment for our students and assistance for the work in the classroom. Through the tremendous fundraising and volunteer efforts of the dedicated member parent volunteers, programs such as Early Literacy, Art Literacy, SMART, and an after school enrichment program are made possible for our children. The PSO also sponsors fun activities for the community of Mary Woodward such as the Fall Ice Cream Social, the Father-Daughter Dance, the Spring Carnival and Field Days. These programs are beloved and valued traditions of the school.

All parents and legal guardians of enrolled Mary Woodward students are invited to participate in the PSO. There is no cost for membership. Meetings are usually held the 2nd Monday of each month from 9-11am in the cafeteria.

Change of Date

Please note that the **Room Parent Orientation** meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, **Sept. 27, 2:00 pm** in the cafeteria.

Top 5 Reasons for Participating in Bank Day

A school savings program hosted by Washington Mutual

5. It provides a safe, interest-bearing place for monetary gifts your child receives. Their pockets and/or the couch don't.
4. It gives your child the full experience of banking including quarterly statements, savings registry book to update, and deposit receipts.
3. It's fun for the kids. They receive kid-friendly prizes every two deposits. New applications get prizes too (sorry, no toasters or steak knives).
2. It's easy. Your child can only make deposits (a minimum of 25 cents) on Tuesday mornings. Withdrawals or deposits on other days must be done by the child at a Washington Mutual branch.
1. It's a great way to help your child learn the importance of saving and establish a lifelong habit.

Bank Day starts Tuesday, September 25th and will continue throughout the year every Tuesday morning before school in the cafeteria. Those who already have accounts, remember to bring your money – **free prize to returning savers who make a deposit on opening day.**

First graders will receive an account application attached to this week's Friday Flyer. Other students can get an account application from us Tuesday morning or from the office.

To open an account, complete the application and bring to us on Tuesday morning— do NOT send money with your child until we notify you that your child's account has been opened. Questions: contact Carol Feng (503) 590-3377 or fengpsu@yahoo.com.



Race for the School!!! Jog-A-Thon 2007

It's time for **Jog-A-Thon 2007**. Please look for the Jog-a-thon information packet that has come home with your student today! This is one of the PSO's primary sources of revenue for the year. This money will help support all PSO programs including Art Lit, field trips, enrichment assemblies, the Science Fair and various other classroom and school-wide activities.

The Jog-A-Thon is scheduled for **Friday, October 5**. We ask for your support in raising at least \$60 per child. Contacting grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors is a great way to raise money for our school. All students have the opportunity to earn Eagle Bucks that can be used at this year's Book Fair to purchase books, computer games, posters, school supplies, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Jog-a-thon Co-Chairs, Gerry Paiva gerrypaiva@hotmail.com or Cari Greisinger, clgreis@aol.com.

Jog-a-thon Class Run Times

The follow are the run times for each grade. The kids love a big cheering section so mark your calendar for **October 5th** and come cheer them on!

9:00-9:20	Miss Doty's Kindergarten (M/W) Ms. Borman's Kindergarten
9:30-10:00	3rd Graders
10:10-10:40	5th Graders
10:50-11:20	4th Graders
12:10-12:40	1st Graders
12:50-1:10	Mrs. Noren's Kindergarten (T/TH)
1:20-1:50	2nd Graders

Attention 4th and 5th Grade Parents!

Is your child crafty? Would he or she like to sell his or her handmade items at the **Mary Woodward Holiday Bazaar**? Planning for the December 8th event is currently under way. Please call Elaine Hanrahan 503.521.8010 if your child would like to participate in this year's Bazaar.



Opportunities to Help

Thank you to everyone who signed up during **Back to School Night** to help in their child's classroom and/or to help with Art Lit, Jog-a-thon and room parties.

Thanks also to everyone who has submitted a volunteer interest form. If you still have yours, it's not too late to turn it in. You can either return the form to the front office or send it with your child to give to his or her teacher.

Help Wanted

- Co-Chair for Book Fair, October 15-19
- Newsletter Editor
- Holiday Gift Shoppe Chairperson (aka Santa Shop)

For more info, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Robin McFall at 503.590.3718 or robinmcfall@comcast.net.



PSO Meeting News

The PSO year started off with a very well attended meeting. Thank you to everyone who was there. For those of you who were not able to join us (we hope you can next time), here are the highlights:

- The proposed budget for 2007-2008 was reviewed and approved. Request a copy of the budget from the PSO treasurer Michael Shaw, michael@exanetworks.com.
- Literacy volunteers fulfill an important role in helping MW kids learn to read by supplementing the work in the classroom and in our specialized reading programs. Mrs. Foiles is working with Committee Chairperson Natalie Haima to restructure our literacy volunteer program (previously SMART) to integrate more effectively with District's literacy intervention program (Reading Lab) and the new "read to walk" instructional model.
- Several committees provided reports on the committee status and work to date.
- The PSO is looking at a very strong year in terms of both financial stability and member support.

The minutes for this meeting will be posted after they are approved at the next meeting, October 8. If you have questions in the mean time, please feel free to contact Sherry Webb, PSO President, realwebbs@verizon.net or 503-590-5059.

The PSO goal this year is improving the member connections within the community of Mary Woodward. There are some exciting opportunities ahead for increasing member involvement and improving communications. Your suggestions for helping us succeed in these ways are important so please be sure to share your ideas with us.

Be sure to join us next month, October 8 at 9:00am.

Did You Know?

- The arts teach kids to be more tolerant and open.
- The arts allow kids to express themselves creatively.
- The arts promote individuality, bolster self-confidence, and improve overall academic performance.

Mary Woodward's only formal art program kicks off in early October. We still have a few classrooms in need of volunteers. Please email either Art Lit Chair Janice Compton janice.compton@transcore.com or Volunteer Coor. Robin McFall robinmcfall@comcast.net if you can volunteer for this incredible program.

Art Lit New Volunteer Orientation

For new volunteers, Art Lit orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th at 7pm in the Mary Woodward Library. The orientation will provide an overview of the Art Lit program and what to expect. It's also a great time to clarify questions or concerns you may have.

October Artist—Escher



Our October artist is M.C. Escher; the artist most famous for his so-called impossible structures, such as *Ascending and Descending* and *Relativity* as well as his *Tessellations*. Don't know what a Tessellation is? Your kids will be able to tell you after completing their Escher-inspired art project! Note: Escher Art Lit Lesson for Art Lit Parents Volunteers - October 2nd or 3rd, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the home of Janice Compton.

Mark Your Calendar

September

- 9/25 Directory Advertising due (deadline extended)
- 9/25 New Art Lit Volunteer Orientation 7-8p, Library
- 9/27* **Room Parent Meeting, 2:00pm, Cafeteria**
*Note date change

October

- 10/2 & 3 Art Lit Escher Training, 7:00pm, Compton Home
- 10/5 Jog-a-thon, Playground
- 10/8 PSO Meeting, 9:00am, Cafeteria
- 10/15-19 Book Fair Week, Library
- 10/29-11/2 Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) Week
- 10/31 Classroom Halloween Parties

Family Day, Monday September 24th

Did you know that eating dinner frequently with your children and teens reduces their risk of substance abuse?

Research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA)* at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. CASA created *Family Day — A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children*TM in 2001, to encourage parents to frequently eat dinner with their kids and be involved in their children's lives as simple, effective ways to reduce substance abuse among children and teens. For more info, www.casafamilyday.org.

