

News from Principal Cyd Vandercar, September 29, 2011

Cal Young's First Late Start – September 30, 2011

On Late Start mornings, the school doors open at 9:30 for students who can choose to go into the library or the cafeteria until the morning release bell sounds. Teachers will be involved in meetings during the morning and will not be available to meet with students or parents.

By way of explanation, the staff put a great deal of effort into problem solving how to make our daily schedule support more time in the classroom. We decided to move from Early Release Wednesdays to Friday Late Starts for a number of reasons; students are now required to pass State Tests at the high school level to graduate and expectations are higher for all grade levels across the state. In an effort to teach all of the Oregon State Benchmarks in every core class, we felt like we needed more seat time in the classroom. Due to the higher number of Fridays that are “no school” days, we decided to move away from early release Wednesdays and schedule our Late Start days on Fridays. We also feel that having four days in a row with the same routine is good for students, staff and learning.

Friday Late Start Schedule at Cal Young:

September 30th

October 7th

November 4th, 18th

December 9th

January 6th, 20th

February 3rd, 17th

April 6th, 20th

May 4th, 18th

For a complete Cal Young Schedule, go to the school website
<http://www.calyoung.4j.lane.edu/>

CY We Walk – October 7, 2011

The 10-day forecast is calling for sun on Friday the 7th. If you like to walk and volunteer, please consider taking a nice jaunt to the park with 580 of Eugene's finest middle school students.

Depending on the funds received, the money we raise from the walk will purchase:

- *Laminator
- *Maps For Social Studies
- *Replace lost novels for Language Arts to complete class sets
- *Support the Battle of the Books process
- *Electronics for classrooms: digital cameras, document cameras, calculators and more
- *Repair sound system in the gym
- *Buy balls for lunch and break use
- *Healthy Snacks for International Walk and Bike To School Day
- *A portion of 8th Grade Promotion
- *Incentives to give to students for different events
- *And more.

Next turn in date is September 30, 2011.

Selecting books for the Cal Young Library from Sam Arnold-Boyd, Teacher-Librarian

Selecting a vibrant, engaging collection of fiction, nonfiction, and reference books as well as high-quality online resources is a challenging and rewarding part of a librarian's job. To ensure that our Cal Yong Library has the best resources currently available, I consult multiple reviews from reputable journals for each book that I purchase. With each nonfiction and reference book, I match it to a particular class and research project or with interests of students.

With fiction books, I actively visualize students who would “light up” when seeing the book.

The challenge for me is to have books that meet the needs of students who are at different stages of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual maturity. As any parent knows, the growth that takes place between 5th grade and 9th grade is significant. The books in a middle school library need to meet the needs of 6th graders fresh out of 5th grade as well as 8th graders one step away from high school. This developmental range means that a book that is a perfect fit for an 8th grader might be inappropriate for a 6th grader. Added to the significance of a student’s age and maturity in book selection are the diverse values and beliefs represented in our Cal Young community. Some books in our library are treasured by some families but viewed as inappropriate by other families because of the values they hold. As I work to engage students in reading, I continually try to match students with books that are age-appropriate and that are in keeping with their family’s values. Because the library is a busy place, I cannot guarantee that this match happens 100% of the time. If your student comes home with a Cal Young Library book that you do not think is a suitable match for him or her, please send the book back with a note or contact me at arnold@4j.lane.edu. If you would like more information about my process of selecting books, I have a comprehensive Collection Development Policy in the library that you are welcome to read.