

Toucan Times

Edison Elementary School: "A Colorful Place to Learn"

MAY/JUNE 2006



PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

By Tom Maloney

Dear Parents,

May and June promise to be exciting and fun-filled months at Edison.

Artist in Residence

Artist in residence Susan Applegate is returning during the first two weeks of May to complete the five permanent murals illustrating the concepts of Respect, Compassion, Cooperation, Inclusion and Integrity. We will unveil the murals at our final all-school assembly on June 7. Parents and other family members are encouraged to join us for this important and inspiring event.

Jog-a-thon

We are in the midst of our annual spring Jog-a-thon. Our goal is to raise \$18,000 to help pay for staffing costs for next year and to promote fitness and community involvement. This year the Jog-a-thon will occur on the SEHS turf field on May 12 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Parents are encouraged to come and cheer us on and join us at Edison for our post Jog-a-thon BBQ.

Statewide Testing

Third, fourth and fifth graders are completing the final round of statewide testing using the Oregon Department of Education's computerized testing system. Third, fourth and fifth graders will complete reading and math tests; fifth graders will also complete

the science test. This year statewide assessment results will be included in each child's end of the year report card.

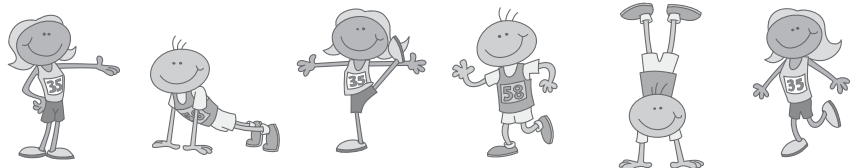
Vision

The Edison staff and Site Council are in the final phase of our Visioning process. Our goal is to renew our commitment to long held values and beliefs and to establish a vision for the future that will help guide all future school improvement efforts. Parents will have the opportunity to provide additional thoughts and feedback at the May 16 Parent Council meeting.

Staying Focused

Students must maintain their focus and commitment to learning during the months of May and June. Arriving to school on time, completing all homework assignments and actively participating in daily lessons through the last day of school will help to ensure a successful school year followed by a well deserved summer vacation.

Celebrate! It's spring!
Tom



JOG-A-THON SET FOR FRIDAY, MAY 12 ON SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL TURF FIELD

By Cary Hancock

Edison students have been jogging to raise money for their school for 26 years—now that's endurance! The kids put their hearts, feet and lungs into this effort. This year we are hoping to raise \$18,000. This money will be used for our outstanding music, P.E., and other essential programs.

Please come join your child on May 12 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. at the South Eugene High School turf field (the football and soccer field behind the track). The high school track is being re-surfaced and will not be available.

The Jog-a-thon has become a community event. The children can use your cheers or company for a lap. Friends, neighbors, and relatives look forward to supporting school spirit, fitness, and fundraising at Edison. The 2006 Jog-a-thon team challenges the students to reach out and gather pledges.

We also want to thank three businesses for their continued support of this event: Prince Puckler's for providing ice cream cones; Costco for providing water bottles; and Albertsons for providing popsicles. Thanks!

APRIL 2006 CALENDAR

Tue., May 9	Site Council Meeting 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Staff Room
Fri., May 12	Jog-a-thon & BBQ Lunch 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. at SEHS turf field
Tues., May 16	Parent Council Meeting 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Library
Mon., May 20	SUNA Garage Sale Benefit for Edison 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Cafeteria
Mon., May 29	Memorial Day NO SCHOOL
Wed., May 31	Kindergarten Open
Wed., May 31	Edison Choir Performance 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Cafeteria
Fri., June 2	ALL LIBRARY BOOKS DUE
Tue., June 6	Site Council Meeting 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Staff Room
Wed., June 7	EBS Assembly (unveil mural) 9 a.m. in the Gym
Fri., June 9	Grading Day NO SCHOOL
Mon., June 12	2006-'07 Class Placement Notice Sent Home
Tues., June 13	5th Grade Celebration 7 p.m. in the Gym
Thurs., June 15	Move Up Day! see notice below
Fri., June 16	Last Day of School for Students

MOVE UP DAY IS COMING!

On June 14 students who are currently in grades K through 4 will "Move Up" a grade to meet their next year's teacher and classmates. In addition to meeting their new teacher and socializing with classmates, students will visit their new classroom and learn about some of the exciting things they will experience next year. "Move Up" will occur on the second to the last day of school and will last approximately 30 minutes. Fifth graders and students who will not be attending Edison next year will join Tom and the playground staff for a farewell recess and refreshments. Next year's kinders will not participate in "Move Up" day.

We believe that "Move Up" Day will help students feel relaxed, excited and confident about the coming school year. The timeline for class placement and "Move Up" day is as follows:

May 15 – June 9	Sending and receiving teachers create 2006-'07 class lists
June 12	Students bring home 2006 – '07 class placement notice
June 15	Move Up Day! 1:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
June 16	Last day for students



SUNA GARAGE SALE TO BENEFIT EDISON

The South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA), in conjunction with the Edison Parent Council will conduct a garage sale on Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Edison School Cafeteria. Proceeds will benefit Edison.

The following are items that SUNA would like to have for the sale:

- Books, tapes, videos, CDs
- Puzzles and games
- Toys (stuffed animals, if they are clean)
- Gently used clothing (see exceptions below)
- Dishes, especially complete sets
- Glassware
- Cookware
- Small appliances such as George Foreman grills, toasters, waffle makers, etc.
- Vases, art work
- Furniture, such as desks, tables, chairs, bookcases, dressers (see exceptions below)
- Garden accessories, tools and art
- Tools
- Lamps

Please note that items donated for sale should be clean, free of holes and tears, in working condition and contain all parts (as in the case of puzzles).

The following list is of items that SUNA cannot accept for the sale:

- Large appliances and electronic gadgets such as TVs, VCRs, CD players, microwave ovens.
- Worn clothing, lingerie, bathing suits, shoes
- Upholstered furniture, pillows, worn stuffed animals
- Most baby furniture
- Firearms or weapons of any kind

Donated items may be taken to the school after 2:45 p.m. Friday, May 19, or to Ruth Waugh's garage at 2191 Onyx from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, or 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 18.

Volunteers are needed to help price items, set up tables and work at the sale.

Contact Nancy McFadden at 342-3944 or email her at nkmcfad@efn.com or Joyce Couper at 484-7314 or couplan@ordata.com.



Second grade teacher Linda McCarthy is retiring at the end of this school year. Students Abby Minor, Miller Pfunder, and Alex Reitman interviewed Linda.

When did you first know that you wanted to be a teacher?

When I was in 4th grade.

What did you do before you became a teacher?

My favorite job before I became a teacher was selling fireworks in the summer. My husband Jim and I also owned an office supply store.

How long have you taught at Edison?

Seven years.

What will you miss most about Edison?

I will miss the entire Edison community. Together, parents,

teachers and students have created a learning environment where students enjoyed learning together. The energy at Edison is unbelievable.

What will you miss the least?

All of the time and energy parents spend raising money to pay for P.E., music and other essential needs.

What advice do you have for an Edison student who is thinking about becoming a teacher?

First of all I would encourage and congratulate anybody who wanted to be a teacher. It is a wonderful profession full of joy and special challenges. Future teachers need to work hard to develop the skills they will need to be a good teacher.

Do you have any funny stories or embarrassing moments you would like to share about your days at Edison?

It is a tradition to make sourdough pancakes during our I-ditarod unit. I left the sourdough mix on the room heater over night. But what I didn't know was that the heat was on all night long. When I got to school we had sourdough starter everywhere including inside the heater.

What will you be doing at 8:15 a.m. on the first day of school next year?

I will be reading, doing the crossword puzzle and enjoying a leisurely breakfast.

What are some of your plans for the future?

Do lots of quilting and volunteer with children wherever I am needed.



Pat Kolb, Edison's Speech and Language Specialist, is retiring at the end of this school year. Fourth grade students, Miranda Hayes Eckland and Chole Williams, interviewed Pat about her career and plans for the future.

When did you first know that you wanted to be a teacher?

Oh boy, when I was in elementary school.

What did you do before you became a teacher?

I worked as a waitress and in an office while I was going to college to become a teacher.

How long have you taught at Edison?

I have had six great years at Edison.

What will you miss most about Edison?

I will miss the parents and staff but most of all I will miss my students.

What will you miss the least?

Paper work.

What advice do you have for an Edison student who is thinking about becoming a teacher?

Pick the area of teaching you are most interested in and focus on that until you have the skills and background to be a great teacher.

Do you have any funny stories or embarrassing moments you would like to share about your days at Edison?

As a speech and language specialist I work closely with students. Students, especially young students, have a way of saying exactly what is on their minds. One time a student told me he knew what I had for lunch because he could smell my breath.

What will you be doing at 8:15 a.m. on the first day of school next year?

I hope to be sailing in the San Juan Islands.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to travel, exercise and bake lots of goodies. I also plan to be a substitute teacher.

SUPPORT EDISON'S MUSIC AND PE PROGRAMS

By Susan Daniell

In March, you might have noticed an unusual set-up in the gym: PE students on scooters traveling along red and blue pathways that represented blood flow in a giant replica of a heart. During Ocean Week, you might have heard students in the music room practicing instruments, singing songs about the ocean, and learning about music in traditional Hawaiian culture. These are examples of how Edison's P.E. and music classes allow students to integrate their knowledge and skills in science, exercise, performance, music, geography and culture. During these classes, students experience classroom concepts directly through movement and music. This direct experience enhances student learning. Thanks to the generous support of the Edison community, these programs continue despite lack of public funds to support them.

Edison EEF has raised about \$50,000 to support the school's programs during the 2006-2007 school year. Because Oregon public schools are facing a severe shortfall in funding, it is important that we raise an additional \$50,000 this year to reach our goal of \$100,000. By now, Edison families have received a letter from EEF requesting a tax-deductible donation to help maintain class size and support PE and music instruction. Please give consideration to this appeal and give as generously as you can.

JOIN EDISON EEF

The EEF committee is seeking new members! Join us as we plan and organize fundraising activities for next year. The committee includes Tom Maloney and up to eight Edison parents who work as a team to support Edison's programs. Each year, Edison EEF sponsors Valentine Family Night/Silent Auction and solicits direct donations to Edison with letters to Edison families, friends and neighbors. Edison EEF meets biweekly and members are encouraged to make a two-year commitment. If you are interested in joining Edison EEF, or if you know an Edison parent who would like to join the committee, **please contact Edison EEF Co-Chairs Peggy Hinsman (684-0076) or Gary Powell (683-6503).**



VOLUNTEER FOR 4J SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

By Karen Cooper

Are you interested in helping the cause of health care for kids? The 4j School Based Health Center at South Eugene High School is looking for interested parent advocates to join its Advisory Board. The health centers provide sliding scale, high quality care to all 4j students and siblings from birth to age 19! No one is turned away due to inability to pay. Services include well child exams, immunizations, exams for acute and chronic illnesses, throat cultures and other diagnostic tests, prescriptions and health education/prevention. Mental health care is also available.

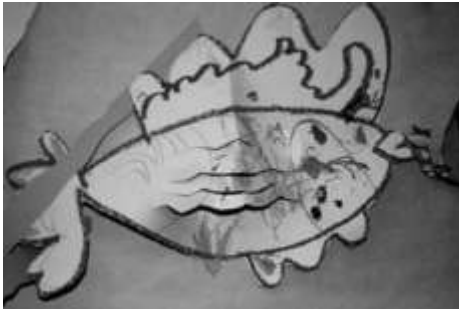
The advisory group meets quarterly. Parents may be involved in gathering information/surveys from PTO meetings, advocate for school-based health centers with legislators and other leaders and via letters to editor and marketing/advertisement plans.

If this sounds interesting to you, please give a call or email for more information or to discuss: Barbara Bryson or Marlys Martin at 687-3209 or bryson@4j.lane.edu.

EDISON VISIONING TIMELINE

Person(s) Responsible	Date	Activity
Edison staff	April 20 – May 3	Prepare for May 3 visioning activity by completing individual mission, vision statement worksheets
Tom	April 21	Submits Site Council/Cadre Grant Application
Staff/Site Council	May 3	Create three rough draft mission, vision, guiding principle statements
Site Council Sub Group	May 5	Create 1st draft mission, vision, guiding principle document as well as a roll out plan for the fall
Site Council Members	May 9	Review/revise working mission, vision, guiding principle document
Parents/staff	May 10 – 15	Review and comment on the working document
Site Council Sub Group	May 15	Create mission, vision, guiding principle document
Parent Council	May 16	Input/feedback on the proposed mission, vision, guiding principle document
Staff/Site Council	May 17	Input/feedback on the proposed mission, vision, guiding principle document
Site Council	June 6	Approve mission, vision, guiding principles and celebrate accomplishments
Site Council	TBA	Develop Bold Steps and '06 – '07 school improvement timeline

STUDENT CORNER



EDISON VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

By Tom Maloney

As we enter the final days of the 2005 – 2006 school year I would like to acknowledge the effort and impact our volunteers made this year. On any given day you will see parents working side by side with teachers in the classroom to provide that extra support and encouragement children need to be successful, confident learners.

Jaye Dibos and her parent volunteers provide individualized reading support to 93 students. The Edison Parent Council and the Edison EEF work tirelessly to coordinate all of our fund raising and community-building events. Their skill and dedication to fundraising combined with the Edison community's generosity help fund extended kindergarten, literacy support, specialized P.E., and music instruction and reasonable class sizes. Rain or shine the "Playground Partners" program provides additional support and supervision for

students on the playground while other parent volunteers help strengthen our commitment to interpersonal growth for all students by writing articles, hosting guest speakers, coordinating book groups, producing the Women's history play and coordinating community service projects. The *Toucan Times* and the Edison Web site help increase communication between school and home and continue to set the standard in Eugene School District for school-based communications.

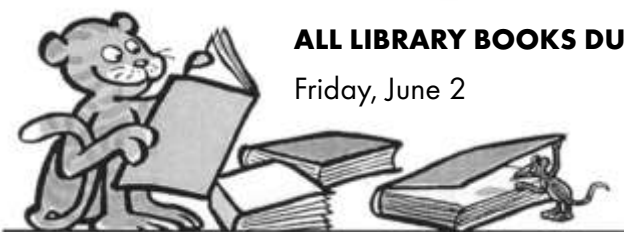
Edison is a true community school. It is about parents and staff working together to enrich the lives of our students. It is about creating opportunities that help prepare our students for the joys and challenges of the future. It's about parents volunteering their time to help make Edison an exceptional neighborhood school.



TIME FOR PEER FLAGS!

By Beth Stein

It's May...and that means time for Peer Flags! Don't forget to fill out a Peer Flag this month to recognize someone from the Edison community who has been compassionate, cooperative, inclusive, respectful, or full of integrity this year. Edison students, teachers, staff, and parents are all encouraged to participate. Flags will be displayed throughout the school, starting at the entrance and working down the corridors. Let's see if we can get everyone's name on a flag by the end of the month! A sample Peer Flag will come home with your child soon. Additional Peer Flags are available in the office and in your child's classroom.



ALL LIBRARY BOOKS DUE

Friday, June 2

THE GRATITUDE ATTITUDE

By Denise Jessup and the kids of Edison

Our kids' gratitude is there just under the surface, ready to come forward with a simple question. Here's what some great Edison kids told me they were thankful for during a warm Spring morning on the playground.

I'm thankful for...

- ...my family. Ben C.
- ...schools. Ilsa
- ...people helping me when I am hurt. Alyssa
- ...dogs. Jose
- ...playing video games. Darius
- ...songs. Breanna
- ...that I know how to swim. Lena
- ...Ocean Week. Corina
- ...the ocean. Jessica
- ...my life. Tristan
- ...my family. Eden
- ...my friends and family and my house. Delainey
- ...trees that bring oxygen. Hannah
- ...having my family. Ben L.
- ...my toys. Nick
- ...swimming. Suhayl
- ...my trampoline. Brooks
- ...having lots of friends and going to this school. Alyssa S.
- ...having friends that care about me if I get hurt on the playground. They'll help me and take me to the office. Alex N-C
- ...my friends. Kelli
- ...the picture of me playing with my cousins who are in Korea. Amy
- ...our new house and living in Eugene. Jennica
- ...basketball. Brian L
- ...my parents. Darian
- ...homes. Mayur
- ...creativity. Maia W.
- ...my family. Sahalie H.
- ...my friends and my family and the roof I have over my head and my very nice sister who is older than me and for Edison, too. Perry
- ...for having a dog and my mom found someone to marry and for having a house to live in and for Edison, too. Zoe B.



CULTIVATING THE GRATITUDE ATTITUDE AT HOME

By Denise Jessup, with info from Jean G. Fitzpatrick on www.beliefnet.com and Wayne Parker on www.fatherhood.about.com

The longer I live, the more I recognize that cultivating an attitude of gratitude is the key to happiness. That's because gratitude helps us return to our natural state of joyfulness, where we notice what's right in our lives instead of what's wrong. Gratitude reminds us to be like plants, which turn toward, not away, from the light. —M.J. Ryan

I started giving thanks for everything: daisies in a jelly jar on my kitchen windowsill, the sweet fragrance of my daughter's hair, the first sip of tea in the morning, pork roast with apples and cranberries for Sunday supper, hearing the words "I love you" before I went to sleep.... The difference was that I was now noticing and appreciating each day's gifts. The power of gratefulness caught me by surprise. —Sarah Ban Breathnach

Gratitude makes a difference in us when we practice it! A study by researchers at SMU and UC Davis used three groups of volunteers. One group kept a daily log of five hassles or complaints. The second group wrote down five ways in which they thought they were better off than their peers. And the third group wrote down five things each day for which they were grateful.

After three weeks, those in the group who kept gratitude lists reported having more energy, fewer health problems, and a greater feeling of well-being than those who complained or gloated.

Gratitude is important, so here are some ways to foster gratitude in yourself and your kids.

Make a list. Take some family time to make a list of things you are grateful for.

Say thank you to your family. Research suggests that people are more likely to express thanks to strangers or acquaintances than to their own family members or peers. But when parents show appreciation to one another, to their children, and to other people in their lives, children learn to do the same thing. When your child does a household chore—even if it's one of his or her assigned tasks—say thank you. When your partner does something considerate, express your appreciation.

Set the example with others. Taking an extra moment to thank a sales clerk at the store or to tip your news carrier for getting the paper on the porch every day lets kids know that gratitude is acceptable and encouraged.

Don't demand thanks. Avoid demanding thanks from your children. They will internalize example much more than threats. If you offer thanks sincerely to them, they will learn the skills of gratitude.

Slow down and smell the roses. When we pause to enjoy the everyday sensory pleasures of the world we live in, we regain the openness that is an essential part of gratitude. Model this for your child. Make sure your child doesn't spend

so much time with electronic entertainment that he or she misses out on the tactile joys of flowers, plants, crayons, paint, music, and dancing.

Create a year-round thanksgiving spot. This is a home altar of sorts. Find a convenient but safe place—the refrigerator door, a bulletin board, or a small table or shelf. Make this a special spot for things you are thankful for—pictures of people you love, souvenirs and memorabilia, handmade treasures, and, of course, your child's artwork. Invite your child to add his or her own items, and set aside time now and then to admire the objects and pictures together.

Establish family traditions. Some families ask each child to name one thing they are thankful for before dinner. Many write thank you notes after every birthday and Christmas. By having family rituals that center on gratitude, children learn to express thanks.

Offer service. Try taking the family to a nursing home or a homeless shelter to volunteer. A little selfless service tends to make selfishness go away.

Try going without. From time to time, have a family project that involves going without something important. For example, try making bread for a week rather than buying it, or try walking to any destination less than two miles away. A little sacrifice causes us to miss things that we take for granted and helps us be a little more humble and grateful when the thing is restored.

It's the little things. A little common courtesy can go a long way, and taking time to notice the little acts of service in a family or a neighborhood can be so positive. Look for ways to say thank you often.

Investigate gratitude on-line. Check out www.gratefulness.org for more ideas about gratitude, or, better yet, visit the site with your kids and send a free e-card of thanks to someone.

And, remember to fill out a Peer Flag at Edison!

PARENT COUNCIL

By Lisa Namyet

Following are highlights from the Parent Council meeting held on April 18. Please note that the highlights below contain information not included in other Toucan Times articles in this issue.

Public Input

Mel Erickson suggested combining Ocean Week with earth and sky to make a more integrated global connection, especially given global warming and environmental issues.

Edison Education Fund

From April 6 meeting: Susan Daniell reported that \$50,000 has been raised since July 1, 2005 with \$2,000 in pledges still to be paid. A spring fundraising letter will soon be sent (before Jog-a-thon) highlighting the \$100,000 annual goal to parents. EEF has also been thinking about a restaurant night before the end of school. EEF is looking for new members for next year; contact Susan Daniell at 345-7463 or sdaniell@hotmail.com.

Chinook Books

Sheri Engelbert announced the opportunity to sell Chinook books in front of Market of Choice on 28th and Willamette for two days. Sheri will put together a schedule for each class year to participate in the selling effort.

T-shirts

One more order will be placed this year. Leita Dzubay is looking for help in keeping this going next year.

Peer (POP) Committee

Peer Flags to begin in May. Tom Maloney suggested that we think about flag(s) maybe going home with kids. The Playground Partner program is looking for parents to fill in gaps recently vacated. A change has been made so that if you have younger kids, in backpack or not, you are welcome to volunteer! Contact Sarah Bascom at 686-2867 or sarahkbascom@yahoo.com.

Staff Appreciation

Karen Cooper reported that the last staff appreciation event is the staff breakfast in June.

PC Plans for '06-'07

1. A Parent Council co-chair, a very important role, is needed for next year to partner with current co-chair Jen Thoennes. 2. For May PC meeting: Think about events or committees we would like to commit to for next year; Should we add a committee around nutrition? Around reinforcing character development? What can we do to better include all parents? One idea: Explore council meetings with childcare coverage. Tom suggested that a core group should brainstorm ways to be more inclusive and improve outreach.

Principal's Report

Tom Maloney reported that the Health Services Department is looking for an Edison parent to sit on a committee that discusses health issues. Interested? Contact Karen Cooper.

YOU'RE INVITED!

By Jen Thoennes

Come one, come all, join fellow parents at Parent Council's last meeting of the year on May 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Edison Library.

Please join us at the final Parent Council meeting of the year where we will begin to set the agenda and schedule of parent-driven events and projects for next year. All Edison parents are welcome at every Parent Council meeting. So come check it out. Then join! Get others to join with you! Let's keep up the strong tradition of high parental involvement that helps to make Edison such a special school.

What does it mean to join Edison Parent Council?

- Attend monthly meetings every third Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and stay on top of what is happening at school
- Help with two fun events and one committee task each year
- Share your thoughts with Site Council members and administrators
- Help share information with other parents about school happenings

Parent Council is a two-year commitment. For more information, attend the meeting on May 16, or contact Jen Thoennes at 345-4970 or pighart@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE... JANE RAPIER!

By Jaye Dubois



Jane Rapier, a retired fifth grade teacher, came to Edison at the beginning of the school year looking to volunteer at our school. Little did we know at the time that this wonderful person would: contribute 40 hours a week to our reading literacy program; help organize the library during Spring Break;

and bring stickers, snacks and a whole lot of love to our students. The children love Jane as much as she loves them — she is Edison's grandmother!

Jane lives in Cottage Grove and drives 16 miles to get here five days a week. Her motto: "Keeping busy helps keep my mind in a creative mode!" So the next time you see this marvelous gray-haired woman pull up to Edison in her convertible red Mustang, know that she has our children in her heart and deeds, and please send her a big thank you!

OCEAN WEEK 2006 WAS SWELL



By Susan Daniell

During Ocean Week 2006 the halls of Edison were awash with the bright colors of the water world. Ponds formed outside the kindergarten rooms, tide pools of the rocky seashore inspired first graders' artwork, and marshes rose up in the hallway near third grade. The second grade's sandy beaches led to the open ocean of fourth and fifth grade classrooms where colorful jellyfish appeared and graceful pastel whales seemed to float on the walls. Students throughout the school were busy enjoying Ocean Week activities. The opening assembly, produced by Frank James, featured a description of each habitat followed by a hilarious "Mad Lib" version, and teachers wore costumes to illustrate the habitat theme for each grade. Later, third graders were at work in the gym assembling a giant wetlands puzzle, and kinders joined their kinderbuddies to put together a life-sized whale puzzle. First graders decorated table coverings for a seafood buffet where they sampled sushi, clam chowder and other treats.

At mid-week, students donned "habitat hats" for an all-school parade that culminated in a lively sing-along featuring student ukulele accompaniment and a performance of the hula. Later in the week, kinders made a hands-on study of a pond habitat during a field trip with Nearby Nature. Fourth and fifth graders, who learned squid dissection earlier in the week, became teachers when they teamed up with first and second graders to repeat the lesson. Everyone had the opportunity to sample fried calamari, expertly prepared by visiting Hilton chef Tobias Naumoff-Moshier (aka Carrie Ann's son), who kindly tolerated requests for ketchup. Ocean Week closed with a slide show of the week's events and a "Beach Party" barbecue. For some classes, however, the week marks the beginning of a marine science curriculum that will continue through the end of the school year.

Edison welcomed several visitors during Ocean Week. Dwight Collins of Newman's Fish Company delighted younger students with his traditional fish show. Mark Pankalla made quite an impression on Janine Zimmer Berg's class when he arrived in full SCUBA gear for a presentation about diving. Andy Berglund spoke to 4th/5th graders about deep sea research, and first grade students were introduced to the octopus by Sally Keller, who brought along several much-appreciated specimens. These presenters, along with the efforts of teachers, staff, and the generosity of Edison volunteers, made this year's Ocean Week an unforgettable experience for many students. The Ocean Week committee was also grateful to have assistance from retired Edison teachers Babs Sullivan, Pat Williams and Karen Forward.



Thanks to the following establishments for their support of Ocean Week



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Eugene Public Library

<http://www.eugene-or.gov>, ph: 682-5450

SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT THE LIBRARY!

Second Thursday of the month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

GIMME GAMES- for kids in grades 1-6

Thursday, May 11: Learn Mahjong! Admission is on a first-come basis; free tickets available at 3:30. Meet Ginnie Lo, author of the children's book Mahjong All Day Long, and learn how to play this ancient Chinese tile game.

Third Thursday each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

TWEEN SCENE BOOK GROUP - for kids in grades 4 - 6

Starting the 1st of each month, visit the Children's Center to pre-register and pick up your copy of the book.

Thursday, May 18: *Donuthead*, by Sue Stauffacher. Find out how Franklin Delano Donuthead, a 5th grader obsessed with cleanliness and safety, becomes friends with tough new student Sarah Kervick.

Third Thursday each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

BOOK BUDDIES - for kids in grades 2 - 3

Starting May 1, visit the Children's Center to pre-register and pick up your copy of the book.

Thursday, May 18: *Attaboy, Sam!*, by Lois Lowry. Sam helps his sister Anastasia write a poem for their mother's birthday – and the special perfume he invents for mom turns into a hilarious disaster.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

HORA DE DIVERSIÓN (FUN TIME) - for kids in grades 1 - 6

Bilingual activities for kids grades 1 - 6 with Ximena Torres and Andres Montenegro of Chile. At the same time, adults and teens enjoy Intercambio Conversation Circles.

May 9: La Fiesta del 5 de Mayo. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Join the party, Mexican style! Dance La Raspa, make a lottery game, and break a piñata.

May 23: Murales Latinoamericanos. Latin American Murals. Inspired by the great artists of Latin America, paint a nature mural together, filled with animals.

WHAT'S UP? THE MAGIC OF READING - Grades 1 - 6

Thursday, May 25, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is on a first-come basis; free tickets available 30 minutes in advance. Get in on the act at this participatory magic show by funny favorite Jay Frasier.

HENRIK BOTHE VARIETY SHOW (families)

Monday, June 19, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Hilarious physical comedy – and unicycle antics! Free tickets available 30 minutes before each show.

TOM QUESTION SHOW (families)

June 20, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Peterson Barn.

June 21, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Sheldon Community Center
Juggling madness, mayhem, and more! Drop in!

TASTE OF CREATURE FEATURES

Thursday, June 22, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Drop in to try your hand at mini-versions of this summer's workshops. Sign up for Summer Reading and get a free book, plus a CD case with teen events calendar.

JUGGLEMANIA WITH RHYS THOMAS (families)

Friday, June 23, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Eye-candy and brain-food: acrobatic juggling with smart, funny patter. Free tickets available 30 minutes before each show.

DEMON DESIGN

June 28, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Art workshop with Rita Fiedler. Bring your monsters to life on paper or fabric with printmaking and transfer. Pre-register: Downtown, 682-8316.

Nearby Nature

www.nearbynature.org, ph: 687-9699

Nearby Nature Quests

Enjoy a family-paced hike, craft, snack, and a visit from a costumed Kinder Critter! Meet at the Alton Baker Park Host Residence (between the dog run and community gardens). \$2/person or \$5/family. Pre-registration suggested: 687-9699.

Saturday, May 7, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Wildflower Wander: Discover spring's rainbow on this wander through park woodlands and meadows.

Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. to noon

Discovering Dads: Celebrate Father's Day! Learn about animal dads who sing, dance, or even carry eggs on their backs!

Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m. to noon

Meadow Micro-Magic: Use all sorts of neat magnifiers to check out everything from flowers to insects, up close!

Saturday, August 5, 10 a.m. to noon

Creepy-Crawly Critter Safari: Discover the critters who creep, crawl, and swim through our park.

Science Factory

<http://www.sciencefactory.org>, ph. 682-7888

Saturday, May 20, 12 noon to 4 p.m. BIKE DAY

Ride or bring your bike for a day of fun! We'll have bike experts on hand to teach you how to get your bike in top shape for the summer. Decorate your bike, take a Solar System tour around Eugene's bike path, ride the obstacle course, discover the physics of bicycles, and much more! Members free /\$4 non-members.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

<http://uoma.uoregon.edu>, ph. 346-3027

Saturday, July 22, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FREE FAMILY DAY: POP ART AND ROY LICHTENSTEIN

This returning, highly popular program encourages families to visit the museum during four Saturdays a year for free! Children and their guardians are invited to get creative together and participate in fun-filled art activities at the museum.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

The following non-profit organizations offer summer camps. Most offer scholarships.

UO Youth Enrichment & TAG Program

(Supper Summer, Games Camp, Literature Camp)

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tag/>, ph. 346-1404

Nearby Nature

www.nearbynature.org, ph. 687-9699

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

<http://uoma.uoregon.edu>, ph. 346-3027

Science Factory

www.sciencefactory.org, ph. 682-7888

Eugene Family YMCA

www.eugeneymca.org, ph. 686.9622

City of Eugene Recreation Services

(including Fun For All a free parks recreation program for youth ages 7-17)

<http://www.eugene-or.gov>, ph. 682-5373

Maude Kerns Art Center

www.mkartcenter.org, ph. 345-1571

ESCRIP AND OTHER FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

By Sheri Englebert

Sons of Norway Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday, April 22, The Sons of Norway hosted a Pancake Breakfast for Edison. The breakfast was part of the lodge's adopt-a-school program. It was a wonderful community builder that brought in approximately \$170 for Edison. Everyone enjoyed the warm atmosphere and great pancakes.

Escrip gains Forty new members

Escrip Kids Night Out was held on April 21 after a week long sign-up. We added 40 new families to our list of escrip contributors, as well as updating the information of many current families. Those people who signed up or updated received free tickets to Kid's Night Out. If you did not have the chance to stop in, you can still sign up or update at www.escrip.com. Edison is still looking for the e-mail addresses of many of its current scrip members.

What is Escrip?

Escrip is electronic scrip. Every time you use a registered credit or debit card at Market of Choice or a registered Safeway Card at Safeway these stores contribute between two and four percent of your purchase to Edison. Encourage grandparents and family members to join escrip and support Edison. Edison escrip has supporting members as far away as Saint Louis, MO and Danville, VA. In 2005 escrip contributed \$4,500 to Edison. The more families who join the greater the contribution will be in 2006.

Sign-up at www.escrip.com using Edison's Group ID # 616859.

Support Edison through the Summer

By stocking up on Unique Eugene and the Chinook Book for the summer, you can continue to support Edison and help it to reach its fund raising goal. Orders will be taken throughout the month of May. Just fill out the attached order form and return it to Vicki in the office.

Edison Scrip Order Form (turn in at office)

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

	Qty.	Amount
Chinook Book	\$20.00 ea.	
Unique Eugene	\$10.00 ea.	
Total		

Attach your check made out to Edison PTA.

- I will pick up my order in the Edison office.
- Send home with my child. Teacher's name _____
- Deliver to my home. Please leave it _____

Comments:



This year Edison started a new parent volunteer program called Playground Partners. Playground Partners is a group of dedicated moms and dads who come to Edison during recess with one goal in mind: to promote positive interactions with students during this high energy time. They help intervene when play become inappropriate, hand out Community Coupons when they see exemplary behavior, or just have fun interacting with the kids.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THE PLAYGROUND

By Sarah Bascom

Playground Partners volunteers learn how the school works, how specific issues are handled, and how the five interpersonal skills of cooperation, compassion, inclusiveness, respect and integrity are implemented. They also see the great recess staff in action, and have renewed respect for their work!

The entire Edison community benefits from this unique new program. Additional adult presence on the playground is a plus when kids have a tough dispute, or skin their knees, or just need someone to tie their shoelaces.

Mickey Stellavato, who is sadly retiring this year as a Playground Partner, told a rewarding story of

working things out with a group of third grade girls who were all yelling at each other and crying. She had them sit down and one by one tell their side of the story. The result was they all felt heard, understood each others' issues and learned the limits of practical joking. By the time the whistle blew, everyone had dried their tears and had started to makeup. Such stories are common, and quite gratifying for all involved.

If you are interested in participating with us this year or next, please contact Sarah Bascom at 686-2867 or sarahkbascom@yahoo.com.

2005-06 PARENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Grade of child in parentheses) *co-facilitators

Sarah Bascom (K)sarahkbascom@yahoo.com	686-2867
Karen Cooper (2 in 3rd)karenc@darkwing.uoregon.edu	349-1049
Leita Dzuby (K,3)dzubay@hotmail.com	302-1607
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Beth Stein (1)bstein@teleport.com	242-0798
*Jen Thoennes (1)pighart@hotmail.com	345-4970
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Kathy Westerveltmkrwest@qwest.net	345-3646
Nancy Zimmermannnancy_zimmermann@hotmail.com	343-9979

2005-2006 SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lisa Fragala (teacher)	.....fragala@4j.lane.edu	
Carrie Ann Naumoff (teacher)naumoff@4j.lane.edu	
Janine Zimmer-Berg (teacher)berg@4j.lane.edu	
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Tom Maloney(principal)maloney@4j.lane.edu	687-3284
Lynette Williams (parent)lynettes@willamette.net	485-3960
Michael Sheehan (parent)	.....msheehan@peacehealth.org	485-7205

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES COORDINATORS

Events

ArtWorks Fundraiser (Sept/Oct)	.....Hillary Johnson	345-5526
	.....Leita Dzuby	302-1607
Student Directory (Sept/Oct)	.....Paul Curtis	344-7365
	.....Michelle Mikkelsen	342-6458
Health Screening (Oct)	.....Katlyn Hoffman	683-7303
	.....Kristen Layton, Sandy Glaudin	345-5584
Book Fair (Oct/Nov)	.....Lynette Williams	485-3960
	.....Robin Latimer	485-1254
Fall Family Night (Oct/Nov)	.....Beth Stein	242-0798
	.....Jen Thoennes	345-4970
Valentine Family Night (Jan/Feb)	.....Lynette Williams	485-3960
	.....Robin Latimer	485-1254
Project Fair (Mar)	.....Rosette Lattimore	344-5275
Women's History Week (Mar)	.....Mickey Stellavato	687-9718
Toucan Tales Anthology (Mar/Apr)	.....Kirsti Haugen	434-2416
	.....Nancy O'Brian	687-9393
Ocean Week (May)	.....volunteers needed	
Jogathon (May)	.....Cary Hancock	345-2180
Fall Picnic (Aug/Sept)	.....Tara Lucas	344-9205
	.....Kirstin Frazer	683-9648
5th Grade Celebration (Jun)	.....Michael Sheehan	485-7205

Services

Edison EEF	.....Susan Daniell 345-7463, Peggy Hinsman 684-0076, Jay Namyet 338-7615, Sara O'Dell 343-1214, Gary Powell 683-6503, Rick Varnum 683-7641	
Front Case Display	.....Deborah Dailey	343-3743
Head Lice Checks	.....Jen Thoennes	345-4970
Library	.....Tana Posey	687-3284
Newsletter	.....Bev Mayhew	484-4143
Power of Peers	.....Denise Jessup	683-7641
Scrip Sales	.....Sheri Engelbert	686-8099
	.....Tara Lucas	344-9205
Service Learning	.....Parent Council	
Staff Appreciation Committee	.....Kristi Durant	346-7454
	.....Karen Cooper	349-1049
Web Site	.....Kirsti Haugen	434-2416
Volunteers	.....Stephanie Lonergan	344-1253
Yearbook	.....volunteers needed	



SITE COUNCIL

By Tom Maloney

Following are highlights of the Site Council meeting, held on April 11.

TAG

Tom introduced Louise Dilman. Louise is an education major with a special emphasis on TAG. She will work with Tom to strengthen and expand educational opportunities for TAG students at Edison.

Digital Media and Desk Top Publishing Grant

Edison applied for a grant to develop an after school digital media, desktop publishing class for interested students in grades three through five. We asked for \$3,000. If funded, we will request an additional \$1,000 in parent-generated funds to help support the project.

Survey Results

Results of the parent survey and partial results of the student survey were discussed. School climate and community categories were very impressive. Erin condensed comments, especially ones that will guide vision. Staff interested in reading parent comments in their entirety should see Tom. Overall student feedback was positive. We will do a more thorough analysis of student survey results later in the spring.

Response to Intervention in Reading Project

Tom announced that Edison is one of three schools in 4J working with the University of Oregon to develop diagnostic reading measures and to study the effectiveness of various reading interventions specifically with students who are at or below grade level in reading. The effort is funded through a three-year federal grant. Nancy Whitfield, the RTI Project Coordinator, will work with a team of Edison teachers to develop a model approach to teaching reading for students at or below grade level.

May 9 Agenda Items

At the May 9th meeting, we will welcome new Site Council members Terry Martin and Laura Twigg and hear from outgoing members Michael Sheehan, Carrie Ann Naumoff and Janine Zimmer Berg. We will also hear summary reports on the various school improvement projects and continue working on Edison's Vision Statement. (See Visioning Timeline on page 4.)

THE TOUCAN TIMES

Editor: Beverly Mayhew, Layout: Kerry Lutz, Photography: Mickey Stellavato

The Toucan Times welcomes submissions of photographs, stories, and ideas. Please leave your material in the Toucan Times mailbox in the school office or submit text by email to bmayhew@ulm.com by the 15th of every month. Please supply your name, phone number or email address on all submissions. In the event of errors, please notify the editor so that we may make corrections. Please submit articles electronically, if possible, by email.