

# THE EAGLE EXPRESS

PARK ACADEMY

OCTOBER, 2008

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Paula Kinney

Park Academy started the school year with a resounding success! Our enrollment has more than doubled over the last three years. We enrolled 14 new students. Our middle school and high school program has the highest number of student enrollees, with 11 middle school students and 16 high

school students. Our one elementary student is so intelligent that he has adapted very well in being in the middle school program. Two of our high school students, Joslin Weathers and Spencer Oakley, will be graduating in June.

We had a great turnout for our Back to School Potluck. Over 90% of our families attended. Everyone brought delicious dishes and the desserts were decadent! Other than fighting off bees, the evening was delightful. In addition, our Back to School Night was also well attended. We appreciate the involvement of our families.

Three new staff members have joined us this year. We are pleased to welcome **Tassia Bronston** who is teaching high school math, middle and high school science, yearbook and journalism; **Rebecca Singer**, who was a theatre guest artist last year, is teaching middle and high school theatre, middle and high school movement, health and an art class; and, **Christine Ferreira** who is teaching American

Sign Language. All three of these teachers are wonderful assets to our program.

In keeping with our mission "to empower students to reach their highest potential of giftedness, while excelling and becoming responsible community leaders," each student will be placed on an individual learning plan to ensure all students are on the graduation track and will be college-ready upon graduation. Mr. Westphal, our Student Support Coordinator, will be meeting with all students and families to develop individual plans.

On October 15th, all sophomores and juniors will be required to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). The purpose of providing students with this wonderful opportunity is to give our students feedback on important academic skills; it will provide good practice for the SAT test, and it will place our students in the College Board System for college planning by making available on-going college information to each student.

Park Academy continues to strive to be one of the best college preparatory private schools in the Northwest that serves students with learning challenges. We can not achieve this goal without our families as partners. I appreciate your support and welcome your advice and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Paula Kinney, Ed. D.



## BOARD TRUSTEES

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## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

- **October 17th**, an all school field trip to the Circuit Bouldering Gym on Macadam Ave. from 9:00-11:30 AM. TriMet will be used for transportation to and from the gym. Total cost per student is \$8.00.
- **December 5th**, all school field trip will be to see "Do Jump!" perform at The Echo Theatre. The show starts at 10:00 am and lasts approximately one hour. TriMet will be used for transportation to and from the show. Total cost per students is \$7.00.

**No student will be denied the opportunity to attend based on financial circumstances.**

**Please contact the office if financial assistance is needed.**

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## STAFF NEWS

- **Ms. Bronston** is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in English-Secondary Education. She came to Oregon in 2006 as an AmeriCorps Mentor to Youth Coordinator at OMSI. She taught at-risk and adjudicated youth through Youth Progress Association. She then returned to OMSI as a Physics Lab Educator while obtaining her Science endorsement. Welcome Ms. Bronston! We are lucky to have you!
- **Christine Ferreira** comes to us from Northwest Regional Educational Service District where she was a substitute American Sign Language Educational Assistant. She obtained her degree of Bachelors of Art from Western Oregon University in 2006. Among her many talents, she is skilled in oil painting, printmaking, ceramics, drawings, Photoshop as well as computer graphics. Welcome Christine!
- **Ms Singer** attended Bard College where she studied humanities and theatre. She obtained her Bachelors of Art from New College of California. Since then she has been a professional actress and teacher for over 15 years, has written and directed several plays which have been produced at schools and in theaters, as well as in Costa Rica where she lived for the past five years. For 30 years, she has made nutrition, good health practices and exercise, of many types, part of her life. We are very happy to have Ms. Singer!

## STUDENT SUPPORT

All 10th and 11th grade students will be taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). The test measures critical thinking skills that are important for success in college, including critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills. Taking the PSAT enables students to prepare for the SAT; get feedback about important academic skills; seek information from colleges; enter scholarship competitions; and initiate the college-planning process.

**2007-2008 Yearbooks are available at the Student Support Office for \$20.00.**

### \*\*\*\*\*"THANK YOU'S"\*\*\*\*\*

- Thank you Mr. Ray Park for your generous donation of \$15,000 to purchase computers and projectors for our science and math classes.
- Thank you Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation for the support of scholarship assistance. The \$25,000 grant generously benefited five of our new students .

## NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Mrs. O'Connär submitted "Weather Watchers" lesson plans to Digital Wish in September. Her plans were found to be exemplary and has been included in the national lesson plan library at [digitalwish.com](http://digitalwish.com). Her plans have received a red badge of recognition and she is now listed as a "Contributing Teacher". Good Job Mrs. O'Connär!!

On Nov 14, the theatre department will be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner at 6:30 PM, and we need volunteers of all kinds. Please email [rsinger@parkacademy.org](mailto:rsinger@parkacademy.org) if you can help.

Also, we ask that all high school students have an extra set of PE clothes so they can participate in activities outside. The clothes will be kept in a locked closet and sent home weekly to be washed.

Ms. Singer's theatre department is in need of costumes! If you have any clothes that are not being used, please consider donating them. You never know how a garment can be refitted or decorated to become the perfect costume!

## PARENTS RESOURCES

### Child Abuse Prevention Program

On October 28, 2008 from 3:15-3:45 PM, Park Academy will be providing two sessions on information about Child Abuse Prevention. One session will be for parents and one is designed specifically for students. Please RSVP to the Student Support Office at 503-635-3088 if you will be attending.

## Parent Tours

Word of mouth has been our most powerful method of recruiting new students. Applications are being accepted at all grade levels. If you have relatives, neighbors, or friends from sports clubs, camps, work, activities, temple, or church who might be interested in attending Park Academy please direct them to the Park Academy website [www.parkacademy.org](http://www.parkacademy.org) or have them call Kim Barton at 503-635-3088. Park Academy will be hosting tours for new families interested in our program. There will be an opportunity to hear about the program and visit classrooms.

### **Dates for Parent Tours are:**

**October 29, November 5 & 19 and December 10. Tours will start at 9:00am and end at 10:00am. Reservations must be made in advance.**

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## FUNDRAISERS!

**Park Academy holds five student based fundraisers a year – Sally Foster, Poinsettias, See's, a Spring Plant Sale and our end of the year Jog-A-Thon and Carnival. We will also be sending out the Scrip order forms each month. We rely on fundraisers to offset the cost of some of the Field Trips and transportation involved. Please participate and make each fundraiser a success!!!**

### SCRIP

We had an outstanding Scrip order this month and half of you haven't even tried it yet!!! Try it, you'll like it. It's great to be able to give your student a Burgerville, Starbucks or any number of combinations of food cards and not be handing out cash all the time. You can also purchase minutes for cell phones and iTunes cards. We will continue to send out reminders and hopefully have 100% participation soon. Once you try it you can't help but notice how convenient and easy it is to support the school in a big (and painless) way. Thank you to all the families who helped make our first Scrip order a resounding success!!!!

### SALLY FOSTER FUNDRAISER

Our first fund-raiser of the year started on Tuesday, October 7th. Catalog and order forms were given to each student during Advisory. Please ask your student about them (or check the backpack). Park Academy will receive 50% of the total sales. Please make sure all of your family and friends get a chance to see the catalog. Orders are due at school on **October 17th**. Our delivery date is **November 17th**. Thanks for your support.

### POINSETTIAS

Back by popular demand – poinsettias from New Leaf Greenhouse! If you have ordered from us before you know how healthy and beautiful these holiday decorations are. The small plants come in a 6" pot and have one plant with 5 or more flowers. The large plants are in an 8" pot with 2 plants and 9 or more flowers. These wonderful displays are great to decorate homes and offices, cheerful for someone in the hospital or in a nursing home and also great hostess gifts. Please ask friends, neighbors and family if they are interested in ordering one or more. They are a great value at \$10.50 for the small plants and \$21.00 for the large plants. The order forms will be sent home on **Wednesday, October 29th**. Orders are to be returned to school no later than **November 12th**. The plants will be delivered to us on **Thursday, December 4th**.

## Tips for Parents

- Emphasize the things your children do right instead of focusing on what's wrong. Shoot for a ratio of at least four positives for every one negative thing you need to say. Be your kids' greatest fan. Catch them doing right. Compliment them on all of their efforts, signs of their strength of character, and their individuality.
- Set, and enforce clear rules. You don't need a lot of rules, but consistently enforce a small number of them with swift, moderate (not severe) consequences of short duration.
- Talk early and often about drugs, especially about the consequences of using them. Take advantage of everyday "teachable moments" to discuss drugs.
- Don't forget breakfast: Eating a healthy breakfast jumpstarts metabolism and stimulates the brain. Also keep you student prepared with nutritious low sugar snacks to prevent "crashing".

## Save The Dates!

- October 10, 2008 Statewide In-service **NO SCHOOL**
- October 15, 2008 Socks in the Shoes 7:00-8:30 PM
- October 24, 2008 Teacher Workday **NO SCHOOL**
- October 28, 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Program 3:15-3:45 PM
- November 10, 2008 Parent Conferences **NO SCHOOL**
- November 11, 2008 Veteran's Day **NO SCHOOL**
- November 14, 2008 Murder Mystery Dinner 6:30 PM
- November 27-28, 2008 Thanksgiving **NO SCHOOL**
- December 12, 2008 Professional Development **NO SCHOOL**
- December 22-January 2, 2008 Winter Break