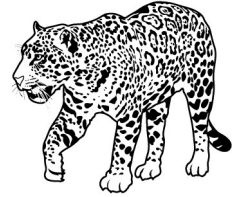




# Joan Austin Elementary



2200 N. Center St.

503-554-4550

January 2017

## Important Dates to Remember:

### January

- 3 School Resumes
- 4 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 16 No School– MLK Holiday
- 18 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 19 Parent Group Meeting– 6:30 PM
- 25 Character Counts Assembly
- 26 Mathnasium Night

### February

- 1 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 3 No School– End of Semester
- 11 ODS Can and Bottle Drive
- 13 3rd Grade Music Program
- 20 No School– President's Day
- 17 Popcorn Friday/Hat Day
- 17 Parent Group Meeting– 3:30 PM
- 22 Character Counts Assembly
- 23-24 No School– Conferences
- 27 5th Grade Music Program

## Interested in volunteering at school?

Please contact Joan Austin PTO; [jaevolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:jaevolunteer@gmail.com). We would love to have you join us. To get the latest updates, please also like us on Facebook – Joan Austin Elementary PTO.

Greetings to a new year. It is hard to believe that we are in January and the year 2017. We have almost completed one semester of school.

This month is time when we have our mid year assessments for all students. All students will either take the second round of MAP or FAST tests that will give us an indication of how much academic growth each student has made. The testing windows are from January 3 – January 20. I want all families to know this since having a good breakfast and a good night's sleep is important for the best results.

January is also the month when the Battle of the Books teams start their rounds of play. The first Saturday, January 7, we will have mock battles and the first battle for team points. We host it at Joan Austin. Students, parents, and friends are welcome to come and listen. I know that some teams have been reading and practicing questions for months. The Battle of the Books Pool Rounds take place from January 17 – January 26 and then the District Battle of the Books competition is on January 28. Joan Austin will host the District Competition and we are hoping for another district finalist this year.

Put January 26 on your calendar for our annual Math Carnival Night. All the teachers and many classified staff will be here to assist. It is one of the best attended family nights. It is a time when students and their parents can learn different math games and have the opportunity to learn and play together. Last year the race track was a favorite new addition. Come and join in the fun with math games, brain teasers, prizes, and candy. Thanks to *Mathnasium* in Sherwood who sponsors this night for our school community.

Please remember that conferences this year have been moved to February. That means you will probably hear from teachers to sign up for a conference time in late January or early February. It was decided to move them so they would be closer to semester grades. This will allow you to see the growth your son/daughter has made during the first semester.

I encourage you to continue reading with you son/daughter each night. Reading is the foundation of all learning. Just 15 – 20 minutes a night helps a student with fluency practice and comprehension.

Again thanks for all of your support. It is with your continued support throughout the year that allows Joan Austin to be a positive place for all students.

*Terry McElligott*

Principal

**Questions? Check the school website, or call us at 503-554-4550.**

**Remember to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter or download the Newberg School District App.**



**EVERY DAY COUNTS**  
GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS FOR SUCCESS

## Attendance corner

Is this a myth or fact?

“Absences are only a problem if they’re consecutive.”

It’s a myth!

It’s the cumulative effect of lost instruction time that makes the difference. Studies show that only two or three nonconsecutive absences per month can seriously impact a student’s ability to succeed in school.

Every day counts! Good attendance matters for success.

## No School

January 16—MLK Holiday

## Winter Testing Window

FAST (K-2): January 3 - January 20

MAP (3-5): January 3 - January 20

Daily schedules will stay the same

## K-Kids Meeting January 18

Room D205, 8:55 AM

If you have not joined K-Kids but are interested, contact Mr. Strid.

## Mathnasium Night—January 26

**6:30-8:00 PM**

Open to all students and families. Come and play some math games; you just might win a prize!

## A note from the PTO...

**Jan 19th PTO Meeting** – Next meeting is Thursday, January 19th at 6:30pm in the school library. This month we have information and Q&A with our school Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) coordinators as well as general updates. PTO meetings are open to all families and staff of Joan Austin Elementary and are a great way to get connected with the school. Free child-care is available.

**5th Grade Outdoor School Bottle Drive in February!** - Start saving your bottles and cans that have Oregon deposits! The ODS Bottle and Can Drive is fast approaching after Super Bowl. This is an easy way to help support the 5th graders raise money for Outdoor School. Look for upcoming flyers coming home with more info!

## Music Programs Begin in February

3rd Grade– February 13 @ 2:30 PM

5th Grade– February 27 @ 2:30 PM

## Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB)

Optional practices begin this month

Mondays- January 9th, 16th, and 23rd after school until 4:15 with Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Davidson.

Groups will need to have parent permission and arrange pickup promptly at 4:15

Save the date for District Battles– they will be taking place at Joan Austin on January 28th this year!

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