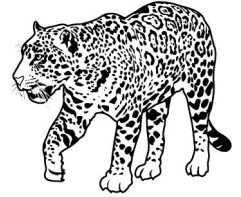




Joan Austin Elementary



2200 N. Center St.

503-554-4550

March 2017

Important Dates to Remember:

March

- 1 **K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55**
- 8 **Classified Employee Day**
- 13 **2nd Grade Music Program@2:30**
- 15 **K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55**
- 16 **Parent Group Meeting @ 3:30**
- 17 **BINGO Night @ 6 PM**
- 22 **Character Counts Assembly**
- 25-4/2 **Spring Break**

April

- 3-7 **All Staff Appreciation Week**
- 5 **K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55**
- 6 **5th Grade Wildcat
Welcome Night - 5 PM @ MVMS**
- 19 **K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55**
- 20 **Kindergarten Registration@3:30**
- 21 **Parent Group Meeting @ 3:30**
- 24 **4th Grade Music Program @2:30**
- 26 **Secretary Day**

Interested in volunteering at school?

Please contact Joan Austin PTO;
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.

Thanks to all of the parents who attended conferences at the end of February. Students had just finished their mid-year assessments so this gave teachers an opportunity to share current data and growth about each student. In this way parents and teachers could plan together what strategies might need to be implemented for the remainder of the year.

Math is an area that all students in our school need to improve. An important aspect of math is learning how to understand and solve problems. Students usually get frustrated when they do not get the answer right away. Instead, students need to understand that there are many ways to solve a problem and trial and error can help develop their reasoning.

Also if students can connect mathematic concepts to their own experience, they are more apt to understand its importance. Simply cooking together with your child can help them with fractions. Make predictions about the weights of certain objects and then weigh them to see the difference between your prediction and reality. Kids love money! Use different coins to make change or make the connections between money and fractions and decimals. Math is also about patterns so observing weather and mapping the course over a week can help students see patterns. Sit down as a family and play games like *Connect Four*, *Uno*, *Cribbage*, and *Blokus* which help students with patterns and number sense.

Why is learning facts more fluently important in an age of computers and calculators? Fluent fact recall helps when working with fractions and decimals. I have even seen how strong math sense has helped our students as they are programming their robots. Parents do not need to be the strongest mathematicians themselves. Just provide activities that prod students to investigate, gather information, organize it and then explain their thinking when they have come to their solutions.

Just as we have ignited a passion for reading at our school, for all students to succeed, we must all work together to ignite that same fire about math. Students believe they have failed if they do not get the right answer first. We need to start treating errors and misconceptions as opportunities to develop reasoning skills. Help your student see the part of his/her reasoning that is convincing and which part is less convincing. This digging into the answer does more for understanding than just knowing the answer is correct and then moving on.

Our last three and a half months of school is our longest stretch with few breaks. These are the months that students can grow academically the most if we work together to make this happen. Keep reading every night and add on some problem solving activities to build in perseverance too.

Thanks for your hard work and support. At the end of this month I wish all of the Joan Austin School community a restful and relaxing vacation.

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

Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Sometimes, complaints of headache or stomach ache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.

If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to their teacher, Mr. Strid, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.

Every day counts! Good attendance matters for success.

The monthly trait for March is **Trustworthiness**. Please take a moment to talk to your student(s) about what trustworthiness looks like and ways we can model that in our community.

No School

March 25– April 2
Spring Break

K-Kids Meeting March 1 & 15

Room D205, 8:55 AM

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

Please remember...

If you need to email the secretaries regarding school attendance or transportation, please email **both** Vicki Klein (kleinv@newberg.k12.or.us) and Lindsey Tobin (tobinl@newberg.k12.or.us).

A note from the PTO...

March 16th - PTO Meeting – Next meeting is Thursday, March 16th at 6:30pm in the school library. Let's check in on current events! 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 childcare is available.

March 17th Bingo Night - Get your daubers at the ready and mark your calendars! Bingo Night is fast approaching! Friday, March 17th is the last Bingo Night of the school year. Come join us for an evening of family fun! Doors open at 6:00. Games start at 6:30.

April 3rd – April 7th - All Staff Appreciation Week - Feeling inspired or thankful for teachers and staff members? We are! Let them know. A little thank you during their special week goes a long way!

The Tooth Tax is Coming

The tooth tax will be at Edwards Elementary School, located at 715 East 8th Street, Newberg, during the week of March 13-17th. The Tooth Tax is a free comprehensive dental van for any Newberg School District student. If you would like your student seen please pick up a consent packet and return the packet to your school office by March 3, 2017.

On Monday March 13th each child who returns their form will get a free exam. If your student needs further dental care, the child will need to return for an appointment to be scheduled between March 15-17. There is no charge for any services provided. **Parents are responsible for transportation to Edwards.** For any questions please call the Newberg School District Nurse, Annie Berger at [503-554-5363](tel:503-554-5363) or pare espanol [503-554-4701](tel:503-554-4701)

Kindergarten Registration for 2017-2018

April 20, 3:30 PM—6:30 PM

This is an opportunity for all children turning 5 prior to Sept 1st to come in and see classrooms, meet the teacher and register for the upcoming school year.

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