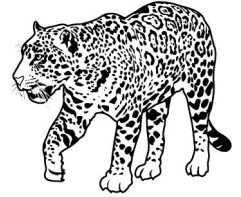




# Joan Austin Elementary



2200 N. Center St.

503-554-4550

April 2017

## Important Dates to Remember:

### April

- 3-7 All Staff Appreciation Week
- 5 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 6 5th Grade Wildcat Welcome Night - 5 PM @ MVMS
- 10 2nd Grade Music Program @ 2:30
- 13 2017-18 Placement Letters Due
- 19 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 20 Kindergarten Registration Night
- 21 Parent Group Meeting @ 3:30
- 24 4th Grade Music Program @ 2:30
- 26 Secretary Day
- 26 Character Counts Assembly
- 28- 5/5 BOGO Scholastic Book Fair

### May

- 2 Teacher Appreciation Day
- 3 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 8 1st Grade Music Program @ 2:30
- 15 5th Grade ODS Balances Due
- 17 K-Kids Meeting @ 8:55
- 19 Parent Group Meeting @ 3:30
- 22 Kindergarten Music Program @ 2:45
- 26 Popcorn Friday
- 26 5th Grade ODS Medications Due
- 29 No School—Memorial Day
- 31 Character Counts Assembly

## 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.

Many parents know that we are a full Title I school this year. I had a conversation with a parent just last week and she wanted to know how is this different than from year's past. In a full Title school, all students can be served by our Title I teachers and instructional aides. It is the school's goal to give each student their core reading instruction in their homeroom class, a half hour of *Walk to Read* support and if needed, a 30 minute period of Title. If your student tells you that he/she is in a small group of readers with Mrs. Gilmore or Mrs. Smith, then he/she is getting some extra reading support to improve their skills.

Next month we will unveil our second *One Book, One School* novel. This is a very different book from our *Humphrey* book from the beginning of the year. It is also one of the books I used as a read-aloud the years that I taught fifth grade many, many years ago. My students were captivated by what might come next. Our fall book had rave reviews and many families have continued the *Humphrey* series as a nightly ritual. When I have *Humphrey* books on the book give-away board, that envelope is stuffed with PAWS of students that hope to win another *Humphrey* adventure. I know families will appreciate our next book too.

Reading is much more than vocabulary and comprehension. Students also need to learn to "read between the lines" or infer. Inferring is a key to good reading comprehension, and students need to practice to gain this skill. Here are a few tips that you can use at home to help your student learn the skill of inferring.

1. Pick out a book and read a few sentences leaving out words about the setting. Can your child infer where the story is set?
2. Fables are a great tool to help with "reading between the lines". Can your child figure out the lesson from the story? Then have your child point out the parts in the fable he/she used to make the inference.
3. It is all about questioning. Questions that start with "Why do you think...?" or "How do you know...?" can encourage students to infer.

As we enter spring, we also enter the testing windows for both district and state testing. April is the month for the last round of MAP testing for all students. The window is open from April 10 – April 28. Therefore, it is important for all students to get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and be present at school. (FAST testing for K & 1 will be in May.)

SMARTER BALANCED or state testing will open in May. More information will follow about this and will be specific to each grade level and classroom. Since all students in grades third through fifth have their own Chromebook, they will take the assessments in their classroom.

Spring is also the beginning of our gardening season. You will see teachers and students preparing our planter boxes. Also some grade levels are incorporating science and gardening together. We would like to thank Mrs. Sayles and Ms. Malone who secured a grant to help with seeds and starts for our garden. We also want to thank community members and parents who have supported this project. Without all of partners, it would be difficult to provide this experience to Joan Austin 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

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school.

Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

We have 3 months of school left, make every day count!

Every day counts! Good attendance matters for success.

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

Our **lost and found** is overflowing! Don't forget to check for your student's coats and jackets!

### **K-Kids Meeting** **April 5 & 19**

Room D205, 8:55 AM

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

### **Math 24 Competition**

April 18 at MVMS  
9 AM to 12 PM

### **Music Programs**

2nd Grade– April 10

4th Grade– April 24

1st Grade– May 8

Kindergarten– May 22

### **A note from the PTO...**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup> - 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!

**April 12<sup>st</sup> - PTO Meeting** – Please join us at our upcoming meeting at 3:30 pm on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in the school library. PTO positions are open for nominations and voting this month. Come visit and find out about the opportunities. We are always looking for fun friendly faces and welcome new ideas! Childcare is provided. Hope to see you there!

**April 26<sup>th</sup> – Secretary Day** – Time to say THANK YOU to our wonderful secretaries!!! Thank you Ms. Lindsey and Ms. Vicki for all your support to our students, families, and staff!!!

**April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup> – BOGO Book Fair.** Don't miss the Buy One, Get One Free Scholastic Book Fair! What a great way to expand your home library or stock up on gifts at a fraction of the cost! Stop on in the school library after-school and check it out!!

### **The 2017-18 school year is coming quickly!**

Be on the lookout for a pink letter regarding placement for next year. We are starting to gather data to build classrooms over the summer. Please remember, you can not request a specific teacher but can give input on your student's learning style, the type of classroom situation/environment you prefer and the type of teaching which best suits your child.

*Please do not list specific teacher names as teaching assignments are subject to change.*

Also, let us know any special concerns to be considered.

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