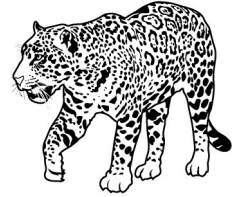




Joan Austin Elementary



2200 N. Center St.

503-554-4550

January 2016

Important Dates to Remember:

January

- 4 School Resumes
- 12 Eye Screenings
- 18 No School—MLK Holiday
- 22 Parent Group Meeting @ 3:15
- 22 Popcorn Friday/Hat Day
- 27 Character Counts Assembly
- 29 No School—Teacher Prep Day

February

- 4 Mathnasium Night
- 13 Outdoor School Bottle Drive
- 15 No School—President's Day
- 19 Parent Group Meeting
- 24 Character Counts Assembly
- 26 Popcorn Friday

No School

Jan. 18 - MLK Holiday

Jan. 29 - Teacher Prep Day

Feb. 15 - President's 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.

We are working on Million Minutes again this year and if we continue at the pace we are on, we will get to our Million Minutes this year. I encourage all of you to read with your son or daughter each night. My own kids are too old and do not sit down with mom to read any more so I have a few students here at school that come and read with me every day. I am enjoying reading some of Battle of the Books novels. I may even be able to answer some of the questions.

We are nearing the end of our first semester of school. That means we will be assessing all students with the FAST and MAP assessments just like we did at the beginning of the year. They allow us to see how much each individual has grown in both reading and math and also decide what skills we need to target with students to reach year-end growth. The FAST test window for grades K – 2 is January 19 through January 29. The MAP test window for grades 3 – 5 is February 1 to February 19.

The staff at Joan Austin works hard to make sure we give students the best education. Together we are reviewing our strategies for *Number Talks* that are strategies for mental math with students. Then we will then read and study the book, *Number Sense Routines: Building Numerical Literacy Every Day in Grades K-3*. All teachers will be connecting these strategies later in the year to their instruction. We have learned having common practices helps all students within our building.

Later this month you may receive an invitation for your child to be part of the RAMP (Reading Adventures and Math Possibilities) program that will be at our building in partnership with George Fox students. They are preparing a ten-week program to give students extra support in reading and math. The first five weeks will be a focus on math and the second five-week session will be reading. We are excited to have this program starting at our school. They have a similar program already at Edwards Elementary.

You may have seen the pictures of our robotics program on our website. The fourth graders are blazing the trail for us and will be doing a Robotics Challenge some time soon. Keep checking our website for details. I invite anyone who is interested to come and watch the learning and problem solving.

Many thanks to all of you who support us every day in so many ways. We would not be able to accomplish what we do without you.

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.

Popcorn Friday & Hat Day January 22

Popcorn is \$0.25 per bag
 Hat Day Participation is \$0.50

PTO Meeting – Next meeting is Friday, January 22nd at 3:15pm in the school library. 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.

Eye Screenings January 12

All students will participate in screenings unless the office is notified.

Oregon Battle of the Books

First battle is Saturday, Jan. 9 at 3 PM in the Joan Austin cafeteria
 Second pool battles will be after school Jan. 20-28
 District practice battles will be at Crater Elementary on Jan 30. at 9 am

Winter Testing Window

FAST (K-2): January 19 - January 29
 MAP (3-5): February 1 - February 19
 Daily schedules will stay the same

Changes ahead for Students in 2016 State Testing

In October parents received their student's results on the 2015 state assessment in English language arts and math. These results provided teachers with an additional source of information to assist with meeting student's academic needs. We'll begin state testing in Spring 2016. New legislation has changed how parents may opt their students out of state testing. Please see the school district website for general questions about the end-of-the-year tests and the Oregon Department of Education Notice for Statewide Testing. I encourage you to contact your student's teacher with any question you may have about their progress in school.

Million Minutes Challenge Class Totals

as of December 18, 2015

Kindergarten

Fisher	Gray	Held
7,494	9,605	3,628

1st Grade

Botenhagen	Haupt	Rivano
9,703	11,868	3,232

2nd Grade

Gallagher	Radcliffe
28,097	19,121

3rd Grade

Mariman	Schumacher	Winter
43,559	25,934	36,315

4th Grade

Buck	Gayer
47,189	64,667

5th Grade

Hinson	Sayles
20,113	47,108

Love
6,208

*Totals do not include time read for the Winter Break Million Minutes Challenge.

5th Grade Outdoor School Bottle Drive

Start saving your bottles and cans that have Oregon deposits! The 2nd Annual ODS Bottle and Can Drive is fast approaching on February 13th! This is an easy way to help support the 5th graders raise money for Outdoor School.

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