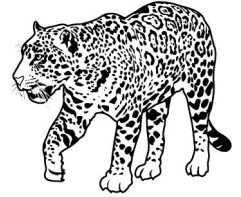




Joan Austin Elementary



2200 N. Center St.

503-554-4550

April 2016

Important Dates to Remember:

April

- 12 State Testing Begins
- 14-15 No School—Conferences
- 21 Kindergarten Registration@3:30
- 22 Parent Group Meeting@3:15
- 22 Secretary Day
- 25 4th Grade Music Program@2:30
- 27 Character Counts Assembly
- 28 Science Night
- 29 Popcorn Friday/Hat Day

May

- 2-6 Scholastic Book Fair/BOGO
- 9 1st Grade Music Program@2:30
- 13 State Testing Window Closes
- 20 Parent Group Meeting@3:15
- 23 Kindergarten Music Program@2:30
- 25 Character Counts Assembly
- 27 Popcorn Friday/Hat Day
- 30 No School—Memorial Day

Kindergarten Registration for 2016-17 April 21, 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 teachers and register for the upcoming school year.

We are well on our way to reaching our *Million Minute Challenge*. It is April and we have already reached 900,000 minutes. Students have worked hard individually and *Battle of the Books* teams read books several times in preparation for competitions. All students read extra minutes in February so I would kiss the pig. Some teachers and I will be planning a *Million Minute Day* probably for the end of May to celebrate our accomplishment.

By now you should have received information from your son's or daughter's teacher about spring conferences. This is a good time to have a discussion about a student's growth and an opportunity to set goals that can still be reached by the end of the year. Conferences are the week of April 11 and we encourage all parents to attend. We are hoping for *100% attendance*.

Also in April we will start *state testing* with third, fourth, and fifth grade students. All of these tests should start the week of *April 18th*. In order for students to perform at their best it is important to get a good night's sleep and a good breakfast. It will also be most important that students be on time for school since being tardy will create anxiety if a class already has started a test. The testing window closes on May 13; therefore, Mr. Strid and I will be proctoring make-up tests in May. Teachers should be getting out specific test dates to you.

I know that parents understand we are a Title I school. We are actually a *Title I Target Assist* school; that means we must have criteria to select students who will be in our Title I pull out program. Next year we are moving to a full Title I school status. The Site Council has worked hard this year preparing the paperwork to move us into a school wide Title I program. This will allow our Title I teachers the flexibility to work with all students. In fact, this will also allow us to push our Title I teachers into the classroom to help teach and to have pull out blocks for extra support. In April the Title I teachers and I will visit some model Title I schools in the state as we discuss how our schedule and Title program should change for next year.

Finally, in case you have not seen the *Newberg Graphic*, Joan Austin has been in the news the last few weeks. Joan Austin Elementary won the *Exemplary Reading Program Award* for the state of Oregon sponsored by the International Literacy Association. We received a plaque and \$1500 to use towards strengthening our reading program. *Stephanie Sayles* was honored as one of the *Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year* and now her nomination packet is sent to the next round of the competition. Also Stephanie won a *grant for \$3500 from Fiskars Project Orange Thumb* to help with the creation of our school garden. She is looking for parent help in this project so if you are interested, please contact our office.

Our school is making tremendous strides with academics. That was evident by the fourth grade robotics competition in March. All this could not be possible without the support of our parents. *Many thanks to all of you* for everything you do to make Joan Austin a special place to be.

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.

Bus questions or concerns?

Contact the Bus Barn at (503)538-8365.

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!

A note from the PTO...

-April 22nd—PTO Meeting— Next meeting is Friday, April 22nd at 3:15 PM 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.

-April 29th is Popcorn Friday and Hat Day— Popcorn is \$0.25/bag and hat passes are \$0.50.

-The Spring Scholastic Book Fair is coming May 2nd—May 6th! This will be a "Buy One Get One Free". Don't miss this great opportunity!

It's time for Nominations & Elections for 2016-17 Joan Austin PTO.

-I want Joan Austin Elementary to be one of the best schools in Newberg.

-I want my child to have a great school year—to learn and to have fun!

-I want to help decide how PTO fundraising moneys are spent.

-I want all the students at Joan Austin Elementary to be successful.

If the above statements are true, then "help us help the school". Parent involvement is critical for a successful school, so volunteer as a PTO officer or a committee chair. There are jobs that take no more than a couple hours a month, some that are seasonal, and a few that require a routine commitment. Join us—It's rewarding, it's important, it's even fun! Nominate yourself or someone else. All positions can be shared. If you have any questions, please contact jaevolunteer@gmail.com. Look for ballot forms with position descriptions coming home this month.

Conferences are April 14 and 15!

There will be **NO SCHOOL** those days. You can schedule conferences with your student's teacher. Each teacher has a different schedule. If you have questions, contact your teacher or the office!

The 2016-17 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.

Dress Code Reminder- As the weather gets warmer, students and families are encouraged to review the school rules regarding dress code.

1. Clothing should be clean and appropriate.
2. Hats (including bandannas, scarves or other headwear) are not allowed inside the building.
3. ***Appropriate shoes should be worn at all times for safety reasons. Flip flops present a safety hazard both in the classroom and on the playground.***
4. Clothing may not contain words or logos that are suggestive, or represent alcohol, drugs, violence or vulgarity.
5. Skirts and dresses should be no shorter than four inches above the knee; shorts must have an inseam of four inches.
6. If a student chooses to wear leggings, the shirt/dress must be at least four inches below the buttocks.
7. Clothing that exposes midriff, buttocks, cleavage, backs or undergarments will not be worn.
8. Tank tops may be worn if they have a two-inch strap width and are cut closely under the armhole. Crop tops, bare midriffs, and spaghetti straps are not allowed.

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