



Bridger News



February 3, 2009



From the Principal

Dear Bridger Families,

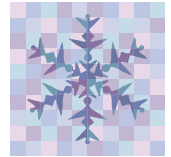
As you may already know, there will be an extra day at the end of this school year. In order to help make up instructional hours lost due to snow days in December, the district will add June 10 to the school calendar and replace a professional development day on April 10 with a school day. We understand that this change may cause scheduling difficulties for a few families. But please remember that adding the extra days will help children stay on track and allow the school to remain in compliance with required instructional hours.

It's February and it's already time to start planning for next year. If you know a family with a child who will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2009, please let them know about Bridger's Kindergarten Roundup Thursday, Feb. 12. Also, if you know families who are interested in Spanish Immersion, we are beginning the transfer cycle process with Spanish Immersion Information Nights Feb. 19 and Tours on Feb. 26, March 5 and March 12.

Tina Daily
Principal

SNOW MAKEUP DAYS AHEAD!

The Portland Public School District announced Thursday, Jan. 29, that all PPS students will be making up instructional time lost to Snow Days in December. All Portland Public Schools, including Bridger, will add one makeup day at the end of the school year. The last day of the 2008-09 school year will now be Wednesday, June 10 (instead of June 9).



In addition, students will makeup a second lost day by attending school on a day previously set aside for Staff Professional Development. Bridger students will now attend school on Friday, April 10, as will other students attending schools following a trimester calendar. A third day missed during the week of December 15 will not be made up, but will be counted as time lost for weather emergencies. If you have questions or concerns about the change in the school calendar, please call the Bridger Office at 503-916-6336.



Kindergarten Roundup!

Let your friends and neighbors know, Bridger School's Kindergarten Roundup is Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. If your child will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2009, he or she is ready for Kindergarten next fall.

Find out about Bridger's Neighborhood Kindergarten program by attending this special meeting. Visit the classroom and meet the teachers. Registration papers and early childhood education information will be available.

Important Dates to Remember in February:

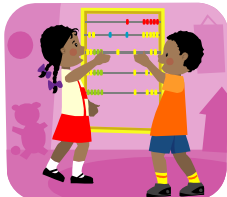
- **Feb. 10: PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library**
- **Feb. 12: Kindergarten Roundup, 6:30 p.m., Library**
- **Feb. 16: NO SCHOOL, President's Day**
- **Feb. 19: Spanish Immersion Information Night, 6:30 p.m., Library**
- **Feb. 24: Site Council, 3:15 p.m., Room 12**
- **Feb. 26: Immersion Program Tours, 9:00 a.m.**
- **Feb. 28: Water Garden Work Party, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**
- **Celebration of Literacy (TBA)**

Breakfast at 8:20 a.m.

Please do NOT arrive early for Breakfast at Bridger. Students may not arrive in the Cafeteria for Breakfast earlier than 8:20 a.m. There is NO SUPERVISION for students until 8:25 a.m. in the Cafeteria. Please keep your children safe and do not drop them off at school before 8:20 a.m.

Spanish Immersion Information Nights

Learn about Bridger School's Dual Language Spanish Immersion Program at Immersion Information Night Thursday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Find out about curriculum, meet teachers, visit the classrooms and ask questions during this evening presentation. Information about transferring into Spanish Immersion at Bridger will also be available. For more information about Bridger's Spanish Immersion program, call the Bridger Office at 503-916-6336.



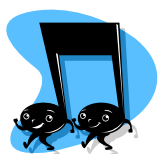
Library News



We are very happy to say that almost everyone is being very responsible about getting books back to the library this year. Not too many overdue books out there. Reminder notices will be going home soon to those who are behind. Please help by finding them or paying for them!

Book Change is back! In the fall students donated over \$300 to buy new books for our library. Our next Scholastic Book Fair is coming up in a few months, so we're back at it again. If you would like to participate, help your child bring in spare change. Students love checking out new books and knowing that they are responsible for their existence.

Andrea Woodward
Librarian



Notes from the Music Room

We really hit the ground running in 2009, starting with an assembly to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday. Students from kindergarten through grade 5 and Vocal Project performed a variety of songs while our grade 4 students read a narration outlining Dr. King's dreams for a better future. Thank you to all of the students for all of their hard work during the first two weeks of January making this performance such a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all again about the co-curricular groups that are available to your child this year. We have our honor choir, Vocal Project, Sound Brigade our percussion ensemble, and Reader's Theater Company. All of these groups are available to students in grades 4-8. Please encourage your child to get involved. These are good opportunities for the students at Bridger to get more experience in the Arts outside of regular classes.

We are also beginning to prepare for our Talent Show. This year, just before Spring Break, students in grades 2 through 8 will have the opportunity to show us their talent. We are looking for singers, instrumentalists, magicians, comedians, and dancers – or anything else they can do. If your child has a talent that they would like to share with the rest of the school please encourage them to visit me in the music room for an audition sign-up form.

Erica Lindgren
Music Specialist

NO SCHOOL!
Monday, Feb. 16, 2009
President's Day

Box tops for Education!

Save those Box tops for Education and Campbell's Soup labels. Send them in to Bridger School. Our goal is to collect \$500 (about 15 coupons per child) this year. Thanks for your help!

Friendly Faces, Happy Feet!

Are you interested in getting more students to walk or bike to school? Do you want more fitness opportunities and cleaner air for Bridger School K-8?

Safer routes to School is excited to present "Stop + Walk" and the "Walking School Bus/Bike Train." Both campaigns provide school volunteers the resources to get more students active on their commute to school. If you are interested in organizing a program at Bridger, contact Caroline at 503-823-1189. The following trainings will be held in the near future:

- Thursday, Feb. 5, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Lewis Elementary School—Stop + Walk
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Gregory Heights Library—Walking School Bus/Bike Train
- Wednesday, Feb. 25th, 12:00-1:30 p.m. at Southeast Precinct—Walking School Bus/Bike Train.

The trainings are free and open to the public. Register online or RSVP via email to Gabriel.graff@trans.ci.portland.or.us or phone 503-823-5291. Food will be provided and child care is available upon request.

For more information, visit www.saferoutesportland.org.

Chinese New Year 2009

Kindergarteners and second graders celebrated Chinese New Year 2009—the year of the Ox—with a Dragon Parade through Bridger hallways Thursday, Jan. 29. (The official Chinese New Year was celebrated Jan. 26.)

Students prepared for the event by learning about Chinese culture, food, music and traditions. After the parade, students shared traditional treats in the school cafeteria. Traditionally, at Chinese New Year celebrations, people wear red clothes, decorate with poems on red paper, and give children “lucky money” in red envelopes. Red symbolizes fire, which according to legend can drive away bad luck.



Eighth grader Alex wore the dragon head.



Alexan, Derek and Tomuelson held up the dragon's back too.



Ellie, Natalie and Amelia helped support the body of the dragon.



Bridger PTA gets Bike Grant!

Bridger PTA has been awarded a [grant](#) to organize the 1st annual Bridger Bikes Montavilla bike ride! This four-mile bike ride will be taking place on Saturday morning, May 30th. Prior to this spring event, a Bike Transportation Alliance's (BTA) Bicycle Safety Education program will be offered to Bridger students! Note: Families who have children using training wheels and tricycles will also be able to participate in this event; but will be confined to a "mini-route" on the school grounds.

To make this a successful (and safe) event for our children, PTA needs you to volunteer for committees. Our first planning committee meeting will be held on **February 10th, 2009 at 5:30PM - 6:30PM** at Bridger's library. Come to ask questions about this event or better yet join a committee! Please feel free to email any questions to bridgerpta@gmail.com.