



SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY

700 NE 112th Street, Vancouver, WA 98685

Phone: 360-313-2750 Fax: 360-313-2751

Travis Bond, Principal Trina Irons, Secretary Cheryl Sawyer, Clerk

Principals Corner

December 6, 2013

"Simple Gifts" is a Shaker song that was written and composed by Elder Joseph Brackett, in 1848. The song became world-famous when composer Aaron Copland featured it as part of the score of Martha Graham's ballet, Appalachian Spring. The lyrics are especially meaningful as we enter our season of giving:

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and we'll all learn to say....

As we are fast approaching the holiday season this is an opportunity for all of us to remember that it is the simple gifts that mean the most. Thank you to our Sacajawea Community for the simple gifts of your support, partnership, commitment, compassion, understanding, hard work and generous spirit.

This is the season for celebration and our Skyhawks have been busy. I am delighted to share some of our accomplishments and upcoming events:

Skillerees

Our Skyhawk athletes demonstrated their abilities and spirit as they participated in our volleyball skilleree a few weeks ago. Congratulations boys and girls, as well as Coaches Hoffman and Gannon, for representing our school at this event. You made us proud!

Student Chest Drive

Students contributed \$1,515 to our Vancouver School District Foundation's annual fundraiser. Wow!! This money goes directly toward students in need in our own district. This is a true example of students helping students.

Canned Food Drive

Starting next week from December 9th through the 13th will be our school wide Salvation Army canned food drive. Some suggested donations include: tuna, stew, fruit, vegetables, cereal, baby formula, soup, pasta, macaroni & cheese and diapers.

Giving Tree

Starting next week from December 9th through the 17th our Giving Tree will be available to staff, families and community members interested in donating. Anyone wishing to adopt a child simply chooses one or more tags by gender and age from the tree. You have until Tuesday December, 17th to get the tag(s) with gift(s) back to school. Important: Each tag must be securely attached to the outside of the unwrapped gift or bag containing multiple items belonging to a single tag.

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season.

Your partner in learning,
Go Skyhawks!
Travis Bond

Clip and Save.....

Skyhawk Calendar

December:

- 9 - 1 Hr. Early Release
- 9 - Burgerville Night 5-9pm
- 11 - PTA Board Mtg. 3:20-4:20pm
- 13 - Smencil/Smen/Popcorn Sale at Lunch
- 13 - Report Cards sent home
- 16 - Burgerville Gift Card Orders Due
- 23-Jan. 3 - Winter Break

January:

- 6 - School Resumes
- 8 - PTA General Mtg. 6-7pm
- 13 - 1 Hr. Early Release
- 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday No School
- 24 - Family Movie Night 6:30-8:30pm
- 27 - 1 Hr. Early Release
- 29 - Semester Break, No School



Please check the lost and found. There are loads of coat, hats, etc. These things will go off to a local charity on December 20th.



Transportation will provide snow routes for these schools:

Sarah J. Anderson, Chinook, Felida, and Salmon Creek elementary schools
Alki, Gaiser, and Thomas Jefferson middle schools
Columbia River, Lewis and Clark, and Skyview high schools
Vancouver iTech Preparatory and Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Snow bus routes

Snow bus routes have been developed for some school buses that serve our school. These alternate routes will be used when icy or snowy conditions exist on some of the school district's most difficult roads. Snow bus routes are safer during bad weather conditions. When snow bus routes are announced, there will be no service to some bus stops. Alternate bus stops will be used. We encourage students to ride school buses to and from school during adverse weather conditions. School buses are a safe and reliable form of transportation. The snow routes for our school are listed below. These snow routes also will be posted in our school office and available on the school district website, www.vansd.org.

Last Chance Holiday Bazaar

FVHS Booster Club is hosting a Holiday Bazaar on December 14, 2013 at Fort from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is your chance to shop for those last minute gifts you might need, or to start your shopping! Come by and visit the 40 plus vendors that will be at Fort Vancouver High School showing off their products for you to purchase. Visit with Santa, listen to some great music, and shop. What could be better! For vendor information contact Candaice at 360-518-0561 or Heidi at 503-459-2227.

VPS continues strategic plan to expand opportunities for student achievement

The strategic plan for Vancouver Public Schools, Design II, is undergoing an update. The plan, adopted in 2008, has guided the district for the past five years. Even if you don't know the plan by name, you likely will recognize its products: Kindergarten Jump Start, full-day kindergarten, Family-Community Resource Centers, iPads and other technology for students, Professional Learning Communities, Vancouver iTech Preparatory, language immersion programs, and more.

Now it's time to update the plan and think ahead for the next five years. Design II, Chapter 2 will continue the momentum and expand the scope of our goals and priorities. The work is underway. During the past three months, more than 300 students, staff, parents and community members have provided input about the path the district is on and where we should go from here.

Next steps include the creation of teams composed of district staff and community members. These teams will review the input and develop goals and objectives, which eventually will become part of the next strategic plan. Watch for regular updates as the next chapter of Design II unfolds.

For more information, go to www.vansd.org/design2chapter2.



NO BALLOONS AT SCHOOL PLEASE

We appreciate that many of us like to celebrate with balloons! Due to our Fire Alarm System, at Sacajawea Elementary, we ask that **No Balloons**, of any kind, be brought into the school building. Thank you for your understanding.

Kindergarten Snack Fee = \$15.00

If you are a parent of a kindergartener, and have not yet paid the \$15.00 snack fee, please remember to do so. We are very lucky to have a snack available for your children in the classroom. This provides a delicious snack to re-energize them during the school day. We appreciate your help in continuing this fun and tasty tradition.



Classroom Treats

Just a reminder that the Vancouver School Board approved a new Regulation last year which limits treats brought for classroom celebrations. Food and beverages brought to school to be shared with other students should be commercially prepared with the ingredient label intact. No homemade treats will be allowed in classrooms.

Sacajawea School staff strives to achieve the highest potential of its students and staff by fostering a positive learning environment. We promote dignity, compassion and self-worth in each individual.

Our students are empowered with skills necessary to become responsible, contributing citizens and lifelong learners.

~ Sacajawea Mission Statement ~

Late Arrivals

We are noticing a significant amount of children arriving late. Regular and prompt school attendance is important for a child to experience success in school. Tardiness is difficult for the entire class; it is disruptive to the lessons to have a student arrive late and then need to be filled in on what was missed.

Tardy students often spend a great deal of time trying to catch up with their classmates. They miss key instruction that makes learning essential skills more challenging. Our school is open at 8:00 AM for students who wish to eat breakfast or have recess on the playground. Otherwise, students can enter their classrooms at 8:20 AM. If students arrive at 8:30 or later, they are tardy and must come to the office for a pass.

School closure information

Please be prepared for school closures due to bad weather or other emergency situations. Depending on the circumstances, schools could be closed for one day or several days. Schools could open two hours later than usual or close earlier than scheduled.

To find out if schools are closed:

- Check "Emergency Closure Information" on the district website: www.vansd.org.
- Check the Flash Alert website: www.flashalert.net (select Portland/Vancouver area, then Clark County Schools, then Vancouver School District).
- Sign up for free FlashAlert text and/or email messages. You must renew this service each year. Both websites listed above will take you to the Emergency Messages page for Vancouver School District. Find "Emergency Alerts," click "Subscribe" and follow directions.
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see our school closure posts: www.facebook.com/VancouverPublicSchools and <https://twitter.com/VancouverSD>.
- Listen to your local radio and television stations.
- Call the School Closure Information Line at 313-1401.



If schools are closed, the main school phone numbers will allow you to connect to the School Closure Information Line.

The decision to close or delay the opening of school due to snow or icy roads usually is made early in the morning of that school day. If weather becomes threatening during the school day, schools may close early. If schools are closed, all after-school and evening school activities are canceled for that day.

Snow/ice routes may be used for some school bus routes. Families that would be impacted by altered bus routes will receive letters with detailed bus stop information. Snow/ice route information also will be sent to the schools affected and posted on school websites.

Schools in Washington State must, by law, provide 180 days of instruction each year. These days have been designated as make-up days in case scheduled school days are canceled: January 29, June 18, June 19, and June 20, 2014. If school must be closed more than four days, additional make-up days may be added.

De la Oficina de Comunicación de las Escuelas Públicas de Vancouver.

Noviembre de 2013

Como verificar si hay cierre de las escuelas.

Por favor estén preparados para cuando haya un cierre de escuelas debido a mal tiempo u otras situaciones de emergencia. Dependiendo de la situación, las escuelas podrán tener que cerrarse por uno o por varios días. Las escuelas podrán abrir dos horas más tarde de lo usual o podrán cerrar más temprano de lo acostumbrado.

Para averiguar si las escuelas están cerradas:

- Compruébelo en "Emergency School Network" en el sitio web del distrito: www.vansd.org.
- Visite "Flash Alert" en el sitio web: www.flashalert.net (seleccione Portland/Vancouver area, luego Clark County Schools, por ultimo, Vancouver School District).
- Apúntese para recibir texto de "Flash Alert" y/o mensajes de correos electrónicos. Deberá renovar este servicio todos los años. Ambos sitios del web que aparecen arriba le llevarán a la página de "Emergency Messages" del Distrito Escolar de Vancouver. Encuentre "Emergency Alerts," haga click "Subscribe" y siga las instrucciones.
- Nos puede seguir en Facebook y Twitter para enterarse sobre el cierre de las escuelas en: www.facebook.com/VancouverPublicSchools y <https://twitter.com/VancouverSD>.
- Escuche las estaciones de radio y televisión local.
- Llame a la Línea de Información de Cierre de las Escuelas, al teléfono 313-1401.

Si las escuelas están cerradas, los principales números de teléfonos de las escuelas también le permitirán conectarse a la Línea de Información de Cierre de las Escuelas.

La decisión de cerrar o de atrasar la apertura de las escuelas debido a nieve o a carreteras cubiertas de hielo se toma generalmente temprano en la mañana del mismo día escolar. Si durante el día escolar las condiciones del clima se tornan peligrosas, las escuelas podrían cerrar temprano. Si cierran las escuelas, todas las actividades escolares programadas para después de las clases se cancelarán por ese día.

Las rutas para cuando hay nieve/hielo podrían ser usadas para algunas rutas de los buses. Las familias que se verían afectadas por rutas de autobús modificadas recibirán cartas con información detallada de las paradas de autobuses. La información de las rutas de los autobuses para cuando hay nieve/hielo también será enviada a las escuelas afectadas y será publicada en el sitio web de las escuelas.

Las escuelas en el estado de Washington deberán, por ley, proveer 180 días de clases cada año. Los siguientes días han sido designados para recuperar las clases en caso de cancelación de clases: 29 de enero, 18 de junio, 19 de junio y 20 de junio del 2014. Si se tienen que cerrar las escuelas por más de 4 días, se añadirán más días para reponer los días perdidos.



Change in Last Minute Going Home Plans....

The school needs to be notified by 2:30 at the latest, of any "Going Home" change in plans. Calls after 2:30 will be denied. To insure we continue keeping all students safe we need to know changes early in the day. If you are wanting your student to ride a different bus or go home a different way, we need this in writing/email. Phone calls can not be accepted for this. If the parent/guardian are wanting to pick-up your student a phone call will be accepted before 2:30. Please be prepared to show ID.



NOTICE
ALL VISITORS
MUST GET
PASS AT OFFICE

Visitor's Badge: All visitors and volunteers are required to report to the office to sign-in and pick up a Visitor/Volunteer Badge before entering the building between the hours of 8:00 and 2:50. We recognize that this is a slight inconvenience, but we feel that the safety of our students is more important.

Please understand that instruction begins at 8:20 and teachers are not available for conferencing after the bell, unless a time has been prearranged with the teacher. If a staff member sees an adult on the grounds or in the building without a visitor's badge, they will be escorted to the office.

Visitors and Volunteers In School: Also, all regular visitors and volunteers must complete the Volunteer Clearance Process prior to spending time in the building.

Parents who have not been cleared will need to be escorted by a staff member while in the building.

we ♥
VOLUNTEERS!

Employment Opportunities

Vancouver Public Schools currently has openings for substitute: teachers, Para educators, and bus drivers. If you are interested in employment, information about positions and application materials are located on the district website (www.vansd.org) under the Employment tab (Apply Online). If you need assistance, please contact the Human Resources Department (hrdesk@vansd.org or 313-1080).