

Pioneer Press

January 2016



January 29 is Early Release @ 11:35

Teachers will be using the afternoon to work on the new elementary report card. Report cards will be sent home on February 12, 2016. This new report card requires significant time to properly and thoroughly complete. Please refer to the "Welcome to the New Elementary Report Card" brochure distributed last fall during Curriculum Night for important highlights and details explaining the report card format.

Special reminder for AM & PM ½ day kindergarten ONLY: Sessions will be on REGULAR schedule.

Bake Sale -- Huge Success!



Our Pioneer students have been inspired by a library book called, *The One and Only Ivan*, by Newbery Award winner Katherine Applegate. This inspiration resulted in a schoolwide baked food sale effort to raise awareness, raise funds, and to promote this great read about these precious animals. The student organizers were third graders: Abigail E, Samantha S, Lauren J, and Breanna B. The bake sale was their idea for a culminating project after reading the book. Other students quickly got involved. Fifth graders assisted: Joshua K, Lucy C, Jackie H, and Abby D. Students, baked, sold, bought, ate and donated nearly \$500. A Pioneer family matched and doubled our amount to nearly \$1,000.

The One and Only Ivan is a fictional book based on the true story of an African silverback gorilla and baby African elephant who were both placed in a shopping mall outside of Tacoma, Washington in the 1960s. Research revealed that the children rallied to Ivan the Gorilla's aid in getting relocated to a better place. The bake sale donations will be split evenly between The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org, fostering orphaned babies due to primarily the ivory trade and also to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, <https://www.gorillafund.org> dedicated to protecting gorillas.

Students feel good about our international activism of helping to protect intelligent species which have no voice. We've touched on local history and moved into a brighter future. We can't wait to get our hands on this great book!

Talent Show, Feb. 11

Do you dance? Sing? Do magic tricks? Play an instrument? If you have a special talent, this is your opportunity to be a celebrity! The Pioneer Talent Show is set for February 11, 2016. Talent Show application forms are available in the office. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 29.

Remember to Vote by February 9th!

Walk N' Roll on Wednesday, February 3rd!

Also Early Release at 11:35 AM. **Reminder: AM & PM ½ day kindergarten will be on their regular schedule.**

Kindergarten Information Meeting

On Saturday, February 20, the Olympia School District will hold its annual "Learn All About Kindergarten" informational event starting at 10 AM at Capital High School. During the event parents will learn about a variety of topics related to kindergarten and school in general, including how to register for kindergarten, kindergarten program options, riding the bus, and how to use the district's Family Access student information system to stay updated on everything from grades to lunch accounts. A reminder that children should be 5 years old by August 31, 2016 to be eligible to start kindergarten this fall. The event is geared for adults of incoming kindergartners in the Olympia School District. Childcare is not provided.

Parent Reminders

The number of students arriving and lingering in the front hallway prior to 8:15 is growing. We have supervision that begins at 8:15 AM with dismissal to the classrooms at 8:25 AM. As a courtesy to our office staff and for student safety, we would appreciate students be dropped off or arrive (walking or riding their bike) as close to 8:15 as possible. Thank you! YCare is available before and after school -- for more information, please call the YMCA.

Also, it is the time of year where we see lots of absences due to illness. When your student is out sick, please be sure to inform the office each day of the absence. We cannot assume that a student continues to be sick simply because they were absent the previous day. If we do not hear from you regarding an absence, it will be marked unexcused.

Highly Capable Program

Second through seventh grade kids can be referred by anyone for the Highly Capable Program. Forms can be found on the OSD website under Academic Programs. The deadline to submit referral forms is February 12 at noon. There will be a Parent Information Night on Feb. 3 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the Knox Building.

Yearbooks on Sale Now!

Yearbooks are on sale through the Pioneer PTA for \$14.00. Grades K-4 please place your order by March 4, 2016. All 5th graders will receive a free yearbook courtesy of Pioneer PTA. There are 2 easy ways to order:

- Complete a yearbook order form and return it to the office with a payment of \$14.00. (Checks can be made out to Pioneer PTA.) Order forms will be sent home with students and are also available in the Pioneer office.
- Order online at: <http://create.blossom-books.com/CommunityOrder.aspx> (type in Pioneer Elementary)

Pioneer Announces Its School Play: Schoolhouse Rock!



Apple Tree Productions and the Pioneer PTA are excited to announce the school play production of Schoolhouse Rock! starring Pioneer's very own 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Information about the school play will be discussed at a parent/student meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 3rd in the Pioneer library.

Pioneer PTA Auction at the Hands On Children's Museum! Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM

\$30 per person

Ticket Order forms will be sent home in student folders and are also available in the Pioneer office.

- Enjoy a fun night with other Pioneer parents!
- Live & Silent Auction items
- Spend a little or a lot -- it all goes to support Pioneer programs.
- Food, drinks and dessert will be served.
- Free childcare at Pioneer Elementary School -- Gym, Pizza & Movie Night!
(Preschool age and above. Space is limited.)

The PTA Needs Your Help to Make the Annual Auction a Success!

Gift cards ranging from \$5 to \$50 for our popular grab bags. (**Please place gift cards in an envelope labeled "auction" and place in safe next to Mrs. Heade's door**)

Services, goods and products!

Past donations include 2 hours of gardening services, an hour at the spa, tickets for sporting events/ plays, a home-cooked dinner for 8, week cabin getaways and more.

DONATION FORMS AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

Please contact Nikki McCoy @ nikkimccoy2@gmail.com for any questions.