

The Owl's Nest



January 27, 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

We enjoyed two great events this week – our assembly to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and our Western Hoedown Dance. Two very different events - but each fantastic and a good reminder of why we *love* being a part of Audubon! Thanks to Kristen Hurst for her planning and directing of the MLK, Jr. performance and a huge congratulations to our 6th grade classes for their writing, producing, directing and performing. They were awesome! Their artistic talents were obvious and I hope we see many more performances like this. Also, thanks to Janine Sullivan and the PTSA committee for planning and coordinating such a fun family event in the Hoedown Dance. All who were there truly enjoyed fun times, good food and dancing...yes, lots of dancing! ☺

I also want to extend a thank you to the many parents who helped out on our unexpected release day last week due to snow (you know who you are). This was an unexpected turn of events and we truly appreciated their willingness to jump in and help. We, of course, have a plan for disasters or emergencies, but were clearly not prepared enough for this non-emergency situation. The good news is we have learned from this event and are working hard to improve our systems for a release of this nature in the future. We also shared our feedback with the district and they are using our advice to make their messages clearer in the future.

Now that we know what to expect we are able to put some simple changes into effect. Please know, however, that even with a perfect system, an unexpected release of this type will still result in hundreds of families here at the same time to release their children from school. Plenty of patience both in our parking lot and in our school building will be needed. Our priorities are:

1. Keeping students calm and safe throughout the event. That may be in their individual classrooms, in the gym, or another location, depending on the situation.
2. Releasing students only to parents or adults listed on the yellow emergency cards. This information must be verified and that does take time.

In order to do the above we need from our families:

- Patience and cooperation with our systems and procedures.
- Trust that we have the best interest of our students in mind.
- Avoid calling the office to keep lines open for emergencies and for calling parents and classrooms.
- Have a picture ID with you when you pick up your child. You will be asked to show this to an adult who may not know you or your child.
- Only ask adults who are listed on the yellow emergency card to pick up your child. If not, be prepared for us to call to verify, however know that this will take more time.
- **Do not go directly to classrooms to pick up your child.** We must require adults to sign our roster and we must call for the child to come down to you. This is for the safety of all our children. Even (and especially) during these chaotic times we need to limit the number of folks roaming our hallways and classrooms and we need to make sure our teachers hear directly from school staff that it is okay to release a student.

I know that these situations are not easy and your time is valuable. With the right procedures and systems in place, combined with the cooperation and patience of everyone involved, I know we can accomplish all of the above in a timely and safe manner. Thank you for doing your part to help us if we have an unexpected release.

Have a wonderful week!
Karen Dickens

Don't forget these important dates!

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| 1/31, 2/2 & 2/3 | Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences; School Dismissal 11:30 am |
| 2/2/12 | Kindergarten Registration, 1pm -7pm in Art & Science Room |
| 2/16, 17 & 20 | Mid-Winter Break holiday, no school |
| 2/23/12 | Science Fair, 6:30 pm |

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a student who will turn five years of age by August 31, 2012, or you know someone who does, be aware that kindergarten registration for the 2012-2013 school year will take place on **Thursday, February 2, 1:00-7:00pm** here at Audubon in the Art/Science room.

*We have one more **optional** information session for interested parents:*

1/30, 9:00-10:00 am

This is an opportunity to hear from Principal Karen Dickens, ask questions, and have a brief visit to one or more of our current kindergarten classrooms. Please sign up in the office if you wish to attend this session. This opportunity is for parents only as we cannot accommodate small children at this session.

From our Community:

News Release

Date: January 26, 2012

Contact: Emergency Management – 206-205-1000

Property and business owners encouraged to submit damage reports from winter storm

Web page and call center open through January 31, 2012

The recent winter storm had impacts across a wide swath of King County. Residents and businesses that suffered property damage or other losses in the storm may be eligible for assistance to get their property back in order. Eligibility is determined through a damage assessment process which takes into account the total reported losses within King County.

In order to compute the losses, individuals and businesses are encouraged to submit reports to the King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). A webpage, www.kingcounty.gov/damage, is now open to receive damage reports for individuals and businesses in King County. In addition, a hotline number, 1-800-523-5044, is also open for individuals and businesses to record a damage report during business hours. These two reporting systems will be open until 5:00 p.m. on January 31. Submitting a report to OEM does not guarantee reimbursement.

Damage reports are for uninsured losses. Before filing a damage report with OEM, residents and business owners should contact their insurance provider about existing coverage and deductibles.

They are also urged to document damage with photographs and keep records of all cleanup and repair costs.

Residents in unincorporated King County whose homes were damaged in the storm can obtain free building inspections from the King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES). DDES has waived the associated fee to help residents speed up repair to their property. Priority service will be given for damaged structures requiring permits for repair work.

Inspectors will evaluate the integrity of structures, assess if a structure is safe to occupy, and whether a permit is required for repair work. Inspection staff may also advise customers of the need to pursue a more detailed inspection from a licensed structural engineer to determine the full extent of the damage. While storm damage inspections are free, standard permit fees still apply.

To request a damage assessment inspection during business hours, call 206-296-6630. DDES operates Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. For minor repairs, permits can be issued over the counter at the DDES offices at 900 Oakesdale Ave. SW in Renton.

For residents who are in the process of removing yard waste and woody debris, trash haulers have advised their customers that they can set out twice the normal amounts on their next collections day. To identify your trash hauler, or companies that recycle wood, visit www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste.

Additionally, some cities are scheduling special storm debris drop-off events/locations. Contact your city for that information.

For more information about the storm recovery effort, check www.kingcounty.gov.

News Release

Date: Jan. 26, 2012

Contact: Doug Williams – 206-296-8304

Special wood debris-recycling events set to help King County residents recover from storms

Free wood debris recycling Jan. 28-29, Feb. 4-5 at 4 locations

King County Executive Dow Constantine has cleared the way for free disposal of branches, tree limbs and other wood debris left in the wake of recent wind and snow storms.

"We have made it easy for residents to dispose of debris so they can quickly put the storms of last week behind them and move on with life," said Executive Constantine.

Free wood debris recycling for King County residents will be available on Jan. 28-29, and again on Feb. 4-5 at four locations:

- The Shoreline, Enumclaw and Cedar Falls solid waste facilities. For directions and hours, visit <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/index.asp>.
- At Kent's Russell Road Park, 24400 Russell Rd., Kent. Clean wood debris will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

"People living in our unincorporated and rural communities are facing numerous challenges in the wake of the wild weather of the last two weeks," said Metropolitan King County Council Chair Larry Gossett. "This is one way to ease the financial burden that will come with cleaning up the damage to their homes and property."

"In the aftermath of a major storm, it is important that King County work with citizens who are doing their part to recover," said Councilmember Reagan Dunn, who represents Southeast King County. "The people who are bringing in debris from the storm are often not just helping themselves; they are also pitching in and helping their neighbors as well. I applaud the decision to help citizens recycling this wood debris."

"Some rural residents in areas with more trees suffered significant hardships in the aftermath of last week's severe winter storms," said Councilmember Kathy Lambert, who represents northeast King County. "Much of the damage was not covered by homeowners insurance, but they can take advantage of this opportunity for free disposal of waste wood. Those who incurred storm-related costs and damages also are reminded to report them at www.kingcounty.gov/damage."

"The recent winter storms downed trees and branches, leaving significant debris in their wake," said Councilmember Bob Ferguson, who represents North King County. "Waiving the fee for storm-related debris at the Shoreline Transfer Station will assist north end residents who are cleaning up after the storms."

"There are neighborhoods in Kent littered with tree debris from not only the snow and ice storms of last week, but the high winds that have come through the region this week," said Councilmember Julia Patterson who represents Kent on the County Council. "Free recycling for area residents demonstrates a high level of responsiveness from County government following these major storms."

The collection sites and events are exclusively for wood debris from the recent storms. Stumps, logs and limbs no longer than six feet in length are allowed – no brush, leaves, grass clippings, sod or soil can be accepted. These events are open to all King County residents. People bringing wood debris are reminded to secure their loads.

King County Solid Waste Division Director Kevin Kiernan says residents have several additional storm debris disposal options available, including curbside recycling (yard waste cart) and commercial recycling companies that charge a fee for their service, but may prove to be more convenient for some residents.

Storm debris disposal information is available online at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/index.asp>, or by calling the recycling hotline at 206-296-4466 or 1-800-325-6165 ext. 64466.