



## The Owl's Nest

September 23, 2011

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

What a joy it was to see so many of you at Curriculum Night. On behalf of the staff I want to thank you for attending this important night. Connecting with the school is the first best way to help your child be successful.

As you may know, we have had an issue with vehicles waiting along 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE in front of Audubon. There was some confusion recently with a change in messaging to parents by the Redmond Police Department. I have been in communication with several sources for support regarding this situation. After assessing the situation and an observation, Lt. Almquist of the Redmond Police came back with the following,

*"If drivers continue to use the traffic lanes to enter the school lot there will be no violation. If parents begin to use the shoulder as a means to form a turn lane or drop off area they have the likelihood of receiving a fine ranging from \$20 to \$124".*

The bottom line is you **must** remain in the traffic lane as you wait to enter our parking lot. You **may not** pull to the side shoulder to wait to enter the lot, or drop children off in the street in front of the school. Lt. Almquist reported he is working with the city to change the signs on 180<sup>th</sup> to become a "No Standing and No Load/Unload Zone".

This information is different than past messaging so please review and follow Lt. Almquist's direction above. I know that your long wait to enter our parking lot during peak hours is inconvenient; however, please remember it stems from so many parents picking up within a short period of time. You can limit the traffic in our lot by having students with a bus option ride the bus, parking in the lot and walking up to greet your child, carpooling, or by having children walk to/from school. Our ultimate goal and priority is the safety of students. We also want to make sure we are keeping the road safe for drivers and walkers alike, and obeying all of the traffic rules and signs.

By planning enough time for the wait, pulling all the way forward before dropping or picking up students, avoiding cell phone use, and driving slowly through our parking lot and school zone, we can all contribute to a safe and comfortable parking lot for every child and adult. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

Have a wonderful week! Karen Dickens

### Don't forget these important dates!

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| 10/3-4 and<br>10/6/11 | Parent/Student Conferences – early dismissal 11:30a |
| 10/7/11               | LEAP Day, no school for students                    |
| 10/31/11              | Annual Halloween Fun!                               |

***Read on for more important information:***

**Congratulations to Naomi Bashkansky!**

She has qualified as a team member for the 2011 World Youth Chess Championship. She will be travelling to Brazil in November to complete on the United States team with other children in her age group. Congratulations Naomi – we are proud of you and will be cheering you on in November. We know you will represent Audubon well!

**Yellow Emergency Cards:**

If you have not yet returned your child's updated yellow emergency card, please do so immediately. It is critical that we have updated information at the school in case we need to call you in the case of illness or medical emergency involving your child.

**School Arrival and Dismissal Times:**

We provide for supervision of students 15 minutes before school and 15 minutes after school. Beyond those times, there is no supervision so students may not be on campus. Please be aware that students may not arrive at school before **8:15 am**, and must be picked up by **3:15 (1:45 on Wednesdays, and 11:45 on ½ day dismissals)**. Our staff members have other obligations beyond those times and are not available to provide supervision for your child.

**Bus Crowding:**

We are aware that the busses have been crowded during the first weeks of school. This often happens due to our school growing and transportation not knowing how many students will choose to ride the bus until school begins. We have been working with transportation to resolve these issues, but unfortunately it takes some time to change routes, add buses and drivers, communicate to parents, etc. Transportation has added a smaller bus to our route, pulling some students from the other two larger buses to ease the overcrowding. Please bear with us as we continue to monitor this situation and find solutions so that your children can get to and from school safely and comfortably.

**Dogs on District Property:**

A reminder of our District Policy regarding dogs on campus:

In order to manage the risks associated with the presence of dogs on District property, the following restrictions apply to dogs on school grounds and in buildings:

- No dogs are allowed on District property between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on any school day, except for bona fide service dogs. No dogs are permitted in District athletic stadiums at any time, except for bona fide service dogs.
- At all other times dogs must be leashed and controlled by owners. Owner must clean up after their dogs and remove waste from district premises.

Thank you for helping us comply with this important policy.