



# ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1417 SAN FRANCISCO AVE. NE. • OLYMPIA • WASHINGTON 98506 • (360) 596-6700

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY: 1908-2008

November 2006

Dear Roosevelt Families,

November is the time of the year when our nation takes time to reflect upon what it is that we are thankful for. For many, this period of reflection begins with our recognition of the contribution and sacrifices made by the men and women who currently serve, or have served our country as members of the Armed Forces. As November moves along, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving, and the excitement of sharing this holiday with family and friends. Regardless of the holiday, we find ourselves celebrating and honoring the past, and at the same time we look forward to the future and the good things to come. I know from my many conversations with Roosevelt families, that there is a great sense of pride about our school, and an excitement over what tomorrow will bring.

Report cards go home on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and conferences will be during the week of November 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. Conferences are an opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to reflect upon student progress and to plan for future success. Student conferences are one of many opportunities for teachers and families to work together so as to ensure the success of each child. Conferences are 20 minutes long, and students are expected to attend.

Our *Lost and Found* is jam-packed with dozens of coats and sweaters, some quite expensive-looking, each without a name. If you haven't already done so, please mark your child's clothing with his or her name in permanent marker so that lost items may be returned. *Lost and Found items not claimed by November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006, will be donated to a local charity.*

Have a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Domenico Spatola-Knoll

P.S. Our school building has recently been the victim of some acts of vandalism including graffiti, and a broken garden shed window and lock. Should you see any suspicious activity on our campus during the weekends, holidays, or weekends, please phone the Olympia Police Department at 360.753.8300. Calls can be made anonymously. Thank you!

*Through an active partnership among staff, students, and parents, the mission of Roosevelt School is to provide a safe, enjoyable, and challenging environment where all children develop the skills and enthusiasm necessary for lifelong learning.*

**From the Attendance Desk:** The most important factor influencing student achievement is attendance. If your child is not in attendance, please remember to contact the attendance line at **596-6703**. Please remember to leave the **student's name, teacher** and **reason for absence** for student records. Many of our families contact their student's teacher either by note or phone, however the information does not always reach the main office. The attendance desk makes contact with all parents/guardians of students who are absence from Roosevelt. Please remember to make the attendance desk the first contact with any tardy or absence. Thanks, Deana Pearsall

### **SFA News:**

Recently, we completed our first eight-week cycle of SFA reading. All students were tested to determine progress made at this point. We are still analyzing the results but will be able to share more with you during conference week.

Many students were recognized for their reading achievements at our monthly recognition assembly on October 31. Our students have earned 4,619 AR points so far this year. Mrs. Tafajian/Adderley's second grade and Mr. Sherrell's fifth grade classes won the AR trophies for having the most students reach their AR reading goal for the month of October. Students should be setting their goal at the beginning of each month. With daily reading practice they will be successful.

Our second SFA Café was held on November 9. Over 75% of our students participated in this recognition of completing their weekly at home reading during October. Students are expected to read at least 20 minutes four nights a week, or a total of 80 minutes. A parent or guardian's signature is required for each reading period, and students return these completed forms every Friday. We are off to an amazing year!

A special thank you to our neighborhood friends, Ralph Storman's Thriftway and Lacey Fred Meyer's, who have contributed gift certificates to our reading program. Their gifts help support your children and our monthly reading celebrations.

### **SFA continued:**

Question of the month: How can I help my child increase their vocabulary?

Answer: Children learn the meaning of most words indirectly, through everyday experience with spoken and written language. Young children learn most meanings through conversations with other people, especially adults. The more spoken language children have, the more word meanings they have. Children also learn word meanings from listening to adults read to them. It is especially helpful when the reader pauses during reading to discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words. Children with greater vocabularies get more meaning from what they read.

### **Board Games:**

We are always in need of new or gently used board games and toys for our rainy day recess activities. If you have games or puzzles (not too many pieces), with all parts included, please drop them off at our office.

**Roosevelt Winter Coat Exchange:** Once again Roosevelt is hosting its Winter Coat Exchange during fall Conference Week (November 13-17). Children's coats, hats, scarves, and mittens will be available. Look in either the conference room, or the main hallway for our rack. If you have a gently used coat (or hat, scarf, mittens) to donate, please drop them off in the bin. If you need a coat or other item, feel free to pick something from the rack. If you are in need of a specific size that we are out of, please call Melinda Spencer at: 754-7133.

### **Roosevelt Food Drive**

Beginning Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and running until Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Roosevelt will have our annual Food Drive. Please send in canned and boxed non-perishable food items and please no glass.

### **Love and Logic ~ Free Parent Sessions:**

A four session class is being offered November 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, December 4, and 11<sup>th</sup>. Learn about successful parenting from 6:30-8:00 at the Knox building. Pre-register at 596-7560.

**Homework Struggles or Successes?** As parents, we all know the effort required to fit everything into an evening; there is dinner to get on the table, chores, bath, reading, and homework. And when it comes time to sit down to finish homework assignments, there can be frustration and power struggles.

However, homework is important because it helps to keep you in touch with what your child is doing in the classroom, and it reinforces what your child is learning. Homework also teaches your child organization skills and responsibility. The younger the child, the more assistance he/she will need to complete and return homework to school. It is important to establish homework routines when children are young because as they move into the upper grades they will be expected to function more independently and complete projects and longer assignments. So, how can you establish a homework routine that can reduce stress for both you and your child and lead to strong homework habits? Here are a few suggestions:

- ❖ Establish a regular time and place for doing homework. Your child may need time to play outside or debrief about his/her day before being able to focus on homework.
- ❖ Eliminate distractions such as phone calls and television during homework time.
- ❖ Stick around. Your child will be more likely to stay on task if you are near, cooking dinner, folding laundry or paying bills. You will also be more accessible if he/she has questions or is stuck.
- ❖ Stay positive. If you are overly critical of his/her work, your child will get discouraged. Focus on the effort or creativity rather than dwelling on every error.
- ❖ Work with your child to problem solve, when your child needs help. Remember, this is your child's homework, not yours.
- ❖ Ask your child's teacher for clarification when you and your child are confused about an assignment. Help your child complete what they can, and write a note to his/her teacher asking for clarification.

As you work with your child on homework and establishing routines, please feel free to contact

your child's teacher or me for more ideas. We are here to help your child find success in school.

Michelle Zodrow, School Counselor

**Building Parent-Teacher Partnerships:** Recent studies show that when families are involved in their children's education in positive ways, the children achieve higher grades and test scores, have better attendance at school, complete more homework, and demonstrate more positive attitudes and behavior. Reports also indicate that families who receive frequent and positive messages from teachers tend to become more involved in their children's education than do parents who do not receive this kind of communication.

One way to foster children's learning is through joint efforts involving both families and schools, where parents and teachers share responsibility for creating a working relationship that will help children succeed academically. Following are some suggestions on how to build positive parent-teacher relationships.

**As their children's first teachers, parents and families can:**

- **Read together.** Read with your children and let them see you and older children read. When adult family members read to their children or listen to them read on a regular basis, achievement improves. Take your children to the library to get a library card and help them find books to suit their interests and hobbies.
- **Establish a family routine.** Routines generally include time for completing homework, doing chores, eating meals together, and going to bed at an established time. These daily events are important to make life predictable for children and satisfying for all family members. Encourage your child's efforts and be available for questions while he/she is engaged in academic work and spend time discussing what she/he has learned.
- **Use television wisely.** Limit the amount of time children spend watching television

### **Building Partnerships continued:**

and help them choose appropriate programs for viewing. When chosen carefully, some TV programs can help increase interest in learning.

- **Keep in touch with the school.** Stay aware of what your children are learning, what their assignments are, and how they are doing. Make a point of visiting the school and talking with the teachers through parent/teacher conferences or family nights. If you cannot visit, schedule a telephone call to discuss your child's progress.
- **Offer praise and encouragement.** Parents and families play an important role in influencing a child's confidence and motivation to become a successful learner. Encourage them to complete assignments and introduce them to outside experiences that will enhance their self-confidence and broaden their interests.

Family and school represent the primary environments in which young children grow and develop, and good schools value parental involvement. The foundation for good parent-teacher relationships is frequent and open communication, mutual respect and a clear understanding of what is best for each individual child. From: National Association for the Education of Young Children

### **Roosevelt School Walking Route Survey:**

WOW--what a terrific response! We received walking route surveys for 57 percent of Roosevelt students! The Northeast Neighborhood Association is currently evaluating your responses. We will work with City and school district staff to develop the school walking route map, which we'll distribute to all students in January. With your enthusiastic support, Roosevelt is leading the way in Olympia's Safe Routes to Schools effort. Thank you! Melinda T. Spencer

### **Library News:**

*Letters About Literature Writing Contest:  
National Reading and Writing Promotion Program  
Sponsored by Secretary of State, Sam Reed, & Wa. Library Assoc.*

### **Library News continued:**

Attention, "Book Travelers"! Where has a book taken you?

Select a book that took you on a surprising or inspiring journey. Then write a personal letter to the author, explaining how his or her work somehow changed your view of the world or yourself. Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author. Those are the best letters to read and the most fun to write.

### **Roosevelt Time Garden is a GO!**

The City of Olympia has awarded a Neighborhood Matching Grant to build the Roosevelt Time Garden in Spring 2007! The Northeast Neighborhood Association, which applied for the grant, will work alongside the Roosevelt community to make this area behind the Roosevelt sign a lovely place for students, parents, and neighbors to meet. Watch for the Engraved Brick Fundraiser to begin in December. For \$35, you can buy a brick engraved with your personalized message that will be included in the pathways through the Time Garden. ALL proceeds will benefit the Roosevelt Foundation.

**Volunteer Information:** Many many thanks to our volunteers for all they do to enrich our students. The many gifts shared with our students make Roosevelt a phenomenal learning environment. We would like to give thanks to the Intel Corporation for the program they offer their employees. Intel supports the schools of their employees and reimburses the school for volunteer hours. Joe Valdez's volunteer work at Roosevelt contributed \$400.00 to our school. Thank you Intel and Joe!

We are looking for volunteers to read with our students during DEAR time, as well as some help monitoring the Kindergartners during their lunchtime. Please contact Deana if you can assist.

Roosevelt welcomes everyone to volunteer, so if you would like to volunteer, please stop by the office and pick up a volunteer packet to fill out. If you are currently volunteering and have not filled out the volunteer packet, please pick one up the next time you're at Roosevelt.

**EPICC Program:** Jessicarae Nunez has been our chair for our after school enrichment for a year, and she has done a phenomenal job. Many thanks to her for all the volunteer time. Jessicarae is currently looking for a Co-Chair to assist this program. Please contact Jessicarae at 349-1311 if you have an interest in helping her continue the many programs that our students participate in.

**Water Wise Planting:** When asked what they wanted to see in a water-wise garden on school grounds, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders had many wonderful ideas. They imagined a garden at Roosevelt that bursts with spring and summer blooms and resonates with songs of birds and the vibration of butterflies' wings. They imagined walking through the garden eating berries and looking for insects. They called for an arbor to signify the entrance into a magical garden where nature is protected and honored; where they have a hidden place to watch the birds and a sitting circle made of large stones.

Native Plant Salvage Project and the City of Olympia Water Resources will be installing a water-wise learning landscape this fall to provide students with an outdoor educational garden that is easy to maintain, conserves and protects our water resources, provides habitat for wildlife including, birds and butterflies, and offers a canvas for children's imagination and a setting for scientific investigations.

To make the garden Roosevelt's very own, Native Plant Salvage invites students, parents and volunteers to help. During the weekend of **November 18 and 19, from 10 am to 3 PM**, parents and other volunteers can help prepare the site. On **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, kids will be planting, and adult volunteers are needed to help supervise. Please note the change in planting dates originally scheduled for November 29 –30<sup>th</sup> and now scheduled for the first week in December. For more details on site preparation and student supervision, please contact Erica Guttman, Native Plant Salvage Project coordinator at (360) 754-3588, ext. 110 or email [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu)

Mrs. Buthorn	~ Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	1:15-1:40
Mrs. Dickerson	~ Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	1:15-1:40
Mrs. Stottlemire	~ Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	1:40-2:05
Mrs. Schuna	~ Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:05-2:30
Mrs. O'Donnell	~ Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-2:55
Nord/Holder	~ Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:50-1:15
Mrs. Siffert	~ Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	1:15-1:40

**Reminder:** *On the day your child's class is scheduled to help plant in the garden, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for planting outdoor, in potentially cold and wet weather.*

**Conference Week:** November 13-17<sup>th</sup> is our fall conference week. Our staff is looking forward to meeting with all of our families. School hours during conference week will be 8:55-12:52, with no ½ day kindergarten or afternoon pre-school. If you are planning on volunteering this week, please adjust your schedule to school hours. Our lunch rotation will be 20 minutes earlier each day.

We would also encourage all families to check out the lost and found this week. We have **LOTS of LOST ITEMS** that need to be returned home. We will be donating any unclaimed items to a charity on Friday November, 17<sup>th</sup>.

**The Roosevelt Foundation:** In 2000, the Roosevelt Foundation was established as an independent nonprofit organization in order to **enhance and support** the learning of students at Roosevelt Elementary. The Roosevelt Site Council, comprised of parents, staff and community members, decides how this foundation money is spent. Enrichment programs, tutoring programs, family support and supplemental materials are some of the ways these funds are used. As the "Giving Season" nears, please consider a tax-deductible gift to the Roosevelt Foundation. You may contribute to this fund directly or through a United Way donation – specified –"Roosevelt Foundation". Additional information is available in the Roosevelt Office.

**Title I Parent Notification:** The federal legislation, No Child Left Behind Act, requires that school districts notify parents of students enrolled in Title I schools that they may request information on the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers(s). Currently,

**Title 1 Parent Notification continued:**

Olympia School District's teachers are considered to be "highly qualified" under the requirements of the federal law. If, however, you are interested in knowing the professional qualifications of your student's teacher, please contact Beth Scouller, director of Personnel, Olympia School District, 1113 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

**Let's be Attentive:** Sadly, one of our families had a bike stolen from the bike rack in front of the school. We would like to remind families to always use a bike lock to prevent loss. The OSD can not be responsible for loss or damage to items brought to school.

**November's Quiz:**

(Answers in next month's newsletter!)

1. Which historical document begins with the words: "*When in the course of human events...*"?
2. This famous scientist and environmentalist wrote many books including *The Sea Around Us* and *The Edge of the Sea*.
3. Who was the first person to win two Nobel prizes?

**Answers to the October's Quiz**

1. How many items are there in a *gross*?  
**Answer:** 144
2. Where would you find Qwerty?  
**Answer:** On computer keyboard
3. The digits of this prime number add up to 8.  
**Answer:** Seventeen (17)
4. What time is it in New York, NY, when it is midnight in Olympia, WA? **Answer:** 3:00am

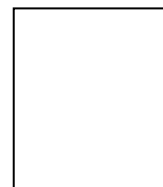
**Picture Re-takes:**

November 17<sup>th</sup> is picture re-take day! Please bring your original picture packet, or money to purchase pictures. The photographer will be here from 10:45 until 11:30. Bring your smiles too!

**Calendar of Events**

- Nov. 9 .....Report Cards go home
- Nov. 13-17<sup>th</sup> ..... Conference Week
- Nov. 13 .....Sally Foster delivery day
- Nov 17<sup>th</sup> .....Picture retake day 10:45-11:30
- Nov. 23-24 .....No School Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30 .....Recognition Assembly, 1:15 PM
- Dec. 1 .....Teacher Collaboration 1-3
- Dec. 4-6 .....Water Wise Garden
- Dec. 8 .....Banking Starts

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School  
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Olympia, WA 98506



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