

Science Club Update

We had a fabulous Fall-Winter 3rd-5th Grade Science Club! It kicked off with a Salmon-watching Field Trip in October to the Classic Nursery, on Bear Creek, in Redmond. There, we saw several Sockeye Salmon returning to the creek to spawn. We were treated to a wonderful naturalist-led nature walk, and even saw a few deer! Another fall outdoor adventure was our Creek Stewardship Work Party at Meadowbrook Pond, where Science Club members helped remove invasive ivy and blackberry to allow better growth of the native plants growing near Thornton Creek.

In October, the kids were treated to an amazing presentation on Washington State Geology, by guest expert Ron Kahle. He brought over 400 lbs of rock and mineral

specimens for the kids to investigate. Mr. Kahle has promised to return for our Spring Science Club (Grades K-2)!

In November, Science Club co-leader Kim McCormick told the story of the Merlin nest she and a friend monitored, and how one of the baby falcons fell from the nest, but was rescued, rehabilitated, and released with his siblings at the nest site at fledging time. For more information about this story, please the February edition of Seattle Audubon's Earthcare Newsletter at: http://www.seattleaudubon.org/uploadedFiles/News/Newsletter_Earthcare_NW/09-02-Earthcare_February_2009.pdf

Fall Science Club wrapped up with an electrifying presentation by John Rogers dad, Jeff Klein. The kids

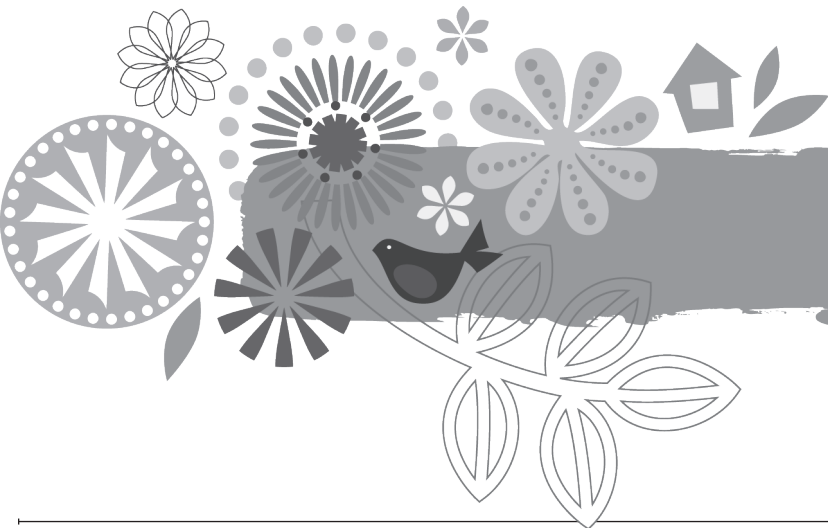
learned all about Electricity, and made circuits and batteries. They had a great time!

Spring Science Club for grades K-2 will begin in April, following Spring Break, and will be every two weeks on Wednesday afternoons through May. Registration forms will go out in early March.

We are pleased to announce that following a very entertaining kick-off assembly in January, MAD SCIENCE is currently running two very full after school programs for grades K-2 and grades 3-5 on Wednesday afternoons, through the end of March.

It is wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for Science at John Rogers! Thank you, to all our guest experts and parent helpers who make Science Club possible!

Kim, Randy, and Jeff



John Rogers Art Club still having fun!

The John Rogers Art Club continues to blend a little bit of art history with learning and making art. Recently, we created our own fantastical creatures in the style of Hieronymous Bosch; used seasonal produce to create portraits similar to Giuseppe Arcimboldo; and learned about warm vs. cold colors and how Georgia O'Keefe used the two together to

create beautiful and striking flowers. We are now creating color wheels and learning how hard it is to make purple and green! Watch for our art in the hall outside the nurse's office.

Grades 3-5

April 7
April 21

Grades K-2

March 10
March 24
May 5
May 19

Spare clothes needed to stock Nurse's Office

Please consider donating your gently used clothes to the Nurse's office to help students who need a change of clothes during the day. Of particular need are sweat pants (smaller sizes), underwear (for K-2nd), socks, and pants. Please send your donations with your child to be given to Mrs. Israel in the office or drop them off yourself. Thank you!

Newsletter Submissions

If you have something you would like to be included in the next newsletter, please email it to Julie Elting Wessel at julie@wesseling.com or call 206.947.4831. The deadline for the April newsletter is March 27th.

the Otter gazette

John Rogers Elementary PTA Newsletter March 2009

Showing you care.

From the Principal's Desk

I want to thank those fabulous volunteers who planted and spruced up the circle garden. When I drove up to the building during Winter Break I immediately noticed how beautiful the front of the building looked. Inside, Richard Brooks and Moon Jin, our custodial engineers, were busy getting the inside cleaned and waxed for the last few months of school. Outside, those fabulous volunteers had raked the wood chips to fluff them up and the school district was busy replacing the roof on the portable. I caught the bug and removed the cob webs that were doing a great job of growing in the office. It was truly a very busy building! March's word of the month is Caring. It was obvious that we got a head start during March the district has all schools create the budget for the next school year based on the funding that is allocated to the building. For many months we have heard from the district, the state legislature and the governor that there will be financial cuts. At this time, I do not know all of the specific information but by March 5th I will get the budget. The staff and PTA will work together to work with the funds that have been allocated to John Rogers and by the end of the month the budget will be finalized. There will be a PTA meeting on Monday, March 23 at 7:00 PM. I will go over the budget and any staffing cuts at that time.

Open Enrollment for next year is March 2 to March 31. This means that if you have any friends who have Kindergarten aged children for next September that you should remind them to enroll their children now. We will have our morning Kindergarten tours starting at 9:15 on Thursday, February 26 through Thursday, March 26. At this time the district has slated John Rogers for only two Kindergarten classrooms for next year so space is limited! This is also the time that the Fifth Graders need to make decisions about Middle School. Remember, Jane Addams will have a traditional academic program with an emphasis on Math and Science and the Arts. The planning team for this new program is busily creating a new choice for the students in our area.

March 11 will be our Open House - Art and Writing Fair. Please invite new families to that event as well as attending yourself. Come see what your children have created. The time is 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Change is hard. I wrote to you about the changes in our Physical Education and Music programs. I will miss the sounds of your children singing, playing recorders, marimbas and drums. I will keep you informed if there are any other changes as the year continues.

Marcia Boyd
Principal

The John Rogers PTA is a non-profit, tax-exempt membership association. We are members of the Seattle Council PTSA, Washington State PTA, and the National PTA. Collectively, we are part of a powerful voice for all children with nearly 6 million members working on behalf of the nation's youth, schools and communities through effective advocacy, strategic alliances, educational programs, support and parent resources. **Please consider joining us. See inside for details.**

John Rogers PTA Board

President.....Theresa Evans
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Treasurer.....Barbara Petty
Science Enrichment.....Kim McCormick
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Art Enrichment Chair.....Karin von Guenner
..... and Julie Elting Wessel

Greetings,

I hope that everyone enjoyed their mid-winter break as much as we did. We're blessed that Seattle has so many recreational opportunities to enjoy with our families.

At the end of February, our school tours will start for prospective families. We're fortunate to have wonderful parents who have volunteered to lead these families on a tour of our fabulous school and answer all their questions. Please invite any prospective families to these tours starting at 9:15 on Thursdays until March 26th.

I'm hoping that you all will be able to attend our next PTA meeting in the cafeteria on March 26th at 7 p.m.

Regards,

Theresa Evans
206.729.2426
Theresa@evdev.com

Call for Volunteers

Tutors wanted

You pick the subject and grade level. Do you have a minimum of 30 minutes a week to volunteer as a tutor? Or might you know someone who does? How about your mom, your neighbor or a friend from church? We're looking for people who have the time and the desire - no special training required.

Please come help serve lunch and say hi to your child!

We need some extra parents to help our staff dish out the carrots and apples. It's a small commitment just 11:50-12:30 One day (same day) each week. No special training needed! Please call or email Kristina Bartleson 361-2489 or thegalley@hotmail.com if you have questions or would like to pick your day.

Traffic Attendants needed for afternoon duty.

Just show up at 3 and you're done around 3:25. So much fun to see the parents getting their kids after school. Parents who pick up their kids this way are so appreciative of John Rogers folk being there to see the little ones into their cars and wish them a good afternoon. Your kid will love having the extra playground time! And can we add the added bonus that each of these jobs is done in pairs - so you get to meet someone new and and get on-the-job training!

Contact Kristina Bartleson, Volunteer Coordinator if you are interesting in helping out!
thegalley@hotmail.com
361-2489

Penny Harvest Update

The pennies have all been counted, and the 54 schools in the Seattle area that participated in the Penny Harvest collected NINE TONS, or 681 sacks of pennies! Once counted, this amounted to an amazing \$64,354.02! This was Roger's first year participating, and we turned in an impressive 19 sacks (about 570 pounds of pennies!). While we didn't meet the stated 25 sack goal, the program coordinator told us that Roger's was in the top 25% of most sacks collected. Very, very good for a first year effort!!

Now it's time for the next phase of the Penny Harvest. Students applied and were selected to participate in the Rogers Student Roundtable, which began meeting in early February. The Roundtable will meet weekly for several months to research community needs and work together to decide how to allocate the \$1,000 of Penny Harvest

funds to community service projects and charitable organizations. Students will announce their grant decisions in mid-April. Keep your eye on the bulletin board to hear more about the Student Roundtable activities!

Thanks to the Rogers community for participating in this project!

Help hungry pets

Please help your Lake City Neighbors feed their furry and feathered friends. A donation bin is located at the front entrance of John Rogers Elementary. All donations will be brought to the Lake City Food Bank for distribution.

Thank You!
Karen Corona

“Viva Las Vegas” Donations Needed for Rogers’ PTA Auction!

The annual John Rogers PTA Auction will be held, on Saturday, May 9th at Sand Point Education Center, from 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm and we need your donations - large or small! All proceeds from the auction go directly toward funding many of the wonderful PTA programs including field trips, classroom supplies, library books, curriculum and teacher enrichment and PTA-sponsored family events.

Great items at the auction make the auction a success. It is easy to donate your new items or a service:

Fill out the short procurement form; located on the main bulletin board near the school entrance, or download a procurement form from our PTA website www.johnrogerspta.org and drop your item and form in the “Auction” barrel or with a parent volunteer at drop-off in the morning.

If you don't have a new item to donate, how about an experience such as a kids' themed-birthday party, a cooking class, housecleaning, babysitting, guitar lessons, or a vacation home rental. Smaller items are packaged together in gift baskets, so even one book, DVD, game or pair of earrings will help!

The auction is our school's largest fundraiser, last year we raised over \$50,000 for the school! Invitations will be going out in kid mail next month. Be sure to buy your ticket early so you can bid on great items and a chance to win \$1,000 cash! Viva Las Vegas for Rogers!!

Donation questions contact Bridget Anderson at 206-440-8076, bridgetand@earthlink.net. Event questions contact Suzette McGlynn, 365-5869, suzette.mcglynn@comcast.net. To volunteer please contact Kristina Bartleson, 361-2489, the galley@hotmail.net

Don't forget to help with your child's classroom project!

e-Labels for Education earns our school bonus points

For 36 years, Campbells' Labels for Education Program has offered an easy way for families and community members to support their local schools. During this time, over \$100 million worth of educational merchandise has been awarded to schools across the country.

Now helping your school will be easier than ever. Campbell's has partnered with the Kroger Family of stores (QFC and Fred Meyer) to launch an electronic version of Campbells Labels for Education.

Sign up online by entering your Shopper Card number, and everytime you purchase participating Labels for Education items, your school will automatically receive 1 point for each item purchased. Then cut them out and receive an additional point as well!

How it works:
Click. Go to www.e-LabelsforEducation.com to register. Set up an account by entering your

Shopper Card number in addition to answering a few simple questions. Then choose which schools will receive your points.

Earn. Now, every time you shop at the Kroger family of stores and purchase any participating Labels for Education products, total points earned will be credited to your school's LFE account automatically.

Help them learn! Your school can then redeem any points earned for FREE educational merchandise and equipment available through the Campbell's LFE catalog. Even grandparents and family members in other cities and states can earn points and show support for their loved ones.

Make sure to sign up today at www.e-LabelsforEducation.com. It's easier than ever to Click, Earn & Help them Learn!

Important Dates

March 10	Art Club Club Grades K-2
March 10	Northeast Parent Network Meeting 7 - 8 pm in Cafeteria
March 11	Mad Science 3:20 - 4:20 pm
March 11	Rogers Open House Art & Writing Fair 6:30 - 7:30 pm
March 12	Chess Club 3:15 - 4:00pm
March 13	End of Trimester
March 18	Mad Science 3:20 - 4:20 pm
March 20	No Swimming
March 20	Professional Development No School
March 23	PTA Meeting 7 - 8 pm in the Cafeteria
March 24	Art Club Club Grades K-2
March 25	Mad Science 3:20 - 4:20 pm
March 26	Chess Club 3:15 - 4:00pm
March 27	Report Cards go home

Special Thanks!

Thank you Randy Kilmer for organizing the school garden clean-up and also to all the families who showed up on Valentine's Day and worked really hard to clean up the circle and playground.

Rogers Products

Have you see the new Rogers tshirts? They spell out our school's name in various letters that help show the diversity of our school. You can find just about anything and put our logo on it at <http://www.zazzle.com/jewessel>. Plus the school earns 10%! Order something today!

