



WAA Newsletter

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Welcome!

Hello parents and welcome to another year at the Woodburn Arthur Academy! This year we are still opening the doors in the morning at 7:30am for breakfast, and are accepting students at 7:45am into our classrooms so they can get in early and work on their fix-ups before school starts. Please make sure that your children know that if they are at school at 7:30am they are there for breakfast. We do not have extra staff members to watch outside and cannot insure their safety outside in the morning. We now have bus information available; if you have not yet received, or are interested in having your child ride the bus, please contact us at the school so that we can arrange that for you. **Also, please fill out and return to school the Free/Reduced Lunch Forms that were sent home over the summer** – it is essential that we have everyone’s participation if we are to continue receiving free breakfast and lunch for our students! Thank you, and we’re looking forward to another great year!

Important Student Medication Info

To comply with Oregon law regarding the dispensing of medication to students at school, parents are now required to fill out a medication permission form prior to the student receiving any of their medication at school; *please observe this for over the counter medications as well.*

Please stop by the school or request a form to be sent with your child.

Parents must return the completed form along with the student’s medication in person – the medication MUST be in its original prescription bottle with the pharmacy label attached. You can obtain an additional empty bottle with a label from your pharmacy to be kept at school.

Over-the-counter medications must also be in their original packaging and given directly to the classroom teacher. Students are not to have in their possession any over-the-counter medications – this includes cough drops!



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Kindergarten News



Dear Families,

It was wonderful to meet your children and get a chance to get to know you this week.

Kindergarten is a great experience and a wonderful year full of lots of developmental changes both emotionally and academically. I am very lucky to be your child’s teacher and excited for the multiple stages of growth that will take place over this year! We have already starting learning about what the procedures and routines are in place for school and will continue to reinforce making positive choices within the classroom and at school.

In math, we work as a whole group and are beginning to learn the first set of numbers (1-10). Many students that are coming into Kindergarten already know these numbers and it is good practice to have the children start seeing items that they can count with you outside of school. We are going to make sure the class, as a whole is solid in their understanding of value and sequential order before moving on to a higher set.

Throughout our reading program, the students learn sounds first before they learn the letter names. This process is critical to ensure that the students master the sound and can then put the sounds together to form larger pieces and eventually will be reading words accurately based on the sounds. This is a newer concept for students who already know their ABC’s. We also focus at this point, only on lower case letters in the alphabet. We will be forming groups this week, and create reading groups appropriate to the child’s learning level.

Kindergarten Enrichment has started smoothly and I appreciate all the parents who have signed up and pre-paid, it has been a great opportunity for students to continue to learn in the afternoon and they have been having lots of fun with Ms. Kroeger.

Thank you for all the school supplies! It will help keep us stocked all year. Please put an extra change of clothes in your child’s backpack to keep in case of bathroom emergencies because sometimes accidents happen in Kindergarten!

I have really appreciated all the parent communication. Thank you very much, and feel free to keep communicate about your children. I know it will be a very successful school year and I am eager for all the learning that will occur. We have a very lively and eager to learn class and I know it will be a very successful year!

Warmly,

Ms. Healy-Tuke
Kindergarten Teacher
Britt.HT@gmail.com

First Grade News

Welcome back! I am very excited to begin a new school year with this group of First Graders! Currently, we have begun the year with three Reading groups: Red, Green, and Yellow. The Yellow group kids are beginning in Reading Mastery Level 1, working on firming up individual sounds and practicing sounding out words. The Green group is beginning the year at Lesson 1 of RM II, and the Red group has started on Lesson 50 of RM II. These groups are flexible and will continue to change as students develop or need additional work with the stories. Please remember to sign the story that comes home each day after your child has read it to you, as this helps your child grow as a reader!

We have started as a whole group in Math, and I am happy to announce that our class is participating in the pilot of a new Connecting Math Concepts curriculum! This new curriculum is written by the same authors as our current program, though it is our hope that this new program will be even more effective! We are in the beginning stages now; more updates to come!

We are just beginning Core Knowledge, currently concentrating on the globe, specifically the seven continents and four major oceans, as well as geographical features, like valleys, peninsulas, and islands. We will soon be starting a unit on undersea animals, as well as different animal habitats.

Spelling is off to a great start as well, as we are learning to write three letter words and practicing skills for good handwriting! We have already started one of the two Language programs these students will complete this year; Language for Thinking has been focusing on following coloring directions, the beginning concepts of absurdity, as well as telling how two things are the same and how they're different.

Our class schedule is heaviest in the afternoon, with a majority of our Reading and Math done after lunch. Please make sure your First Grader is getting plenty of rest! Our book orders this month are due on Friday, Sept. 18th and can be paid in cash or with checks made out to Scholastic. Also, please let me know if you are interested in helping out in the classroom this year; there's always copying to be done, and art projects to organize!

Please email me or call the school with any questions/concerns!
Looking forward to a great year,

Ms. Topley

My email: ltopley@arthuracademy.org



Second Grade News

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to begin the year with so many extraordinary children! We are off to a wonderful start and I can't wait for the fun-filled months to come. There will be many things happening in our classroom in the months to come. Many of your children are already assigned to their leveled reading and mathematics groups that are specifically geared to help them master these critical skills and are ready to learn. Please check with your student to find out which of the following groups that they are with.

What we are learning:

Our first reading group is the **yellow group**. These children are developing phonemic awareness, blending and separating sounds, and identifying beginning sounds in Reading Mastery I. The **green group** is jumping back into Reading Mastery two with stories about Ott. They are on lesson 115 working on building their vocabulary and fluency skills through repetition. The **red group** is moving right along through the first book of RM III, starting on lesson 20. These students, along with our **purple group** (on lesson 125) will be working on proficiency, fluency, and accuracy through factual, non-fiction adventures with new and exciting characters. All of our reading groups will be bringing home the story they read during their lesson every night. It is essential that you have your child read it aloud to someone every night and return it the following day. Good readers will read things multiple times. This is a prime example that repetition leads to mastery, which is our optimum goal for your children to achieve.

The second grade has two leveled groups for math as well. Our largest group in class was off to a great start with mastering math facts and will be starting CMC B, lesson 65 this week. Our smaller of the two groups, has also been very busy mastering basic math facts. I am very enthusiastic about all of your hard working children mastering skills with telling time, counting money, multiplication, multiple digit addition and subtraction problems, solving story problems, identifying geometric shapes, and much more.

On top of reading and math, your children are getting brighter while mastering skills in our language program (Reasoning and Writing B) and spelling (Spelling Mastery B). Along with these excellent programs we are learning a number of topics in CORE. This month your children will be learning about the cycles of seasons, cloud types, and the water cycle. Next month we will begin studying geography of the Americas and the U.S. constitution.

Parent Helpers:

I wanted to thank all the parents who promptly returned the volunteer slip. We desperately need helpers to make our program successful. Any help goes a long ways and is greatly appreciated. Please call or email me if you are interested at any time.

Weekly Homework Packet/Book Orders:

Book orders will be going out next week along with your child's homework. Please return the order form with a check by the date listed on the back if you are interested. Homework will be sent out every Tuesday or Wednesday accompanied by a homework packet. Please have your child return it by the same day of the following week. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about our curriculum or events in our 2nd grade classroom.

Sincerely,

Abbey Brown wick5314@yahoo.com

wick5314@yahoo.com

503-981-5746



Third Grade News



Dear 3rd Grade Families,

Welcome to my classroom! I have eagerly anticipated the arrival of your young scholars in what promises to be an exciting year. Thank you all for sending your students so properly equipped for school. I was impressed by everyone's attention to the details of the supply list. Consequently, we are well stocked and ready to begin our educational plight towards academic growth and achievement.

Considering the twenty one returning students from last year, most of you are already familiar with the Reading Mastery curriculum and its importance in Arthur Academy's educational philosophies. Much like Mrs. Brown's class, the students will be divided into two main reading groups. The groups are reflective of the children's abilities based principally on their checkout times and mastery of reading comprehension. Although the groups are starting at different points in the curriculum, my goal is to have both groups finish Reading Mastery Level IV by year's end.

Miss Pacheco will be assisting me in leading these groups. Her group consists of eight students (the same she had last year) and will start at Reading Mastery III, lesson 71. I will take a group of fourteen and begin the first lesson of Reading Mastery IV. Both Miss Pacheco and I are ecstatic to be able to place both groups at such high levels, and feel confident we will meet the aforementioned goal. However, if students need to be moved as their abilities grow in potentially differing increments, I have scheduled the flexibility to create a third reading group if necessary.

Unlike reading, math will be taught in whole group. I will be continuing the same CMC curriculum from last year. We are starting on the second half of CMC level C, which is at lesson 61. If we progress as planned, we will finish level D by June. Also, a few students will be visiting Mrs. Brown for math starting in CMCB to work on restructuring their math foundations within the program's fundamentals.

I will also be covering cursive, spelling,

Fourth Grade News



Happy 1st week of school 4th grade families!

It is such a treat to see ALL the familiar faces from last year! Having Mr. B. right next door, I knew the 3rd graders well and worked with many of them during reading group. So it is truly a pleasure being their teacher this year! We are already off to a great start. Let me share with you what your students are working on in my classroom:

Reading: This year we will have four different reading groups, each with a color name. The blue group will be starting at lesson one in Reading Mastery level V. Like other Reading Mastery levels, this level focuses on reading fluency, vocabulary building, and comprehension. In addition, it also adds a daily writing assignment. Many of these assignments will ask students to make judgments about the reading selection and to explain those judgments with specific components. Other assignments encourage students to interpret stories according to their own experiences or to relate story events to their own lives. In some lessons, students write stories and poems of their own. The green group will be continuing in Reading Mastery IV where they left off at the end of last year. A small cluster of students fall into either a Decoding C1 orange group or a Decoding B2 red group. These programs will help them become fluent and highly accurate at decoding text. Decoding should be as automatic as possible and as soon as these students master this skill they will be placed into a Reading Mastery program. If you are unsure what color group your student is in, just ask them or I!

Math: Our class splits pretty evenly into two groups and both will be in Connecting Math Concepts level D. The decagon group (with 10 students ☺) will be starting at lesson 61; this is the point where they left off last year. The stars group will begin at lesson 1. This group was close to finishing level C last year and the first 10 lessons of D are review of C, so we will start fresh.

Writing: The six steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, editing, proofreading, publishing, and presenting will be worked on together as a class through High Performance writing. The first mode of writing we will focus on will be a personal narrative piece. Students will each write about 3 personal objects that are important to them.

Core Knowledge: During the first month of school we will focus on world geography along with symbols and figures.

Throughout the year we will cover a multitude of different topics from Chinese dynasties and conquerors to the American Revolution and early American presidents.

Lastly, I will be sending home book orders and would like them back on **Friday, September 18th**. I will also be sending home a volunteer sheet if you would like to and are available during the day to help out in our classroom. If at any time you have any questions or concerns about what is going on in the classroom, please don't hesitate to contact me at

noonankristen@yahoo.com.



FIFTH GRADE NEWS



Welcome back everyone! I want to start by letting you know how excited and honored I feel to be teaching such a fun and enthusiastic group of students. I have no doubts that this year will be one that is memorable for all. Our year has started without a hitch and is in full swing. We began the year much like we will begin our school days, with a Science lesson! We are starting with scientific inquiry and the scientific method. We will be working through learning about plants, animals, weather, and space with a variety of stops along the way. I'm as excited for this as the students are.

For reading, we will be having three groups. The Reading Mastery IV group started where they left off last year at lesson 61. There is lots of new vocabulary that the students are learning through stories that deal with space and the solar system. The Reading Mastery V group also started at lesson 61. The stories are as interesting as ever and I'm sure the students will be looking forward to use some of the new vocabulary they are acquiring. Don't forget to practice these new skills at home.

Our math groups are split pretty evenly between Connecting Math Concepts D and E. The CMC-D group will be going to work with Ms. Noonan, where I am sure she will be leading the students to find some fun new math skills. The CMC-E group will be working with word problems, equivalent fractions, long division, and proportions. The math skills of all of the students have impressed me so far and I'm sure they will grow rapidly.

I have sent two book orders home which will be due back by the first day of autumn, September 22. If you have any questions concerning the book orders or any of the other things that are happening in our classroom, feel free to contact me either through email at greatdriver@clearwire.net or through the school phone at 503-981-5746. I look forward to the great year ahead!

SPECIAL NOTES:

- ☞ IF YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR CHILD'S AFTER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE GIVE THE SCHOOL A CALL AT LEAST ONE HOUR PRIOR TO OUR 2:30 DISMISSAL. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET ALL CHANGES TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS SO CLOSE TO DISMISSAL, SO PLEASE LET US KNOW AHEAD OF TIME! THANK YOU!
- ☞ IN REGARDS TO THE H1N1 FLU VIRUS, ARTHUR ACADEMY IS FOLLOWING ALL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SET OUT BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. FOR INFORMATION, YOU CAN GO TO WWW.CDC.GOV/H1N1FLU/. IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.
- ☞ WOODBURN ARTHUR ACADEMY IS BEING HONORED AT THE WOODBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING! WE ARE BEING HONORED FOR MEETING AYP (ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS) - PLEASE COME SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH AT 7:30PM!
- ☞ IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE ARTHUR ACADEMY BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH, MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE BOARD IN THE MAIN ROOM SHORTLY.
- ☞ **THERE WILL BE NO MORNING BUS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH!**

2008-2009 WAA Staff:

Ryan Hull	School Manager
Brittany Healy-Tuke	Kindergarten/TA
Leigh Topley	1 st Grade
Abbey Brown	2 nd Grade
Gustavo Baptista	3 rd Grade
Kristen Noonan	4 th Grade
Justin Benassi	5 th Grade
Ivette Pacheco	K-2 Teaching Assistant
Catherine Burquist	3-5 Teaching Assistant
Katie Kroeger	Kindergarten Enrichment/ Office

