



# THE OWL'S NEST

## AUDUBON



## ELEMENTARY

Audubon Elementary School, October, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

### Principal's Message:

The school year is off and running and fall has definitely arrived as I write this message. After a fairly smooth start to our school year, now we are down to the business of teaching and learning...the emphasis on learning. As a school our work for the year will be focused on collaboration around monitoring progress of student learning. Our teachers are meeting together regularly to analyze data and share strategies. Research tells us that the more we collaborate around student learning the better the learning outcome for students.

Our school and district focus this year will be on "Challenge". What this means to us and to you and your student, is that every child will be monitored for progress and challenged to meet his/her own potential... or supported to build capacity for greater learning. We want to challenge every child with meaningful and relevant curriculum to help each to be successful and future ready.

It was great to see many of you at our Curriculum Night events over the last two weeks. This was a good opportunity to connect with your child's teacher this year and to hear about the learning that is planned for him/her. If you were not able to come to Curriculum Night I encourage you to contact your child's teacher and begin that important communication between you. We know that having a close connection between home and school is essential to the success of students.

Here's to a fabulous year here at Audubon! Karen



### Calendar Events:

10/2 LEAP Day—NO SCHOOL  
for students

10/6 Picture Day

10/27 Vision & Hearing  
Screening

10/30 Reflections Deadline



### Are you practicing safe parking lot behavior?

These days everyone is busy. We all have a lot on our plates...perhaps managing multiple roles and responsibilities. Sometimes this translates into "rush" and "hurry". Let's remember to adjust our pace while in the school parking lot. In an effort to keep our children and families safe, please practice the following at all times, in our school lot:

- Drive slow and be patient—use the inside lane for dropping off/picking up and use the outside lane for proceeding through the lot slowly.
- Pull as far forward as possible in the drop off lane and only allow your child to leave the car on the curb side. If you need to assist your child or want to give a hug, park and use the crosswalk to escort your child to the curb.
- Do not pull into the bus chute during opening and closing of school. This lot is for staff parking and bus use only. Pick up your children in the front of the school by the flag pole.
- Please instruct your student to wait inside the yellow box around the flag pole where they can be supervised and kept safe awaiting your arrival.
- Be on time to pick up your child after school.
- Do not use your cell phone while driving through our parking lot.
- Respect the safety patrol, volunteer valets and safety staff, in the bright orange or yellow vests, who are there to keep children safe.

Always following these safety tips will help to keep our Audubon Owls safe. I know you agree that nothing is more important than the safety of our children.

**New state test this year to replace the WASL:**

You may have heard the news that the state test formerly known as the *Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)* has been replaced with the, *Measurement of Student Progress (MSP)*. This spring our 3rd through 6th grade students will experience this assessment for the first time. Please mark your calendar with these important test dates:

**Grades 3-5 Testing window: May 12-May 28th**

**Grade 6 Testing window: May 3-June 4th**

State assessments offer a snapshot of how each child is progressing in their learning of our state standards. It is also an opportunity for us to see how well we are teaching the standards to students. Please help us to plan ahead by scheduling doctor and dental visits and vacations *outside* this important test time.

**Important Attendance Reminders:**

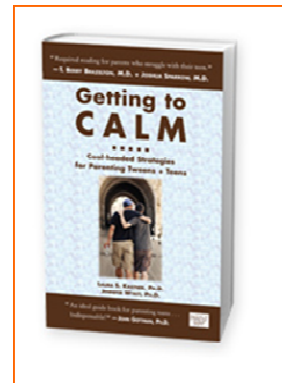
Parents and children both are responsible for making sure school is attended on a regular basis. It is important for a child to get a positive start to his/her education by attending school regularly and by beginning the day organized with everyone else in the classroom. Inconsistent school attendance negatively impacts learning. It is essential to give children the message that education is important. Parents who work toward and value regular attendance and punctuality send the unspoken message to their child that school is important. Please help your child be successful at school by making on time arrival and regular attendance a priority.

Also, it is also essential to pick your child up within 15 minutes after school dismissal time or after an extension class, particularly on those early release Wednesdays. Our office staff have meetings and commitments to attend to and are not able to leave children unattended in the office.

**PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:**

**Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
**Redmond High School Performing Arts Theater**  
**(17272 N.E. 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Redmond)**

**Laura Kastner, Ph.D. presents Getting to CALM:**  
**Teen Parenting Communication**  
**Strategies that Work**



With her widely acclaimed humor, wisdom and a deep understanding of the teenage brain, **Dr. Laura Kastner** will return to Redmond High this year with a new presentation. She will cover some of the most frequently encountered and normal rough patches of adolescence, offering specific strategies for resolving these difficulties. The presentation will focus on topics from her latest book, *Getting to CALM: Cool-headed Strategies for Parenting Tweens + Teens*.

Author & book weblink: [www:gettingtocalm.com](http://www.gettingtocalm.com)

Laura Kastner writes and lectures widely on adolescent development & family relationships. She is a clinical professor of psychology and behavioral sciences at the University of Washington, a practicing psychologist and mother of two. Dr. Kastner's other books, all co-authored with Jennifer Wyatt include: *The Seven Year Stretch: How Families Work Together to Grow through Adolescence*