

Alki Middle School Newsletter

**YOU CAN FIND MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS
ONLINE @ <http://alki.vansd.org>**

FUTURE DATES:

September 24	Curriculum Night 6:30
September 28	1 Hr. Late Start
September 29	Intramurals Begin
October 21	Inside Alki 9:00 a.m.
October 21	2 Hr. Early Release
October 22	Conferences (reg School)
October 23	Conferences-No School
October 26	1 Hr. Late Start
October 29	School Social

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please be aware of increased student traffic in our neighborhoods and near our schools. Vancouver Police Department and Clark County Sheriff's Department will be doing emphasized patrols near our schools. We want to remind our parents, neighbors and staffs that the school speed zones will be in effect and to slow down for our students' safety.

H1N1 INFORMATION

Health reminder to parents

As the school year begins, please help us keep our students well and safe. To avoid illnesses, including the H1N1 Swine Flu virus, please remind your children of basic ways to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy. Things you can do to prevent the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Hand sanitizers work too, but soap and water is most effective.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- Get vaccinated for the flu. This year the Department of Health is recommending that children and their families get vaccinated for both seasonal flu and H1N1 Swine Flu (when vaccines are available).
- Stay home if you show symptoms of the flu. Students should stay home from school at least 24 hours after their fever has passed (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).

Facts about the H1N1 Swine Flu are on the district website: www.vansd.org. More information is on the Washington State Department of Health website: www.doh.wa.gov/swineflu.

BEFORE SCHOOL BUILDING USE

Our Commons will be supervised from 8:30-8:55 each morning. Any student arriving prior to classrooms opening at 9:00 a.m. should report to the Commons. Students are also welcome to be outside in front of the school. Supervision will be provided in this area as well. Thank you for assisting us as we try to provide supervision for students prior to teachers opening their classroom at 8:55 a.m.

NO STORAGE IN OFFICE THIS YEAR

Please note that students will not be allowed to store any items in the office this year (i.e. food, band instruments, skateboards, lunches, etc). If you choose to ride your skateboard to school, you must make arrangements with a teacher for storage; you cannot carry it around the building all day. Thanks for your cooperation!

OFFICE HOURS

Our office staff is always ready to serve you. (313-3200)

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Picture day was September 18! All students had yearbook, ASB card and school I.D. record photos taken. Picture re-takes day will be Nov. 5, 2009.

SCHOOL ZONE REMINDER

School opens September 9, which means the school zone traffic laws again go into effect. Please remember to slow down – 20 miles per hour – and stop at crosswalks whenever students are present. Please help us to keep all of our students safe.

INTRAMURALS – SEPTEMBER 29th

It is time to start Session I of the Intramurals Program. They will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:10 beginning September 29th. Sign-ups will be during lunches on Sept. 21st and 22nd. **NEW THIS YEAR IS A \$10 FEE FOR EACH SESSION.** The Social, Oct. 29th, is free and open to the entire school.

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SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please remember our policy regarding schedule changes. Our staff has spent a great deal of time balancing classes and placing students in what we consider to be positive learning environments. At the beginning of the year there is a lot of anxiety about new classes and new teachers. If a situation develops during the year please keep in mind our policy which you can also find in the student handbook.

Schedule Change Policy

Goal: To resolve any issues that may arise in the classroom with the least disruption to the student

The following steps should be taken when a problem arises in the classroom:

1. Parent should make contact with the teacher to discuss the issue(s) and come to an agreement on how to resolve the problem
2. Provide a two-week window in which to measure the success of the resolution
3. If the problem is not resolved, the parent may contact their son/daughter's counselor or administrator to discuss the issues
4. The administrative (counselor, teacher, administrator) team will meet to discuss further action and to decide if a change would be in the best interest of the student
5. If a schedule change is warranted, the student will be placed in another class based on the student's schedule and classroom numbers. Please note that this may involve changing the student's entire schedule.

PE UNIFORMS

The Vancouver School District has chosen to support PE uniforms in all Middle and High School PE programs. There is a district-wide uniform available to purchase for \$14. They are made of high quality materials and are good through all grades, including high school. The uniform is a gray t-shirt and black shorts with a VSD logo and a place to write your student's name. You may choose not to purchase the uniform, however, your student will need a plain, gray t-shirt (NO LOGOS or PRINTS) and plain black shorts (NO LOGOS or PRINTS) for their PE uniform. They may also wear plain black sweat pants. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 313-3200. Thank you.

8th Grade Promotion

Parents please note that our 8th grade promotion has taken on a different look. In alignment with other middle schools in the Vancouver Public Schools and in lieu of a formal promotion ceremony, we will provide informal activities; such as an awards assembly, a BBQ, Field Day and/or other activities that will allow our 8th grade students to celebrate their experience at Alki.

As the school year progresses, 8th grade parents will be notified in a timely manner regarding our promotion as determined by the staff, students, and parents. Please check your monthly newsletter for future information regarding 8th grade promotion.

BIKES/SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER BLADES, SCOOTERS

The school knows that some students rely on a bicycle as a means of transportation to and from school. Helmets should be worn when riding. Students are welcome to ride their bike on the public sidewalks, but may not ride them on school grounds or in the parking lots. Bikes should never be brought inside the school building or gymnasiums. Students should understand that riding a bike to school is a privilege and take full responsibility for securing their bikes in the proper area.

Vancouver School District policy states: Students may **NOT** ride a skateboard, scooter, or use rollerblades on school district grounds at any time for the safety of all students. (P/R 5156). As a result, students may not bring skateboards, scooters or rollerblades to school.

***New Immunization Requirement* 2009-2010 School Year**

All students in Washington at 11 years of age and entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade, are **required by law** to show proof of a **Tdap** (combination tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination, if it has been 5 years or longer since receiving a tetanus containing vaccine (DTaP, DT or Td). Generally children receive their last booster at age 4-6 years old, so this new law will affect most of you. If your child will be entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade for the 2009-2010 school year, please contact your health care provider as soon as they turn age 11 to obtain this required vaccination.

Providers will be very busy at the start of school, so don't wait!

BRING THE SHOT RECORD TO THE SCHOOL AS SOON AS SHOT IS RECEIVED

IT'S THE LAW! NO SHOTS, NO SCHOOL

If you have questions, please contact your child's current school. Thank you,

Thank you for your cooperation.
Colleen Van Sweringen, RN
Alki School Nurse

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NEW: ATHLETICS FEE INCREASE

With the support of our Board of Directors and Superintendent, we are the only school district in Southwest Washington to continue to offer a comprehensive athletic program for all our students. Vancouver Public Schools will continue to offer no-cut programs at the elementary and middle school levels. Vancouver Public Schools will also offer an extensive athletic program at the high school level. We feel this is important due to research showing the most vulnerable time for our students is from 3-6 PM. We take great pride in offering healthy options for our students.

In order to maintain the comprehensive program, the district has made modest fee increases. They are:
Elementary school goes from \$0 to \$10 per sport.
Middle School goes from \$15 to \$20 per sport. High School goes from \$35 to \$50. As always, families with financial hardships are requested to approach their principal at the elementary level and their athletic directors at the middle school and high school levels to work out a plan for their students.

Again, we regret having to make these modest fee increases, but wanted to make sure all our students have the best opportunities available to participate in healthy activities.

STUDENT FEES

The following is a listing of fees:

ASB CARD (Associated Student Body) - \$5.00:

This card is required for participation in 7th and 8th grade athletics, the 6th grade track program in the spring, the extra-curricular music program, leadership groups, and academic teams. It also entitles the student to a \$1.00 reduction off the admission price of high school sporting events. This money helps support these school activities.

LUNCH TICKETS

The cafeteria will be open for all students on the first day of school. The daily plate lunch or salad bar may be purchased for \$2.05; meal tickets can be purchased in

any dollar amount. Free and Reduced Lunch Applications will be available in the student's First Day Packets. **Only one Free and Reduced Lunch form per family. This needs to be completed at the school of the youngest child in school. Students (4th – 12th grades) who qualify for reduced-price meals will be charged \$.40.**

BREAKFAST

The cafeteria will be open for breakfast 8:30 – 8:55 daily. Individual breakfast price is \$1.05. Reduced price is free (**this only applies to breakfast**).

ACTIVITY FEE - \$20.00

An activity fee is charged for each extra-curricular sport in which a boy or girl participates during the school year. It is also required for participation in jazz band which is part of the extended day program. This fee helps defray the cost of equipment purchases, maintenance, transportation, awards, and officials.

*Swimsuit Fee – Girls participating in Swimming will need to pay a \$20.00 fee for their team swimsuits. Swimmers will be able to keep their suits at the end of the season.

ART CARD - \$15.00 all year or \$5.00 per TRI

This fee covers the cost of the supplies used. Mrs. Harris, Art teacher, will explain the cards to the students. There are no art fees for 6th grade.

DRAMA CLASS - \$15.00

A \$15.00 fee is charged to help cover the cost of the scripts and props used in this class

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Parents may write one check per student (to: Alki Middle School) for all fees except:

- Lunch Ticket (bring a separate check directly to the cafeteria on the first day of school; payable to "Alki Cafeteria").
- Breakfast Ticket
- Insurance (information to be hand carried home by the student).
- Picture Packet (information to be hand carried home by the student).
- Please contact any administrator if financial assistance is needed.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

We wish to involve ALL students in our athletics by embracing "no cut" and "equal participation" policies. Every athlete, regardless of ability or experience, will be on a team and will experience equal playing opportunities and instruction.

ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

Alki activities information can be found on our website: <http://alki.vansd.org>.

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ACTIVITIES

An important part of life at Alki is extracurricular activities; we encourage all students to participate. If a student has questions about any of the activities or needs help in order to participate, they should contact any staff member. **Students must have passed at least 6 classes in the preceding trimester to participate without being placed on Academic Probation.**

ATHLETIC CHOICES:

Each student has a choice of 4 sports as listed below:

Sports

Approximate practice times are in parenthesis and may change:

FALL SEASON: August 31-Oct 21(closed for signups)

7th Grade Boys' Flag Football (3:30-5:15)

8th Grade Boys' Tackle Football (3:30-5:30)

7th & 8th Grade Girls' Volleyball

(7th at 7-8:30 a.m., 8th 3:30-5:15)

October 21 Season ends

EARLY WINTER SEASON:

7th & 8th Grade Boys Wrestling (3:30-5:30)

7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball

(7th 7-8:30 a.m., 8th 3:30-5:15)

October 26 Practice begins

November 2 Last day to clear

December 18 Season ends

LATE WINTER SEASON:

7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball – January 4, 2010

(7th 7-8:30 a.m., 8th 3:30-5:15)

7th & 8th Grade Girls Swimming (6:30-8:30 a.m.)

January 19 Practice begins

January 26 Last day to clear

March 19 Season ends

SPRING SEASON:

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Boys' & Girls' Track (3:30-5:00)

April 5 Practice begins

April 12 Last day to clear

June 1 Season ends

ATHLETIC CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

Academic eligibility – In order to participate in athletics, a student athlete must have passed at least 6 out of 7 classes in the preceding trimester. If your student has two or more failing grades, they will be placed on scholastic probation and their grades will be monitored weekly to determine eligibility to participate in contests/games.

All students must be fully cleared through the school business office before they can actively practice for any sport. Boys and girls grades 7 & 8 who are interested in participation in the fall sports program can now pick up

the athletic clearance packet in the Alki Business Office. Athletes in all interscholastic sports are required to have a valid physical examination form on file **before they may participate in practice**; any physical examination taken for athletics is valid for two full years from the date of examination. Please try to schedule an exam immediately if your child intends to participate in any of Alki's sports programs. (Physical examination forms are available in the school office and are valid for two years)

If finances for either physical exams or athletic fees are a problem, please contact the business office for assistance (confidential), 313-3200. Coaches will provide additional information regarding procedures and policies during the first week of practice.

ATTENTION POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS!

Have you been thinking about volunteering at one of our district schools, but aren't sure how to get started? It's easy. You can pick up a Volunteer Packet from the school office, or you can download it from the district website. Go to www.vansd.org, click on Partnerships and Volunteering, and select Volunteer Opportunities from the pull-down menu. On the volunteer page, under the heading "qualifications" you will see a link called "clearance process." On the "clearance process" page you will see "Downloading a Volunteer Packet and Application." Print all five pages, complete the forms, and bring them to the school office with your Washington State identification. If you have any questions, please call the school office or Sue Knable, Community Partnerships Office, 313-4720. Thank you for your interest in helping Vancouver students.

Your actions today
can make a greener tomorrow!
Simple tips you can use every day



RECYCLING

Please remember to send those used Cell phones, ink cartridges, and batteries to Alki. Points are received for Recycling them. Those points help earn ink, printers, keyboards, etc. So we are not only going **GREEN** and helping the environment, but we are also earning tech supplies for the students at the same time.

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PRINCIPAL/PARENT COMMITTEE

Are you looking for a way to get involved at Alki? Do you like to know what is going on at school? If so, the Principal/Parent Committee may be of interest to you. Once a month a group of parents meet with Curtis Smith, Principal to learn about Alki. This committee gives input to Mr. Smith about issues which impact Alki staff and students. The meetings will generally be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:45 p.m. Please consider joining this committee.

The dates for the 2009-10 Principal/Parent Committee are as follows (3:45 p.m. in room 102):

Tuesday, October 20th

Tuesday, November 17th

No meeting December

Tuesday, January 19th

Tuesday, February 16th

Tuesday, March 23rd

Tuesday, April 20th

Tuesday, May 18th

If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Mrs. Gayle Hoffman, Secretary at 313-3200.

INSIDE ALKI – NEW DATE

October 21st INSIDE ALKI

Inside Alki is a day parents are invited to attend classes with your child. This is a great time to see first hand the superior teaching and learning which is going on at Alki. We are excited about this day and will give you an opportunity to provide in writing a “Way to Go” comment to your child’s teachers. The positive comments are greatly appreciated by all educators who work hard to do the best each day for each student.

We hope you will clear your calendar for Wednesday, October 21st and spend the day going back to school with us.

PARENT/FAMILY ACCESS ACCOUNT

All parent/guardians of secondary students may have access to their students’ attendance and demographic data through a Family Access Account. They may also view the teachers online grade book entries and class progress reports.

In order to sign up for this access, please contact Gayle Hoffman at the office @ 313-3200.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Conference days are the afternoon and evening of Thursday October 22nd and the morning of Friday October 23rd. If teachers feel your student **needs** a conference, we will be contacting you beginning the week of October 5th. Otherwise, if you would like a conference, please call Erin Redd at 313-3200 or 313-3204 beginning Monday October 12th.

Please Help Alki Musicians Honor Our Veterans

Do you have a family member who has served our country in the military? We will be having an assembly on Tuesday, November 10th, to honor veterans in our families and the sacrifices they made to serve our country. During the assembly, the honorees’ military information will “scroll” on a screen while the band, choir and orchestra present patriotic and historical musical pieces.

We would also appreciate it if you could send any stories, pictures, letters, awards, etc. We would love to include these personal touches in our Veterans Day Assembly script and PowerPoint. Please do not send originals as they do not always make it back home.

Send your stories, military information (Scroll of Honor), and/or **photocopies** of images with your student to Alki by Friday, October 16th. You can find a “Scroll of Honor” form on Ms. Hebner’s district web page. There will be some forms on the office counter as well. There is a box in the office where all information may be dropped off. You may also e-mail stories, letters, digital images and “Scroll of Honor” forms to katie.hebner@vansd.org by October 16th.

Thank you for helping us to create a home-school-community connection for Alki students so they can better understand why we celebrate this important federal holiday.
Katie Hebner