



Muddy Creek Charter School is a rural public school dedicated to the integration of an outstanding academic program with its community – the land and its people. We offer a joyful and creative educational experience where engaged students practice the skills they will need to be effective citizens and stewards in the future. Muddy Creek Charter School will serve as a model for preserving schools in rural communities

March 15, 2013

### ***Exciting Opportunity***

The Corvallis 509J School Board is looking for a temporary board member. This is an excellent opportunity to establish an understanding of the district and what it means to serve in this capacity.

For more information, contact the office.

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### **March 20th**

Irish Dance Performance & Kinder Performance, All School Meeting @ 8:30 am

#### **March 22nd**

NO Scratch Club

#### **March 25th-29th**

No School, Spring Break

#### **April 2nd**

PTO meeting @ 2pm in Rm. 3

*Everyone Welcome!*

Topic: Rummage Sale

#### **April 4th**

Scrip order due (ready 4/15)

#### **April 5th & April 19th**

Farm Stand, 3-3:30

Scratch Club in Library, 3-4pm

#### **April 11th -12th**

No School, Conferences

#### **April 26th**

Last day to Drop-off Rummage Sale donations.

#### **April 27th**

Rummage Sale

## **Volunteers Needed for Graduation Celebration**

We are starting a new tradition this year based on feedback from last year! So that more families can get the feel of graduation and what they have to look forward to, and to allow the graduating families to enjoy the actual ceremony, we are looking for parents from all grades to volunteer their energy to help plan the graduation celebration. Fourth grade parents: please be ready to lend a helping hand, so when it's your turn you will be able to fully embrace the ceremony of your child leaving elementary school.

Graduation is held the last day of school right before field day! Each graduate makes a personal digital story that is made into a class movie that is shown in the gym! We need help with planning, setting up chairs, pre-graduation snacks, a camera person and lots more. Please email me at [regina@ochocki.name](mailto:regina@ochocki.name)

## **PTO News**

Our **Annual Rummage Sale** is coming up on Saturday, April 27th. Please drop off your rummage sale donations by Friday, April 26th. A complete list of items being accepted can be found on the PTO board, or contact Leann Eagles-Smith at [leeagles\\_smith@yahoo.com](mailto:leeagles_smith@yahoo.com) for more information. We are looking for volunteers to help with the rummage sale/bake sale. Contact Mary Gunn at [mrsgunn33@gmail.com](mailto:mrsgunn33@gmail.com) for more information on volunteering.

**A BIG THANKS** to all who attended the annual talent show. What a pleasure it was to see so many school families out supporting the children and the PTO! We would like to thank Tye Winery, Peak Sports, Gathering Together Farm, Creative Crafts and all the wonderful families for donating to our basket raffle. Last, but not least, THANKS to all of the volunteers. Besides being fun and an opportunity to showcase talent, we made \$665 to support music, art, and the graduation. THANK YOU!

The **Laughing Planet dine-out night** made MCCA \$320. Thank you so much for your support!

**Thanks** to the parents for your help in getting the students into costume for **Read Across America Day**. They looked great! As many Hogwarts students were visiting, we learned Quidditch, thanks to Ms. Chris.

**Thank you** to the chaperones on the 1/2/3 Expedition to the Science Factory. The children enjoyed the hands-on Sound exhibits in the exploration room. The favorite exhibit may have been the Screaming Room. For many, it was a first visit to the Planetarium. We watched a “double feature” and we enjoyed hearing about the moons of other planets.

**Temporary Housing Wanted:** An international family member of a Muddy Creek student will be visiting from April 21st—26th. Does anyone know of a small accommodation with a kitchen to rent? If so, please contact Jennine: [office@muddycreekcharterschool.org](mailto:office@muddycreekcharterschool.org)

**Homestay or Dinner guest?** The intern from Japan will end his visit with us next week. If anyone would like to host him for a night or invite him to dinner with your family, please contact the office. Thank you!



## Movin' Muskrat News

Kellen S. (2nd), Isaac H. (2nd), Althea R. (3rd), and Cedra E. (3rd) all proudly reached 5 miles during the past 2 weeks. Ben G. (Kinder) and Liam G. (2nd) both earned 10 miles, while Gradin F. (1st) reached 40 miles and set a Movin' Muskrat record with 16 laps (3.2 miles) during one lunch recess. Whew!

The **Class Challenge** is on! For the next 4 weeks of Movin' Muskrats (starting with laps on March 14th), the challenge is to get moving! The classroom with the highest average of laps per student will receive a fun and healthy snack party. Teachers are welcome to help their classroom accumulate laps!

## Classroom News

**Room 1 News:** Room 1 went to Stoneybrook on Tuesday. Students shared their Astronomy folders with the residents. Then, we went to Sunset Park where we helped with landscaping and took a tour of the Dunawi Creek boardwalk. We saw several beaver dams, ducks, and even a Nutria. It was a wonderful community service day!

This week, we started a unit on WATER. Over the course of the unit, we will look at the quantity of water on Earth, uses of water, why we need water, where water comes from, the water cycle, and ways to conserve water. We are reading and writing poetry that relates to water. Also, John Byrne, a visiting artist, is doing a photography workshop titled "24 Views of Water" with our class.

### Room 2 News:

*Engineering Days:* Our space-related project was to design a community, or settlement, that lives on the planet Mars. One area that the students identifies as important was to grow plants for oxygen and food. We learned about the electrical circuits that we would need to power a "plant growth chamber" to grow food on Mars. The students built prototypes of a plant growth chamber with a working electrical circuit.

*School Garden:* We talked, in math, about how we want to have raised beds in the school garden. The math students investigated all of the ways that the beds could be laid out to provide 24 square feet per class. We will do mapping of potential garden plans and pass the children's ideas back to the Garden Committee.

*Nature Study—Seasonal Change in the Restore Area:* The class went out to visit the native plants that they had adopted in the fall. I was proud of how quickly the children settled into quiet observation of their plants in winter. We sketched, wrote observations, and painted our observations onto tiles. In the spring, all of the tiles will be put together into a mural of seasonal change in our schoolyard. The older students are putting their observations on the internet to help scientists studying seasonal change in native plants.

### Music/Art Project:

Ms. Chris and Ms. Rita collaborated with both 1/2/3 classes on a puppet show based on *Peter and the Wolf*. The setting for the play was Mr. Hays' field across from our school. Both classes wrote the story, learned songs, and developed the music. Last week, both classes joined together to act out the story.

**Room 4 News:** In Reading, we learned about inferences. In Writing, we are still working on our Macro invertebrate poems. In Art, the students are finishing their clay insects and finishing up their artistic book report. They are getting to be experts on the recorder in Music. In History, the students learned some legends about Frog, Coyote and Fire.

## ETCETERA

**Help** HOT LUNCH HERO NEEDED—NO KITCHEN TIME REQUIRED!

**Wanted** Can you wash one load of kitchen laundry on Tuesday afternoons and have it back to the kitchen by Friday? No folding necessary! If you can help, please email [kristina.rosenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:kristina.rosenbaum@gmail.com). Thanks!!!

**SCRIP** The Next Scrip order is due Thursday, April 4th and will be ready Monday, April 15th (no school Friday). Place an order or see if we have what you need in our on hand supply. Scrip is just like a gift card, but better. Use it in place of your regular form of payment and earn money for Muddy Creek! It adds up as more people use it, so please consider giving it a try! You can drop off order forms and buy scrip any time in the office. Contact Carla at [cDCALLAHANZ@gmail.com](mailto:cDCALLAHANZ@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Wanted:** Muddy Creek is in need of a working electric dryer. If you have one you can donate, please contact Jennine at [office@muddycreekcharterschool.org](mailto:office@muddycreekcharterschool.org)