

Ashbrook Compass



"One Zero Zero! One Zero Zero!"

As I reminisce about this day, I can still hear Ms. Wheatley and our former 1st grade teacher Mrs. Stevens singing the 100th Day Song throughout the halls on this momentous day of the year, the 100th day of school! It is wonderful to see these special traditions carrying on as new teachers join our team. Mrs. Anderson had a grand day in 1st grade yesterday turning the 1st graders 100 years old, making necklaces with 100 things, and a crown for each student noting their "100 Days Smarter" achievement! Teachers in lower school found all kinds of ways to celebrate 100 days of school in all their classes. I hear Ms. Weber had 100 jumping jacks on the lesson plan! During this year in particular, 100 days of school is definitely an accomplishment to celebrate. We are grateful for every day we've had together this year, both in-person and online, and we can truly say that all Ashbrook students are 100 days smarter!

Rachel Sechler
Interim Head of School

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE - 2021

Next Week:

March 3 -- **PTO Meeting via Zoom, 9 am**

Upcoming Dates:

March 8 -- **(tentative) 4th and 5th grades return**

March 12 -- **Grade Day, NO SCHOOL**

March 15 --**(tentative) 6th grade returns**

March 16 -- **Founder's Day**

March 18 -- **Half day, DISMISSAL at 12 noon, Conferences 1-6 pm**

March 19 -- **Conferences 8 am - 2 pm, NO SCHOOL**

March 22-26 -- **Spring Break, NO SCHOOL***

March 29 -- **(tentative) 7th and 8th grades return**

*Per OHA guidelines: If you plan to travel out-of-state or out of the country over Spring Break, we expect your student to be quarantined for 14 days upon return, as it is the safest option to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to others. However, they may come back to school after 10 days if they do not experience any symptoms or after 7 days if they receive a negative test result from an antigen or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test that was conducted within 48 hours of the end of the 7-day period.

Return to School Update

We know our families with students in Grades 4-8 are excited about returning to school, and we have been working hard to make sure everything will be ready! There is a lot of information to share with students about new practices and protocols in the school building, so Mrs. Sechler will be meeting with each student cohort to go over their school day. In addition, she will be communicating with the families of each grade level to discuss new drop-off and pick-up procedures and check-in protocols. Keep an eye on your email in the coming weeks for more information!

Board of Trustees Update

In keeping with our practice of open and transparent communication with the Ashbrook community, here are the highlights from the January and February Board Meetings:

JANUARY

- The Board spent the majority of the meeting discussing tuition for the 2021-22 next academic year.
- The Board talked about a variety of topics related to the 2021-2022 school year including staff employment agreements and the Head of School (HOS) transition.
- The Board discussed the content and format of the parent and staff climate surveys to be launched in February and March.
- The Board discussed goals we should set for ourselves as we head into our annual retreat in May 2021.

FEBRUARY

- The Board reviewed results of the COGNIA accreditation as presented by Mrs. Sechler. The external accreditation committee commented on something they observed in their stakeholder interviews that they termed the "Ashbrook Way" which they described as "a culture of learning established on mutual trust that supports the learning of adults and students".
- Our new HOS, Chris Schoberl, will be visiting Ashbrook in person April 4th to April 7th! He will be visiting with school staff, parents and community members to introduce himself to the Ashbrook Community before the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

- Ashbrook is conducting outreach to local schools to determine if there are partnership opportunities for overflow admissions and the transition from homecare / childcare to Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten.
 - The Board continued their focus on policy development by discussing policy related to professional development.
 - The Board is in the process of applying for a second PPP loan in support of continued staff retention during the Pandemic.
 - The Board discussed our appreciation of, and transition plans for, Mrs. Sechler as she finishes her interim HOS year and moves into the 2021-2022 school year.
 - The Board discussed the value of the climate surveys for staff and parents. The Parent survey will be sent out in the beginning of March.
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Enrollment Season has begun!

We look forward to seeing all of our PS-7 students again in the 2021-2022 school year, and you should have received an email with information regarding re-enrollment. If you did not receive it or cannot find it, please email Ms. Tynon and she will resend it.

Links:

[Family Handbook](#)

[Enrollment Contract](#) (now available to sign electronically!)

[Preschool Through 8th Grade Payment Options Grid for 2021-2022](#)

Deadlines:

4/2 - All changes submitted - MSP billing of deposit

4/9 - [Financial aid](#) applications due (accepted 2/23-4/9)

4/23 - Financial aid awarded

4/30 - Deposit due

6/15 - Early bird discount for lump sum tuition payments due

6/30 - Lump sum tuition payments due

8/2 - 10-month payment plan begins

Lunch Program

We had hoped to restart the cold lunch program on Monday, March 1, but sadly, we do not have enough families participating throughout the week to make the program sustainable at this time. If you are interested in participating when we are able to start the program, the lunch form is [HERE](#).

4th grade virtual field trip

The 4th grade went on a virtual field trip this week to Live Local Organic, an aquaponics farm in Milwaukie, OR! They were all very excited to learn about aquaponic gardening where the company grows plants inside buildings under LED plant lights and use fish (tilapia) water to fertilize the plants.



No After School Program for Grades 4-8

Due to the staffing requirements needed to keep cohorts separate, we are unable to offer the After School Program for Grades 4-8 at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

March PTO meeting

Come one, come all to the next PTO meeting! We'd love to have you join us and learn more about the PTO. Our next event is Staff Appreciation.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am on Zoom.

Ashbrook receives 2 Oregon State Credit Union education grants

The Oregon State Credit Union Education Grant Program exists to fund materials and supplies for teachers of school children (K-12) within their field of membership. Grants are awarded twice a year for projects or programs that enhance, not duplicate, standard curriculum. Mrs. Washburn received \$260 to purchase workbooks for a new accounting elective and Miss Elliott received \$300 for outdoor learning supplies. Congratulations teachers!

Last Call--Explorers Fund

Although you can donate to Ashbrook at any time, our big push for the Explorers Fund is ending this week. A final update will be in the Compass next week.

Email Ms. Tynon to pledge an amount; click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page on the Ashbrook website where you can donate via credit card or EFT/ACH (there is a small payment processing fee); or mail a check directly to the school marked ATTN. Explorers Fund. Ashbrook Independent School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and gifts may be tax deductible.

Please use the NEW Attendance Email

Please use the new attendance email address for any attendance information about your student - early pick-ups, doctor appointments, and upcoming vacations, including around Spring Break.

Current COVID Metrics

At this time, Benton County is in the orange category with 224 cases per 100,000 for the 2/7/20 - 2/20/21 time frame. ODE and OHA advise that elementary schools can prioritize careful phasing in of on-site or hybrid learning with county case rates less than 350 over a 2-week period, and schools are not advised to reduce in-person learning or return to distance learning based on metrics as long as the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment.

Metrics are released every Monday. For a complete guide to the current metrics, please visit www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf