

Ashbrook Compass



July 2, 2021



I hope you're having a fantastic summer break. Please enjoy this quick update on Ashbrook news.

Rachel Sechler
Interim Head of School

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE - 2021

Summer Dates to Note:

June 21 - August 20 -- Office on Summer Hours, Mon-Fri, 9 am - 2 pm

July 5-9 -- Office closed

July 26 - 30 -- Office closed

July 14 -- 'Doc' Schoberl starts at Ashbrook

August 20 -- Rachel Sechler returns from maternity leave

August 23 -- Office hours, Mon-Fri, 8 am - 4 pm

[2021-22 School Year Event Calendar](#)

Board of Trustees Update

In keeping with our practice of open and transparent communication with the Ashbrook community, here are the highlights from the Board of Trustees regular monthly meeting from June 17, 2021:

The Board spent a good amount of time discussing the school's finances. As was expected, there is a budget shortfall as we look at AY 21-22. The pandemic has had several deteriorating impacts on the school this academic year including decreased enrollment, increased sanitation and facility maintenance costs, and loss of rental revenue to name a few. The generosity of our families and donors along with the PPP loans have helped us weather the storm but we are not where we need to be to enjoy the financial health we did pre-pandemic. The Board, in collaboration with Head of School Chris Schoberl, is taking this head-on by conducting a thorough analysis of our finances and looking at various ways to strengthen our financial position. By far, the most impactful lever we have is increasing enrollment. As parents, you can help! Please continue to talk to your friends and those in your network about Ashbrook and the value your child and family realize as a member of the Ashbrook community! The Board is also working with the school leadership, staff and parent groups to clarify and crystallize a clear statement of Ashbrook's value relative to cost in order to facilitate those conversations.

Before the meeting, Board Chair Tze-Yiu Yong and Board Trustee and School Founder Cecilia Gore attended the 8th grade graduation ceremony that was held Thursday, June 17th at school. Chris Schoberl also attended the ceremonies remotely. The Board members attending were impressed with the graduates' level of competence and their collective progression as student leaders. It was fascinating to hear which Middle School electives had the most impact on them and those teachers (even from Lower School!) that influenced them in significant ways. Most of all, it was heartening to hear how often the 13 graduates mentioned being welcomed by and embraced by someone or some group in the Ashbrook community over the years. We're confident that these students will represent Ashbrook in the finest manner going forward and will go on to have a positive impact in their communities and the world at large. The Board would like to offer its congratulations to the graduates, their parents, grands and family members and other supporters! If you would like to see a video of the graduation ceremony and listen to the students' personal statements, access the recording [HERE](#).

The Board wishes all of our families an enjoyable, safe and healthy summer.....we look forward to next Fall!

8th Grade Graduation!

Don't forget--the entire graduation ceremony is now available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/PYCND2j8Cqw>

We have been highlighting graduate quotes on our Instagram and Facebook pages, and one quote will also be featured in our upcoming Aug/Sept MOM Magazine advertisement!

Staffing Update

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member to Ashbrook, Peter Puettmann!



Hey everybody in the Ashbrook community! I am your new IT Support Specialist Peter Puettmann (Put-min). I am a Corvallis local but live up north in Monmouth with my girlfriend and our cat. I spend most of my time playing or making music with friends and going camping, hiking, motorcycling, or pretty much anything else that involves being outside. I also enjoy working on music electronics and other musical instrument repairs in my free time. Currently studying at Western Oregon University, I plan to get a degree in Environmental Sustainability while minoring in Communications. With my degree and work experience, I hope to educate communities on the importance of environmental sustainability and how that can be done. I am really looking forward to meeting and working with everyone here at Ashbrook!

Peter will be training under Greg Hammerstad starting July 12. Welcome Peter!

Volunteer opportunity

We have two volunteer opportunities at the school this summer. Thanks to the generosity of our parents, we have quite a few bags of clothes that need to be sorted and hung on the donation racks in the Commons. This would need to be done on a weekday between 8 am and 4 pm.

In addition, we need as many people as are willing to help with weeding, pruning, etc our beautiful landscaping around the school. while Ed and Eric tackle larger maintenance projects. The first hour of volunteering would need to occur on a weekday between 7 am and 3 pm so Ed can show you what needs to be done, but since it's outside work, the rest of the work can happen whenever you have time. Thank you!

21-22 After School Program Registration

The form to register your student for the 21-22 After School Program can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Summer Camps

Spots are still available in the [Summer Writing Workshop](#)! For more information, click [HERE](#) for the full information flyer or complete the registration form [HERE](#).

The [Corvallis Chinese School](#) and Greater Portland Association of Chinese Language School (GPACLS) will be hosting an in-person Chinese culture youth summer camp in Corvallis this year. The camp will be hosted at Ashbrook Independent School between August 2 - August 6, 2021. We will be offering the day camp in 2 age categories:

Lower School Camp (Camper age 5–10) meet daily 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Middle/High school Camp (Camper age 11-16) meet daily 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The camp activities will include Chinese folk art (Chinese glove puppetry), Chinese folk sport (Yoyo), Chinese folk dance (Iron fan dance), Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese painting (Lantern).

In order to follow the COVID-19 social distance protocol, this camp will be limited to 12 campers in each category. The registration form [HERE](#) will remain open until all the spaces are filled.