

Ashbrook Compass



October 1, 2021

Dear Ashbrook Family,

I am devoting this edition of my Compass intro to inviting your assistance, via social media, to improve the impression others form of our school, based on our online presence. For example, there are currently four main places people go to rate schools, and Ashbrook is mentioned on all sites.

[Ashbrook on Yelp](#) (Currently we have 4/5 stars off 4 reviews. We were at 3.5/5 stars until I added my review, so now we have three 5-star ratings and one 1-star rating).

[Ashbrook on Great Schools](#) (Currently we have 4.2/5 stars, from 60 reviews, so very respectable, but let's get it closer to 5).

[Ashbrook on Niche](#) (be the second to offer a review, just behind mine!)

[Ashbrook on Google Reviews](#) (add pics if you have them!)

It is not possible to overstate the importance of the role you can play in this effort.

Prior to tossing my hat into the ring for Ashbrook's Head of School position, I searched these same sites as a step in my due diligence; other hopeful employees and prospective families will absolutely do the same. If you have a moment and a positive impression of Ashbrook, please write a single 5 sentence review and post it in all three places. Bonus points for ALSO enlisting the assistance of your Ashbrook child, maybe even asking them to write their own review, identifying themselves as a student in the review itself (no need to reveal their name), and you can send it under your name *in addition* to your own posted review.

This effort on behalf of Ashbrook will pull our school to the top of search lists and convey a more accurate sense of what it means to be an Explorer, than the one currently "out there." If each family commits to writing at least one review and posting it in all three places, the result will be a deeper pool of awesome teachers looking for a wonderful place to work, and a deeper pool of families wanting to be a part of our community.

Aside from your own snapshots of fabulous Explorer moments experienced by your child, and my top ten reasons to brag about Ashbrook, [HERE](#), other talking points might include the value added for your family over other school choices (positive ethos, support, thoughtful lessons, connections

with peers, passion of teachers for their subject but even more for the welfare and development of students), “no back row,” tuition as not as high as many people might think, the kind and inclusive community vibe, availability of advanced classes for our kids who demonstrate an interest and ability, the fact that we are NOT elitist though as an application school we are not right for every child (but especially well-suited for students who are academically curious & motivated, and hungry, relationships with teachers, ability to play a role in the community as a parent partner, access to decision makers, transparent communication, the fact that we challenge and nurture. Mentioning the imaginative array of electives and the fun and joy your children experience while in school would also be great.

Finally, if an experience you have had as an Explorer is preventing you from posting a positive review of our school, I’d love to hear about that too, and in that case I’d hope you’d give me a chance to address your concern and earn your support.

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl
Head of School

P.S. If you have not yet completed the Parent Partner Survey [HERE](#), please do so. I am closing the survey tonight.

Next Week:

October 6 -- Bike-to-School Day (see below)

October 6 -- PTO meeting via Zoom, 9 a.m. (link below)

Upcoming Dates:

October 20 -- Coffee/Tea with Leadership

October 21 -- Movie Night for grades 2-4

October 22 -- Teacher In-service, No School

October 28 -- Picture Retakes

October 29 -- Ashbrook Spooktacular

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

COVID-19 Screening Program starts Monday

Ashbrook has enrolled in Oregon Health Authority’s COVID-19 Screening Program for K-12 students. This weekly testing program is entirely optional. **You can pick-up a barcoded test kit on Monday mornings from the orange bucket just outside the front door**, test your child that night or Tuesday morning, and return the test Tuesday morning. You will receive confidential results in 1-2 days. For more details, click [HERE](#).

Exploring Character: October is CONSIDERATION month!

We consider how our actions affect others. We treat others with kindness.



[Here](#) is an Ashbrook Character Traits poster suitable for your fridge

Family Focus on Consideration: here are some activities you can do at home to reinforce the values at the core of our character education program.

1) Make a two-minute video representing Consideration. Present it to Doc, and he may post it on Ashbrook's website, make it a part of our virtues video catalog, and/or show it to our Lower School students. How do courtesy (September's virtue) and Consideration work together? Answer this question or interpret this quotation and engage in a family discussion about what this means and how it might play out in our daily lives:

A little consideration, a little
thought for others, makes all
the difference. ~Eeyore



2) Four good reads about kindness, empathy, and the importance of friendship. Where do you see yourself in these characters? Read these by yourself or with a parent and take some time to discuss where, in these pages, you see your own "consideration" story.

- [We're All Wonders by R.J. Palacio](#)
- [Superbuns!: Kindness Is Her Superpower by Diane Kredensor](#)
- [Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick](#)
- [To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee](#)

3) Watch [this video](#) musical performance about being kind and talk with a parent about ways you are kind to your family, pets, and friends. Make a drawing of yourself being kind, and explain it to a parent. Bring it in to Doc and tell him about it and he will post it on Instagram and hang it in his office!

STUDENT CONTEST: Summer Months Character Traits

What about June, July, and August? Are you a student who has some thoughts about what three traits we should add to our Character Trait list for the summer months? Would you like to win a snazzy long sleeve Ashbrook t-shirt AND a free dress day for your entire class? If so, write Doc a note according to the following instructions: On a single page, describe each trait and its month and WHY you think it would be important for Ashbrook to adopt (due by the first bell of the day on 10/15).

Honoring a special donor

Today we honored the late Vince Steckler (pictured below in his last visit to Ashbrook). Dr. Steckler was moved as Dr. Schoberl dedicated her classroom to her brother Vince with a plaque that reads: *This classroom is dedicated to Vince Steckler in memory of his generous contribution to science education at Ashbrook.* We will be sending pictures of the plaque and cards of sympathy from our science students to his wife next week.



Board of Trustees Update

The Board of Trustees at Ashbrook met in regular session in September. Here is a summary of the items we discussed.

The Board continued its review of Vivek Murthy's book *Together* as well as a podcast that Dr. Schoberl recommended we listen to related to developing resilience in organizations and particularly students. The Board had a great discussion about this as well as the related characteristics of kindness and community. We all recognized how Ashbrook is a safe space for kids to practice these skills.

We talked about the concept of inclusion with a focus on gender normality and the recognition of a broad range of religious holidays at work, at home and in educational institutions.

We returned to a discussion from last month about the financial and enrollment stability of the school. The conversation ranged from the recent 509J decision around math opportunity (and how Ashbrook should position ourselves) to areas / offerings at school that need to be developed or funded in order to be more attractive to prospective students and their parents. This led naturally to a review of Doc's Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) for the 2021-2022 school year.

We reviewed the HOS report which had updates on:

- The school marketing and branding plan. Specifically, we checked out the new [Facilities Rental page](#) on the website. The page looks great; if you are connected with organizations that could use the space send them the link or connect them with the front office!
- Back to School Night including how well managed it was by all the staff
- Facilities update (including security items)
- COVID testing plans
- Doc's external community outreach
- A recap of the first Heads Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting

Let's Roll with It -- Bike to School Day is Wednesday!

Grab your helmet and pump up your tires ... it's time for Bike To School Day! On Wednesday, October 6, your Ashbrook PTO will be hosting a Bike To School Day for you and your family. Enjoy the crisp fall air as you ride from home to school where the PTO will have hot cocoa and light snacks waiting for you to enjoy while you socialize with friends. If the ride from home is too far, you can start from an alternate location such as MLK Park, Benton County Fairgrounds or Avery Park. For a fun, short ride, meet Doc at Sunset Park between 7:15 and 7:30 and he will lead you to school! Don't have a bike or don't want to ride that day? No problem. Arrive at school a little early and enjoy hot cocoa and snacks while you watch the cyclists arrive. If you have any questions, please contact Krista Lindberg (krista.lindberg@comcast.net).

SPECIAL NOTE FROM DOC -- It's a "free dress" day if you ride your bike to school on Wednesday!

PTO meeting Wednesday via Zoom

Come one, come all to the next PTO meeting! We'd love to have you join us and learn more about the PTO. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am on Zoom.

When: Wednesday, October 6, at 9 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8932204776?pwd=ZIRFakpKNG4xVUZ4WUJkK3g3dGcydz09>

Meeting ID: 893 220 4776

Passcode: PTO

Socktober starts Monday!

Hey Ashbrook Parents,

It's time for Socktober! The Ashbrook Fourth Grade is putting together a sock drive for homeless people in the Corvallis area. Including men, women, and children, this is about a thousand people.

The sock drive is starting on Monday, October 4, and ends on Wednesday, October 27. There will be a sock bin out in front of the school so you can put the socks in it, or you could buy them online and have them delivered to Ashbrook. Please address them to:

Ashbrook Sockdrive, 4045 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333

The socks will be donated to homeless shelters throughout Corvallis. We are doing this to help homeless people to stay healthy, blend in, and look nice.

So please donate as much as you can to help the homeless. Make sure they are new, not used socks.

Thank you, The Ashbrook Fourth Grade.

(Written by Maggie May and Kai Shankowski)

First round of PTO Mini-Grant applications due October 15

The Ashbrook PTO is proud to offer mini-grants again this academic year! The purpose of the Ashbrook PTO Mini-Grant Program is to support the Ashbrook community in pursuing projects, activities and supplemental education opportunities that enhance the school's collective educational and community building aspirations. All members of the Ashbrook community are eligible to apply for a PTO mini-grant to sponsor undertakings such as clubs, events, teams and speakers.

The application form with more information on activities that are eligible and the guidelines for funding is [HERE](#).

COVID Reminder to All Parents

If your student has seasonal allergies or a chronic/managed health condition, please email Ms. Rachael at rlevy@ashbrookscool.org with your student's name and symptoms. Symptoms must be documented experiencing a symptom as a result of their known condition does not need to quarantine unless other non-related symptoms develop.

Please remember to screen your child each morning before coming to school. This includes asking your student how they are feeling, doing a symptom check, as well as checking their temperature. If your child is experiencing any of the symptoms on [this list](#), do not send them to school.

If you need to have your child tested, you can pick up a free test from Ashbrook and drop it off at the WVT Lab on Washington St.