

Ashbrook Compass



November 5, 2021

Dear Ashbrook Family,

In our ongoing effort to build community and invite diversity, Ashbrook will include the religious holidays of five major religions on our internal planning calendars (click [HERE](#) to see the list of holidays for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism). This is, however, not a comprehensive guide, and students may also choose to observe a holiday from any tradition not included on the calendar.

In my experience, what makes it to a calendar and what does not, signal an organization's values or at least give a hint about its culture. In the spirit of inclusiveness, and consonant with the value Ashbrook places on diversity, we are sharing these dates and will publish a finalized list in the 2022-23 Family Handbook as well as on internal calendars starting in January, 2022. Please let us know if we have missed something or if we need to revise dates or descriptions of holidays, and we'd be happy to accommodate.

This heightened awareness of religious holidays will allow us to a) make sure that we avoid planning important school events on dates that coincide with a religious holiday, and b) invite you and/or your child to share your religious traditions with us by connecting with a teacher to give a presentation, share food or traditions related to your religion, or give an attendance heads up for dates your child will miss for holiday observance.

Any student may be excused from a class, an assignment, or an extracurricular obligation because of religious observance. If students miss school or assignments for this reason, parents (or older students themselves) should be in touch with teachers to arrange the making up of missed schoolwork.

The staff is expected to be mindful of potential conflicts with religious observances and should make reasonable accommodations when these dates conflict with School responsibilities.

Teachers may also use this information to invite families to share their faith traditions with the school or class in whatever way they feel comfortable.

Did we exclude a holiday that is important to you? Are any of our explanations off? Should we rethink these plans for one reason or another? If you have strong feelings about this and would like an opportunity to share your thoughts prior to the update of our calendar, please reach out and I would be happy to meet.

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl

Head of School

P.S. We've scheduled another Zoom Admissions event on Nov. 30, **Education is Well Rounded: The Arts as Essential Curriculum**. More information and the link will be included in the next Compass. If you want to see the slides from our October event, **Education is Opportunity: Lifting Up the Bottom vs. Pushing Down the Top**, click [HERE](#).

Next Week:

Nov. 11 -- Veterans Day, **No School**

Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 15 -- Philanthropy Class fundraiser starts

Nov. 16 -- Model UN CrisisCon

Nov. 17 -- Coffee/Tea with the Leadership and Scholastic Book Fair starts

Nov. 22 -- Winter Term hot lunch orders due

Nov. 24 -- Grand Day; Half-day of School; No After-School Program

Nov. 25-26 -- Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30 -- November Admissions event via Zoom, Education is Well Rounded: The Arts as Essential Curriculum

Save the Date! Dec. 2 -- Middle School Dance and Parent Connection Night (see below for more info)

[2021-22 School Year Event Calendar](#) -- check out the updates!

Mask Reminder!

Please remember to wear your mask when you are anywhere on campus, especially during pick-up and drop-off where you may be crossing paths with other students/families on the sidewalk or in the parking lot. Thank you!

November Pulse Survey

Please take 3 minutes and complete this anonymous survey (link removed), a once a month measure of how we're doing. This survey will close at the end of the day on Wednesday, 11/10. Aggregate results will be published in the next Compass.

Volunteer Hours program update

The goal of the Volunteer program is, first and foremost, to build community. Beyond this, tasks that parents take on as Volunteers, free up time and energy for our teachers, who can spend that time contemplating, developing, and delivering their programs to enhance the student experience. Frankly, we could not deliver the program we deliver without this level of parent partnership, so while participation is not currently “required,” it is necessary, encouraged, and greatly appreciated.

After listening to the feedback from Ashbrook staff and families and careful consideration of the purpose and history of the Family Volunteer Program, we have made a few changes to the service hours requirement in order to better meet the needs of our families and the school.

What we heard you say: Too many hours to complete in 1 year, especially for full-time working families

Our solution: Reduce total from 36 hours per family to 20 hours per family

What we heard you say: The fee for not completing was an easy out or financial burden if we just couldn't complete all 36 hours

Our solution: Removed the fee for not completing

What we heard you say: Hard to complete hours with COVID restrictions and fewer events at school

Our solution: While under restrictions around volunteers inside the building, hours are strongly encouraged, but not required. Remember, we still need your help.

What we heard you say: Can there be any incentives for families?

Our solution: Addition of double points opportunities when families team up with another family to complete a task! It's all about building community.

What we heard you say: Confusing where to go to find volunteer opportunities - never in the same place

Our solution: Every Friday in the Compass, keep an eye on the Family Volunteer Opportunities section where THIS SHEET (link removed) will live all year.

What we heard you say: Seems like the tasks were always the same or would fill up before we could find something that worked for us

Our solution: Ashbrook staff will be updating the volunteer tasks regularly, adding new tasks and deleting tasks when enough volunteers sign up. (Keep in mind there will be fewer tasks while we are still under COVID restrictions.)

What we heard you say: Why should I be motivated?

Our solution:

- Get to be in the building!
- Get to work with the students
- Help your student's teachers
- Build relationships with staff and other parents

Coffee/Tea with the Leadership

The November Coffee/Tea with the Leadership is on November 17th at 2:30. Add to [THIS FORM](#) (link removed) any questions you'd like Doc and Mrs. Sechler to address during this session. Some topics they will plan to cover will include upcoming events such as the Book Fair and Grand Day as well as an overview of what to expect when report cards are sent home in a few weeks.

Philanthropy class student fundraiser

Mrs. Capps's philanthropy class will be holding a fundraiser Nov 15-19. We will be selling handmade items such as scrunchies, play-doh, stickers, coasters, keychains, and more! Most items are priced from \$1 to \$15. There will also be a raffle for a large crocheted blanket. Raffle tickets will be \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. We will have sample products that can be ordered and customized. The funds raised will go towards chickens, a chicken coop, a composting system, a garden, and fruit trees. We will be located in the commons all week after school.

~The Philanthropy Class

PTO awards Mini-Grants, supports staff during conferences

Mrs. Jensen and Miss Ulrich were granted \$500 for a Spring OMSI assembly that they hope to have in-person but may have to be virtual. Dr. Steckler and her student teacher, Ms. Duitsman, were awarded up to \$300 for zoology supplies for a Spring science elective. And Ashbrook parent Megan Patton-Lopez was awarded up to \$150 for snacks and t-Shirts for the Middle School Running Club.

And the entire Ashbrook staff thanks the PTO Staff Appreciation Committee for the "Parent Teacher Conferences Survival Kits" we received yesterday. We love our PTO!!



Support the PTO YUM-raiser!

The Ashbrook PTO is once again hosting a See's Candy YUM-Raiser this holiday season. See's Candy makes a delicious and easy holiday gift for all the special people in your life - including yourself! Orders are placed on our [Ashbrook PTO Yum-raising website](#) and are shipped directly to you or your gift recipients. Shipping for orders over \$65 is free, orders less than \$65 ship for a small fee. Proceeds go to the Ashbrook PTO to benefit our entire school. The PTO contributes to community building events, educational resources, educational experiences and much, much more! Please feel free to share the website with friends and family and order today!

READY, SET, GO-BOB!

Let the Ashbrook segment of Oregon Battle of the Books begin! Our 2021-22 student OBOB participants and the capable, generous parents who will be their coaches are on board. They will begin once-weekly practices in the building starting next week. See the list of students and coaches [HERE](#) (link removed). If you see any of them, don't hesitate to give a high 5, thumbs up, "Way to go," "Thank you," or other signs and words of kudos and encouragement. More than once is recommended, as they will be engaged into February and, if competing in Regionals, into March. Ongoing recognition also is in order for the participants' parents, who will be supporting and encouraging their individual OBOB students on the home front. Hurrah for Ashbrook OBOB!

Scholastic Book Fair -- More information!

The in-person Scholastic Book Fair is coming back Nov. 17-24! Visit the [Ashbrook Scholastic Homepage](#) to set-up your students eWallet, a convenient digital payment account so your child can shop the Fair cash-free . Grandparents, friends, and others can contribute to the eWallet to help build your home library.

You can also sign-up to volunteer at the Book Fair via the link above. (Click on the orange Sign Up button to register.) Volunteering at the Book Fair is the perfect way to stay connected to your child at school and help students find the books they can't wait to read. All volunteers will need to complete the 21-22 volunteer forms through the office. These include an updated background screening form as well as a copy of your Covid vaccination status. Please be sure to submit these to Ms. Rachael in the office at least 1 week in advance of your volunteer date. Thank you!

The Student Compass

Have you seen copies of the two Student Compasses sent out so far this year? If not, click [HERE](#) (link removed) and see what our yearbook class has been up to!

Save the Date of Dec. 2 for Parent Connection Night and Middle School Dance

We have heard you loud and clear--you want to meet and socialize with other parents! Since we already had a Middle School Dance scheduled for Thursday, December 2, we thought, why not combine that with a fun activity for parents only?

There will be more details to come, but for now, sharpen those buzzer skills as we plan to play "Family Ashbrook Parent Feud." You don't have to create a team; we will form teams that night. We hope to see you there!

Ashbrook Rube Goldberg Machine Contest

Are you a parent with some connection to a Corvallis area business, either directly or through someone you know? Would you like to join other area businesses and the OSU School of Engineering in the creation of an exciting STEAM contest hosted by Ashbrook this winter? If so, please view the preliminary materials [HERE](#) and consider being a Sponsor, Collaborator, or Partner!

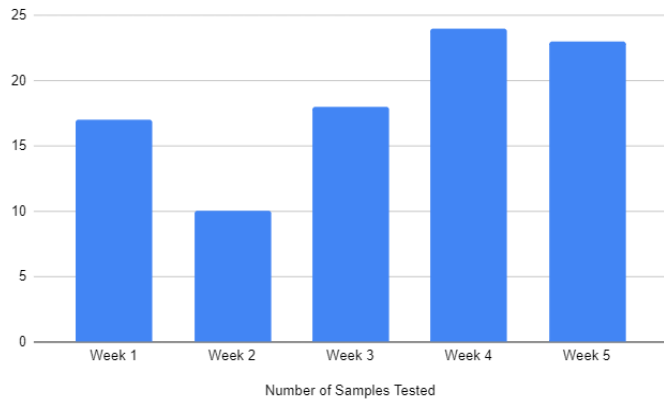
For as little as \$500, the business logo/name would be included in all contest promotional materials, including fliers, ads, and contest t-shirts. If this sounds like your cup of tea, please be in touch with Doc by November 15.

COVID News

From Benton County Health Department:

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup last night completed its review of the federal process and has unanimously concluded that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for youth 5 to 11 years of age. Oregon, like all states, is just starting to receive a small supply of pediatric vaccine this week, with a steady increase of doses in coming weeks. Please visit the [Benton County COVID-19 website](#) for upcoming vaccination and testing events. We encourage community members with access to a pediatrician to seek vaccination at their provider's office or local pharmacies. Currently, Benton County is prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations for ages 5 to 11 and primary doses for ages 12 and over at community events.

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](#). To get a sense of how many people have benefitted from this testing program since we started, see the graph below.



If your student has seasonal allergies or a chronic/managed health condition, please email Ms. Rachael in the office with your student's name and symptoms. These conditions will be documented in the office. A student 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.