

Ashbrook Compass



October 29, 2021

Dear Ashbrook Family,

October is a month that many children look forward to because it's the month of spooky stories, Jack-O-Lanterns, costume parades, and trick or treating. At Ashbrook, this finds expression in our annual Spooktacular celebration, including the COVID inspired "Trunk or Treat." As adults, there are plenty of reasons NOT to look forward to Halloween: some practical, some philosophical, and some religious in nature.

Because it can be complicated, many schools have done away with acknowledging Halloween altogether, going so far as preempting the school day by scheduling professional development training or parent conferences or some other method of dodging the question. In this way, what makes it to a calendar and what does not signals an organization's values or at least gives a hint about its culture. Taking time to be playful and devote time to the joy of celebrating a holiday such as Halloween, to engage in traditions and have a good laugh, and to allow students to see their teachers being silly and letting their hair down, provides the balance point between "challenge" and "nurture" that is so central to our school's mission.

Rather than thinking about lost instructional time, Ashbrook teachers incorporate Halloween fun into their classes: Mr. Wilson asks students to carve Jack-O-Lanterns and then to calculate the volume of these creations; Mr. Olson explores three dimensionality by asking students to use various methods in their drawing of haunted houses; Dr. Steckler creates a "mad science" laboratory complete with "giant's sweat," "witch's blood," and "liquified brains." Mr. Hoge introduces our students to the Ashbrook tradition of Halloween Caroling. Third graders practice their listening skills and adjective use in a read-aloud, by illustrating their vision of the central character in "Are you My Monster?" and then comparing their drawings with those in the book. And our language students are given an opportunity to practice their vocabulary prompted by sentence starters such as "Je me déguise en"... in French, "Me disfrazo de"... in Spanish, and how to say "ghost," "witch," and "broom" in Chinese.

Instead of thinking about fun and work as if they were locked in an eternal zero sum tug of war, Ashbrook teachers appreciate the fact that joy is actually a force multiplier in their efforts to connect with students and, thereby, help students connect with the disciplines about which our teachers are so passionate.

At Ashbrook, we work hard, because we play hard!

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl

Head of School

P.S. Click [HERE](#) for Halloween Safety tips from the Oregon Health Authority.

Next Week:

Nov. 3 -- PTO meeting via Zoom, 9 a.m.

Nov. 4 -- Half-day of School; Parent Teacher Conferences 1 - 6 pm

Nov. 5 -- No School; Parent Teacher Conferences 8am - 2pm

Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 11 -- Veterans Day, No School

Nov. 16 -- Model UN CrisisCon

Save the Date!

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

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

Parent Teacher Conferences November 4 and 5

November 4th - Half day of school - conferences start at 1:00 PM

November 5th - No school day - conferences start at 8:00 AM

Parent Teacher Conferences are an important opportunity to learn about your student's progress and discuss goals to work towards this year. Please be sure to sign up for a time to meet with all of your student's teachers.

[HERE](#) is the folder with the sign-up sheets for each department. Scroll to the next tabs at the bottom of each sheet to find each teacher's sign-up sheet. There is also a sign-up page for the leadership if you would like to meet with Dr. Schoberl and/or Mrs. Sechler. The sign-up pages will not be editable after November 3rd, so any last minute changes will need to be communicated directly to the teacher.

Is it Monday Yet?

It's time for Doc's monthly attempt to address developmental and topical issues we confront as we "challenge and nurture" our children.

Friendship: it's Complicated!

Relationships can be complicated, especially if you are building them as you are learning HOW to build them: it's a bit like changing the tires on a car as it's rolling down the road! For our young students, this process can be a wonderful journey of discovery and emotional growth, but it can also be one fraught with opportunities for disappointment and heartbreak, which are tough for any of us to witness. (To continue reading, click [HERE](#).)

Congratulations to Beka and Alison!

Beka and Alison were accepted to participate in the Middle School All-State Orchestra this January! They will both be playing 2nd Violin. The hard work and practice they put into their recordings certainly paid off!

Socktober Thank You!

The Fourth Grade class would like to thank everyone who donated socks for Socktober! Together, we collected 391 pairs of socks for the unhoused community. Many people will have healthier, warmer feet thanks to your generous donations!

The Student Compass

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

Scholastic Book Fair

The in-person Scholastic Book Fair is coming back Nov. 15-24! Every dollar you spend will benefit our school directly.

This year, you can sign up for a Book Fair 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. In next Friday's Compass, there will be a link to create the eWallet.

In addition, we'll be asking for a few parent volunteers to help run the Book Fair, and we'll let you know dates and times shortly.

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 Reminders to All Parents

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](#).

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.