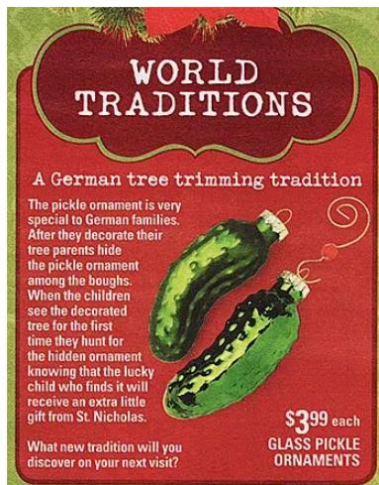


Ashbrook Compass



December 17, 2021



Dear Ashbrook Family,

Have a healthy and joyous winter break. If you are traveling, I wish you a safe journey, and if you are staying put, I wish I were you! Whatever your plans, I hope you have a relaxing, rejuvenating, and fulfilling time with friends and family. In this spirit, I thought I'd share one of my family's favorite holiday traditions: the Christmas pickle.

As it turns out, right after he eats the cookies you left him, and just before he feeds his reindeer the carrots you shared, Santa hides a pickle somewhere deep in the tree. The child who finds the pickle, gets what my family calls "the pickle gift" (and it's usually my daughter because my two sons give up after about 25 seconds).

When my kids were younger, we were under the impression that this was an Old World German tradition (Die Weihnachtsgurke-Legende), but once my children were older and I had a few minutes to myself, I looked it up (which I regret)... and found it was more than likely the invention of a clever ornament salesman who had an overstock of pickle ornaments!

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl, Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 18 - Jan. 2 -- Winter Break

Jan. 3 -- First day back to school

Jan. 14 -- MLK Celebration and MUN WinterCon

Jan. 17 -- MLK Day; No School

[021-22 School Year Event Calendar](#)

[Family Volunteer Opportunities](#) -- 10 opportunities available!

Middle School Band Concert

Thank you to everyone who tuned in to watch the MS Band Concert yesterday afternoon! If you missed it, we will post the recording to the Ashbrook YouTube channel and there will be a link directly to the video in the first Compass of 2022.

Weather-related closures or delays

Since we experienced our first snow this week, we want to remind you of the AIS policy on closures.

- AIS will do as Corvallis School District 509J does. If AIS is not mentioned specifically in a radio-announcement, follow the instructions for 509J concerning delay or closure.
 - To receive official notification from 509J click [HERE](#) and subscribe to the Corvallis School District.
 - If school is delayed two hours, half-day Beginning School students will not attend. All other students will come two hours late.
 - Unexpected AIS closures and delays will be posted on MSP, Facebook, and sent to AIS families via email and/or SMS text via MSP.
 - If school is closed, the office will be closed. Parents should not call AIS as no one will be answering the phone.
-

Ashbrook School Tag Sale, as explained by Doc

Save the date of April 2, 2022 ... and that second and third lava lamp you were gifted during the holidays!

If you are wondering what a tag sale is, think part estate sale, part flea market, part garage/yard sale! Honestly, I have found some of the most marvelous treasures from the fundraiser tag sales hosted by two of my prior schools: a 1930s Ford gumball machine that still works for \$5; a photograph of Christo's Running Fence, framed and signed by the artist... that Eileen hates, for \$75 (actually purchased from Yo-Yo Ma!); and an ax with which I have split many cords of wood, for \$10.

Between now and April, when you start thinking about spring cleaning or decluttering, think of Ashbrook and whether or not those items you are considering donating to another nonprofit could fetch a couple of bucks for the coffers of our beloved school. If you need us to do a pick up, we can do that too.

Bargain hunters from Ashbrook and the larger Corvallis community will be invited to peruse tables filled with books, tools, sporting equipment, toys, record albums, electronic equipment, crafts, plants, antiques, bicycles, car parts, hobby items: these and more are all fair game.

These items are typically gently used, and the money earned goes to Ashbrook. Depending upon the number of sellers, the tables will be set up in the gym, theater foyer, and even in the commons.

At both of the schools from my past that hosted this type of event, food trucks were invited, and a bouncy castle or two completed the picture... so the sky's the limit for what we expect to be as much a community builder as it is a fundraiser.

Rube Goldberg Challenge Update

We have 10 teams signed up so far for the challenge! The teams and their teacher-coaches will be meeting on the OSU campus in January. As a part of this meeting, we would love it if two OSU Engineering students could greet them and spend time speaking with them about engineering concepts, the rules of the contest, and the opportunities and challenges of the materials they are being asked to use in building their "complex simple machines." These two students will be paid a stipend of \$200 each. If interested, please have them contact Doc Schoberl.

Thank You from the PTO

The PTO wants to give the following people a special shout out for contributing to the Staff Holiday Party: John Matthews, Jessica Masten, Su Leng Quah, Carmen Boone, Sabrina Haswell & Gunay Ozturk, Elizabeth Nathman, Kathy & Richard May, Debby & Tze-Yiu Yong, Susan Lai & Jeff Hsing, Kathy & Jason Lee, Anne & Jason Phillips, Krista & Matthew Lindberg, Jane Leid, Stephanie & Patrick O'Connor, and Anne & Andrew Rice.

Harry Potter Club starting in January

Calling all 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade Harry Potter fans! Join Miss Ulrich on Fridays after school starting in January to end your week with a little bit of magic! We will be reading the first installment of the Harry Potter series. Along the way we will do some fun Potter themed activities. Even if you've read the book before, come join your friends to experience the joy of the Hogwarts universe again! Parents, please see your inbox for an email from Miss Ulrich with more details and the permission slip.

New Family Referral Stipend from Doc Schoberl

There is nothing better than word of mouth advertising, especially in the nonprofit world of independent schools. If you find yourself in a conversation about Ashbrook, feel free to use my “top ten reasons to brag about Ashbrook” doc for ideas, [HERE](#). For an entire page of talking points, click [HERE](#). And if we end up enrolling a new Explorer family you refer to our school, you will earn a \$100 referral stipend.

Of course, if an experience you have had as an Explorer is preventing you from speaking positively about our school, I want to hear about that, so please give me a chance to address your concern and hopefully to re-earn your support.

Hour of Code

Some of the lower school classes participated in The Hour of Code on Wednesday. Every year in December, our classes join millions of students around the world celebrating Computer Science Education Week with the Hour of Code.

Do you know a dynamic speaker?

As a part of our fundraising efforts (you will soon hear more about the whole plan), Ashbrook is currently planning a formal dinner in Corvallis. As a part of this event, we are searching for just the right speaker to keynote the evening. If you know someone who you think would be a great speaker, or know someone who knows someone who might be a great speaker, please contact Doc or Ms. Tynon. Even if you do not have a connection, but think you have a great idea for a speaker or for a topic for a speaker to address, please be in touch.

COVID News

Please visit the [Benton County COVID-19 website](#) for upcoming vaccination and testing events. Benton County Health encourages community members with access to a pediatrician to seek vaccination at their provider’s office or local pharmacies.

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](#).

With the arrival of the Omicron variant, it is highly recommended that you test your children on a regular basis. Please take advantage of this opportunity to mitigate the possible spread, which is especially important during the winter months when we are more likely to share indoor air than during the warmer months.

