

Ashbrook Compass



December 3, 2021

Dear Ashbrook Family,

Based on the recent tragedy at Oxford HS in Michigan, I'm using my Compass intro for this week to highlight my Is It Monday Yet? blog post.

Tough to Understand Such "a thing"

By now, you, and likely your children too, have read or listened to more than enough stories about the school shooting at Oxford HS. I have always detested the phrase "school shooting," not only because of what it references, but also because once a word or phrase enters into our lexicon, once we have a common vernacular to reference "a thing," it acknowledges that it has become "a thing" and, in a way signals that it is here to stay. More offensive to my heart than to my ear, however, is what seems an oxymoron of "school" + "shooting."

As a father, my heart goes out to the families of the victims and also to the family of the shooter. As a Head of School, I walk around our campus always with an eye towards security, and am humbled by the trust you place in Ashbrook to make sure your children are safe.

To read the rest of the blog post, click [HERE](#).

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl, Head of School

Next Week:

Dec. 7 -- Admissions event via Zoom, Education is Well Rounded: The Arts as Essential Curriculum, 6:30-8 pm

Dec. 8 -- Coffee with Leadership, 9-10 am (see below for more info)

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 13-17 -- Spirit Week (see below for more info)

Dec. 16 -- MS Music Concert

Dec. 17 -- No After School Program

Dec. 17 -- 2nd-4th Grade Movie Night, 5:30-8 pm

Dec. 18 - Jan. 2 -- Winter Break

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

[Family Volunteer Opportunities](#) -- 7 opportunities available!

Zoom Admission Event December 7

Our Zoom Admissions event focusing on our educational opportunities in the arts is Dec. 7. If you are interested in attending, RSVP [HERE](#). If you want to see slides from our October event, Education is Opportunity: Lifting Up the Bottom vs. Pushing Down the Top, click [HERE](#).

Board Summary of 11/18/21 meeting from Tze-Yiu Yong, Chairperson

During the November 18th meeting of the Board, we talked about the following:

- We discussed three internal Board business items including how we communicate with each other and school staff, the Board match for the upcoming Explorers Fund ask, and the approval of September and October Board minutes.
 - We talked about the school's tuition refund policy
 - There was an update from Trustee Chang on the progress of the Board's Policy Working Group
 - The most amount of time was spent by the Board talking about the school's finances and directions to move to continue to increase enrollment and staff retention.
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Coffees with Leadership is now NEW FAMILY Coffees with Leadership

20	OCT 2021, WED	9 - 10am	Coffee w/the Leadership
17	NOV 2021, WED	2:30 - 3pm	Coffee w/the Leadership
8	DEC 2021, WED	9 - 10am	Coffee w/the Leadership
26	JAN 2022, WED	2:30 - 3pm	Coffee w/the Leadership
16	FEB 2022, WED	9 - 10am	Coffee w/the Leadership
16	MAR 2022, WED	2:30 - 3pm	Coffee w/the Leadership
20	APR 2022, WED	9 - 10am	Coffee w/the Leadership
18	MAY 2022, WED	2:30 - 3pm	Coffee w/the Leadership
8	JUN 2022, WED	9 - 10am	Coffee w/the Leadership

Our monthly Coffees with Leadership have been rebooted as NEW FAMILY Coffees with Leadership. All are welcome, still, but this shift is to extend an extra special invite to our newest community members, either in person or via Zoom. Below are the dates and times, from the School Wide Calendar (where you will also find the Zoom links).

The goal of these meetings is to provide you with "just in time" information to help you navigate Ashbrook, to give you a chance to hear from Rachel and Doc about upcoming events or program changes, and to invite questions you may have about Ashbrook. Continuing families are still welcome (and many of them would be very interested in this same information), but our target audience, henceforth... is YOU!

Parent Connection Night



Our first Parent Connection Night was an amazing success! Approximately 40 parents attended the 2-hour event and everyone seemed to enjoy the "Family Ashbrook Parent Feud" game. Parents LOVED hearing about the answers their students gave to topics such as "Name something at the beach" (the #4 answer was dead jellyfish) and "Name something that comes in a pair" (the #3 answer was muscles, #4 was chopsticks).

Many returning families were grateful to see each other "in 3-D" and have the chance to speak to new parents. The evening exceeded our expectations for a first-time event, and we hope all parents have a chance to participate in one of the spring Parent Connection Nights. The next date will be announced soon!

Spirit Week is Dec. 13 - 17 so dress accordingly and have fun!

Monday: Plaid Day

Tuesday: Color Block Day with Buddies

- Kindergarten/Mrs. Washburn: Red
- First/Dr. Steckler: Blue
- Pre-K/2nd/Mr. Wilson: Black
- Preschool/3rd/Mr. Washburn and Ms. Kelley: Green
- 4th/Mr. Hunt: Orange

Wednesday: Explorer Day (come as your favorite explorer or your interpretation of an explorer) OR AIS spirit wear

Thursday: Dress for Success (something where everyone can dress fancy or look "professional")

Friday: Cozy-Up/Comfy Day

We want to extend a warm Ashbrook welcome to our new 3rd grade family, Violetta Gerasymenko and Mark Bacon and their daughter Elise! Thank you for choosing to become a part of the Ashbrook Community!

Vina Moses Giving Tree

The 5th grade class is partnering with Vina Moses this holiday season by sharing about The Giving Tree. Stop by to grab a tag or [go online to claim a digital one](#). **Please return all gifts to Ashbrook no later than December 9.** Enjoy [this video](#) made by the 5th graders telling you about The Giving Tree.

Congratulations Dr. Steckler!

Dr. Steckler is now an affiliate graduate faculty member at OSU! OSU student Ms. Duitsman has been working side-by-side with Dr. Steckler this school year, and with this appointment, Dr. Steckler can now serve on Ms. Duitsman's graduate committee.

Astronomy field trip to the Eugene Science Center Planetarium summary from Mr. Wilson

This term, middle schoolers enrolled in Astronomy went on a field trip to the Eugene Science Center's Planetarium to see a show on Dark Matter. Near the planetarium in Eugene, there is a 1:1,000,000,000 scale model of our solar system along a bike trail. Students were dropped off at Pluto, and together we walked along the trail to the sun at Alton Baker Park. From there, we walked to the Planetarium where we met back up with our parent chaperones and they joined us for the show. Afterwards, parents drove us to MOD Pizza and we had lunch before heading back to the school. The weather was very cooperative, and we all had a wonderful time!

Pulse surveys

Please note, [HERE](#), aggregate data from latest Pulse surveys, most recently from November. We will run the Pulse survey every other month vs. every month, henceforth, based on feedback from Head's Advisory Council. We will also publish it as a separate email... also based on HAC wisdom.

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.

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.

Ashbrook Admission Ambassador REIMAGINED

I recently heard from several parents that the requirements to be a part of AAA (particularly the photo and bio blurb) were obstacles to participating, so we made it simpler: Would you like to help fill our school with even more awesome kids? If so, AAA (Ashbrook Admission Ambassadors) may be your chance!

As an AAA, you would respond to emails from applicant families interested in hearing a parent perspective on Ashbrook. Simply answer the five questions on [this form](#) to indicate the Ashbrook topics you would be comfortable speaking about, and it will contact you with an alias email address (an AAA address that forwards to your actual address so we are not broadcasting your personal email address). That's it... No photos, no bios... Just your availability to answer a few emails a month! The information you provide will be posted on the Ashbrook webpage and look something like this:

- Call Chris S (Chris' family has been at Ashbrook for 4 years and is currently in the 6th grade) if you'd like to know more about: financial aid at Ashbrook, the theatre arts program, or parent involvement.
- Call Mary J (Mary's family has been at Ashbrook for 8 years and is currently in the 7th grade) if you'd like to know more about: science curriculum, community life, or electives.

COVID News

Because there is no practical way for us to ensure that our students remain socially distanced while at recess, please know that Ashbrook will continue masking in outdoor settings.

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](#).

