

Ashbrook Compass



January 7, 2022

Dear Ashbrook Family,

The students and staff have "hit the ground running" this week after a relaxing Winter Break. Some upcoming highlights . . .

Ashbrook is fielding not one but TWO Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge teams! Team 1 with students Yin Kay Chan, Austin Matthews, Eesa Duerksen, Nora O'Connor, Kira Bryant, and Kasen Truax is being coached by Ms. Duitsman. Team 2 with Rebekah Christensen, Emma Terry, Keira Lindberg, Ahmed Seddik, Teddy Di, and one 7th grader to be named at a later date is being coached by Mr. Puettmann. Read more about the contest later in the Compass.

I will host a meeting for all students interested in helping to create an Ashbrook Student Council on Thursday, 1/27. We will gather in the comfy seating area in the Commons at 3:15 and pizza will be served! The meeting should wrap up by 4 pm.

Ashbrook School is currently considering ideas for a robust summer program calendar: everything from debate to making, from coding to gardening, from page to stage to outdoor education. These will likely be offered to students in grades 4-8 during four weeks sometime between July 11th through August 12th, with a catalog to be published in March. Do you have any ideas for a four week summer program that you'd like to see us offer to Ashbrook and non Ashbrook students? Would you like to offer a summer program on our campus? If so, please be in touch with Doc to start a conversation.

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl, Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

Jan. 14 -- MLK Celebration and MUN WinterCon

Jan. 17 -- MLK Day; No School

Jan. 26 -- Coffee/Tea with Leadership

Jan. 27 -- Lower School Music Concert and Student Council Interest meeting

[School Year Event Calendar](#)

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

Thank You for supporting the Explorers Fund!

The annual Explorers Fund letter was mailed to all current families, alumni families, and friends of Ashbrook in December. The Board of Trustees committed to matching the first \$30,000 in donations and we are over halfway there with \$21,000 in donations collected so far.

An anonymous donor was so impressed by this initial giving that they stepped up to offer an additional match challenge of \$15,000. So our new matching goal is \$45,000!

Thank you to the following donors so far: Anonymous, Aaron and Christy Rivers, Adam and Anna May, Amy Kwock, Barbara Balen, Brittney and Jesse Bryant, Carol Alley, Christopher Parrish & Deborah Kurnik, The Burand Family, Dave and Cecilia Gore, Diane and Greg Hammerstad, Elaine Pettigrew, Fumiko Yamashita, John Teller & Amy Tykeson, Kelly Tynon, Krista and Matthew Lindberg, Lexie Elliott, Lori Tully & Chris Beatty, The Gottlieb Family, Marsha and Edgar Washburn, Nicholas and Megan Dahl, Rachel and Mitch Sechler, Ron and Soozie Stevens, Russell and Becky Weaver, The Vets Family, Xin Wang & Bo Sun, Richard and Kathy May, and Gayle Christensen and Terrence Blackburne.

Giving through our website is the easiest way to donate. Click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page where you can donate via a credit card or EFT/ACH. You will receive an immediate confirmation of your gift as well as an email receipt. You also have the option to set up a recurring gift if you would prefer to donate monthly, quarterly, or semiannually. And please feel free to share the link with family and friends who may also want to support Ashbrook. Ashbrook Independent School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and gifts may be tax deductible. (Tax ID #93-1131186)

Welcome new Ashbrook families!

Please welcome the Cooper Family to Ashbrook! Finley is in 2nd grade and Piper is in 4th grade.

Please welcome the Scheele Family and their son Landon in 1st grade!

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.

Rube Goldberg Ashbrook Challenge February 12

For a reminder of what a Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge is (and to learn who our marvelous sponsors are!), click [HERE](#).

As mentioned above, Ashbrook is fielding not one but TWO Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge teams! Eight teams from area schools (public, private, parochial, and home schools were invited) will join our teams in a fun competition to see who can create the most complex simple machine. This machine will be determined by our most significant sponsor, HP, and could be any one of the following:

1. Build a machine to turn the page in a book.
2. Build a machine to water a plant.
3. Build a machine to squeeze hand sanitizer onto a tissue.
4. Build a machine to deposit an empty water bottle in a recycling bin.
5. Build a machine to squeeze toothpaste onto a toothbrush.

As we note in the promotional materials, this sort of competition is right up our Explorers' Alleys:

Through the Science and Mathematics Departments at Ashbrook, students interested in chances to apply their studies have found ready opportunities in fun problem solving projects designed by their teachers.

Collaborating on the creation of marble roller coasters, determining the volume of a Jack-o-Lantern after carving it, creating complex simple machines, and the Save the Elephant challenge are typical Ashbrook projects. The enthusiasm and joy with which Ashbrook students have approached these challenges, have inspired school leaders to develop the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest.

Also from our materials:

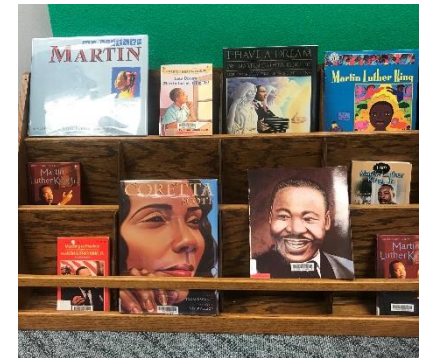
The Ashbrook Rube Goldberg Machine Contest for middle school students is affiliated with OSU College of Engineering. By joining forces with OSU, Ashbrook will provide an opportunity for students in grades 5-8 to compete against other students from other middle schools, judged by OSU undergraduate and graduate engineering students.

Such a challenge will afford students interested in careers in engineering, an opportunity to apply and synthesize their thoughts in a complex and inherently interesting problem-solving environment, surrounded by like-minded peers. This higher order thinking is at the core of what it means to be an educated person, and this challenge will provide a showcase for the brightest thinkers among middle school students from the Benton County area.

INTRODUCING. . . Bookly the Ashbrook Library Lion and his sidekick Stax



*Periodically, they will be bringing you Library News to Peruse. Bookly will handle the *mane* topic--and Stax? Well, Stax is a bit on the *reserved* side, but she has no problem *checking out* and critiquing Bookly's ideas. Stop in the Library to say hello to them in person and, while you're there, take a look at the book selection regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. You will find inspiration for the Art and Writing Contests open to all students in celebration of the upcoming MLK Day.*



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.

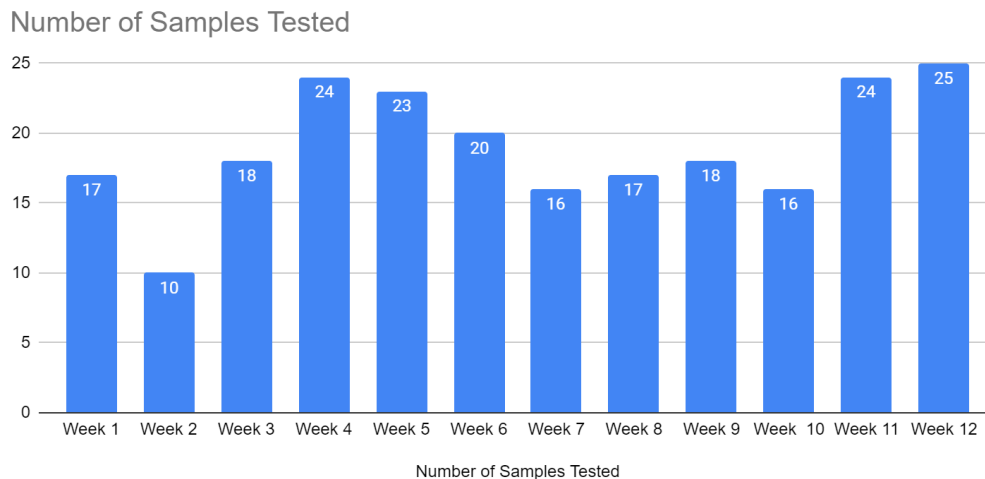
These items are typically gently used, and the money earned goes to Ashbrook. Depending upon the number of items, the tables will be set up in the gym, theater foyer, and even in the commons.

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.

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.