

# Ashbrook Compass



February 11, 2022

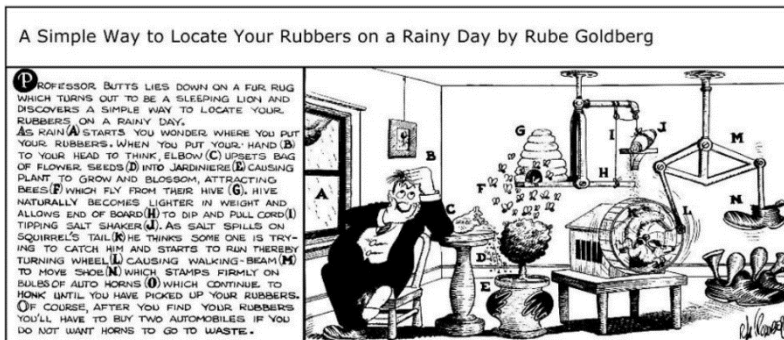
Dear Ashbrook Family,

Are you ready for the BIG competition this weekend? No, not THAT one: think again! If your team isn't playing or football's not your jam, spend some time at Ashbrook tomorrow cheering on our Explorers, as they compete against 7 other middle school teams in Ashbrook School's First Annual Rube Goldberg Machine challenge.

Saturday, February 12, 2022, Ashbrook Independent School Gymnasium

- 10:00am-1:00pm, Building/Dry Runs. Spectators remain in bleachers
- 1:00pm-1:45pm, Lunch in various locations. Judges to do safety and official parts walkthrough.
- 2:00pm-4:00pm, Judging of Machines. Spectators are allowed to leave the bleachers and walk on the competition floor.
- 4:00pm-4:30, Awards presentation

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest is named after cartoonist Reuben Lucius Goldberg (1883-1970), the spirit of whose work inspires the contest's weird and engineeringly challenging machines and crazy contraptions.



This is one that would come in handy for Oregonians!

For more than 50 years, Goldberg's cartoons poked fun at machines and gadgets which he saw as overly complex. His inventions became so well known that dictionaries added "rube goldberg" to its listing, defining it as "accomplishing by extremely complex, roundabout means what seemingly could be done simply." (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th Edition).

Goldberg's "inventions," drawn for our pleasure, will work. By inventing excessively complex ways to accomplish simple tasks, he entertained us as he made fun of machines that seemed to be designed to make our lives easier. Goldberg himself claimed that the machines were a "symbol of man's capacity for exerting maximum effort to achieve minimal results." He believed that most people preferred doing things the hard way instead of using simpler solutions.

This contest is modeled after MIT's annual machine challenge in which young engineers create innovative and complex devices to perform simple tasks. Recalling [a scene from Apollo 13](#) provides a good vision for what students will encounter in this challenge, an experience designed to foster scientific and mathematical literacy as it seeds student interest in the field of engineering.

**This year's machine was chosen by HP, one of our sponsors:**

**Teams will create and run a machine to squeeze hand sanitizer onto a tissue.**

Every machine must complete at least five steps, the final step of which must be to complete the task assigned, with each step representing a unique transfer of energy. Each machine must include a rattrap and be constructed using only the approved materials. Finally, each machine must include a mystery item to be revealed on the day of competition.

Trophies will be awarded to the overall winning team and to the teams earning the highest scores in each of the three judging areas: complexity of the machine, machine creativity, and the quality of teamwork/presentation to the judges.

If you'd rather watch from the comfort of your own home, click on the image below to watch the livestream via YouTube (link removed):



However you participate, please send good thoughts in the direction of our Explorers: The Ashbrook Chain Reactions, led by Coach Nikkole Duitsman and Captain Kira Bryant, and including Eesa Duerksen, Nora O'Connor, Austin Matthews, Yin Kay Chan, and Kasen Truax. Special thanks to our generous sponsors: HP, Combat Construction, Spiritopia, First Alternative Natural Foods Coop, and the OSU College of Engineering.

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl

Head of School

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### **Next Week:**

**Feb. 14** -- Show your Ashbrook spirit by dressing in **red**, **pink**, or **purple** to celebrate Valentine's Day

**Feb. 15-16** -- Oregon Battle of the Books

**Feb. 16** -- New Parent Coffee with Leadership

**Feb. 18** -- LS (grades 2, 3, 4) Movie Night

**Feb. 18** -- Spring Play Video Auditions Due

### **Upcoming Dates:**

**Feb. 21** -- Presidents' Day; No School

**Feb. 22** -- Tutu Tuesday! Everyone is encouraged to wear tutus to school

**Feb. 23** -- MS Spring Play Callbacks, 3:10 - 4:40 pm

**Feb. 25** -- LS Spring Play Callbacks, 3:10 - 4:40 pm

### **[School Year Event Calendar](#)**

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

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### **Admissions and Enrollment Updates**

The recording of our MS Math and Science Admissions event is [HERE](#), and the recording of our Beginning and Lower School Admissions event is [HERE](#). Please share with friends interested in a PS-8th grade school!

The Tuition Increase Zoom Town Hall Video [HERE](#). Please pass along to your Ashbrook friends who may not have seen it or who have questions.

As Admissions Season heats up, you may be asked about Ashbrook School. We are sure you have plenty to say on your own, but if you get stuck, consider using [Doc's top 10 things about Ashbrook](#) to brag about. Extra points if you pass this along to a friend interested in a school option for their child(ren).

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### **Special dress days on Monday 2/14 and Tuesday 2/22**

On Valentine's day, Monday, 2/14, show your Ashbrook spirit by dressing in red, pink, or purple to celebrate Cupid and this day devoted to matters of the heart!

Show your Ashbrook spirit and wear your tutu to school on 2/22/22... which also happens to be a Tu-esday! This will be the second time this month Doc wears his (he had it on by accident on 2/2/22... which was a Wednesday!)

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### Thanks for your help with Doc's Explore Everywhere campaign!

Thanks for your help with Doc's Explore Everywhere campaign. Thus far, he has received only two pictures of an installed lawn sign and a single picture of an installed car magnet, for \$125 contributed to the Explorers Fund! Picking them up is only the first step! Doc will be looking for your pics and remember, to qualify, the sign or magnet needs to be on YOUR lawn or car through June :-).

Thank you to everyone who is participating!



## Thank You for supporting the Explorers Fund!

The Explorers Fund drive is still going strong! The Board of Trustees and an anonymous donor pledged \$50,000 in matching funds, and we are less than \$13,000 away from meeting our full challenge goal!

**Thank you to the following donors so far:** Anonymous, Marsha and Edgar Washburn, Tsuyoshi Yamashita and Zhuqing Zhang, Amy Kwock, Lexie Elliott, Diane and Greg Hammerstad, Ron and Soozie Stevens, Nicholas and Megan Dahl, Xin Wang and Bo Sun, Russell and Becky Weaver, Dave and Cecilia Gore, the Gottlieb Family, Kelly Tynon, Elaine Pettigrew, The Kinkade Family, John Teller and Amy Tykeson, Rachel and Mitch Sechler, The Burand family, Barbara Balen, Christopher Parrish and Deborah Kurnik, The Vets family, Aaron and Christy Rivers, Brittney and Jesse Bryant, Terrance Blackburne and Gayle Christensen, Fumiko Yamashita, Carol Alley, Adam and Anna May, Krista and Matthew Lindberg, Lori Tully and Chris Beatty, Lyle and Donna Ulrich, Richard and Kathy May, Jason and Kathleen Lin, Kerry Watkins and John Matthews, Jeff Hsing and Susan Lai, Tze-Yiu Yong and Debby Tao, Taal Levi and Jennifer Allen, Dongdong Shen and Jie Ma, Hongxia Wu and Yanming Di, Christopher and Eileen Schoberl, Anne and Andrew Rice, Stephanie and Patrick O'Connor, Thomas and Diane Dukes, Paul and Susan Schwarz, Jennifer and Alan Chang, and Daniel F Lopez-Cevallos & Megan Patton-Lopez.

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. (Tax ID #93-1131186)

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## A Message to OBOB parents

Today, February 11, is the deadline for submitting the RSVP to attend the In-House OBOB battles on February 15 and 16. The RSVP form was provided by your team coaches. It can be returned by placing it in the OBOB RSVP envelope on the pickup cart outside the front doors. You must have RSVP'd and submitted a copy of your COVID vaccination record to the office in order to attend. Once you have done so, here is what to do when you arrive on the 15th, 16th, or both:

- Sign in at the office.
- Proceed to the theater level between 3:20 and 3:25.
- At 3:25, once the contestants are seated, enter the theater and find the seating rows reserved for "Parent Seating." Physically distance by skipping seats as needed to separate from other families.
- Be sure to be seated no later than 3:30.
- Turn off phones and tablets.
- No video recording is allowed, per the OBOB organization's rules.

The winning teams from the February 15 battles will compete in-house on February 16, after which we will have two winning teams, one from Division 3 – 5 and the other from Division 6 – 8, to proudly represent Ashbrook in the regional competitions in April. Your students

have worked hard and had a good time practicing with each other and their coaches since early fall. Thank you for supporting their efforts on the home front! Go Ashbrook OBOBers!

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## **Spring Play Auditions**

Video auditions are due Feb. 18, so please read [this Audition FAQ](#) for more details. We will be doing two separate plays so the students can stay safely within their cohorts, so call backs will also be on separate days (see calendar above). Read more about the Lower School play [HERE](#), and information on the Middle School play can be found [HERE](#).

Please contact Ms. Kimberly if you have any questions.

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## **Coffee with Leadership**

Doc Schoberl and Rachel Sechler are continuing to make themselves available for monthly Zoom/in person coffees. They are titled “New Family” but anyone who wants can attend, new families especially. If you have any questions or want to share any observations, they have blocked out the following dates and will be in the library and in person as scheduled below. Zoom links for future months will be in the Compass.

- 2/16, 9-10am
  - 3/16, 2:30-3:00pm
  - 4/20, 9-10am
  - 5/18, 2:30-3:00pm
  - 6/8, 9-10am
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## **Apply now for a PTO Spring Mini-grant**

The Ashbrook PTO is proud to offer a second opportunity to apply for mini-grants this spring! Mini-grants are a way to request funding for supplemental learning experiences with additional resources/activities. The spring mini-grant applications are due March 18, 2022.

Previous grants include: Middle School Graphic Novel Library, Choir Club, Destination Imagination, First Lego League and First Lego League, Jr., “Eclipse” (student written/produced play), Cascades Raptor Presentation, Middle school author’s visit.

Click [HERE](#) to download the application form with more information on activities/resources that are eligible with guidelines for funding. Send questions to Krista Lindberg or Jennifer Chang.

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### **Parent Wishlist**

As we continue to build the budget for next year, we have queried staff and students regarding their hopes and dreams for Ashbrook's future; now it's time for our parents to weigh in. By 2/18, please use this spreadsheet (link removed) to indicate ANY "wishlist" items you would like to see at Ashbrook (we have purposely not used a Google Form because we want you to see what others are thinking, which may prompt other ideas). Just to manage expectations, as we have with students and staff, we can't make any promises about anything on these lists, but we can factor them into our vision for the future, next year maybe... or 10 years from now.

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### **Parent Resource Partner Survey, Round 2**

Thanks to all of those who completed the Parent Resource Partner Survey I sent back in the fall. Many of our teachers have reached out to ask you to speak to students, host trips, or help create programs to enhance the student experience, so we are grateful for that. We are issuing the survey once again in hopes you can update your availability and interests. If you are available to make presentations to our students, lead clubs, share your interests and passions, or introduce our young Explorers to your profession, please let us know by 3/1 even if you filled it out before. This information will be shared with our teachers, who may reach out to arrange a connection.

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### **Ashbrook School Tag Sale Fundraiser April 2, drop-off every Friday morning**

Our Tag Sale collection is growing--thank you!!! Michelle Ryan will be by the front doors every Friday during morning drop-off to collect your donations of gently used items for the tag sale. If you can't make it between 7:30 and 8:30 am or you need someone to do a pick up, we can arrange another time.

We will accept books, tools, sporting equipment, toys, record albums, electronic equipment, crafts, plants, antiques, bicycles, car parts, hobby items and more. Please no clothing or child safety items (car seats, cribs, etc).

Also, Michelle will need volunteers to help set-up in the 2 days leading up to the sale as well as to help on the day of the sale. Please email Ms. Tynon and she will put you in touch with Michelle.

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## **Still relevant**

**Family Referral Stipend** -- If we end up enrolling a new Explorer family you refer to our school, you will earn a \$100 referral stipend.

**Ashbrook Adult Ambassadors** -- We have 4 Ambassadors on our website [HERE](#). If you are interested in corresponding via email with prospective parents regarding Ashbrook, please be in touch with Kelly Tynon. Many thanks to Kathy, Sabrina, Brandy, and Brittney for accepting the mantle of AAAs!

**Parent Volunteers** - The Office needs your updated COVID card with your booster vaccine. Please email a picture of it to Miss Rachael.

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## **Beyond Ashbrook**

**The Minoru Yasui Student Contest** -- An essay contest open to high school and middle school students and offers them the timely opportunity to explore how people can stand up to racism and discrimination. For the full criteria, requirements, resources, and awards, please visit the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project's [Student Contest website](#). Deadline is March 1.

**Virtual Middle School Women in STEM Workshop Feb. 26** -- Discovering the Scientist Within (DSW) is a free half-day workshop designed to encourage young women to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. It's offered through OSU's Precollege Programs Office, and registration is required. To find out more, visit <http://beav.es/ZCq>.

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## **COVID News**

Stay tuned for Ashbrook's plan in response to the recent news about Oregon's decision to drop the mask mandate on or by 3/31.

Because Presidents' Day, Monday, 2/21 is a no school holiday, please plan on picking up your PCR test on Tuesday 2/22 and dropping it off on Wednesday 2/23.

Following March Break, 3/21-3/25, Ashbrook will ask for all students to be quick tested on Sunday, 3/27 prior to the first class day back, Monday, 3/28. Here are your options:

1. Purchase a BinaxNOW quick test, the brand we have been relying upon because it is super accurate, and test your child(ren) at home. We would recommend ordering these now as we anticipate a rush on them prior to students returning to school after breaks. If your child is positive, please consult the When should I Keep my Student Home? document [HERE](#).
2. Visit Doc on campus on Sunday, 3/27, and allow him to curb test your child(ren) using the BinaxNow quick test. You will drive away with your test and be in touch with Doc only if it is positive. In exchange, Doc asks that if you have a dog, you bring it so he can get some pets in! If this is of interest to you, please RSVP [HERE](#).



Mrs. Sechler is the contact for all of your COVID questions. Please reach out to her if you have any inquiries about school policy or if you are wondering about specific scenarios related to your family's quarantine or testing status, but [please check here first](#), where you may find your question answered. If you do text Doc or call the school and get Carol or Rachael on the phone, they will ask some specific questions and then relay your query to Rachel, so we thank you for your patience ahead of time.

Current Ashbrook COVID statistics can be found [HERE](#).

Please visit the [Benton County COVID-19 website](#) for upcoming vaccination and testing events.

Ashbrook has enrolled in Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Screening Program for K-12 students. For more details, click [HERE](#).

