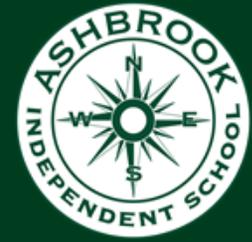


Ashbrook Compass



February 18, 2022

Dear Ashbrook Family,

So much good energy at Ashbrook this week: the in-house OBOB battles, more than a dozen summer programs (catalog out soon!) proposed by our faculty, a robust mock trial on the Boston Massacre, piles of tag sale items collected, ONLY two lawn signs and eight car magnets remaining, spring play auditions in full swing, student government heating up, a MathCounts pep rally at lunch, and a Lower School movie night! All of this, and more than 40 prospective families currently in our admission pipeline!

Because February is Black History Month, I have been spending a lot of time educating myself on Black Americans who have made history. Coinciding with Black History Month, the Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge had me, at the same time, diving into the ingenuity of engineers and inventors. As a result of this intersection of thought, I have had my mind blown just about every day this month when reading about everyday items, items I use on a daily basis and most definitely take for granted (but won't any longer!), that I had no idea were invented by Black Americans. On top of this, I was doubly impressed to know that so many important Black inventors were women! Did you know any of this? If you have a moment, please share [THIS SUMMARY](#) with your children. My great thanks to the History Channel for the insights.

Thanks to our Black inventors and Happy Black History month, everyone!

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl

Head of School

P.S. Remember Tutu Day this coming Tuesday!

Doc will take note of who is wearing a tutu, staff and students, and whoever wins the most spirit points (LS or MS) will earn a dress code free day on 2/23! Doc is all ready... are YOU? Your grandchildren will ask what you did on tutu day... don't disappoint them!



Next Week:

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. 24 -- Admissions Zoom

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

Upcoming Dates:

March 2 -- PTO meeting via Zoom

March 4 -- PTO Fun Night

March 10 -- MS Concert

March 11 -- No School; End of Term

[School Year Event Calendar](#)

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



Happy 100th Day of School! The first grade had fun imagining what they would look like if they were 100 years old.

Admissions and Enrollment Updates

February Admission Event: please share with others who have school aged children!

**Humanities, Foreign Language, and Physical Education at Ashbrook School
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom**

Join Ashbrook Head of School Dr. Chris Schoberl and Assistant Head of School Rachel Sechler as they host members of the English, History, Chinese, Spanish, French, and Physical Education programs for this panel discussion. Learn how Ashbrook teachers in these areas challenge and nurture children to inspire them to reach for their best selves as readers, writers, and speakers in English and in the foreign languages we teach, and how the skills and habits they learn in physical education prepare them for a life of wellness and a sustainable work-life balance.

Join Zoom Meeting
ID: 99747418811

Rube Goldberg Challenge wrap-up

Here's the link to the Corvallis Gazette Times Ashbrook Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge [article](#) and [video](#). Please enjoy this perspective on our little contest, and if you feel so inclined, please do share over social media!

Thought you'd be interested in reading [this article](#) by a teacher from King's Valley Charter School, a school that competed in the Rube Challenge, here. Interesting "outside of Ashbrook" perspective on the experience.

Hail to the Ashbrook Division Winners of our OBOB Competitions

Big congratulations are in order for Ashbrook's division-winning OBOB teams, who prevailed in the final in-house OBOB battles Wednesday afternoon! The battle questions were challenging; but the teams had brought their A-game, which made for captivating battles that left the audience in awe of the teams' performance. The Division 3 – 5 winner was "Champions," comprised of third graders Lars, Flynn, and Liam. The Division 6 – 8 winner was "Book Cookies," made up of sixth graders Beka, Stella, and Sarah. Let them know you're behind them 100 percent as they prepare diligently for the regional competitions in April!



Kudos to every single student who participated in OBOB. They quite possibly are the most well-read and genre-diversified students in Ashbrook!

And a special thank you to all of our coaches!!

Staffing Updates

As we look ahead to the next school year, we will include regular staffing updates here in the Compass to keep families informed of any changes taking place at Ashbrook.

1st Grade Teacher

Ms. Melissa Anderson will be leaving Ashbrook after this school year. We are thankful for all the talents she brought to the 1st grade classroom these last 4 years and we wish her well in this next part of her teaching journey. Thank you Ms. Anderson! Please see the message below from Ms. Anderson:

Hello,

I just wanted to thank everyone at Ashbrook for an amazing last four years that I have spent here. It has been such a joy to get to be the first grade teacher here and to get to watch these students grow as learners. Next year, I'll be leaving Ashbrook due to some family life changes that have taken place over this year. Leaving has been a really difficult choice for me to make, but I feel like it is the right one for me and my family. I will be helping in any way I can during the hiring and transition process for the new first grade teacher.

Thank you so much, Melissa Anderson

Kitchen Assistant

Rachel Terry has announced she will be leaving us at the end of this school year, but we're excited for her business! We are thankful for Ms. Terry's service to Ashbrook as the Kitchen Assistant and we will miss her humor and delicious desserts! Please see the message below from Ms. Terry:

Dear Ashbrook Community,

I am writing to inform you that I am officially resigning from my position as the kitchen assistant at Ashbrook Independent School at the end of this school year. I will be leaving to pursue my business, The Corvallis Carrot, full time.

I want to take a moment to thank you for the opportunities, growth and encouragement you have given to me throughout my time at Ashbrook. Working here has truly been a joy and has taught me invaluable lessons that have been useful in my personal and professional life. I have loved being able to watch my daughter grow and thrive at this school for the past 4 years. I will miss the mid-day hugs I get from her daily. It has been a pleasure helping nourish the children and staff through the school lunches.

If I can do anything to assist you, or our team, during my transition out of this position, please let me know. I would be more than happy to help in any way possible as my successor takes over my responsibilities.

Sincerely, Rachel Terry

Middle School Specialist Teacher

Mrs. Melissa Capps and her family will be moving this summer to New York. We have been so thankful for Mrs. Capps these last 3 years as she has served as a substitute teacher, led our after school program, taught middle school elective classes and stepped in to support the school in every way possible during the pandemic. Mrs. Capps and her family will be greatly missed. Please see the message below from Mrs. Capps:

Dear Ashbrook Friends and Family,

I knew when I moved to Corvallis that I would only be here for three years--such is the life of a military spouse. I promised myself I wasn't going to get too involved or too attached so moving back to New York would be easier. My experience at Ashbrook has made that impossible. I am leaving a place and people that I love. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for allowing me to be part of your community for these wonderful years. I will be moving back to West Point, NY in June. I will take with me some amazing memories and lifelong friendships.

Best Wishes, Melissa

Summer Program Assistant Teachers

We are beginning the recruitment process to hire 2 assistant teachers to help out in our summer program with the preschool-3rd grade students, July 11th-August 19th. If you know anyone interested in a summer position, please share the link to the job posting below.

Job Postings for Current Positions:

[First Grade Teacher](#)

[Theater Arts Specialist](#)

[Summer Program Assistant Teacher](#)

[Kitchen Assistant](#) (parents of current students encouraged to apply to work alongside Chef Fabio Patanè and receive 50% tuition discount)

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



Thus far, Doc has received only three pictures of installed lawn signs (for which he will give \$50 to the Explorers Fund) and two pics of an installed car magnet (for which he will give \$25 to the Explorers Fund) for \$200 contributed to the Explorers Fund! We started with a stack of 20 signs and 20 car magnets, so we know they're out there! Thank you, Mr. Gore for displaying your lawn sign!



Picking them up is only the first step! Doc will be looking for your pics! Remember, to qualify, the sign or magnet needs to be on YOUR lawn or car through June. As an added incentive, the two signs remaining are now worth \$100 each to the Explorers Fund if Doc receives pics, and the remaining magnets are now worth \$50 each! Doc has autographed these special, limited edition items!

Spring Play Auditions

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Video auditions are due TODAY, 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.

Also note -- the play fee is waived for students receiving financial aid.

Coffee with Leadership

The remaining New Family Coffees with Leadership will remain blocked on Doc's and Ms. Sechler's calendars, but will no longer be open Zoom sessions. Please make a meeting with us for a phone or Zoom conversation during these times if you would like to visit for a coffee chat, and we will be delighted to connect.

16	MAR 2022, WED	● 2:30 – 3pm	New Family Coffee w/the Leadership
20	APR 2022, WED	● 9 – 10am	New Family Coffee w/the Leadership
18	MAY 2022, WED	● 2:30 – 3pm	New Family Coffee w/the Leadership
8	JUN 2022, WED	● 9 – 10am	New Family Coffee w/the Leadership

Student Government Update

The students who have taken on a role as a sort of provisional student government, in the absence of an elected government, have made the following decisions:

1) Coin Challenge Prize: a dress code free week

The MS won this contest, and gifted the first day of dress code free week to the LS in recognition of their great job in the Coin Challenge AND because Hazel and Aleena gave money from their Chinese New Year envelopes!

Resolved:

Dress Code Free day: 2/28 for the LS

Dress Code Free days: 3/1-3/4 for the MS

2) Coin Challenge Prize: Pizza Party

Resolved: For the MS, date and time still being determined

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 between 7:30 and 8:30 am. 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.

Still relevant

Explorer's 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 close to meeting our full challenge goal! 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)

Parent Wishlist -- **It's not too late** to add your hopes and dreams for Ashbrook's future! Please use this spreadsheet (link removed) to indicate ANY "wishlist" items you would like to see at Ashbrook.

Apply now for a PTO Spring Mini-Grant -- The spring mini-grant applications are due March 18. 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.

Parent Resource Partner Survey, Round 2 -- 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

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.

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

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>.

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](#).

