

Ashbrook Compass



January 21, 2022

Dear Ashbrook Family,

As of today, Ashbrook School has completed the security measures informed by a recent survey of our campus, including clear signage (particularly that pointing to the main office entrance to our building), trimming of all foliage to allow clear lines of sight through the windows from all interior spaces, taking inventory and updating all cameras and optimizing their of view, ensuring that the PA system is fully audible in all areas, and (just this morning) installing a front door video buzz-in system. With respect to the latter, when approaching the main entrance, look towards the pole adjacent to the tiny library, and you will see a camera and buzzer with which to alert office staff that you would like access to the building. (Temporary signage will be used until our permanent signage is available.)



My great thanks to Mitch Sechler (yes, the same) for taking the time to walk me and the Board through our campus and point out areas for consideration. It would be difficult to imagine someone with more expertise in the area of school security than Mitch!

In this vein, please be reminded of Ashbrook's commitment to always know who is on campus and to ensure that everyone on campus has been cleared through the front office. Accordingly, we will continue to require everyone entering the building to wear a lanyard and a visitor badge, no matter how well the people in the front office know you, so we thank you ahead of time for your compliance with this request.

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl

Head of School

Next Week:

Jan. 26 -- New Parent Coffee with Leadership (Doc and Rachel Sechler), 2:30-3:30 pm

Jan. 27 -- Lower School Music Concert (2-2:40 pm) and Student Council Interest meeting (3:15-4 pm)

Jan. 27 -- Tuition Increase Town Hall with Doc and Tze, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 2 -- PTO meeting via Zoom, 9 am (link will be in the next Compass)

Feb. 4 -- MS Movie Night

Feb. 11 -- Foreign Language Festival

Feb. 12 -- Rube Goldberg Challenge

[School Year Event Calendar](#)

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

Ashbrook Adult Ambassadors

We are pleased to announce that our Ashbrook Adult Ambassador program is up and running! With the posting of our first two parent volunteers on our website (Admissions>Why Choose Ashbrook>Contact an Ashbrook Parent).

Kathy has been involved with Ashbrook for 8 years and is the mother of an Ashbrook 7th grader and 5th grader.

"I can answer questions about almost anything, including the culture and community of Ashbrook, the academic support and individualized attention paid to each student, and parent involvement."

[CONTACT KATHY](#)

Sabrina has been involved with the school for 4 years and is the mother of an Ashbrook 1st grader and 6th grader

"We have a good perspective in comparing the benefits of Ashbrook to public school options. We experienced Hoover/Husky/Bessie Coleman, Jefferson/Jaguar/Kathryn Harrison Elementary, and we gave up a lottery spot at Franklin K-8 as we decided that Ashbrook was the best choice for our middle schooler. Our sons also attended Corvallis Montessori School and I am happy to discuss starting out at Ashbrook for those looking to enroll following pre-school."

[CONTACT KATHY](#)

If you are interested in this easy way to scratch that parent volunteer itch, please be in touch with Kelly Tynon and she will get you started (Doc would love to have up to 10 AAAs!).

Thank You for supporting the Explorers Fund!

As of today, we have collected over \$34,000 in donations, so we have exceeded the Board of Trustees challenge of \$30,000 for **a total of \$64,000 in donations so far**. Thank you donors! We are now striving to raise another \$11,000 in order meet the \$15,000 challenge from our anonymous donor! Every dollar means so much.

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, and Hongxia Wu and Yanming Di.

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 and please 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)

January Pulse

Aggregate results are [HERE](#) (link removed). Thanks for your fabulous response to this month's survey. Next pulse will be published in March.

The 8th graders are taking over Ashbrook social media!

We want to show everyone (but particularly potential students and their families) what life is like as an explorer. Who better to do that than a student? For one week, an 8th grade student is going to be the face and voice of Ashbrook on Facebook and Instagram, and we believe they will showcase the best we have to offer. Each 8th grader will have the chance to be the "Content Creator of the Week" before the school year ends.

The designated "Content Creator" will wear a badge and carry an iPhone (wifi connectivity only) during school hours. They can take photos and record short videos throughout the day. They must ask for permission to include other people in their content, and as per our usual media release, only first names will be used online. The CC will send pictures and captions, via a google form, to Ms. Tynon for her to upload to the social media accounts.

We're kicking this off on Monday, Jan. 24, so be on the lookout for posts from Bernice next week.

UNICEF Coin Drive

The Lower School is quickly making up ground vs. the Middle School, who pulled out front with an early lead when one 8th grader dumped a gallon sized Ziploc bag of change into the MS bucket on the first day of the Drive!

No matter who wins, UNICEF wins. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with that spare change that you can shake out of the couch cushions or that's spilling out of that jar on the counter. (No pressure, but the winning students get a free dress day and a pizza party!)

Starting Student Government at Ashbrook

Doc recently posted a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside Ms. Washburn's classroom. If your child wants to find out more about what student government is and how s/he might be involved, please encourage them to sign up and show up (pizza to be served): Thursday, 1/27, 3:15-4:00 in the comfy seating area on the Commons.

Middle School Movie Night Feb. 4

We are adding in a movie night for students in grades 5-8 on February 4th. Pizza will be provided at 5:30, and the movie will start at 6. Stay tuned in to next week's compass to see which movie will be playing! Email Miss Kelley or Mrs. Weber with any questions.

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.**

Rube Goldberg Ashbrook Challenge February 12

Spectators are welcome to watch our Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge! 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.



Ashbrook School Tag Sale Fundraiser

Keep the April 2 Ashbrook Tag Sale in mind as you are contemplating spring cleaning. **Starting Friday January 28, and every Friday after that, Ashbrook parent Michelle Ryan will be by the main doors during morning drop-off to collect your gently used donated items for the tag sale.** If you can't make it between 7:30 and 8:30 am or you need us 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).

May 14 Gala Dinner

Our goal for this event is to invite a renowned EXPLORER to address parents in attendance. Do you know a person who can be considered an actual or metaphorical explorer? If so, please reach out to Doc and let him know.

COVID News

The pediatric Medical Director of Samaritan Hospital says the following about masks: *Of utmost importance is adherence and fit. Cloth masks that are poor fitting and single layered are the least helpful. By wearing multiple layers and ensuring proper fit, we believe that there is reduced risk of viral spread. For the next few weeks as we experience a sharp increase in case count, asking parents to check fit and ensure that masks have multiple layers (or double up), are good steps to take.*

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. 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.