

Ashbrook Compass



April 29, 2022

Dear Ashbrook Family,

Is It Monday Yet? article for April: Only Connect... Only Explore!

Only Connect. With this four syllable imperative, EM Forster gives us one of the most iconic moments in British Literature. Although written in 1910, the advice offered in this epigraph to [Howards End](#) is startlingly fresh in terms of its relevance in the lives of our children, so disrupted by the COVID pandemic. As it turns out, research done by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention points to a mental health crisis among teens related to the COVID pandemic. In the Weekend Edition NPR podcast [The Kids are Not Alright](#), Ayesha Rascoe shares CDC findings that the mental health of our teens has declined significantly over the past few years. (My thanks to Board President Tze-Yiu Yong for sharing this with the Board.) In this survey, “almost half of teens reported consistently feeling sad or hopeless, with certain groups showing a tougher impact from the pandemic.” [Click HERE for more . . .](#) If you would like to read archived IIMY articles or Compass newsletters, please find them posted on our website under [Communication from Leadership](#).



Speaking of connecting . . . Ashbrook students, staff, and families, interested in connecting with a school in Ukraine are invited to participate in an event hosted by Ashbrook’s Student Government. Join us on a Zoom call, in person or virtually, on the morning of Thursday, May 12 at 7:30--8:00am (which is actually 5:30pm in Ukraine) in the Theater. [Here is the link](#) for the meeting if you are joining us virtually and PLEASE BE IN THE THEATER OR LOGGED ON BY 7:15!

Space is limited, so an email to Doc will serve as your RSVP, first come/first served. Students from Ashbrook and Classical Gymnasium of Uzhhorod will have prepared a X5 slide presentation on the geography of their campus location and “day in the life” of their school, leaving time for open discussion.

As you may know, Uzhhorod and Corvallis are sister cities, a relationship managed through the CSCA (Corvallis Sister Cities Association).

Warm Regards, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl
Head of School

Next Week:

May 2-6 -- Lower School Iowa Testing; 8th grade Trip to Seattle

May 2 -- 3rd grade field trip to Dorris Ranch

May 2 -- Jog-a-thon donations due by end of school

May 4 -- PTO meeting via Zoom (see below for link)

May 5 -- Talent Show videos due

May 6 -- 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade field trip to Silver Falls

May 6 -- Fun Afternoon for grades 5-7 (see below for more info--driver's needed!)

Upcoming Dates:

May 9-13 -- Staff Appreciation Week (more info below)

May 12 -- Talent Show viewing party in the theater at 3:15 pm

May 14 -- Celebrate Ashbrook event, tickets available [HERE](#)

[School Year Event Calendar](#)

[Family Volunteer Opportunities](#) -- 9 opportunities available!

Admissions and Enrollment Updates

Re-enrollment

The 2022-2023 enrollment season is underway! Here are some additional documents for your reference as you plan for the new year. Please remember to read [the Family Handbook](#), sign the enrollment contract, and then pay the deposit in MSP in order to finalize your student's enrollment.

- [2022-23 Payment Options Summary](#)
- [2022-23 Dewar Tuition Insurance leaflet](#)
- [2022-23 After School Program Registration](#)

Enrollment Deadlines



According to the enrollment contract, **Ashbrook needs to know by TODAY** if your family is deciding to enroll for the 22-23 school year. Once a class is full, we will develop a wait pool. If that is the case, it will be enormously helpful to us to know how many spots are available before the 4/29 deadline because our wait pool will begin to evaporate as eligible students find spots in other schools. See the timeline for enrollment below:

- ~~4/13 - [Financial aid applications](#) due~~
- ~~4/22 - Financial aid awarded~~
- 4/29 - Deposit due and all changes submitted -- **TODAY**
- 6/15 - Early bird discount for lump sum tuition payments due
- 6/30 - Lump sum tuition payments due
- 8/2 - 10-month payment plan begins

Admissions Resources

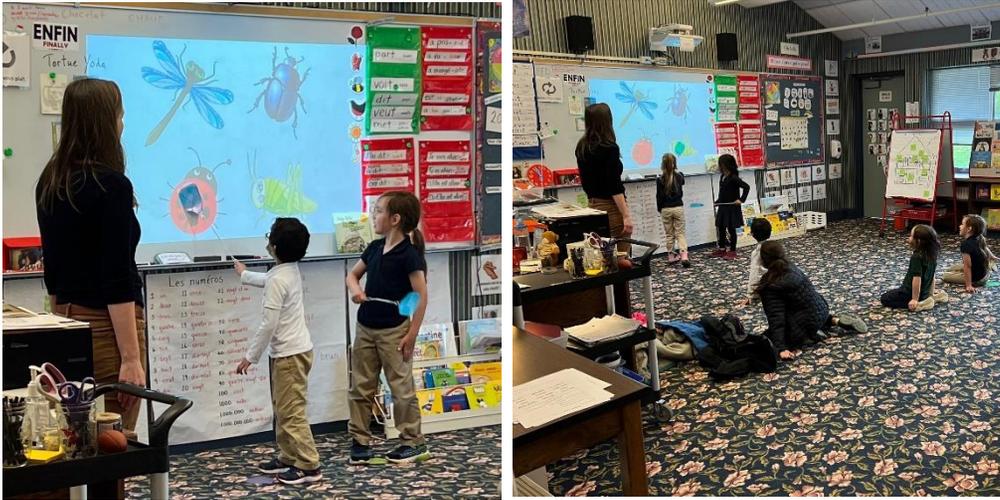
The [Communications from Leadership](#) page on our website now includes all of the Admissions videos. In addition, there are also videos on the website under each academic section of the school: [Beginning School](#), [Lower School](#), [Middle School](#), and [Specialists](#).

Celebrate Ashbrook Fundraising Dinner, May 14

From Doc: *"If you have not yet signed up for the Celebrate Ashbrook dinner at the Corvallis Club on 5/14, please do so as soon as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and hear from an actual Ashbrook Explorer, Sean Hixon, '07, who will keynote the event."*

[Click HERE to purchase tickets.](#) Tickets are \$175 per person for the "cocktail attire" event that includes appetizers, a plated dinner, dessert, and 2 drink tickets.

French in action! Kindergarteners swatted at insects as Madame called out the name in French.



PTO Updates

Everyone is welcome to join the meeting on Wednesday, May 4 at 9 am via Zoom.

Also, the PTO would like to remind parents that **Staff Appreciation Week is May 9-13**. You are invited to help show your appreciation and celebrate Ashbrook's outstanding staff!

- Monday -- A special sign in front of the school will greet the staff Monday morning. Sponsored by the PTO
- Tuesday -- Please contribute a bouquet of flowers to share with the staff. Collection buckets will be placed outside the front door. Those flowers will be displayed in vases around the fountain in the Commons.
- Wednesday -- Contact Anne Rice if your family would like to contribute an individual \$20 Thank You card for a random staff member on Wednesday. (32 cards are needed)
- Thursday -- Donuts and Coffee Thursday morning in the Staff Lounge. Sponsored by the PTO
- Friday -- Take time to appreciate your child's teachers in your family's own special way!

The PTO Staff Appreciation Committee thanks you!

Board of Trustees Update

The Ashbrook Board of Trustees is growing!

The Board is looking for new Trustees to join the Board! Though we are looking for any parents (or alumni parents!) who have a passion for Ashbrook and want to see it continue to succeed and grow, the Board is especially interested in Beginning School and Lower School parents. If you have experience with or knowledge of financial management and / or have experiences working with small to medium businesses, please consider becoming a Trustee! The time demands are, at a minimum, attendance at our monthly Board meeting and prep beforehand (probably 3-5 hours in total).

If you are interested, please email the board by May 13th with your interest statement. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Board Chair, Tze-Yiu Yong, or grab him during drop-off / pickup!

Summary of April 2022 Board Meeting:

- *** We were reminded that 5/14 is the Celebrate Ashbrook event!
- The Board continued our discussion of the financial duties separation between the school and Board of Trustees.
- We talked about the parent and staff survey including the questions and survey logistics. We are targeting to launch the surveys in early May.
- We discussed our progress on Board, school and staff policies and consolidating them into one coherent document.
- We reviewed the evaluation process for the HOS and finalized the timing for incorporating the Board's, the parent and staff input (via the upcoming survey) into the evaluation.
- In the HOS report, Doc updated us on the following - the enrollment funnel continues to be strong with 67 students (that's roughly a 40% increase over last month). We talked about the Planet Palooza event that happened on April 16th and Ashbrook's appearance at that event. There was discussion about the move that 509J is taking to go from 7 periods to 6 periods in the middle schools and how that impacts social studies, science (going from 1 yr to 2/3rds of the year) and how PE is being cut as well. We also got a look at some potential mascots for Ashbrook.
- We talked about Q3 actual to planned budget performance and discussed our timeline for approving the school's AY22-23 budget. Doc suggested and the Board agreed to have the 4 newly elected Ashbrook student government leaders attend and present at regular Board meetings once per term. Finally, we talked through work Doc has been initiating relative to starting a sports program at Ashbrook, the progress of several grants that the school has applied for and finally, the Board June retreat agenda.

Ashbrook's OBOB Team "CHAMPIONS" Lives Up to Its Name in Regional Competitions

Our all-third grade OBOB team got it right when they named their team "Champions" back in February. Their name and their spirit were self-fulfilling prophecies on Saturday, April 23rd. They competed via Google Meet from the Ashbrook Library with third, fourth, and fifth grade winning teams from other schools in our region. It was something to behold! They performed like a well-oiled machine! Lars M. was the team spokesperson. He delivered answers articulately and confidently after 20 seconds or less of discussing each question and reaching a consensus with teammates Liam Y., Flynn T., and Hayes T. They were a TEAM in every sense of the word!

Their hard work and practice resulted in these first-time OBOBers rising to the “Elite Eight,” a status earned by accumulating sufficient points from prevailing in earlier “Pool Play” battles. Expert Coaches Beth Truax and Jessica Masten, as well as parent spectators, were watching in the silence that OBOB rules requires; but the message from their demeanor and facial expressions was loud and clear—absolute pride and confidence in their students. When you see Lars, Flynn, Hayes, and Liam, as well as the team’s alternate member Orange S., please congratulate them on their AWESOME job! WELL DONE, CHAMPIONS!

May 6 Middle School Fun Afternoon Driver's needed

Grades 5-7 will be going to Beaver Valley Mini-Golf on Hwy 20 at 12:15 pm and will return for an on-time dismissal at Ashbrook. The middle school teachers need "a heap of parent driver volunteers" to chaperone and shuttle students to and from the event. A round of mini-golf can be included if you're game!

Interested parent drivers should get in touch with Miss Kelley. Permission slips went out this week and should be returned to Dr. Steckler by Wednesday, 4 May.

The School Plays Will Come to You This Year!



The two school plays are being filmed this week and the finale edit of the productions will be available later in May. A suggested donation of \$10 [HERE](#) will provide you access to the shows, so save the dates of May 20-22 for your family to watch together from the comfort of your own living room! And don't forget to tell out-of-town family and friends that they will be able to watch the plays this year as well!

The Talent Show is back!

Does your student have a talent they want to share? We had such a tremendous response to the video-based Talent Show last year that we are doing it again this year! Perhaps your student is a magician, a singer, a celebrity chef in the making, a musician, a skateboarding guru, or a dancer--all talents are welcome!

Please shoot all videos in landscape mode and keep them to no more than 4 minutes in length. Submissions should be sent to our theater technician, Mr. Holaday no later than May 5. We will hold a viewing party in the theater after school on May 12 or you can watch it from home May 12-15.

Thank you Lori Tully, Ashbrook trustee and owner of Spiritopia, for hosting parents and staff members at the Parent Connection Night! It was the perfect evening to enjoy samples and check out behind-the-scenes of a distillery.



Chicken Coop Construction This Weekend

Doc will be building the chicken coop in the Courtyard on Saturday, 4/30 (TOMORROW!), 10am-2pm. Please join him in this miniature barn raising effort, lunch and snacks to be provided. A GREAT opportunity to fulfill volunteer or service hours! Please RSVP ASAP via email to Doc, so he knows how much lunch to order, and let him know about dietary restrictions.

Explore Summer! at Ashbrook

Our Young Explorers program for students currently in Preschool through 2nd grade is almost full! [Reserve a spot for your student](#) ASAP.

For older students, we have 23 classes offered from July 11 through August 12. The week-by-week schedule is [HERE](#) and reservation form is [HERE](#).

Staffing Updates

We would like to officially announce that **Ms. Jerri Jessop has accepted the position of 1st grade teacher** starting in the fall! Ms. Jessop brings to the first grade classroom years of experience as a speech pathologist, substitute teacher, and after school program teacher. She has several degrees, her most recent being a Masters of Arts in Elementary Education with a PK-12 teaching license. She is excited to get started and is already making plans for observing and learning from Ms. Anderson over the next several weeks in order to ensure a smooth transition for the 1st grade program.

To accommodate increased enrollment, we need to expand staffing to meet the need. Accordingly, we will hire teachers to fill the following two positions for next year:

[Middle School Spanish](#) -- In order to support the program model in foreign language learning at Ashbrook, we need to hire an additional Middle School Spanish teacher. Our current Spanish teacher, who also teaches French, will teach Spanish only to Lower School students.

[Middle School STEM](#) --In order to cover the range of math and science courses for the various ability levels in the Middle School, Ashbrook is hiring a STEM teacher. The primary role of the person filling this spot will be to teach grade level math and science classes and STEM elective classes. These positions are now posted to the website with the goal of holding interviews towards the end of May.

Our current job postings:

- [Pre-K Lead Teacher -- interviews scheduled](#)
 - [PT Theater Arts Specialist](#)
 - [PT Summer Program Assistant Teacher -- offers pending](#)
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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)

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

Beyond Ashbrook

Ashbrook Mom Angela Ajootian invites other Ashbrook families to join her in Lincoln City for a **beach clean-up** this Saturday, 30 April, from 12 noon until 4 pm. The group will start at Moe's on the beach and work their way towards the Inn at Spanish Head. If you have any questions, please contact Angela via email.

Expanding Your Horizons Network powered by Techbridge Girls is offering a a middle school STEM conference on May 14. This FREE conference was designed to encourage girls in 6th through 8th grades to have fun experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math while learning about exciting careers. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Corvallis Rotary After 5 presents: [The Benton County Written Spelling Bee](#) at the Boys & Girls Club on Saturday, May 21. Register now!

COVID News

Masking is now optional, but we will continue social distancing, drop off and pick up protocols, cohorting, all lunch procedures, WVT Monday/Tuesday morning test pick up/drop off, and offers to quick test by Doc.

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.

Number of People Tested

