

IMPORTANT DATES

March 29th — School Board Meeting —

6:30 PM, Jewell Library

April 1st — Winter Sports Awards Dessert —

7:00 PM, Multipurpose Room

April 5th — State of the School Presentation

7:00 PM, Jewell Library

April 8th — PTO Meeting

3:30 PM, Jewell Library

April 12th — 21st Century Site Council Meeting —

4:00 PM, Jewell Library

April 14th — Senior Project Presentations

Various Classrooms



2010-11 SCHOOL BUDGETING PROCESS GETS STARTED

At the March 15th School Board meeting the Budget Committee was announced and given its charge for the 2010-2011 budget development process. Annually the district sets a budget for the next school year and must have this process completed by June 30 of the current year. We are thankful we have good community participation in the budget committee with Jeff Weber, Ginger Kaczinski, Mark Kaminski, Mike Stahly and Gail Dundas. Each of these individuals has agreed to serve on the committee that makes recommendations to the school board, (who are also committee members). This year will prove to be a difficult process as the revenue from state timber sales is projected to be down by a significant amount and revenue from district savings is going to be down as well.

State Timber Revenues Drop 21%

The Oregon Department of Forestry, (Astoria District) state timber projects, the major source of Jewell's operating revenue, are forecast to be \$500,000 less than the 2009-10 revenue. That is a 21% drop in revenue from the previous year and a 37% drop from our historical average. Although the projection (\$1.9 million) is improved over the June of 2009 initial forecast of \$1.5 million it still presents considerable challenges for the district. We are not yet sure what the projections for the 2012 timber sales might be, but it is not anticipated they will return to historical averages in the next couple of years. This loss will mean continued spending of our reserves to continue current programs.

Reserves Grow at Slower Rate

The district started this school year with cash assets of close to \$9.0 million dollars. In years past these reserves would have been placed in secure investments, and there generated interest for the district. This interest ranged from historical highs of \$400,000 dollars before the construction of the new building to current lows of an estimated \$13,000. The markets low rates of interest combined with the level of deficit spending that was budgeted for the 2009-10 school year will put even greater pressure on District resources.

Spending of Reserves Will Need to Shrink

The 2009-10 budget transferred in from the districts savings account a little over \$1.15 million to maintain our current programs. To maintain current programs the district would have to transfer in from savings approximately \$1.30 million. This rate of expenditure with declining timber revenues will deplete the districts savings (currently around \$6.8 million) in a little over four years. Obviously this is a course we do need to take and do not have to take.

Calendar for the Budget Process

As we get into the budget process the District will make every attempt to keep the community informed of how the proposed budget will affect the 2010-2011 academic programs, support services, and the operations of the district. The meetings of the Budget Committee are posted on the district website for your information. These are open meetings for the public to come and listen to the discussion. Your voice is heard through your board members, budget committee members and through letters and phone conversations with the superintendent. Of course you are always welcome to make public comments at the board meeting according to district policy.

April 5, 2010 Status of the School Presentation

A board meeting and budget committee meeting is being held Monday night April 5th at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation of the proposed budget. This presentation will be made by superintendent Gander and will outline what we have achieved this year with the school budget, what the short term plans are for the remainder of the year, and what the proposed changes could look like for the 2010 year. Also at this time we will give the budget committee members time to ask some questions before we meet again on April 19th.

This proves to be a challenging process, one that can be filled with emotion and differences of opinion. But it also has the opportunity to unite a community by bringing into focus the vision that families of the Jewell area have for their child's education. We anticipate people will have differences of opinion and only request that we remember we are modeling for our kids the democratic process, one that can be carried out with passion and with grace.

***STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS
APRIL 5TH 7:00 P.M. @ JEWELL LIBRARY***

DISTRICT VISION AND MISSION COMMITTEE

I would like to take this chance to thank the members of the Vision and Mission Committee. They joined with our school board to go through a process to develop a set of guiding beliefs and from that develop a vision statement for our school. I have included the product of these meetings in this mailing for the community to see. The board has had their first reading in a public meeting and at the April meeting will have the second reading which is the final step in acceptance of this document.

Thanks to:

Gwen Jarvala Gail Dundas Karl Meier Tumara Porter Jennifer Brandon

Allsion Carter Zack Rozinek Chris Hammerberg

Kim Morrison Lynne Cavin Charnaë Little

A Special Thanks to Pastor **Able Baker** who led the process for the committee.

The Vision statement under consideration:

Competing Globally, Contributing Locally, Creating unlimited possibilities.

2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS PREPARED

In this mailing there are two draft options of the 2010-11 school year calendar. The staff is reviewing both options and the School Site Council will be reviewing the options as well. The district is proposing an extension of the early release time on Wednesdays by thirty minutes. This means students will be sent home at 1:30 on the chosen Wednesday afternoons. Also, one of the options retains the start date prior to the Labor Day weekend, while one option does not. Please take the time to look over the options and give the office a call or send me an email if you have any questions or feedback. We have tried to achieve a high number of student contact days, staff development options for teachers and stay with the district traditions.

SENIORS PREPARE FOR PRESENTATIONS

This is the first year of the Jewell Senior Project class taught by Ms. Morrison. In this class the students bring together their high school experiences and set a plan for their future. They also have to design a project, carry out the project and then present their Senior Project to a panel of community members.

We look forward to the seniors showing off their stuff as they get close to ending their days as Blue Jays. They are a great group of young adults and I am sure they will impress us with their work.

INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER REQUEST SOLUTION ACHIEVED

For a number of years across the state of Oregon students have attended school in districts outside of where their family lives. In fact in Jewell about 12-15 students annually attend Jewell who do not live within our district. With current budget struggles districts are reviewing this process based on the fact that for every student that leaves about \$6,500.00 leaves the district.

We have worked with the Vernonia district to assure the funds they receive for students follow the students to Jewell (it is state education code). The Vernonia School District and the Jewell School District have reached an agreement that gives students the option to attend Jewell but Vernonia retains control. For those families that have been coming to Jewell it is a great relief and offers some stability and for Vernonia it gives them control over who is approved to leave the district. The agreement runs through the 2012-13 school year and will then be reviewed.

US CENSUS 2010 COMES TO JEWELL SCHOOL

The US Census 2010 is trying to make itself well known. I can not ever remember seeing a Census commercial during the Winter Olympics, or any sporting event for that matter. But this year the census is big for all counties, but especially Clatsop and other rural counties in Oregon. Below I have listed a couple of ways the census data impacts our daily school functioning. My hope is that you will take the new format (just 10 questions) and complete the form and submit it in the mail. The short time it will take you will do wonders to support county services and most importantly (for me anyway) school services.

- Planning school projects
- Developing Adult Education Programs
- Drawing school district boundaries
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities and for children
- Distributing over \$300 billion dollars on federal funds and even more in state funds
- Development of rural areas for electrical, internet and cable services.
- Designing public safety strategies

For many people the less the government is in our lives usually the better, but the census data is critical. Census data is held as private and secure for 97 years and is critical for the distribu-

tion of all educational Title programs. Programs that serve at-risk youth either because of their economic disadvantage, their educational disabilities, or because they are living in a rural environment.

Get involved, please complete your census application when it arrives in the mail.

OREGON EXPANDS HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM TO COVER ALL CHILDREN

With the final expansion phase of the Healthy Kids plan, all Oregon children are eligible for health insurance. In addition to federal money, the plan is funded by a 1 percent tax on health insurers. State officials hope that 80,000 more children enroll in the program by 2010.

Healthy Kids provides free health insurance to children in families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, subsidized insurance for families between 200 and 300 percent, and state-sponsored insurance for families above 300 percent of the poverty level. In doing this, Oregon has become the first state to create a health insurance exchange for children, and is able to offer health insurance to all children.

In the week of April 12-16 Jewell School will be working with a Portland area non-profit (Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good) to help families enroll in this program. We will soon be announcing a time where families who need health insurance for their children can meet with a certified application specialist to go over the application process. This is a great opportunity in these tough economic times to assure your child has the coverage they need in case of unforeseen circumstances.



SPRING BREAK

MARCH 22-26th

SCHOOL RESUMES

MARCH 29TH