

# Blue Jay News

"God's Work ... Our Hands"



January 27, 2010

## News For All



### CALENDAR

*January 27* PreK Conferences, 2:00 to 8:00  
*January 28* PreK Conferences: No School for PreK  
*January 29* PreK Conferences: No School for PreK  
*February 11* LEST: NO SCHOOL PreK-8th Grade  
*February 12* LEST: NO SCHOOL PreK-8th Grade  
*February 15* Presidents Day  
 NO SCHOOL PreK-12th grade  
*February 17* Ash Wednesday  
*March 5* Green School Summit  
 NO SCHOOL PreK-12th grade  
*March 8* SIP Planning Day  
 NO SCHOOL PreK-12th grade

**Calendar Change.** There will be no school for all grade levels on Friday, March 5 because of the Green School Summit, which will be held on the PLS campus. ***The SIP Planning Day will be moved to Monday, March 8, and there will also be no school on that day for all grade levels.*** Go to [www.orengreenschools.org/summits.cfm](http://www.orengreenschools.org/summits.cfm) for more information on the Green School Summit.



**PLS on Facebook.** Have you seen our ad on Facebook? We have been promoting our Open House on February 3

during the month of January. There are over 805,000 Facebook accounts within 50 miles of Portland. Our ad has been shown 5.2 million times and has received over 1,000 hits. Follow the link on the PLS website home page to view our Open House event. Log in to Facebook to see pictures and people who have responded.

**Open House.** Our next Open House for prospective students and their parents takes place on February 3 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. If you know someone who might be interested in PLS, this is the perfect opportunity to invite them for a visit. Visitors will be able to meet the teachers, tour the facilities, and ask questions. Don't forget, if you refer a family to PLS you may qualify for the \$1000 Refer-A-Student tuition credit (contact the business office for details).



**Private Schools Appreciation.** Oregon governor Ted Kulongoski recently proclaimed February 4 as Private Schools Appreciation Day. See the attachment for a copy of the proclamation.

**Work Day.** There will be a SHARE work day on Saturday, March 6, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Dust off those gardening gloves, and clean out the paint brush! This



work day will take place one week prior to the annual PLS auction. The focus for the day will be to prepare the grounds and facilities for the big event. If your skills and desires include cleaning flower beds and other assorted outdoor work, your time would be appreciated. If your skills include painting and/or cleaning, your efforts will be valued. Saturday work days are a good way to have fellowship with other PLS families and contribute SHARE hours at the same time. An RSVP would be appreciated, but is not necessary. Questions or comments should be directed to Sharon Nyberg at [snyberg@portland-lutheran.org](mailto:snyberg@portland-lutheran.org) or 503-667-3199.



**SCRIP. Next Order Dates**

(late orders can be accepted up to 9:00 am on Tuesday mornings):

- Monday, February 8
- Monday, February 22



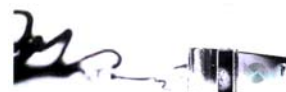
**PLS Scholarship.** The PLS Scholarship program was established by Doug McGuire, a PLS parent, several years ago, and has been financially supported by many donors over the past five years. The intent of the program is to provide a financial incentive for highly qualified families and students to attend PLS. It is a competitive process open to all incoming 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

*First grade:* The PLS Scholarship is a three-year award valued at \$3000. A highly qualified family is one that is committed to actively participate in their child's school. Three scholarships are awarded each year.

*Ninth grade:* The PLS Scholarship is a four-year scholarship valued at \$6000. A student who earns this scholarship has demonstrated excellent academic potential and is active in a variety of ways outside of the classroom. Five scholarships are awarded each year.

Stop by or contact Mrs. Merritt in the admissions office for a scholarship application packet.

**Lutheran Night at Concordia University.** On Saturday, February 6, the Concordia University gym will come alive for the annual celebration of its Lutheran heritage -- Lutheran night. The PLS band will perform the national anthem at 5:25 and the middle school dance team will perform at 5:45. The Jay Dancers, our high school dance team, will perform during half-time of the men's basketball game. Admission to the games is free with a bulletin from a Lutheran church service.



**Coach of the Year.** The Coach of the Year award, sponsored by the Trail Blazers and Northwest

Ford stores, is designed to recognize coaches, mentors, teachers, advisors, leaders, and role models for the commitment, dedication, and inspiration they provide to their organizations. If you are interested in nominating a coach, teacher, or advisor from PLS, you can get a nomination form from the elementary or high school office or go to the contest page at [trailblazers.com](http://trailblazers.com).

**Box Tops for Education.** Keep collecting those Campbell soup labels. We will have a contest in April.



**Employment Opportunity.** The Northwest District of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod has an opening for a business manager. A job description can be found at [http://www.nowlcms.org/general\\_services/ClassifiedAds.aspx](http://www.nowlcms.org/general_services/ClassifiedAds.aspx).

Interested individuals should fax, e-mail or mail a resume by February 15, 2010 to NW District - LCMS, Attn: Martha Conboy, 1700 NE Knott Street, Portland, OR 97212, Fax 503-284-2785, E-mail: [MarthaC@nowlcms.org](mailto:MarthaC@nowlcms.org).

**Trivia Night.** Ascension Lutheran Church is holding its first annual Trivia Night on Saturday, January 30, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Christian Center. This is a team trivia knowledge contest; each table of 8 people is a team. The cost is \$10 per person.



Each team may bring its own snacks or purchase food (pizza, etc.) at the event. Teams are encouraged to dress up according to a theme of their choosing; there will be a prize for the best theme. Proceeds from this event will benefit the youth group at Ascension, which is making plans to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans later this year. Please contact Michele Sprengle in the high school office (extension 301) for more information.



## Evening in the Orient

March 13, 2010 5:30 pm

Roy Ahlschwede Christian Center

**Auction.** The Auction is right around the corner. You should be hearing soon from the class parent in charge of organizing your class basket. I have heard there are some really great ideas floating around and always look forward to the creative ways we can have our kids involved in the school's largest fundraiser.

Have you thought about what your family might be able to donate to the auction this year? We are always in need of gift cards for baskets -- SCRIP is great for that! Wine baskets, beer baskets, and baking baskets are great, but if you don't want to put together an entire basket, single items can be put together to make some really cool baskets. I encourage you to think about people you come in contact with on a daily basis; perhaps there is someone who would be willing to donate a haircut, a gift card, dinner from your favorite restaurant, etc. If we don't ask, we will never know. With your help we can work to make this auction a success even in these tough economic times. I look forward to seeing what creative ideas we as a school can come up with. See you on March 13!

-- Rory Rush



**Science Fair.** The 2010 elementary school science fair took place on Tuesday, January 26. It was held two months earlier this year so that PLS can send the top finishers to the regional science fair, the Northwest Science Expo. The NWSE takes place at Portland State University on Friday, April 2. Students in grades 5-8 used the first semester of school to research, plan, and experiment. Judges for this year's event included college professors, college students, former instructors at PLS, and science-minded professionals. They all volunteered to spend the morning evaluating this year's projects. Special thanks go all of the judges for their interest in helping students in their scientific endeavors. The top finishers were announced at a special ceremony Tuesday afternoon.

The following students will compete at the NWSE:

- 5th grade Rachel O'Brien, Samantha Howard
- 6th grade Sydney Peck, Sean Walters
- 7th grade Nicki Wahlers, Daniel Barnes, Jay Colling
- 8th grade Andrew Hinkel, Ian Murphy, Olivia Nyberg, Gage Solberg

Congratulations to them all!

**LEST.** Our 5th – 8th grade representatives are now preparing for all the LEST events coming up in February. A complete event schedule and a schedule of our students' events will be sent out this week.



## Elementary School News



### National Geography Bee.

The Portland Lutheran School geography bee representative is 7th grade student Jay Colling. Jay has taken a written test to see if he makes it into the state geography bee, which will take place on April 9.

Congratulations, Jay! Also, congratulations to Nicole Nguyen, who placed second.

**Chapel Offering.** We have raised more than \$300 for Pennies for Peace. Thank you for your support. We will begin a new chapel offering project next week.



**Cub Scouts.** Congratulations to cub scouts Stephen and Samuel Nguyen for achieving one or more of the God and Country emblems. We are proud of you and your accomplishments!

# High School News

**Middle School Chess.** The middle school elective chess class recently held a tournament consisting of 39 matches. Each student played the other students in the class three times. They were awarded three points for a checkmate, two points for being ahead when the time limit was reached, and one point each if the match ended in a stalemate. The winner was 6th grader Evan Bonazzola, who won the LEST chess competition last year as a fifth grader. In second and third places were 8th graders Ian Murphy and Tanner Leitner, while 5th grader John Stafford took fourth place.



## COLLEGE INFO

### Financial Aid Information.

Want to know more about paying for college? For parents, teachers, and the college-bound, OPB presents a half-hour-long television special on Thursday, January 28, from 9:00 to 9:30 pm on channel 10. Topics to be examined on the broadcast include loan and grant information and advice on the application process. You may also see the companion website for additional college links and information: <http://www.opb.org/financialaid/index.php>.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPORTS



**Elementary (3rd, 4th and 5th grade) Track and Field.** We would like to offer a CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) team this year and need your help to make this experience happen for the

children. Volunteer coaches are needed. Please contact Dawn Bergmann at extension 324 for details regarding the coaching positions.

**Middle School (6th, 7th and 8th grade) Track and Field.** We participate in the Metro Christian League track and field season. We are looking for volunteer assistant coaches to help in forming a coaching team. Please contact Dawn Bergmann at extension 324 if you are the individual we are looking for to help this team.



### Spanish III learns to prepare Mexican dishes.

Spanish class had a special flavor on Tuesday, January 26, when Irma Molina, a friend of Señora Jeffries, came to teach the students how to cook some common Mexican food dishes. The lesson was taught almost entirely in Spanish as the students followed directions for preparing pico de gallo, quesadillas de pollo, frijoles, and tortillas made by hand. The drinks were typical Mexican refreshments also, and there were various types of pan dulce to sample for dessert.

The students all participated in the chopping, mashing, stirring, mixing, table setting, cleaning and best of all, the eating. There were three goals of the lesson:



- The students would have an experience cooking something that they could easily do at home. All the ingredients are readily available and not expensive.
- They would understand and follow directions given in Spanish.
- They would taste something new and learn a little more about Mexican food and culture.

**NAEP 2010 is Coming!** The National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as NAEP, is the only ongoing, nationally representative measure of student achievement. The results of NAEP are released in The Nation's Report Card and they help the President, Congress, private schools, and all of our educators make decisions about how to improve our educational system. Our PLS seniors will be taking the NAEP in Civics on March 1, 2010. Additional information is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

**Meet Gary Glassco.** The international student program at PLS has been blessed this year by the presence of Gary Glassco, the representative from our agency, the American Education and Exchange Association of Monmouth, Oregon.



Gary has served the church since 1975 in administrative positions in several organizations in the United States and overseas. He began his career as a pastor, youth pastor, music minister, and preschool/day care director at various churches in Washington, Arkansas, Estacada, and Gresham. He then spent 14 years in Papua New Guinea as principal of Nazarene Bible College, director of a ministerial training program, and pastor of an English-speaking congregation. He has also been a missionary in Trinidad and Haiti. Before coming to AEEA he was administrator of Willamette Valley Christian School in Salem for 14 years. He holds degrees in Applied Arts, Vocal Music, Christian Education, Religion, and Human Resource Leadership. He and his wife reside in Keizer, Oregon.

Gary comes to PLS several times a month to interview the international students and make sure that all is going well in their home stay and at school. He stays in contact with the host families as well as the students' families in their home countries. He said that he can easily relate to what our students are experiencing because he has lived in a foreign culture and learned a second language: "I know how odd they feel!" PLS ESL instructor Leslie Wong said, "We are fortunate to have a person of his experience and Christian commitment working with our international students." Welcome, Gary!

