

Sellwood Principal's Newsletter – September 6, 2019

Greetings Sellwood Community,

What a great week! On Wednesday we had a fabulous back-to-school barbecue, put together by the amazing Sellwood PTA and with entertainment by the mighty Marimba Band and our wonderful Jazz band. I have met many new students and families, and I am working hard to learn as many names as I can. The year is getting off to a smooth start, and I feel like we are going to do great things together.

This newsletter is quite long due to so much happening at the beginning of the school year. Read on to find out about Back-to-School Night, Sellwood Foundation Fundraiser, PEAK after school fall program, and more.

Jeandré Carbone

Sellwood MS Principal

### **Upcoming Week:**

Sept. 11, 6:30-8 PM: Back-to-School Night (with TAG and ESL Meetings)

Sept. 13: Picture Day

### **Important Dates to Remember**

September 15: Registration Opens for PEAK Fall Classes

September 18: Site Council 4:00-5:00 PM

September 18: Foundation 6:30-7:00 PM

September 18: PTA Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM

October 11: School Closed

October 31: End of 1st Quarter

November 1: No School for Students

November 11: School Closed

November 25 & 26: Parent Teacher Conferences, Day and Evening

November 27, 28, & 29: School Closed

December 23 to January 3: Winter Break

### **Back-to-School Night**

Sellwood Middle School will hold our Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 11th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Parents will enter through the entrance on Umatilla, collect their student's schedule and we will begin in the gym. Principal Carbone and partner organizations (PTA, Peak, & Sellwood Foundation) will speak briefly and share information about school programs and the upcoming school year. At 6:50 we will start a schedule rotation, with parents following their student's schedule for seven minute periods. Each teacher will give a short presentation about their class so that parents can get an understanding of what their child's day is like. Back-to-School night differs from parent teacher conferences in that Back-to-School night does not provide an opportunity to discuss the progress of individual children.

**ESL Meeting** will be held at 6:00 PM in the library.

**TAG Meeting** will be held at 6:30 PM in the library.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening!

### **From the Sellwood Middle School Foundation**



The Sellwood Middle School Foundation needs your support! Our goal this year is to raise \$ 75,000 to allow for more programs and opportunities for our middle school students. To encourage donations this month, we are offering an amazing incentive! If you make a \$200 or greater donation or become a monthly donor by September 27th, you will be entered into a drawing for a complimentary two (2) night stay in a fabulous Manzanita home that sleeps 11 guests and is dog-friendly! Read more information in your back to school packets that come

home with your students this week. Make sure to have your student turn in the envelope! Winner will be announced on Friday, October 4th.

Please visit <https://fundforpps.org/donate> to explore donation opportunities, including employer match funds. Please consider donating and thank you for continuing to support your child's education. Don't forget to designate Sellwood Middle School as the "purpose".



Link to the beach house: <https://abnb.me/fkrMzMEpsZ>

### **P.E.A.K. After School Program**

In partnership with PTA, PEAK (Panther Enrichment and Academic Knowledge) is a series of after-school classes open to all Sellwood Middle School (SMS) students. The majority of classes run on an 11 week session schedule in the fall, winter, and spring. Classes meet one to two times a week after school at SMS. Individual classes require a fee for participation. The fee covers class supplies and instructor fees. Scholarships are available as the PTA and PEAK goal is to include every SMS student. There is always the opportunity to contribute to the scholarship fund if you desire. Parent volunteers are welcome. All programs are supervised exclusively by PTA.

Registration is simple and can be done one of two ways. You can either fill out the paper form and return it to the box in the office marked PEAK along with a check made out to Sellwood PTA or visit the PTA/PEAK website below for a complete list of classes, full registration, and the option to pay electronically through the PTA SchoolPay, which is under the Nonprofit Groups on Schoolpay.

Sellwood Middle School PEAK

Joy Dezellem, Volunteer PEAK Coordinator

[sellwoodpeakprogram@gmail.com](mailto:sellwoodpeakprogram@gmail.com)

Registration:

<https://sites.google.com/view/sellwoodpta/peak/register>

### **French after school option**

Since the school was unfortunately unable to offer French during the regular school day, PEAK is planning to partner with Alliance Francaise to offer an after school French class, if there is sufficient parent/student interest. Please check it out when registration opens on September 15th.

### **From the PTA**

**SELLWOOD PANTHER SPIRIT WEAR ONLINE STORE IS OPEN!**

Show your school pride and pick up a Sellwood Panthers sweatshirt, t-shirt, or hat at [Sellwood Middle School Spirit](#). Store open from 9/5-9/27. Allow two weeks for delivery. Thank you for supporting Sellwood Middle School and the SMS PTA!

### **Portland Public Schools PTA Clothing Center-Volunteers Needed!**

Next week on Monday, September 9th is Sellwood's day to send volunteers to the Portland Public Schools PTA Clothing Center. If you have up to 4 hours for this one-time commitment, click the SignupGenius link to sign up. Volunteers may help sort donations, and/or assist PPS students in finding clothing. Currently, there are lots of clothes, which have been donated and washed, to sort before students are able to "shop." Your time makes a big impact, whether it is 2 hours or 4! Volunteers needed from 9:30AM – 1:30 PM. Grandparents make great volunteers, too. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094FA4AF28A13-volunteer>

The purpose of the Clothing Center is to provide clothes to PPS children that come needing these services. The Center accepts donations of gently-used clothing from school-run clothing drives, school lost and found items, and concerned community members. Donations of money from our local PTAs, individuals, and caring businesses provide our children with new jeans, underwear and socks. By caring for the basic needs of our youth and allowing them to dress as their peers, we are encouraging positive self-esteem, academic success and regular class attendance. Info about the Clothing Center: [PTA / PPS/PTA Clothing Center](#)

Location of the Clothing Center: Marshall (Madison HS) Campus; 3905 SE 91st Avenue, Room B-60. Please check in/out at the Madison main office.

Questions? email SMS clothing center volunteer coordinator [Christina.Waldron@outlook.com](mailto:Christina.Waldron@outlook.com) or PTA Clothing Center Director Sharon Meigh-Chang, [ptaclotingcenter@comcast.net](mailto:ptaclotingcenter@comcast.net)

### **Friendship Through Music!**

La Marimba Princesa Atatupa

De Asuncion Mita Jutiapa, Guatemala

Exchange Program with Sellwood Middle School

October 5th- 13th, 2019

A group of 12 young marimba students from Guatemala will travel to Portland, Oregon with their teachers and be placed with host families in the Sellwood community who speak

Spanish. The group will attend Sellwood Middle School Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, rotating through three programs in the building: Spanish language exchange with Ronda Hall-Ramirez, marimba music exchange with Nathan Beck, and English language immersion through Andeo International Homestays. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will be dedicated to performances in the community and at the COFLT (Confederation of Foreign Language Teachers) conference.

Sellwood Middle School students who are learning Spanish and/or marimba will have the opportunity to travel to Guatemala in June to bring the cultural exchange full circle!

If you would like to donate to make this exchange possible, please visit:

<https://www.mightycause.com/story/Sellwoodguatemala>

If you are interested in hosting students or chaperones from this group for the 8 days they are in Portland, please contact Ronda Hall-Ramirez at [rhall@pps.net](mailto:rhall@pps.net)

Please note that an adult in the household must have a minimum of conversational

Spanish as these students do not speak English.

**Bike Locks**

Please make sure your child has a sturdy bike lock to keep their bike secure. In the past, unsecured bikes have been stolen, and I have even heard of less sturdy bike locks being cut. The metal U-shape locks provide the best theft protection.

Some unlocked bikes may be taken into the school. If you are missing your bike, ask the office.

Of course, make sure they have a helmet to protect their most precious possession!

### **Volunteers Needed:**

We are still in need of volunteers during lunch/recess from 12:10 to 12:50 PM. If you are interested and available to help us out, please complete this survey:

<https://forms.gle/T4HAiuf14y92NZXw5>

All volunteers are welcome, whether every day, for one day a week, for a limited time period, whatever you can manage - as long as it is consistent. Also, if you volunteer to help out during lunch/recess, we promise to give you one of the easier assignments😊.