

West TV PTC Monthly Newsletter

November 2016

Message from the President, Shelli Kime

My husband recently told me about an article he'd read about school students in Sichuan China who make a 2-hour climb 800 meters up the side of a mountain on a ladder to get to school. I thought for sure he'd just skimmed it and not read it correctly so I jumped online to see for myself and sure enough, there in color photos are pictures of children as young as six that looked like they could have been any child at our school. Wearing tennis shoes, shiny headbands and carrying brightly colored backpacks they climb straight up and down old rickety vine ladders over what looks like an endless abyss. Recently the village in the valley below decided to make the climb up and down more safe and have started construction on a steel ladder that should be complete by now. It's still 800 meters, straight up and down but a huge improvement nonetheless. It wasn't just astounding, for me it's surreal. I can't imagine letting my kids climb 100 ft. of that terrain without a helmet and being fully roped in for any reason, let alone free climbing on old vines and rotting ladders for half a mile. Looking at it I couldn't help but think to myself, "If I were able to be part of the PTC at that school would the conversation be over funding playground equipment or half a mile of steel ladder?" Choices, choices.

Thanks goodness our children will likely never have to take those types risks to get to an education. Instead of fundraising for safer ladders we are able to focus on things to enrich the students' learning environments by providing teachers a healthy budget to take field trips, buy supplies and make sure kids have access to new opportunities that not only teach them, but hopefully inspire them. We recently approved a new budget making funds even more accessible to teachers and classrooms, offering an even better experience. We will be posting this new budget on our website and encourage you to take a look at it so you can see how your donations are being used. This is made possible by the tireless efforts of committee members in a variety of fundraising events at West TV and generous donations we receive from our parents and community. We are very lucky at West TV to provide these experiences to our students.

Currently we are running another fundraising campaign at West TV, but this time the focus will be collecting for charitable causes outside of the classroom. Each year at West TV, we collect donations for a Giving Tree. Any funds collected through this event go to families in our school and/or district that are in need of a helping hand in order to provide their families with a happy, fun holiday season. If you'd like to contribute to this fund, we will be taking donations of any size from now until Dec. 12th. Please feel free to drop any funds off in the drop box in the office clearly marked for the Giving Tree and we'll make sure they make a family's holiday season a little brighter.

Also, right now the 4th grade is collecting small travel size toiletries that they will be sorting and packaging for the holiday service project benefiting Portland's Rescue Mission. If you are one of those people who compulsively collects hotel shampoo and lotions "just in case," this event will validate that habit. Harvest them out of the bottom of your bathroom drawer and give them a renewed life for someone who could really use them. These small items can mean a lot to the people that receive them. Collection barrels are available in the hallway at school.

From the PTC Board, eat well, live well, be well. Have a happy and safe holiday.

Appreciation

Thank you to Vickey Foster for coordinating and chairing a terrific Math Night in October.

Paige Dickson, again you did great work with the Green Team to organize a successful Trail Work Party last weekend – over 50 volunteers joined in this community project!

Thanks to all the parents who will bring a pie to school this week, making your teachers, school staff, and bus drivers happy this holiday weekend.

Additionally, we are so thankful for the parents who volunteer for Continent Check each month and keep this great PTC-supported curriculum going.

Finally, thank you to the parents who have helped get our Artist in Residency project started. Great work, everybody!

Spotlights

All Star Reading Club

Coordinator Christine Milner

The All Star Reading Club started in 2008 and encourages students from all grades to read a book from a different genre each month. Students then complete a brief summary from the book they've read.

The coordinator for ASRC is Chris Milner, a grandparent volunteer. After 33 years teaching Kindergarten, the Milners retired to Oregon from Iowa to be closer to their grandchildren. Ms. Milner will be in the library on Wednesdays to review student forms and update the ASRC chart.

New this year, we've tried to create incentives to encourage participation.

The first 10 students in the school to turn in completed forms each month earn a trip to the ASRC prize jar. Prizes are listed on our ASRC chart in the library. In addition, any student who completes a genre report by the end of the corresponding month is credited with a GOLDEN BUCK. These GOLDEN BUCKS can be redeemed in the spring for these special rewards:

* \$1GB is double value at our Spring Book Swap,

* \$4GB can purchase a Krispy Kreme coupon,

* \$5GB can buy a kid's cone at McDonalds and

* \$7GB can String Up the Principal or your teacher

- WHAT??? Yes, for 7 golden bucks you can buy a can of silly string (special price of 2 cans for \$8 golden bucks) to string up Ms. McNamee, Mr. Blanc, Ms. Perrin or Ms. Regali! We are working with the Carnival crew to see about having this event on Carnival night.

Students who read books from five different genres will be invited to a "Preview Party" at the spring West TV Book Swap and will have the opportunity to choose a free book at the book swap. Students who read a book from all eight genres will receive an additional special prize at the year-end party.

Here are the genres for each month:

- October - Mystery & Horror
- November - Historical Fiction
- December - Non-Fiction
- January - Action & Adventure
- February - Biography
- March - Fantasy & Science Fiction
- April - Poetry
- May - Folklore

Forms are available in the library and online at <http://wtvptc.org/all-star-reading-club/>. Each report is due at the end of the month. Make-ups are allowed! The PTC coordinator for ASRC reviews reports on Wednesdays and updates the chart each week. If a student has questions or missed a month and wants to read from that genre, please contact the library.

This program is supported by the West TV Library, volunteers and the West TV Parent Teachers Club.

Oregon Battle of the Books

Coordinator Shelli Kime

Oregon Battle of the Books, or OBOB for short, will be swinging into high gear shortly after the New Year and if your child is interested in participating, it's time to get things moving. For some of you this is all new, and I've had parents asking me "about all this OBOB stuff" so I'd like to give you some details to get you up to speed.

Who: Any child in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade at WTV. Teams can be made at grade specific levels or a mix of all grades and genders.

Why: It's a great program for kids who love to read and are looking to improve their reading and comprehension skills. (This program is awesome for comprehension!)

What: Oregon Battle of the Books is a statewide event sponsored by the Oregon Association of Libraries for any student in grades 3-12. Each year, volunteers from the association dedicate time choosing age appropriate literature they believe will expand young readers' skills and knowledge. The material from 16 books chosen by the State Association of Libraries will make up the competition.

Participation in the event is free and completely voluntary. An important note to understand; The school does not provide classroom time or instruction for this event. The battles are held in the school library, typically over lunchtime, and are run by Mrs. Van Kleek and parent volunteers. But, study time, team organization, and battle preparation is placed on the teams themselves. OBOB is not part of Mrs. Van Kleek's job with WTV but, as it has been a long standing tradition at our school, she volunteers extra time to help facilitate this event. A big thanks to her for helping making this all possible!

The competition is comprised of a series of "battles" between bracketed teams. Questions are supplied to the schools in sealed envelopes from the OBOB state committee and each set is opened just prior to the upcoming

battle. Teams will be asked a variety of questions ranging in difficulty from all 16 books at random and points are awarded for correct answers. The team with the highest score upon completion of each battle will be awarded the win and move on through the double elimination bracket.

When: WTV battles will be held beginning in January and continue through February. The first place team from each school will move on to the district competition in March and the winner of that event will travel to Salem to the state competition in April.

How: This is often where parents need to step in.

- 1- Help your child form a team. Have them ask classmates and friends if they want to participate. Check with Mrs. Van Kleek as she also has a list of interested students. Teams consist of 4-5 children. Four children are allowed to participate in any given battle and can battle with fewer but not more. Many teams opt to carry a 5th player to ensure they will always have a full team.
- 2- Help the team figure out how to split up the books so all 16 are covered. There are no rules about how many books each child reads. Many teams will split the book up evenly between the kids by drawing out of a hat but you can do whatever feels best for your team.
- 3- Help them with a team name.
- 4- Make sure the kids have access to the books. All these books are available at the public library and West TV library. Powell's also has an "OBOB" section if you prefer to purchase the books. A list of this year's books along with a ton of details and rules can be found on the OBOB home page: www.oboblsta.pbworks.com
- 5- Make sure Mrs. Van Kleek has your team down for competition. All teams will need to be turned in to her for scheduling by early to mid-January.

Hopefully that will get you all started! If you feel like you still want a more in-depth conversation about OBOB and how it works, or how you or your child can be involved please feel free to email me at: shelli.kime@gmail.com You can also find excellent resources at the Cedar Mill library. They are actually hosting practice battles for new 3rd and 4th graders so it's definitely worth checking into! Good luck to all of our readers!

Bulletin Board

FUNDRAISER

Baggenstos Christmas Tree Farm – Baggenstos Tree Farm is once again supporting West TV by donating a percentage of their West TV sales to our school. This is a fun way to get your holiday tree while supporting the West TV Allstars. Go to www.cwbaggenstostreefarm.com for directions. Pets are welcome and they will shake and bale your tree as well as deliver it if you want. Why go anywhere else?

Hours: 9am – 4pm

November:

Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th

December:

Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th
Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th
Friday 16th, Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th

Keep in Touch

We want you to feel welcome and informed about all WTV activities, so please follow our news on our **website** www.wtvptc.org, get a quick reminder of upcoming events every Monday in your email inbox from our **Monday Minute**, attend our monthly **PTC meeting** (every 3rd Wednesday evening at 7PM,) and get to know our organization more in-depth in this monthly **newsletter** sent via email. Cheers!

If you have any content suggestions for upcoming newsletters, please contact Jami Keene, PTC Secretary, at jamikeene@hotmail.com.
