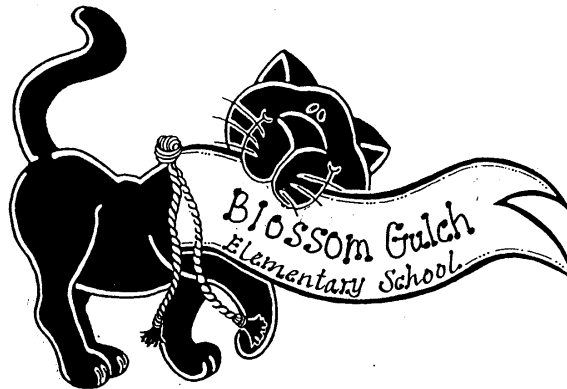


BLOSSOM GULCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent and Student Handbook
2017-2018



333 South 10th
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
Telephone (541) 267-1340
FAX # (541) 267-7109

Web Page:

<http://www.blossom.cbd9.net/>

Linda Vickrey, Principal
Kara Davidson, Assistant Principal

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Required Notices

The Coos Bay School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital status, or sex in providing education or access to benefits of education services, activities and programs in accordance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and other civil rights or discrimination issues; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Refer to District Policies AC, AC-AR, ACA, ACA-AR(1), ACA-AR(2), JB, and KL). If you have a question or complaint concerning this nondiscrimination policy, you should submit it to Superintendent Bryan Trendell, Coos Bay School District, 1255 Hemlock Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420.

The Coos Bay School District adheres to all requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). District Policies are revised regularly to reflect these requirements.

Message from the Principal

Dear Blossom Gulch Families,

Welcome to Blossom Gulch Elementary School for the 2017-18 school year! I am very excited to begin my 6th school year as the Principal of Blossom Gulch. Our staff is committed to providing the educational foundations necessary for success in school and in life.

I encourage each and every one of you to become involved in your child's education. While I know it may be difficult for you to commit to being a regular volunteer in the classroom, you can participate many ways in your child's education. We have a very active Parent Teacher Association that raises money to directly benefit our students. We have Back-to-School Nights, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Pastries for Parents, and numerous field trips through the school year. You can also participate in our SMART Reading program and spend some time reading with a Kindergarten or First grade child. Your involvement will also give me a chance to get to know you as well.

Communication is an essential ingredient in building a strong partnership between school and home. This handbook provides helpful information about the school, policies, procedures and practices. Please feel free to call us with your questions and suggestions. Our telephone number is 541-267-1340. You can also check out our website at:

<http://www.blossom.cbd9.net/>.

We are looking forward to the year and welcome your participation in school activities. By working together, we can be sure that Blossom Gulch students will enjoy a safe, exciting, excellent environment for learning!

Best wishes,

Linda Vickrey, Principal

Blossom Gulch Staff

2016-17

Kindergarten

Anna Grotzke	Room 18
Carli Ainsworth	Room 20
Amy Barr	Room 21
Sara Stewart	Room 22
April Cullins	Room 23
Jody Saveland	Room 25

First Grade

Nicole Ault	Room 24
Lauren Chan	Room 26
Jennifer Easton	Room 27
Jan Ward	Room 28
Amelia Edd	Room 29
Misty Howerton	Room 30

Second Grade

Elizabeth Williams	Room 3
Dayna Inskeep	Room 5
Chloe Danielson	Room 6
Carrie Pollard	Room 7
Michelle Allen	Room 8
Jackie Souza	Room 10

Third Grade

Jeff Logan	Room 9
Terri Kinnaird	Room 11
Amanda Ficher	Room 13
Karla Delgado	Room 12
Jessica Hageman	Modular A
Brian Hutchins	Modular B

RBD Classroom

Connie Cleveland, Teacher	Room 1
Sherri Phillips, Assistant	
Deanna Mayer, Assistant	
Susan Paterson, Assistant	

Office

Linda Vickrey, Principal
 Taryn Kirk, Secretary
 Janna Keller, Secretary
 Ruby Waite, Secretary

ELL Services

Tammy Coffee	Room 4
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Resource Room

Carol Su'a, Teacher	Room 14
Debbie Chesselet, Assistant	

Physical Education

Jeremy West	Room 4 & Gym
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Title I

Nichole Hurner, Teacher	Room 4
Michele Crocker, Assistant	
Penni Fields, Assistant	

Speech

Tammy Beasley, SLP	Computer Lab
Alicia Maggio, SLPA	

Library

Traci Howerton, Librarian	
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Life Skills (ESD program)

Kevin Johnson, Teacher	Room 2
Assistants, TBA	

Custodians

Margie Creamer, Head Custodian
 Robert Arwood, Night Custodian

Cooks

Linda Hawkins, Head Cook

Blossom Gulch School Hours

Doors Open:	7:15 AM
Breakfast Served:	7:30 AM
First Bell for classes:	7:55 AM
School Begins:	8:00 AM

Monday – Thursday Dismissal: 2:35 PM

Friday Dismissal: 12:57 PM

Students eat lunch before early dismissal on Fridays



Breakfast

We serve breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. every morning. Breakfast is *free* for every child here at Blossom. If you bring your child to school in the morning or they walk, please make sure they are here by 7:45 a.m. to allow enough time to eat breakfast in our cafeteria.



LUNCH

Lunch prices are as follows:

- Student lunch \$2.40
- Adult lunch \$3.50
 - Please stop by the office upon arrival, check in and pay
- Milk \$.50
- In keeping with our community's Blue Zone initiative, we ask that **no soda pop** be sent in children's lunches.

You may pay daily, weekly, or monthly amounts, whichever works for you. Checks should be made payable to Blossom Gulch and placed in the drop box by our office. Unused lunch money will be refunded or rolled over to the following year.

If a child forgets his/her money, an occasional charge will be accepted. Students are allowed only 1 charge. . *After this initial charge, a cheese sandwich and milk will be provided.* Watch for charge slips that come home every month. Parents are notified when the account has more than 1 charge. Please appreciate the necessity for strict adherence to this limit.

Food Service Program

Coos Bay School District participates in the National School Breakfast, National School Lunch, Federal Snack and Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program serving approximately 3000 breakfast and lunches each day. The cost of reduced meals will be underwritten by the state of Oregon for the next year. If you qualify for reduced meals, they will be at no cost to you. Go to <https://coosbaysd.sodexomyway.com/> to apply.

Coos Bay School District has partnered with MealTime Online to enable you to make credit card deposits into your student's cafeteria account and view your student's purchase history via the internet. MealTime charges a 4.9% processing fee for this service, but it is free to view purchase history and account balances. You may access this service directly at www.mymealtime.com.

To set up your account:

Step 1: Create a MealTime Online Parent Account. Click on the "Create new profile" link and enter a Username and Password that you will use to login to MealTime Online. They both must be at least 6 characters.

Step 2: Add your child. You will need your child's 6-digit student ID number, which you can get from the school secretary or at registration. You will be asked to pick a state, the school district, and the specific school which your child attends before adding the student. If you have more than one child, enter each one by school.

Step 3: Make a deposit. Click on the "Make a Deposit" link to make a deposit into a school account. After you enter your information and payment amount, you will see a page with your deposit amount; be sure to check the box at the bottom of the screen to finalize the deposit. You will get an e-mail as confirmation of your deposit.

Online deposits are synchronized with your child's account twice in each 24 hour period, after which you will see an updated balance in your child's account. Currently those times are 3:00 PM and 4:00 AM.

For more information about Food Services, go to <https://coosbaysd.sodexomyway.com/>.

Information and applications regarding free or reduced lunches may be obtained in the school office. Inquiries regarding free or reduced lunches are confidential as is all paperwork. You will be notified if you qualify.

Communication with Parents

The Blossom Gulch staff wants to communicate with you on a regular basis. You can contact teachers via their school email (visit our website: <http://www.blossom.cbd9.net/>). School newsletters will be posted regularly on our website, the Blossom Gulch Facebook page, and teacher's Class DoJo accounts. Please emphasize to your child the importance of bringing home all handouts.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

Regular conferences are scheduled during the year to get to know families and to review student progress. Specific times are scheduled on an individual school basis. Teachers are expected to contact parents if there is a persistent problem with attendance, behavior or schoolwork. If you, as a parent, wish to confer with a teacher, please call the school office for an appointment. Also, since most classrooms are equipped with telephones, you may call and talk with the teacher before or after school.

Working Together

We believe that children learn best when they see a connection between schoolwork and everyday life. Consider involving your child in some of the following activities:

- Read – shopping lists, directions, labels, school lunch menus, library books, telephone numbers, menus, letters
- Write – shopping list, family calendars (activities), notes, phone numbers, menus, letters
- Math – figure out the amount needed for hot lunch, the amount of change after a purchase, doubling or cutting a recipe in half, read a map and calculate mileage
- Thinking Skills – planning family trips, meal planning, what to take on an overnight trip, brainstorm what you would do if _____
- Other-display your child's work, list their daily or weekly responsibilities

As you try some of these suggestions and come up with some of your own ideas, please let us know and we will share them with other parents.

Attendance – Absence from School

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors to being successful in school. Children with regular attendance typically learn and do better in school than their peers with frequent absences. Please help your child maintain good attendance. Our school utilizes an automated calling system to notify parents of absent students prior to the end of the school day.

The school is required to report both absences and late arrivals. When irregular attendance is an issue for your child/family, we want to work with you to develop a plan of success. Your child's teacher, the school principal and the district Attendance Advocate will all work together to help your family improve your child's attendance.

We realize it is sometimes necessary for students to be absent. **If your child is absent, please be sure to send a signed note with a written explanation for the absence within three days of your child returning to school.** Oregon State Law and School Board Policy JED gives the school the final discretion in determining whether an absence is excused. The policy states:

Absence from school or class will be excused under the following circumstances:

- Illness
- Illness of an immediate family member
- Emergency situations
- Field trips and school-approved activities
- Medical or dental appoints. Confirmation of appointment may be required
- Other reasons deemed appropriate by the school administrator when satisfactory arrangements have been made in advance of the absence.

Unexcused Absence

- Oversleeping, missing the bus
- Shopping, hair appointments
- Family vacations, unless prior approval by principal

Please call the office to let us know when your child is not at school. Please remember to send a note stating the reason for the absence when your child returns to school.

If a child has been absent for ten consecutive full school days, they must be withdrawn on the eleventh consecutive day and placed on the inactive roll until they return. The Attendance Advocate will be required to contact the parents.

If your child is having problems with regular school attendance, the school will contact you. However, if you are aware of or suspect a problem, don't wait; call the school yourself. The sooner this problem is addressed, the better.

Attendance – Tardy

Start your child's day off on the right foot by getting him/her to school on time. Coming to school late can interrupt our morning procedures (classroom directions, taking attendance, school announcements, etc). They also miss important directions and instructions.

Children arriving after 8:00 AM (tardy bell rings) must stop by the office and get a late pass for class.

Health Services – School

Health services are an important part of the total school program. Healthy children learn better. It is important for the school to have the following information updated in order to notify you if your child needs to go home or to the doctor:

- Current home telephone number, cell phone number, e-mail and home address.
- Current work telephone number and address of both parents.
- Emergency contact, names and telephone numbers (this is very important in case you cannot be reached).

- Name of other adult(s) authorized to pick your child up from school, telephone number and relationship to child.
- Recent immunizations.

Each year parents and guardians are expected to update information regarding allergies, medications and a chronic illness.

Illness or Injury

For the well-being of all students, please do not send your child to school if he/she is ill. Many of our staff members are trained in first aid. If your child becomes ill or injured at school, he/she will be seen by a qualified person. If more extensive care is needed, you will be contacted. If you cannot be reached, the principal will take whatever action she deems reasonable.

Medication for Students

If a student is required to take medication during the school day, we ask that you help the school administer medications safely and legally by following the guidelines stated below:

- Oregon State Law does not allow us to give your child any medications without written permission from the parent **and** doctor. Forms are available at the doctor’s office and/or the school.
- We must have directions from the **doctor** on how to give the medicine to your child.
- All prescription medicine must be in the **ORIGINAL** container with the doctor, student’s name and directions clearly marked on the pharmacy label.
- Over-the-counter medications must also be in the **ORIGINAL** container with the parent’s special instructions with it.

Parents must bring medications to the nurse or designee (school secretary or administrator) and sign a release to have them administered at school. Please do not send medications, prescriptions or over-the-counter, to school with your child.



Emergency School Closure

1) **If the school is closed for the entire day:** When emergency conditions cause school to be closed for the entire day, announcements are broadcast on local radio stations. No other announcements are official. The major radio stations are:

KSHR 97.3FM	KBBR 13.4AM	KACW 107.3FM
KSHN 12.3AM	KOOS 94.9FM	KWRO 63.0AM

- 2) Please take some time to visit our district website at <http://www.cbd9.net/> and subscribe to Flashalert.net. You will receive email and/ or text messages alerting you to the latest news and alerts including closure information. Subscribing is free and you'll receive alerts instantly on your email or cell phone. You can either go to the district website to register or go to the following link to register. <http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=1374>

- 3) **If school opens normally but must close during the day:** You should develop a plan with your child so he/she knows where to go if school closes early. This plan should not involve using the school telephone. A neighbor or friend's house to which your child could walk is suggested. Please share the plan with all the people involved. In the event we would need to evacuate our building, students and staff would evacuate to Marshfield High School.

School Records

The law requires that student records are kept confidential; however parents or legal guardians may request to see their child's school records. These rights shall be given to either parent unless the district has been provided with specific written evidence that there is a court order, state statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce or separation of custody that specifically revokes these rights.

You are welcome to view your child's records upon request. School personnel qualified to explain what the records mean must be present. The best way to look at your child's record is to make an appointment with the principal.

Copies of district policies pertaining to student records can be found on-line or at the District Office.

Access to Students - Media

Media representatives may interview and photograph students in instructional programs and school activities, including athletic events. They may not disrupt instruction and must seek prior approval from school officials to be present on campus. Information obtained directly from students does not require parental approval prior to publication. If you, as a parent, do not want your child interviewed or photographed, indicate your desire during registration. You should also inform your child of this as well.

Child Custody

Parent, Custodial: Custodial parents have the right to visit and otherwise contact students at school. However, the school has the right to set reasonable rules and procedures to monitor and limit disruptions to the educational process. Custodial parents also have the right to pick up their child from school during the regular school day. Likewise, the school has the responsibility to monitor school attendance and taken reasonable actions to ensure regular attendance.

Parent, Non-custodial: Non-custodial parents will be granted visitation or telephone access to the child during the school day or may pick the child up from school under the same rules and procedures established by the school for custodial parents, unless the custodial parent has provided the school written documentation in the form of a court order or divorce decree which prohibits such access.

Should a change in custody or family status happen, **it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian** to notify the school and provide us with copies of the legal documentation that reflects that change. Parents having concerns about a non-custodial parent contacting the school must give a copy of a current restraining order or court document to the school. Other persons not listed in the child's records will not be permitted access to the child without written permission from the parent.

Be Safe! Be Respectful! Be Responsible!

Behavior Expectations

Belief Statement: The Coos Bay School District has adopted a Positive Behavior Intervention Support program (PBIS) to ensure a safe, positive learning environment for every student. We believe all students can conduct themselves in a manner that encourages teachers to teach, students to learn, and protects the best interests of every individual in the school community. To support our beliefs, the following school behavior and discipline plan has been established to govern behavior at school. Please take the time to read and discuss this material with your child. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

School Expectations

We have a school-wide behavior program here at Blossom Gulch called PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support). Our three school rules are:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

These three expectations apply to all areas of our schools, including classrooms, playgrounds, cafeterias, libraries, hallways, etc.

At the start of school and periodically throughout the year, Coos Bay Schools, K-3, will devote time to modeling and explaining school rules and expected conduct in all areas of our schools. Each classroom will spend time discussing expectations and behavior guidelines. School incentives and rewards will be provided around these three rules, promoting positive student behavior.

Sometimes students may behave in a way that disrupts the school environment for themselves or others. They may make behavior choices that are not safe, not respectful or not responsible. It may be necessary for school personnel to take disciplinary action. Those poor choices on the part of the student might be a relatively minor event. A typical consequence might be a warning not to repeat the behavior, or a loss of some recess time.

Other poor behavior choices might be significantly more serious and require a much more severe consequence. These serious violations of the rules are called MAJORS. Following is a list of MAJORS and a list of possible consequences.

Standards of Conduct

Students shall be liable to discipline, suspension, or expulsion for misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Theft
- Forgery
- Disruption of teaching and learning
- Damage or destruction of school property
- Damage or destruction of private property on school premises or during a school activity
- Assault or threats of harm
- Harassment / intimidation / menacing
- Unauthorized use of weapons, dangerous instrument or objects*
- Unlawful use of drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages

Possible solutions / Consequences at the discretion of the Principal

- student conference with principal
- call home
- re-teaching of correct behaviors
- student written response (“Thinking Form”)
- parent, student, teacher, principal conference
- loss of some recess time
- loss of activity
- work assignment
- behavior plan
- in-school suspension
- out-of-school suspension
- expulsion

*Suspension, pending expulsion per federal law

An important part of the principal's job is to see that school is a safe place for all children. We also know that kids are kids and make mistakes. We want to work with you to help your children do well in school and learn to make positive choices. Please feel free at any time to talk to the principal if you are concerned about your child's behavior. We are committed to working with you to help your child have success in school.



Transportation / Bus Expectations for Safety

Bus drivers have bus rules posted. The rules are strictly enforced. Video cameras are on all buses. All these things are done to make sure that riding the bus is safe for your child. Please go over the following rules with your child. If you have any questions about transportation or routes, call **541-888-1230**.

Bus Rules – from First Student Transportation Services

Philosophy: We believe all students can behave appropriately and safely while riding the school bus. We tolerate no student stopping drivers from doing their job or preventing other students from having safe transportation.

Oregon State Law – Riding Rules are posted in each bus and include, but are not limited to the following:

- Follow directions of the driver
- Stay in your seat and keep all parts of your body in the bus
- No pushing, shoving, fighting, vulgar gestures, abusive or vulgar language at any time
- No property damage at any time
- No eating, drinking, smoking, spitting or littering
- No animals, firearms, weapons, glass bottles, tobacco or other potentially hazardous materials on the bus
- Skateboards and boom boxes are not allowed on the bus
- Written permission must be given to the bus driver, signed by the parent or guardian, for students to leave the bus other than at home or school.

Consequences for Breaking Bus Rules:

- 1st incident – Driver verbally warns the student and **MAY** move the student to the front seat.
- 2nd incident – Driver issues a written warning (citation).
- 3rd incident – Driver issues a second citation, which results in a **2-Day** suspension of bus riding privileges.
- 4th incident – Driver issues a third citation, which results in a **5-Day** suspension of bus riding privileges.
- 5th incident – Drive issues a fourth citation, which results in an expulsion from **ALL** buses pending a hearing with district Administration Personnel.

Suspension from buses with second, third and fourth citations are from **ALL** buses in the district. All citations **MUST be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the driver before bus riding privileges are restored.**

Major disruptions:

The following inappropriate behavior will result in an automatic **5-Day** suspension of transportation privileges (see 4th incident above):

- Failure to obey the driver
- Physical harm to the driver
- Threat of physical harm to the driver
- Failure to give correct name and/or student body card
- Property damage to include cut seats, broken windows, etc.
- Foul or abusive language directed at the driver or district #9 employees
- Tobacco, alcohol or drug use.

Severe problems on the bus may result in disciplinary action as well as transportation consequences. It is in your child's best interest that we work together in a relationship that provides safe transportation.

End of the Day Student Pick Up –

**Kindergarten and First Grade Parents Pick-up in the cafeteria
Second and Third Grade Parents Pick-up outside the North Doors**

We take the safety of your child very seriously. Parents of students in kindergarten and First Grade will be asked to wait in the cafeteria, until the teachers arrive with their classes. For your child's safety, we ask that you wait inside the cafeteria. **No one should go down the hall to pick-up their child.** Please don't be alarmed if you are asked to show identification until we become familiar with your face. Be patient, as it may take additional time, but it is for the safety of your child. The only persons permitted to pick up your child must be listed on your

paperwork as contacts. If at any time this information changes, please call our office and let us know.

Any student who is to go home in any manner other than his/her usual way must bring a note or a parent/guardian must call the school. **Please call the school by 2:00. Classrooms will not be disturbed between 2:15 and 2:32.** Teachers are still teaching and have important information to share with students before leaving. Unless it is an emergency, parents will have to wait until school is dismissed at 2:32.

After School Activities

After school activities such as scouting and sports are available in our area. While Blossom Gulch School does not sponsor these activities, we do encourage student participation and we regularly distribute information from the various organizations.

The **Boys and Girl Club** offers after school programs, athletic programs and Saturday Academy Classes. Their telephone number is 541-267-3635.

Dress and Grooming at Blossom Gulch

Below are the guidelines for students from the Coos Bay Public Schools Student/Parent Guide regarding Dress and Grooming:

- Your dress and grooming should not interfere with the learning process.
- Your dress and grooming should not constitute a health or safety hazard.
- You should not wear revealing clothing, or those with obscene, suggestive, or highly offensive words, pictures, or graphics.
- You should not wear, carry or display gang-related clothing or paraphernalia.

In an effort to apply the policy here at Blossom Gulch we have the following guidelines:

- When a student's arms are at their sides, their shirt must meet their pants (no bare tummies or backs)
- Tank tops need to have a wide strap (no spaghetti straps)
- Pants should not inhibit free movement (no saggy pants)
- No make-up
- No dangling chains
- Shoes need to be appropriate for running in dry and wet weather (no 'skate' shoes, flip flops, open toes or high heels including platforms)
- Hats may be worn to and from school, but must be put away once the student arrives in the building. It should be put away until it is time to go home. Exceptions are allowed for special "hat days" designated by staff.

Students who wear unacceptable clothing or adornment to school will be given a chance to change clothes, remove markings, etc. If that is not possible, or the child refuses, the parent

will be contacted. Once the clothing issue has been resolved the child is expected to return to class.

If you have questions or need assistance in providing shoes or clothing for your child, please do not hesitate to call us here at Blossom Gulch 267-1340.

Toys

We request that students leave all toys at home. They can get broken, borrowed, stolen, or cause a disruption in the classroom or at recess. It is very difficult to keep a class focused on schoolwork when a child is upset about a problem with a toy. Trading cards of any kind, cell phones, electronic devices or games, yo-yo's, fidget spinners, etc., are considered toys and are not allowed at school for the same reason.

Visiting and Volunteering at School

Student Visitors

Ordinarily we do not allow student visitors. Visiting children can be a distraction in the classroom.

Adult Visitors and Volunteers

Parents are always welcome at Blossom Gulch. However, for the safety of our students, we ask that **all visitors sign-in at the office when they enter the building**. Please pick up and wear a visitor's pass. As a courtesy, parents are asked to contact the teacher before visiting their child's classroom. There are back-to-school nights and other "special" events for which you will receive invitations. We know that having parents visit and volunteer is a key component to building a connection between home and school. We also know it is important for children to become independent, so we ask that parents not stay all day everyday.

We love our parents and all who take time to volunteer in our school. Our teachers appreciate the support in their classrooms, enjoy the interaction of getting to know you and members of the community. All parents and volunteers who wish to visit or volunteer are required to complete and pass a background check and sign a statement of confidentiality. **This background check and confidentiality statement must be completed annually, starting in August.** The district covers the cost of a background check and there is no charge for volunteers. This can be done electronically at our office or on the district's web page:

<http://cbd9.net/human-resources/volunteers>).

Persons found on school property without prior approval may be asked to leave. Noncompliance with such a request may result in law enforcement officers being called and the person(s) being charged with criminal trespass.

Room Parents

Room parents are available for teachers to call on to help with parties, field trips, etc. Each class usually has two or three room parents. Any parent or family friend is welcome to volunteer in September to be a room parent for the year. ***All volunteers are required to complete and pass a background check and sign a statement of confidentiality (these forms are at the office).***



Parties

Usually there are three major holiday parties (*Harvest Parties at the end of October, Holiday Parties at the end of December and Valentines on February 14th*). Other celebrations will be conducted at the discretion of the teachers. In keeping with the district's wellness policy, **all food for classroom celebrations must be commercially prepared. Food prepared at home will no longer be allowed in Coos Bay Schools.** If you do not want your child to participate in classroom parties, please let us know, as we always provide an alternative activity for these students.

Field Trips

Throughout the year, opportunities arise for classrooms to take field trips. All field trips are educational in nature and considered part of the school curriculum. Most of the trips take place within the Coos Bay, North Bend area during regular school hours. As a result, these do not require parent permission slips. In the event a field trip requires students to be out of town or gone longer than normal school hours, a signed parent permission slip will be required before the child will be allowed to attend.

Parents wishing to chaperone field trips, must complete and pass a background check (forms are available at the office) prior to chaperoning any field trips.

Students MUST ride the bus to and from all school sponsored field trips.

Parent Teacher Association

The Blossom Gulch PTA is dedicated to the support of Blossom Gulch School. We believe family involvement is essential in helping a child grow to his/her fullest potential.

Regular PTA meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Blossom Gulch Library, starting at 6:00.

The PTA sponsors such activities as:

- Recruiting volunteers to assist in school activities.
- Providing financial support for special school projects.
- Providing special staff recognition and appreciation.
- Maintaining open communication between the school and home.



Library/Media Center

Our library is full of interesting materials for children to enjoy. Each class will have a regularly scheduled library time. During this time, the children are introduced to a variety of literature. They become familiar with the library arrangement and learn simple library skills. We stress responsible behavior in the handling of various types of library material and encourage the children to check out books they can read. However, it is extremely beneficial if you read to your children. Please help your child use his or her library materials carefully and see that he/she returns them in good condition. Replacement of lost or damaged material (books, periodicals) is the parents' responsibility.

Lost Items

For easy identification, please mark your child's personal belongings with first and last names. Lost and found clothing articles are kept in the Lost and Found closet near the office. Items remaining unclaimed are periodically donated to local charities.

Telephones

Each teacher has a phone in his/her classroom. Phones are for parent communication, school business or emergency use. Teachers are available via their classroom telephone before and after school and when they are not in attendance at required meetings. Our new system allows parents to leave a message, so teachers are not expected to interrupt class to answer a telephone. Students are expected to make social arrangements at home.

Insurance

The school supplies forms for student insurance. The school is not the agent. We only distribute forms as an optional service to parents. If you do not already have medical insurance covering your child for illness and accident, you may want to purchase student insurance.

Curriculum

You will have opportunities during the year to learn about your child's curriculum. These opportunities include the Back-to-School Night and Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you want more specific information, please make an appointment with your child's teacher or the principal.

Homework Suggestions

In the primary grades, some of our teachers require students to complete Homework, usually on a weekly basis. Students who are absent one or two days can get their homework from their teacher the day they return to school. If a student is absent more than 2 full days, parents may call and request homework for the child. Please give the school at least 24 hours' notice to allow enough time for the teacher to gather the necessary papers and books.

Nothing can replace the rich discussion and instruction that happens in the classroom, making it important to have your child be at school every day. Here are some helpful homework suggestions to help your child:

- Schedule a regular time for homework
- Find a quiet place free from distractions
- Help your child gather materials he/she will need (pencils, paper, ruler, glue, markers)
- Encourage your child to work on his/her own, but let him/her know you are available to help
- Be available to check work if needed and to check whether the assignment has been completed
- If possible, help your child relate the particular assignment or skill to every day life
- Call us if you have questions about homework

Remember, nothing can help like a hug, a smile, a word of approval. Be encouraging and supportive. Your attitude is contagious.

Commercial Movies and Videos

Educational movies are used as an integrated part of the classroom curriculum. It is the policy of Blossom Gulch to only show "G" rated commercial movies/videos.

Progress Reports

~Your student's progress is reported to you through conferences that are scheduled twice during the school year (see the attached calendar). Additional conferences may be requested, either by the parent or the teacher. Report cards are sent home at the end of the school year.

Withdrawing From School

If you plan to transfer your child to another school, please notify the office so that we can help make the transfer as smooth as possible. The new school will ask you to sign a form requesting our office to forward your child's records.