



# The Orca Wave

- A Monthly Publication of the Orca K-8 PTSA -

2015-2016 School Year, Issue 9 - Final

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## From the President's Desk

By Tiffany Crosby, Orca PTSA President

Thank you to all the families that made it to the all school meeting with, Executive Director Kelly Aramaki. Our concerns were heard, but we will need to continue voicing our frustration while working internally with our school leadership team to integrate our mission and vision into the school on a regular basis. Brian Flora, the PTSA President elect, is

already working with Principal Tonie Talbert to continue the conversation that was started with Kelly Aramaki. As the community becomes more aware of the issues we will have more opportunities to ensure Orca K-8 continues to grow and evolve into the school we want it to become. I encourage all parents to get involved with the PTSA and the future community meetings. Orca K-8 has many great things to offer our students and the all school meeting confirmed that we have a committed community that stands by our students and teachers.

Things you can do to understand more and support Orca K-8:

- Get a copy and read the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP)
- Join the Family Engagement Action Team (FEAT)
- Attend school board chat sessions with SE School Board Director Betty Patu and tell her your concerns and personal stories
- Testify at School Board meetings in support of Orca K-8
- Attend Orca K-8 PTSA meetings to stay informed and voice concerns
- Volunteer in the classrooms or on field trips and get to know our teachers and students, especially in grades 6-8
- Make sure Orca K-8 Principal and Assistant Principal know of your concerns so they can help advocate for our school
- Testify/Picket/Write Letters/Call the State Legislature to make sure they fulfill their paramount duty to give our students a basic education

I want to finish the year with a huge thank you to the entire PTSA board for the dedication and support you have given me these past two years, and all the parents, teachers, staff and students that make Orca K-8 a place where "We all Belong."

Sincerely,

Tiffany Crosby  
PTSA President

# Reimbursement Reminder:

By Rena Konomis, Orca PTSA Treasurer

All reimbursement requests are due by **MONDAY, JUNE 20**. Receipts and the form must be left in the Treasurer's mail slot in the main office. The PTSA budget closes for this school year on June 30, 2016, and does not hold money into next year, which is why all requests are needed now. Forms are available in the office or use the form below. Please include all receipts.

## Orca PTSA

### Check / Reimbursement Request

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of expenditure: \_\_\_\_\_

### For Treasurer's Use Only

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Budget Line Item: \_\_\_\_\_

*Reimbursement requests must be made no later than **60 days** after expense was incurred. Please attach original receipts. Checks are sent out twice monthly. PTA rules require that we make no reimbursements in cash.*

*Please leave your completed reimbursement form with receipts in the Treasurer's mail slot in the Orca office.*

# Summer Prescription for Learning and Fun: Get Outside

By Laura Grow, Orca PTSA Garden Liaison and Environmental Education Committee Chair

*"Art and science hit a huge high point this week as we got our guerilla gardening on in the greenhouse. Using clay (thanks Stacy!), we covered and filled cool art creations with seeds. Time to plant seeds in unused space with the flick of a wrist! We had visions of vacant lots, parking strips, street medians, and more! No one can know the actual germination success rate of this project as kids spread hundreds of these across their neighborhoods. BUT!!!! This is about hope, vision, and the concept of reclaiming unused space for plants, pollinating flowers, and veggies. Did I mention that the kids loved doing this? They surely did." – Anthony Warner, Orca Garden Website:*

<https://orcagarden.wordpress.com>

*Continued on page 3 . . .*

*Summer Prescription, Get Outside, continued . . .*

Summer is almost here and the garden classroom taught by Anthony gives inspiration on how to incorporate fun and learning into summer. One of the best ways we can provide this for our children is making sure that our children have open-ended play, loose parts to play with, and plenty of outdoor time. Do this by working nature into your schedule. Sign up for a week this summer to water/harvest for the food bank in the Orca Garden. Watch for the sign-up genius link in Joanne's Orca K-8 Weekly Digest. There will also be an opportunity to volunteer to water the young Project Orca Playground plants and trees. Also, remember that Rainier Valley Food Bank (RVFB) takes donations from your own gardens. As Miguel at RVFB said to me last summer, "We love neighborhood giving gardens and if you grow food for the food—that some of the best cooks in the world will know exactly how to prepare what you grow! They will even give you seeds in exchange." Finally, stay connected to the naturalists and nearby nature by stopping in at the Seward Park Audubon Environmental Learning Center. These are just a few outdoor experiences that can benefit your child, family and community. The research is out: spending time in nature is good for us all!

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## Library News

By Tracy Appleyard, Orca Teacher-Librarian



### Happy summer from the Orca Library!

May and June have been a busy time of reading and projects in the library. This Wednesday, June 15th, we had our very own Columbia City Children's Librarian **Erica Sternin** at Orca. She spoke to our students about the Seattle Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

In addition to the Seattle Public Library's Summer Reading program, I hope your student participates in the **Orca Summer Reading Program!** I'm sending Orca Summer Reading Program handouts home with suggested books by reading level. The handouts can also be viewed and downloaded at [http://orcak8.seattleschools.org/academics/library/orca\\_summer\\_reading\\_program\\_handouts](http://orcak8.seattleschools.org/academics/library/orca_summer_reading_program_handouts).

Students are encouraged to read three, five, or ten books depending on their grade. Specific details are on the handout. Students mark off the books when they finish them and turn in the handout when they return to school in September. We'll celebrate their accomplishments in the fall with a Reading Party! Please support our readers by signing off on their completed forms and encouraging them to Read Every Day!!

We are having our very first author visit to the Orca library on Thursday, June 16th, at 2:00 p.m. **Daryle Connors**, local author of the *Gabby Duran and the Unsittables* series, will be speaking with the fourth graders about her latest novel as well as many other topics. She's also a filmmaker, video game designer, and now works in virtual reality. It should be an interesting discussion!

I am beyond grateful to the many parent volunteers that have helped support our library throughout the year. A special thanks to:

**Laura Silver** for helping with checkout, shelving, and jumping in with whatever needs to be done.

**Linda Beck** for leveling books and organizing a lending library for kids to use during class. The books are now easy to access by level and are being used!

**Hannah Morgan** for extending the lives of our books by covering them with protective Mylar covers. She is a true artist!

**Larry Liechty**, the "King of the Picture Books." He keeps the picture book section organized and easy to access for our youngest readers.

I've absolutely loved my first year in the Orca library, and I'm already looking forward to more great experiences in the fall. Have a wonderful summer and don't forget to Read Every Day!

# SEED - Our Middle School Social Justice Conference

By Laura Grow, Orca PTSA Garden Liaison and Environmental Education Committee Chair

On June 1, 2016, the Orca fifth through eighth grade students participated in the annual Seeing Everyone Equally and Distinctly (SEED) Conference. SEED takes the Orca motto, "We all Belong," seriously. Through the guidance of community members, speakers, and a series of workshops, the students gain access to skills and tools that will help them find their voices and strength to stand up for themselves and their friends in the face of bigotry and unfair situations. This was the first year the fifth grade was invited to attend as purposeful bridge into the middle school experience.



SEED is a day that Dr. Tanisha Felder began when she was a teacher at Orca. It is a tradition carried on by the lead teachers Ms. Bea and Ms. Krystal as well as Interim Principal Ms. Manuel and many parents. It is a day when the Orca K-8 Middle School comes together with the Orca Race Forum uncovering, recognizing, and openly discussing institutional racism. This year the theme was "Rooted in the Past... Growing towards the Future." Many members of our south Seattle community came to Orca to share their experiences and guidance.

Glenn McCray from Urban Impact started off the day, connecting SEED to our Orca mission and vision with a keynote showing how people depend on those around us, just as plants need the right nutrients, water, and sun. Then in various classrooms around the school, with teachers, community mentors, and parent volunteers-students explored identity, voice, future possibilities, and pathways. The topics presented were: *Your Rights as a Citizen* by Sade Smith, *Racism in 2016* by Emma Baron, *Telling Our Stories* by Serena Maurer, *Identity and Inclusion* by Amen Gribbeab, *DREAM: Definitely Realizing Every Advantage in Myself* by Dr. Tanisha Felder, *The Four Elements of Hip Hop Culture* with Anthony Warner, *Cooking for SEED* with Tamara Guyton, *Media Stereotypes and Bias* with Alice Franck, *Starting an Independent Coffee Shop: community development without gentrification*, Luis Rodriguez, *Superpowers* with Dalyn Badis and Miik Wells, *Speaking with Purpose* with Toyia Taylor, *Identifying the Leader Within* with Dr. Donald Felder, and *Tap Dance and Storytelling* with Melba Ayco from NW Tap.

The community connections that occur during SEED make Orca K-8 unique. As a small school we are able to develop relationships with community mentors that extend and build on classroom learnings. The Race Forum is filled with gratitude for all those who made the day possible & for our amazing students who took the day seriously. The Race Forum will look at feedback from this year in planning next year and invites your participation. We hope to see you next fall at our Race Forum meetings and also hope you will join us in presenting the 2017 Seeing Everyone Equally and Distinctly Conference.