



Beaumont-Wilshire

Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association (BWNA) www.bwna.us

November · December 2013

Goodbye, Kitty

By Jean Moore-Vollmer



July 13, 1925-July 22, 2013

We regret to report on the passing of a neighborhood treasure. Katherine Butler, fondly known by most of her friends as Kitty, passed away on July 22 while visiting her daughter, Ginny Lawton, in Palmer, Alaska. She was 88.

Born in Auburn, Washington on July 13, 1925, Kitty was raised in Portland and graduated from Grant High School with the class of 1943. Although she moved away for awhile to follow her Army Air Corps husband, Fenton, she eventually returned to her beloved Northwest and moved into the old family home.

After a stint as an employee of Jantzen Knitting Mills, in 1971 she joined her mother Kitty Geddes in conducting estate sales. Over twenty years and the course of 1,100 weekend sales the team set the standard for Portland estate sales. Kitty loved meeting people, be they old friends or total strangers. Indeed one of her enduring qualities was that she was so genuinely interested in others, and was always a reliable source of information for what was going on in the neighborhood. She was the local historian and knew histories for nearly every house in a one block radius.

Kitty could frequently be seen on her many walks around the neighborhood. She had



beagles that she used to walk regularly, but often she would just set out on her own to get some exercise and, I think, to simply meet and catch up with her neighbors. Her dear kitten, Pixie, joined her in the last 8 months of her life and was a wonderful, cuddly companion.

Kitty raised her disabled granddaughter, Amanda, and in her later years looked forward to the frequent weekend visits that Amanda made from Eugene. The two of them would take off on jaunts to water parks, restaurants and the library. Kitty was an avid reader and was well known by the staff at the Hollywood Library. In her last couple of years, after she lost her driver's license, she enjoyed walking over to our local 'Little Library', a lending library maintained by a family down the street. Kitty always had books to recommend and loved exchanging books with her neighbors. After she got a Kindle for Christmas her access to books at home greatly increased.

Friends, family and neighbors bade farewell to Kitty at a Celebration of Life for her on Saturday, August 17. The funny stories told by all remind us that this great lady, whose life was difficult in many ways, had an incredible sense of humor, an insatiable appetite for learning and an abiding interest in others.

I will miss my friend in the days, weeks and years ahead. Walking by her house and not being able to stop in for a cup of tea will be heart wrenching. But I have learned from Kitty that being open, happy and engaging is a great way to spend 88 years on this earth.

We ALL will miss Kitty!





President's Message

Caring

By Al Ellis

I never cared much for the disco scene—although truth be told, I could be spotted sporting my groovy green polyester leisure suit on special occasions. (If you have no idea what I'm talking about, consider yourself fortunate.) At the heart of the disco craze was a fast-paced, formulaic beat that was tailor-made for choreographed dance floor routines, like those made famous in "Saturday Night Fever" by a young John Travolta. But the movie was much more than a display of fancy dancing. Its edgy urban theme combined with a brilliantly adapted score by the Bee Gees, raising the quality level of disco both in terms of musical style and lyrical substance.

But what does all this have to do with the B-W neighborhood in 2013? If we're talking disco per se, probably nothing at all; however, I do see relevancy in the lyrics to one of those Bee Gee songs. "Stayin' Alive" relates the story of a young man struggling to find hope amidst poverty, abuse, and despondency in the big city. A poignant refrain repeated throughout the song encapsulates the desperation of his situation: "I'm going nowhere, somebody help me care." He needs a reason to go on.

So where's the relationship to our neighborhood? Two words: Lee Pearlman. His suicide in early August still haunts the community. A featured reporter for the Hollywood Star, as well as other local publications, Lee's coverage of neighborhood issues and events was unsurpassed, mainly because he took the time—and lots of it—to attend the meetings and events he reported on. If he couldn't fit it into his early-morning-to-late-night daily beat, then he would phone leaders of the various organizations, businesses, and governmental bodies for the inside scoop. You'd be hard pressed to find a professional who was more knowledgeable and conscientious about what he did for a living. But the overflow

crowd at Lee's memorial service was testament to much more than the outstanding journalist that he had become. Above all, it was a tribute to Lee's humanity. In the course of his work, Lee enriched our lives with his welcoming smile, engaging banter, and wry humor. He might even break into song with an old civil rights ditty or sea chantey from his younger days. You looked forward to your time with Lee. In many ways, he was the prototype of a "good neighbor"—civic-minded, caring, fun. And yet, he took his own life. Why?

Upon learning of Lee's death, BWNA Board member Aaron Good, who volunteers weekly to field calls at the Lines for Life Suicide and Addiction Crisis Line, responded from experience: "This is quite sad. People with depression don't often show it." Still, I wonder if there was anything I or anyone else could have said or done to prevent what happened—like taking the initiative to invite Lee over to our home, not as a reporter, but as a friend—letting him know we genuinely cared.

With the busy, sometimes stress-filled family holiday season approaching, Lee's tragic end is a reminder for us to be on the lookout for signs of emotional distress in those around us—be they relatives, friends, or neighbors. Accordingly, on Aaron's advice, we have added the Suicide Lifeline and Mental Health Crisis Line, Alcohol & Substance Helpline, and Military Helpline numbers to our "Links" page on the BWNA Web site (www.bwna.us). It's another way of caring for our loved ones.

Mercifully, being a caring neighbor isn't usually a matter of life and death. We can care simply by being friendly, by helping out while a neighbor is on vacation, by aiding the elderly, picking up litter, participating at community meetings etc. (Lee would have loved that last one.) So happy holidays, and thanks for caring.

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Beaumont Business Association Debuts Fremont Winter Holiday Fest

By Dan LaGrande

The always popular Children's Visit with Santa returns to Beaumont Village December 6th, along with a new Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, a new Golden Tickets holiday shopping program, as well as music, entertainment and family fun -- all part of Fremont Holiday Fest.

Sponsored by the Beaumont Business Association and participating merchants, the new Fremont Holiday Fest will continue for the entire month of December. Highlights will include the traditional Children's Visit with Santa on Friday, December 6th. Santa will arrive at Grand Central Bakery on NE Fremont Street aboard a Portland fire truck at 5:00PM. Santa, accompanied by Mrs. Claus, will visit with children until 9:00PM. Photos of youngsters with Santa will begin at 5:30PM. Families can reserve a time slot for their children to visit Santa and get a photo by registering on-line at www.businessonfremont.com

An exciting new feature in Beaumont Village this year will be a tall, beautifully lighted outdoor holiday tree outside of the Umpqua Bank and sponsored by Umpqua Bank. A tree lighting ceremony with honored guests will be held at 6:00pm on Friday, December 6th. Umpqua Bank will also be offering Golden Tickets. Modeled after a successful holiday promotion in Multnomah Village, Golden Tickets may be redeemed for gifts and discounts at participating businesses on NE Fremont Street.

The co-chairs for the new holiday events in Beaumont Village hope to establish a new tradition for the season that will appeal to residents in nearby neighborhoods, as well as be of value to customers of the Fremont businesses.

"We hope to unite and engage with our neighborhoods during this traditional holiday time, as well as give back to our customers and community throughout this season of giving," said Kermit Miller, Manager of Hattie's Sweet Shop on Fremont.

"It's exciting to work towards establishing a new tradition in Beaumont Village, to unite our community and celebrate the holidays in a spirit of giving that reflects the true meaning of this wonderful season," said Wendi Dahlberg, Store Manager of Umpqua Bank on Fremont.

In keeping with the spirit of giving, the Beaumont Business Association has designated the Community Transitional School in the Cully neighborhood as the recipient for a book drive. The kindergarten through 8th grade school



serves children who are homeless or at risk of school failure. Everyone attending Fremont Holiday Fest activities is invited to donate a book to the Community School. Umpqua Bank will have a book drop at their store on Fremont. And on Friday, December 6th, everyone bringing a book to donate at the tree lighting event will receive a bonus Golden Ticket from Umpqua Bank.

Other highlights of Fremont Holiday Fest include a Santa Paws location on Fremont the evening of December 6th where folks may bring their dog to visit Santa and get a photo taken. That evening will also feature

live festive music, hot chocolate stands, and special activities in many of the shops along Fremont. Businesses along the street are encouraged to decorate their windows to reflect the festive spirit of the holiday season.

A major goal of the

Beaumont Business Association is to promote the vitality and livability of our NE Portland neighborhoods and encourage residents to shop locally for high quality goods and services. We are charming, friendly, convenient -- Your Village on Fremont.

For more information:
www.businessonfremont.com

BWNA Calendar

Monday, November 11th • 7:00PM

BWNA Board Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Friday, December 6th • 5:00–9:00PM

BBA Fremont Winter Holiday Fest
page three

Monday, December 9th • 7:00PM

BWNA Winter Holiday General Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance

Friday, December 13th

Deadline and Payment for ads and articles
for the January - February 2014 newsletter

Monday, January 13th • 7:00PM

BWNA Board Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Conference Room
NE 37th Entrance

Monday, February 10th • 7:00PM

BWNA General Meeting

Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
NE Skidmore Entrance

BWNA's calendar is on the web!

Go to www.bwna.us and select BWNA Calendar



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Radon a Portland Concern

By Jim Bittner, Lead Project Estimator for Cascade Radon, Inc.

It's on television. It's in the newspapers. It's on billboards. Radon. Portland has a radon issue, and it is not going away. The soil in the Willamette Valley contains granite, brought down the Columbia River from Montana over 10,000 years ago. This granite contains uranium, which breaks down naturally and produces radon gas. Invisible and odorless, radon is drawn upward into our homes by the relatively lower pressure found in the structure above, and the only way to know you have an issue is to test your home, using an inexpensive kit purchased at your local hardware store.

So why all the fuss? Almost 40 years ago, medical research connected long-term exposure to high levels of radon with lung cancer. An estimated 22,000 fatalities are attributed annually to radon in the United States. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette

smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

Testing is simple, and can be done for under \$30. Based upon the results, a homeowner can decide whether to seek out a certified mitigation firm. Mitigation involves a system to counteract the house's upward influence on radon. A depressurization system will "hold" the gas beneath the house, draw it to a collection point, then vent it to the exterior of the house and above the roofline. For most single family homes, mitigation will cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Not all homes will test high; any given house can test low, even when your neighbor tested their home and found it to be moderate or high. To know for certain, both EPA and the Surgeon General's Office recommend every home in America should be tested for radon, regardless of location. Test your home, protect your family, safeguard your health.



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Lentil Sausage Soup

By Serah Breakstone

I don't remember where I found this recipe, but it has become a fall and winter staple in my house - it's simple, hardy and delicious. On top of that, lentils are full of health benefits - they can help reduce cholesterol (lots of soluble fiber), are a good source of protein, and are low in fat. The list goes on, but mostly I like them because they taste good and are easy to cook.

Like most soups, this one tastes even better the day after you make it. It also freezes well. If I had to guess, I'd say this recipe makes about 6-8 servings, depending on size. Here's the recipe:

- ½ pound mild Italian sausage (chicken, turkey or pork sausage all work well)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound French green lentils, dried
- 1 cup carrot, shredded
- 5 cups water (or start with less if you want a thicker soup)
- 28 oz. chicken broth
- 28 oz. diced tomatoes (with juices)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon dried basil
- ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, or more if you like more spice
- salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ bunch of fresh chard or kale, coarsely chopped (optional, but recommended)

Directions

1. In a large soup pot or dutch oven, sauté the sausage until cooked and brown
2. Add onion, celery and garlic, sauté until tender (about 5 minutes)
3. Add lentils, carrot, water, chicken broth and tomatoes
4. Add herbs, spices and optional chard or kale
5. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer
6. Cover pot and simmer for about 30 minutes until lentils are tender and soup thickens. If it needs more liquid, add water or broth as desired.
7. Check for salt level and add more if needed
8. You can keep the soup on low heat for hours without over-cooking the lentils. The longer it sits, the better it tastes...
9. Serve with grated parmesan and/or a drizzle of quality olive oil



BWNA Recipe Box

Welcome to a new, and hopefully permanent, addition to the BWNA newsletter: our neighborhood recipe box. We'd like to invite neighbors to submit their favorite recipes—they don't need to be original or fancy—just something you enjoy making and people enjoy eating. If you have a good story or picture to go along with the recipe, send those too! Submit your recipe to: Al Ellis, president@bwna.us



Helping Student Achievement at Beaumont Middle School

By John Sandie

Walking down the west hall of Beaumont Middle School reinforced the venerable institutions' significant presence within our Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood. As Jane Geason led me to her classroom/office, I could perceive the echoes of thousands of previous students bouncing off the well-used lockers and flooring along the veritable "hallway of learning".

Jane has dedicated ten years to the Mentor Program at Beaumont—initially serving as a Mentor Volunteer, then co-chairing the program's expansion from only 8th grade students to all grades, and finally achieving her present position as Mentor Coordinator and Academic Support Specialist. She recalled the early years when she cajoled her family and friends to become mentors to fill the demands of a program that quadrupled in size in just two years time.

The Mentor Program at Beaumont MS is one aspect of an overall effort to close the achievement gap which exists nationally and locally between students of color and their Caucasian peers. Ms. Geason deliberately matches one adult volunteer to one student for the course of the school year. These pairs of adult and student meet once a week during the school day. Their work together focuses on organization skills, project planning, goal setting and homework support. More often than not,

the volunteers choose to stay with their student for all three years that the student attends Beaumont.

Jane works with teachers during the first 6 weeks or so of every school year to identify students who might benefit most from some focused help with their academic responsibilities. She then communicates with

positive and helpful feedback to both student and adult volunteer with an eye toward facilitating the learning process. Both students and adult volunteers may need to be reminded and assured that progress usually happens incrementally over time. Jane tracks several forms of student data to assess program effectiveness. For the last several years, the

year-end GPA for 90% of the 8th grade Mentor Students were higher than what they earned in 6th grade. This goes against the prevailing trend for middle school students across the country.

Jane Geason adds that, "Middle School is such an interesting time in a student's life. These children are beginning to interact with and understand the world on a deeper and broader



Jane Geason (standing) and parent volunteer, Andrea Weinman, assisting a Beaumont Middle School student.

students and their parents to explain the program's requirements, responsibilities and goals. Once parents provide their permission and students indicate their commitment, the matching process begins. Jane describes this process as "part art, part science, and part serendipity. There have been very few times over the last 10 years when the volunteer/student match was a bad match."

Jane is supervises sessions in the dedicated Mentor Program classroom, and provides

level than ever before. It can be exhilarating for them, but it can also be confusing and frightening at the same time. It's exhilarating and rewarding for me too and I can't think of another age group that I'd rather work with." So, if you support education as being a key aspect of our American society's future, contact Jane Geason at jgeason@pps.net to see how you might help and impact on a very local level.

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Learn Conflict Resolution Skills While Serving the Community

By Stuart Watson

Resolutions Northwest (RNW) is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides high quality, cost-effective conflict resolution services and education to neighbors, communities, and organizations. From now until November 24th, RNW's Neighborhood Mediation Program is recruiting applicants that reflect Portland's diversity for a limited number of spots in our annual volunteer mediation training. The comprehensive, 34 hour training and year-long mentor program is offered as a paid training or free in exchange for your participation in our year-long, hands-on mentorship program, and your commitment to serve the diverse communities of Portland. This opportunity is designed for people who are dedicated to helping neighbors and communities have challenging discussions and find mutually acceptable solutions together. If you are called to serve your community and/or neighborhood by offering your time, talent, and heart-centered presence during times of conflict, then we hope you will consider working with RNW's Neighborhood Mediation Program. Training dates are in early January 2014.

Application forms, training dates, and additional information can be found at <http://www.resolutionsnorthwest.org> or by calling 503.595.4890. RNW is committed to the goals of equal opportunity and affirmative action in education and volunteerism. We encourage all who are interested to apply.

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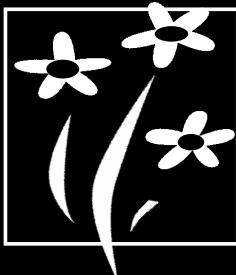
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New Grant Principal Wins Points for Openness, Prepares for Rebuilding

By Dave Anderson

In her first month as Grant High School principal, Carol Campbell dealt with a scheduling meltdown, a parent protest over Back to School Night and dancing so lewd it forced her to shut down Homecoming.

As she looks ahead, she will be responsible for shepherding the school through a two-year rebuilding that will send students to another campus. It's clear that many are worried that Grant could lose students with other options, including those who can go to private schools. Still, Campbell couldn't seem more serene. "It's been an easy transition so far," she said. "The work is great."

Campbell believes her 31-year career as an educator has led her to this job. Campbell is returning to Grant, where she taught science from 1998 to 2007. Her two sons graduated from Grant. Campbell then went to Newberg as principal of a small high school. In 2011, she returned to Portland Public Schools as Benson High principal. In June, Superintendent Carole Smith asked Campbell to take over at Grant after Vivian Orlen unexpectedly announced she was leaving as principal and returning to New York.

"I can't think of a more fortunate career path," she said.

It could take all her skills to be successful. Leading Grant is challenging, in part, because of a well-educated and vocal parent population, said Shannon Montgomery, president of the Grant Booster Club.

"It's not a job for sissies, that's for sure," Montgomery said.

That became clear when Campbell decided to make a change to Back to School Night. In past years, parents followed their child's schedule and spent 10 minutes in each class, listening to presentations from teachers. This year, Campbell wanted more of an informal open house, with parents free to wander and talk individually with



teachers. Even those familiar with the school, like Montgomery, were surprised at the uproar among parents.

Campbell said she has a thick skin. And as she welcomed parents that night, she seemed comfortable even as she addressed the controversy.

"This is either the first thing I mess up at Grant High School," she told parents, "or the first thing that goes right."

But so far, most of the reviews have been glowing. After working with Orlen for two years as president of the Grant PTA, Monique McClean was sorry to see her go. But she's already become a fan of Campbell.

"Carol's been incredibly open, very willing to listen," McClean said. "She's calm, thoughtful and intelligent. I think she really sees the big picture, but is attuned to details to make things work."

Orlen was from the East Coast and said what was on her mind. That could rub people the wrong way. The biggest obvious difference between Orlen and Campbell is their communication style. Jamie Zantler, who teaches English and Social Studies and is a union representative, said he has more clarity on his role and what Campbell expects.

"I know more about what's going on administratively than the entire time Vivian was here," Zantler said.

Parents agree that Campbell is more approachable. She sends out an email every Friday to parents titled "Did You Know?" "In fact, they had to discourage her from giving out her cell phone number, Montgomery said. For Campbell, the reason for the communication is simple.

"I don't feel like I'm the holder of all the knowledge," she said.

In an interview in early October, Campbell said she wants to build on what makes Grant a good school. That includes its diversity, strong sense of community, rich curriculum and experienced teachers.

The priority that she most often mentions is bridging the gap between school and college or work. That means bringing more professionals and businesses into Grant to talk to students about their futures. That was one of her successes at Benson. Already, she is developing a relationship with several businesses, including Walsh Construction.

continued on page eleven

There is a "Wheel Need" for Volunteer Drivers!

By Trink Easterday

Ride Connection serves as your neighborhood transportation resource for older adults and people with disabilities. Last year the organization provided over 400,000 rides for its customer base at no cost to these individuals who use this service for getting to life-sustaining appointments and life-enhancing activities. Nonetheless, 24,882 ride requests were turned down due to the lack of drivers. You can make a difference! Join hundreds of volunteers who are offering to drive older adults and those with disabilities throughout the tri-county area by using their own wheels (and vehicles). The needs are huge and the rewards are even greater! For more information call Ride Connection at 503.528.1738 or go to the Ride Connection Network at: iwanttodrive.org. To request a ride please call 503.226.0700.



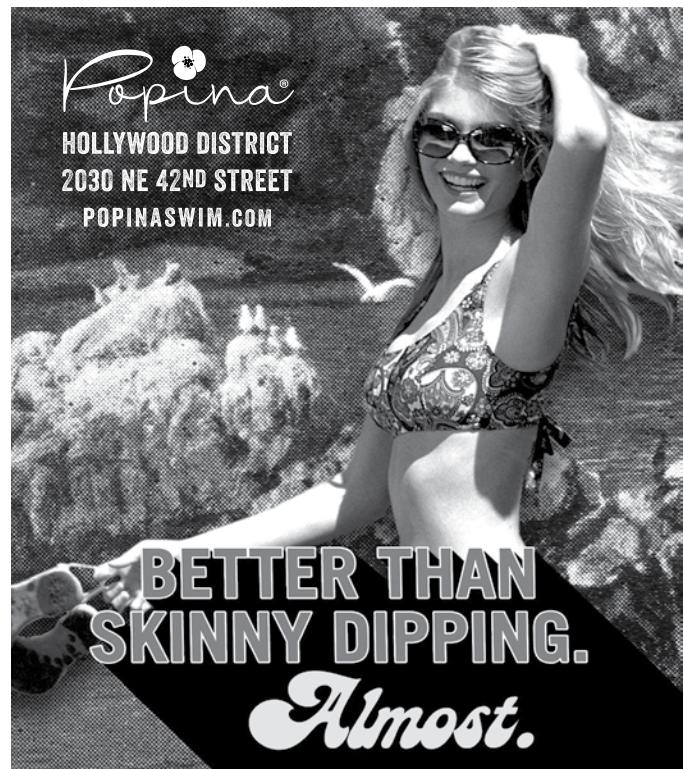
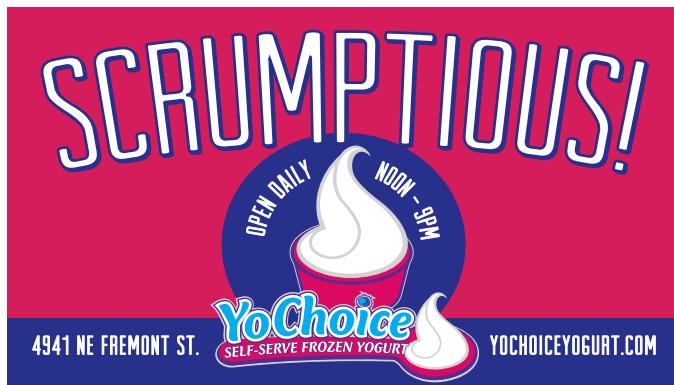
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Early December Winter Holiday General Meeting Rich in Treats & Food for Thought

By Al Ellis

This year's Winter Holiday General Meeting has a decidedly holiday theme—good company, tasty food, and caring for the less fortunate. Neighbors are encouraged to share some holiday desserts (or any dish of your choosing) with each other, catch up on the latest neighborhood happenings, and learn about a unique approach to helping the homeless. Headlining the evening will be a representative from Give Tokens, a local charitable organization that provides tokens that are good for food, clothing, shelter, haircuts, transportation, laundry service, and more, while striving to buoy spirits in the process. Last summer, BWNA Board member Grant Sprick arranged for

leftover food from the National Night Out Picnic to be donated to Give Tokens.

Here's an excerpt from the GiveTokens.org Web site: "We've all heard the reasons why not to give to the homeless; but what can you give them instead? What is it they need? We... believe what the homeless need most is face-to-face compassion...They're hurting and need to know you care about them."

Noshing and socializing commence at 7:00pm on Monday, December 9th, at Bethany Lutheran Church, corner of NE 37th Avenue and Skidmore Street, across the street from Wilshire Park. (Enter down the walkway on the Skidmore side of the church.) In addition to the Give Tokens

presentation, a local police officer will offer a crime report (fielding questions and concerns as well), neighborhood issues will be discussed and evaluated for possible action by the BWNA Board, and 2014 events and projects will be reviewed. Followed, of course, by more noshing and socializing.

It's an opportunity to take time out from the busy holiday schedule, relax with neighbors, and do your part to make our neighborhood an even better place to live.

Mark this special event on your calendar now.

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She's also concerned that, although the student body is fairly diverse, most teachers are white.

Campbell also wants to work on the achievement gap that had been a priority for Orlen. Some parents had thought Orlen didn't make AP and advanced classes for high-achieving students enough of a priority. But others, including Campbell, reject the idea that the two are competing.

"For me, it's about instruction," she said. She wants to emphasize teachers' professional development and is working on a doctoral dissertation about teachers helping other teachers to become better.

In meetings with parents, she addressed two other dust ups early in the school year. The district's class scheduling system, Synergy, caused all kinds of problems. Campbell said staff liked to refer to it as "Sin-ergy." She also said she shut down the Homecoming dance early, at about 10:20PM, because of lewd dancing. Campbell said she met with the school's leadership class and they are working on solutions. If it means that there are no more Homecoming dances, Campbell said she's OK

with that, although one solution might be an approved music playlist before the event.

Every meeting seems to add to Campbell's to-do list. At October's PTA meeting, Campbell got questions about bullying, cheating, cell phone policies, dress code and social media.

But the elephant in the room often seems to be the rebuilding.

Last year, voters approved a \$482 million construction bond measure for Portland schools. The district will spend an estimated \$95 million to rebuild Grant. The campus will close after June 2017 and not reopen until fall 2019. The most likely scenario is that Grant students will use the shuttered Marshall High campus in Southeast Portland for those two years.

Campbell is obviously concerned that parents will send students to other schools rather than have them attend Grant. What makes Grant successful, she said, is not the bricks and mortar. It includes the staff, activities and parents. And you still maintain your family even if your house is being remodeled, she said.

Campbell told parents she plans to create

several committees soon after Jan. 1, 2014 to start planning for the rebuilding.

One of the major issues will be the size of the performing arts auditorium. Campbell is already campaigning for a smaller, but higher-quality auditorium. She would prefer one with seating for about 500 and better acoustics, lighting and other "bells and whistles," she said, than seating for 1,500.

Although Campbell is becoming fluent in architecture and construction, her real passion is helping teenagers. She loves that they have high energy, but are also capable of conversation and deep thinking.

"I believe kids are inherently good," she said. That attitude is apparent to those who work with her.

"I think Grant is a great school," Zantler said, "and I personally feel like it's in fantastic hands."

(For more information on Carol Campbell and an excellent profile, see the September 2013 issue of the Grant Magazine at www.grantmagazine.com.)

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