Dear El Camino del Río Elementary Families,

It’s amazing to think we already have one month of school completed. I want to thank everyone for helping us to get off to an incredibly smooth start this school year. We are very appreciative of our families’ support especially when it comes to the new traffic procedures that are in place in our parking lot.

As a reminder, students will be dismissed at 2:40. We cannot honor very late transportation changes called in to the office last minute. Please do not call for these changes after 1:40 PM or after. **No transportation changes will be accepted after this time—no exceptions.** This allows our teachers to teach until the final bell each day while ensuring the safety of every student at El Camino del Río Elementary School all the through the dismissal process.

October 8th is our first annual Walk a Thon fundraiser at El Camino del Río. Our parent group has been working very hard to organize an amazing event for our students. Please be sure to send in all pledges and/or donations by Friday, October 16th. We still need volunteers to assist with the Walk-A-Thon. If you are interested, please contact Maja Martir at 541-790-7200 at she will get you set up.

We look forward to seeing you at school soon. Happy Fall!

*Camino del Río Proud,*
*Joel Lavin, Principal*
FALL CONFERENCES

Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Thursday, November 12 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. There will be no school on Friday, November 13. Scheduling forms have been sent home and need to be turned in no later than October 26. We will also post sign up times in the lobby.

Meeting with your child’s teacher should help build strong parent – teacher partnerships. Partnerships that are needed if you and their teacher are to reach your common goal: helping your child get the best education possible.

Each teacher will come prepared with samples of your child’s work and with ideas to help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too. Be sure and talk with your child before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your child if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teacher. Make sure your child doesn’t worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher are meeting together in order to help them.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about: personality, habits, problems, information about your child’s home life, and hobbies that you feel are important for the teacher to know.

- Questions about your child’s progress
- How you and the school can work together to help your child Some good questions to ask are these:
  - Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
  - How well does my child get along with others?
  - Is my child working up to his or her ability?
  - Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
  - What strengths do you see in my child?
SCHOOL PICTURES ARE COMING!!

School pictures will be on October 16th. – SMILE!

WEDNESDAY EARLY DISMISSAL
Please remember that EVERY Wednesday students are dismissed at 1:40pm. There is no one available to supervise children after this time. Unfortunately, children left waiting for a ride home spend a very long and uneventful hour sitting in the hall outside of the office. Please make note of this regular early dismissal to avoid a missed pick up of your child.

CURRICULUM NIGHT AND ICE CREAM! ~ Wednesday, October 7!
Curriculum night has been scheduled to Wednesday, October 7th. The format is designed for parents to attend teacher presentations to learn about curriculum, classroom routines and expectations, and become acquainted with staff members. So that your full attention can be focused on the information provided. Childcare will be provided beginning at 5:50 in room 10, the library. Session 1 will run 6:00 – 6:30 and Session 2 will run 6:35 – 7:05. There will be a special ice cream treat in the cafeteria starting at 7:10.

DO YOU HAVE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION?
If you or any of your emergency contacts have recently changed numbers, addresses, or email accounts, please make sure that you have notified the school office. It is extremely important this information is kept up to date so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency or your child becomes ill at school.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES
This is a reminder that you need to fill out a new Free/Reduced Lunch Form for your child/children every school year. Even if you do not intend to use this service and you qualify, please take the time to fill out a form and turn it in. As a Title 1 school much of our funding is based on the number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch, so it is very important to have every eligible family in the system. If you have not yet applied for this year’s meals, please pick up an application in the reception area at the school or complete one online at 4j.lane.edu. The deadline to have these forms turned in is October 15.

El Camino del Rio Parking and Traffic Tips
The parking and traffic situation is much improved compared to the last several years. Thank you everyone for your patience. Please see below for things we can all do to make it even more smooth and happy. Thank you!

TO PARENTS/Guardians

- **Pause parking:** in the pause parking please turn your car off until right before you need drive away or jog forward and stay with your vehicle. Please do not walk into the building.
- **Main lot:** If you park in the main lot in the afternoons please plan to stay till at least 2:50PM as it will be difficult for you to back out and exit earlier than that.
- **Crosswalks:** If you park across the street or walk from a northern neighborhood please walk along the street (on the non-car side away from traffic) and use the CROSSWALKS. They are there to keep you and your children safe!
- **“Four in Front”:** please avoid using the four parking places directly in front of the cafeteria during peak traffic periods before and after school.
- **Handicap Access, It’s the law!**: It is unlawful to park in a Handicapped Spot. It is also not a loading zone.
HEALTH SCREENING

Our Health Screening will be Tuesday, October 13. Lions Club is coming to use a photo vision screener that gives us more complete results. A team is coming for dental screening. The results will take a week or so for the Lions Club to get back to us. If you have questions about the screening or need assistance with eye exams, glasses or dental care please call our school nurse Ann Anderson at 541-915-5815.

8 Health Screening Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, Oct 13 from 8:15 – 10:30. If you are able to be help with this please call Ann at 541-915-5815.

BEST IS STARTING SOON!

The BEST after-school program is back at El Camino del Río Elementary for the 2015-16 academic year. BEST will serve approximately 50 students beginning October 12 and continue through May 28, 2016. Students are selected to attend BEST based on academic need and teacher recommendation. If you receive an enrollment packet, please return it as soon as possible. The first round of invitations went out in September and invitations will continue to go out to selected students until the program is full. Parents may request they be put on a waiting list if they would like their student to attend, but have not received an invitation letter. There is a one-time enrollment fee of $20.00. Program hours are 2:40 to 5:40. Bus transportation home is available.

The BEST program will emphasize Reading this year. The schedule will include an extended academic program, along with enrichment activities and a meal. STRINGS Academy will be offered through BEST on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:40-3:40. All El Camino del Río students in 3rd, 4 & 5th grades interested in playing violin, viola, bass or cello are welcome to participate in STRINGS. Information packets will be sent home. Our partnership with the Eugene/Springfield youth Orchestra makes STRINGS Academy possible.

BEST partners with many community organizations who provide staff and services to help make this program a success! Enrichment classes offered by community partners impart a lifelong love of learning and reinforce basic skills needed for school success. Partners include:

- City of Eugene Recreation - The Arts Umbrella - School Garden Project of Lane County Students enjoy enrichment activities such as: Strings • Rock climbing • Cooking • Art • Dance • Sports activities If you have questions about BEST, you can contact the program coordinator at: zapatamendoza_j@4j.lane.edu

HALLOWEEN PARTIES

Individual teachers will determine if Halloween parties will take place in their classrooms. If teachers permit costumes during this holiday celebration, the following dress code will be enforced, as it pertains to costumes:

- NO weapons
- NO weapon-like props
- NO “gang” attire
- NO masks
- NO especially scary or gory costumes
- Also, if you are a family who does not celebrate this tradition, an alternative fun activity will be provided in the library during the time when the halloween parties are occurring.
SAVE THE DATE!

- Walk-a-thon Fundraiser
- **Thursday, Oct 8**th **9am-2pm**

- Different grades at a time will travel to Kelly Middle School to walk around the track for 30 minutes.
- We will be sending home an envelope with more information on **Wednesday, Sept 30**th for students to request pledges. **We need volunteers!!!**

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**Join us at the Farmers Market!**

Saturday October 3**rd**, 10:00am-1:00pm

The Farm to School program at River Road Elementary is hosting a FREE field trip for all families to the Lane County Farmers’ Market...and you’re invited!

Please meet us at River Road Elementary at 10:00am where we will ride a school bus to the market downtown on 8th & Oak.

We’ll tour the market, visit the farm stands and enjoy a free snack. There will be a cooking demonstration and many kid’s activities. You will also receive a $10 coupon to shop with at the market.

Please RSVP with Taylor at 541-246-1610 or taylor@lanefood.org

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**Message from the office...**

**Student Attendance and Tardiness**

Please remember that your child is expected to be in his/her classroom at **8:15 AM**. If a student arrives after 8:20, they are considered late. If students arrive late, they need to come in the front office to get a late pass. The class activities start promptly with morning announcements. This morning time is one of the most important times of the day and can set the tone for the remainder of the day. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable instruction time, but also it is disruptive to his/her classmates.

When your child is going to be absent from school, please call the office at 541-790-7200. You may leave a message if calling before office hours. Please leave the name of your child, their room number, and the reason for the absence. For your child’s safety, it is extremely important the school is contacted when your child is going to be absent or late. Automated attendance calls are generated at 8:30 AM.
Parent Notification: Newsletter Announcement 2015

The Eugene 4J School District administers both reading and math assessments to each of our students three times a year - fall, winter, and spring. Students scoring below the 20th percentile may be recommended, by the building-level team, to receive instructional interventions in reading and/or math. Students receiving interventions will have their progress monitored during regular intervals. At our school, all students receive 90 minutes of reading instruction and 60 minutes of instruction in the area of mathematics, each day. Parents/guardians will be notified if their child is recommended to receive additional reading or math instruction.

Two equity committee positions open:

The school board will appoint two community members to each committee to fill multi-year positions that run through June 2017 or June 2018. The two equity committee positions are open due to committee members' departures. The two budget committee positions were previously held by Jennifer Winters Francois and Tim Gleason, whose terms expired on June 30. Past members with expired terms may reapply.

Applications are due Thursday, October 15, at 5 p.m. Applicants should attend the Eugene School Board meeting on Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m., and speak briefly to the board about their interest in serving on the committee to which they have applied. The board will vote to appoint two applicants to each committee at the following board meeting on November 4.

By statute, budget committee applicants must be registered voters and must live within the boundaries of Eugene School District 4J. Equity committee applicants are not required to live in 4J but preference will be given to district residents. Applicants do not need to be parents of students in 4J schools. Eugene School District employees are not eligible for appointment.

More information and links to the application forms are at:  
http://www.4j.lane.edu/2015/09/4j-budget-equity-committees-seek-applicants/

Thank you for your help spreading the word to your friends and colleagues about this outstanding opportunity to serve our students, schools and community.
A Reminder About School Attendance

Daily attendance at school is very important. Children have a right to an education, and parents have a legal responsibility to see that they attend. Courts enforce these rules.

But the importance of regular school attendance isn't about following the rules; it's about giving our children the best chance for success. Missing school puts our children at a big disadvantage. If they miss the class where a key idea or lesson is delivered, they quickly get behind. And sometimes, children who get behind get discouraged and give up. This is something none of us wants for our children.

Of course children should stay at home if they are sick. And of course we should all be sure our children eat well and get plenty of sleep so they stay as healthy as possible. But we should also always try to schedule dentist, doctor, or other appointments for our children at times that don't conflict with school. Nearly all schools also have an attendance policy that requires a written note or a phone call from the parent or guardian explaining why a student is absent, whether it's because of illness or for some other reason.

Some of us have important holidays or traditional celebrations that aren't recognized by the school calendar. This can be a problem for families from many different faiths and cultures. When it's really important to us to keep our children home for a religious, cultural, or family event, we need to contact our children's teachers in advance and let them know about our plans. They will want to know what day or days our children will miss. We should ask them if there are assignments our children can do at home to make up for the class time they will miss, and whether there are any other ways to make up the missed class time.

Oregon state law requires children from age 7 to 18 to attend a public school, private school, or district-approved home school program. Youth who are 19 or older may be excused from attending public school if they meet certain requirements. For more information, visit the http://search.ode.state.or.us/results.aspx?k=Oregon%20school%20attendance%20law&s=ODE.

If your child is sick or needs to be excused from attending school, please contact your child's school. Every school has an attendance number for you to call and leave a message for your child. We suggest that you contact your child's teacher for make-up time or make up homework so your child can make up and catch up for the missed time.
Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our school receives federal funds for Title I programs that are part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2011 (NCLB). Throughout the school year, we will continue to provide you with important information about this law and your child’s education.

We are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the coming year and we are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in ESEA/NCLB. Under these regulations, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s classroom teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). If you request this information, the district or school will provide you with the following as soon as possible.

- Whether the teacher meets state qualifications and licensing requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including major(s) or area(s) of concentration and the area of endorsement.

In addition, schools are required to notify parents when their child is taught, or assigned for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet federal highly qualified requirements. A highly qualified teacher is one who:

- Has a bachelor's degree or higher;
- Has demonstrated subject matter competency in the subject area assigned to teach;
- Has obtained full state licensure as a teacher; and
- Has not had licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.

NCLB further states that Title I schools must notify parents:

- About the school improvement status of your child’s school;
- Of your child’s achievement level on Oregon statewide testing;
- If your child has been assigned, or taught, for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the highly qualified definition; and
- Of your right to be involved in the planning and implementation of the parent involvement program in your child’s school.

We are happy to provide you with the above-mentioned information in a timely manner, upon your request. We look forward to the year ahead and welcome your partnership in the important job of educating the children of our community. Continuous communication between home and school is key to the success of our educational program. As parents/guardians, you are encouraged to be actively involved in your child’s education by talking to your child about school, volunteering whenever possible, and participating in school/district activities!

If you have specific questions about this notification, please contact your school’s principal. If you have any additional questions about NCLB and its impact on schools, please contact Tasha Katsuda, Federal Programs Administrator for Eugene School District 4J at 541-790-7559, or visit www.ed.gov/nclb.

Respectfully,

Tasha Katsuda
Federal Programs Administrator
Happy October and Welcome to Parent Group E-News!

Once a month River Road/El Camino del Río Parent Group will provide you with the latest news on upcoming Parent Group events, volunteer needs, and acknowledgements! We promise these emails will be timely, concise and keep you well-informed of all things El Camino del Río!

Walk-a-thon Fundraiser
Our first ever Walk-a-thon Fundraiser is coming up on Thursday, October 8th! We are so excited for this fun event and fundraiser! Pledge packets will be sent home after the Walk-a-thon Kick Off Assembly on September 30th. Please be sure to review the important information inside the packet, as well as the pledge form on the outside of the envelope, and then help your student collect pledges. We need many volunteers on the day of the event! We're using VolunteerSpot (the leading online signup and reminder tool) to organize our event sign ups this year. There are many Walk-a-thon shifts still available! Just follow the quick instructions below.

Here’s how it works in 3 easy steps:
1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: http://vols.pt/Soegge
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.
Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me, Janeé Schultz, at naynaylou@hotmail.com or stop by the office and we can sign you up manually.

Popcorn Volunteers
Starting October 14th, we will begin our popcorn fundraiser that will continue throughout the year. Twice a month, every other Wednesday, students can place orders for popcorn for 50 cents a bag. Parent volunteers pop, bag and distribute the orders to the classroom. This occurs in the morning, usually taking approximately two hours. Three to four parent volunteers are needed at a time. Click the link to sign up for Popcorn Volunteer: http://vols.pt/ssVxHi and follow the VolunteerSpot instructions listed above. All Popcorn dates for the rest of the year have been set up so you can plan in advance as far as you need to!

Box Tops
Please keep saving your box tops! If you have multiple students that attend our school, please try to keep them separated by classroom. We are currently brainstorming new ideas to help boost this fundraiser, stay tuned for more details!

Next Parent Group Meeting
The next Parent Group Meeting is October 13th, 6-7p, in the library. Come hear about school updates, volunteer opportunities, and how our first Walk-a-thon went. Please join us! Translation in Spanish and free childcare is available.

Acknowledgements
Thank you to all who attended the first parent group meeting of the year, and for all who have already come forward to volunteer! It takes all parents, not just a few, to contribute to this year’s success! We appreciate you and are looking forward to an awesome school year!

Be sure to like our Parent Group Facebook Page and receive all Parent Group updates:

Have a great month!
The Parent Advisory Team
Maja Martir, Janeé Schultz, Amy Ruddick-Green, & Mellani Ocampo