



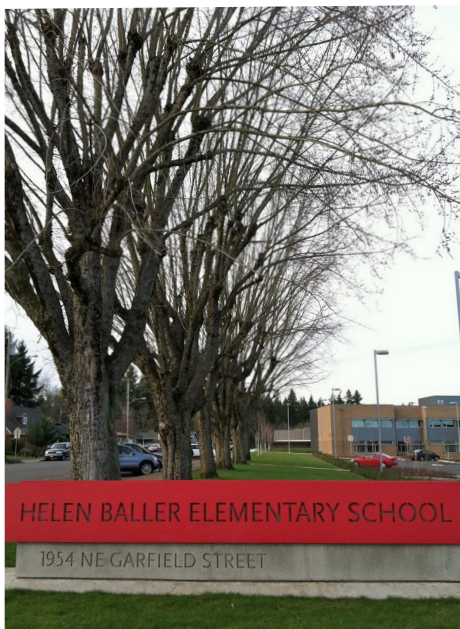
Helen Baller Newsletter

December 2014



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December 2014

Dear Helen Baller Families,

It is hard to believe it is Thanksgiving Break. My family is staying around Camas and spending the holiday with my wife's family. I will be watching some football and cheering for the 49ers to beat the Seahawks. I hope you have a nice Thanksgiving Break.

On November twelfth we honored Veterans by holding our Veterans' Day Assembly. I was very proud of how the kids behaved. The Balladeers, Mrs. Youngblood's class and Liberty band did an amazing job when performing and presenting information. A special thanks goes to Mr. Stewart who was our guest speaker. He did a nice job of explaining what it means to be a veteran. Our students and guests enjoyed his presentation.

We have started our Stuff the Bus Food Drive. Stuff the Bus, organized by the Camas-Washougal Business Alliance, is a friendly competition between Camas and Washougal students. Every school in both cities' school districts participates by collecting donations. Last year, the group brought in 61,000 pounds of food. Organizers are hoping to top that this year. Students are being asked to bring nonperishable foods to help support families in Camas. Our goal is to bring 2,000 food items. I know we can reach that goal!

With the cold and wind in the forecast this week, we want to express our concern and ask your help in seeing that your child/ren wear their warmest coats, hats and gloves when they come to school. Sweatshirts and sweaters alone are not enough when the temperatures and wind-chills drop so low. We thank you for your help in making sure your child/ren come prepared for the cold each day.

Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, December 19.

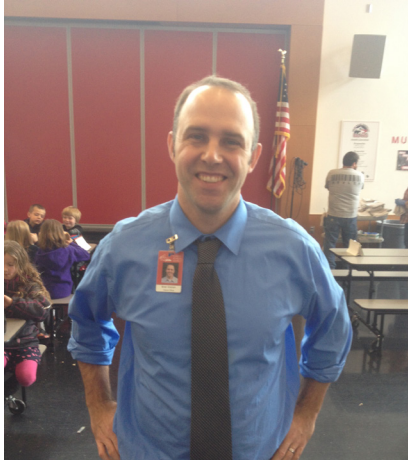
The first makeup day for school closures due to inclement weather is February 13, 2015. All other makeup days will be added to the end of the school year.

Helen Baller wouldn't be the school it is without the parent and community support we receive every day. Thank you for everything that you do. If you ever have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Have a great December!

Aaron Parman,
Principal

AN INTRODUCTION.... BRIAN GRAHAM



During the 2014-15 school year I will be serving as a principal intern under Mr. Parman. Currently, I'm enrolled at the University of Portland completing my Initial Administrator Licensure program. This is my second year working in the Camas School District as a TOSA (Teacher On Special Assignment) at the district office. As a TOSA, my role involves curriculum support, staff development, and data management. I'm the father of two amazing daughters, Brooklyn and Ashlyn, and my wife Jessica is also an educator. In my previous employment I served as math teacher and math coach in the Vancouver School District. My favorite part of being an educator are the relationships we develop with students and creating excitement about learning.

Please join the PTA in welcoming Mr. Graham to Helen Baller!

Success Book Roll Call

Below is a list of students who have signed the Success Book during the month of November. Any Helen Baller staff member can have a student sign the Success Book for being successful with academics, behavior or work ethic. Several of the students signed the Success Book multiple times, but I have only listed their name once.

Way to go Helen Baller Bears! We are proud of you!

Peyton Darling
Joe Wright
Mark Linchevskiy
Brandon Reese
Rane Nevin
Megan Wright
May Williamson-Shilling
Kate Gerstler
Emerson Bristol
Lance Stuck
Cadence Jones
Mercy Canifax
Ethan Ouchi
Ryan Chatterton
Aiden Stewart
Kevin Han
Naarah Hill
Siena Chalfant

Elliot Bristol
Hailey Ellsworth
Alexa Fern
Jack Booth
Sofia McClain
Blake Holtcamp
Emma Chapel
Addy Till
Tyler Vigil
An Bui
Mia Lin
Sasha Greer
Makenzie Rea
Allie Piland
Katie Califf
Ainsley Asbury
Isaiah Alger
Ellie Neil

Owen Tuttle
Audrey Wagner
Lorelei McCarthy
Courtney Lope
Gage Robbins
Campbell Martin
Rory Jensen
Nolan Crowe
Ty Barnes
Keirrah Sanders
Grace Lukes
Mac Garpstead
Flint Jensen
Luke Barner
Odin Khamphilath
Skylarr Jenkins
Rowan DelBosque'
Vanessa Martinez

Gavin Hooser
Presley Darling
Brooklyn Jardine
Summer Craft
Kaleah Dewey
Kate Bacher
Liliana Neil
Aiden Shaheen
Alex Lyon
Logan Cole
Summer Craft
Elijah Hansen
Gavin Copa

A Letter from our Counselor - Ms. Edie

Hello Helen Baller Families,

I realized the other day that while I have been here for 12 years there are still families that may not realize who I am and what I do. My name is Edie Hagstrom and I am your child's school social worker/counselor. The students all know me as Ms. Edie. I am here to support students, parents, and teachers in any way I can regarding emotional and/or basic needs. I have my Masters degree of Social Work and spent ten years working as a therapist for a child and family mental health agency before coming to the schools. I know the community and available resources fairly well so please let me know if you need my help.

My role at Helen Baller is as an educator so I spend my time teaching our students how to manage their emotions and solve their interpersonal problems. I am not a therapist and do not do long term therapy with any students. I may problem-solve with our students once or twice without calling a parent but if the problem continues to grow you will be contacted. Some of the things I frequently get involved with are: when students are upset and the teacher needs to keep teaching, times when a student may need to be removed from the classroom due to not being able to control their behavior, friendship conflict, playground issues, clothing and food needs, financial support for field trips or other school activities, holiday help, when students come to the health room and are showing signs of anxiety and/or do not seem to be sick but are emotional instead, and any time a teacher just needs support.

Some of my broader job duties include: lessons in the classrooms, small groups on such topics as divorce, life transitions, social skills, and friendship, individual support in the classroom and/or out on the playground, holiday help, food backpack program, school supplies, and facilitation of our Building Intervention Team as well as our Positive Behavior Support Team. I also serve in the role of Safety Patrol Supervisor. As you can see, I wear a few hats. We will be starting a "Counselor's Corner" to be included in the newsletter going forward, so please look for information each month.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions, if there is something you think I should know about your child, for help with basic needs, or if there is anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,
Edie Hagstrom
Helen Baller Social Worker/Counselor
edie.hagstrom@camas.wednet.edu or 360-833-5720 ext 79150

Program Overviews

Steps to Respect Program

Steps to Respect is the curriculum I use in 3rd-4th grade. Steps to Respect is a bullying prevention program developed by Committee for Children. The primary goal of this school-wide program is to help create a safe, caring, and respectful learning environment in which bullying is not tolerated. As a part of this program, students are first taught skills to help them build friendships and keep them. Then they are taught the 3 R's of bullying, how to recognize, refuse, and report bullying. Lessons are 30 minutes once a week for 10 weeks. Look for future articles on these lessons or ask your student to tell you what they are learning.

Second Step Program

Second Step is the social skills curriculum I use in K-2 and 5th grade. This curriculum covers teaching about empathy, respect, how to get along with others, feelings identification, skills for learning, emotion management, and conflict resolution. Lessons are 30 minutes long except in Kindergarten where they are 15 minutes. I will be in the Kindergarten and 5th grade classrooms all year long and will be in 1st/2nd grades during the months of January, February, and March.

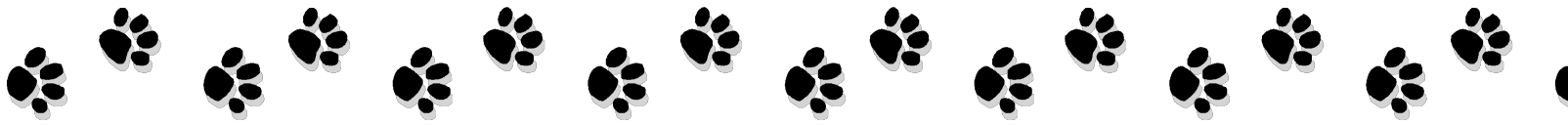
Weekend Food Backpack Program

One of the resources available to Baller families, is a weekend backpack food program. If you are struggling to make ends meet due to financial stressors, please let us know. We partner with Treasure House, our local food bank, to provide food to help our students. We can provide food all school year or while you are trying to get back on your feet. If you are on free and reduced plans or if you just hit some hard times we are here to help. We all know that students do better at school when their bellies are full. We fill the backpack and your student takes it home on Fridays. The empty backpack is returned on Monday so it can be filled again. We just need the names of your Baller students and the number of additional children in the home. The program provides food for the children only.

Holiday Help

We work with partner agencies to provide help for the holidays. We will also be doing a Helen Baller Giving Tree this year so look for future information. If you need help during the holidays, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Helen Baller PTA Calendar



December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 6-9pm Downtown Camas Hometown Holidays!	6
7	8	9	10	11 9am PTA Board Meet- ing	12 Birthday Table 5-8pm G6 PTA Fundraiser	13
P.E. Scooter Town						
14	15	16 5-8pm Drama Team & Balladeer Performances	17 Drama Team School Assemblies	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK						

December Events



Helen Baller G6 Family Fun NIGHT

December 12, 2014, 5-8pm

Come have fun jumping with your friends
and earn money for Helen Baller!

*(show flyer sent home from school at entrance
to get credit for Helen Baller)*

2200 NE Andresen Rd Ste. J
Vancouver, WA 98661
(Across the street from Winco)

HOLIDAY SHOPPING & Supporting Helen Baller!

Shop at Amazon and earn money for Helen Baller.
Simply start from the Helen Baller PTA AMAZON web-
site link at www.helenballerpta.org.

Shop at Fred Meyer and a percentage of your
purchases go to support Helen Baller. Register your
FredMeyer Rewards at [www.fredmeyer.com/com-
munityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) and search for us by name or by our
non-profit number 86503.



Hometown Holidays* Friday, December 5, 2014, 6-9pm.

Get your photo taken with Santa! Watch the tree-
lighting, get a start on your holiday shopping and
enjoy the beauty that is Downtown Camas all
dressed up for the holidays.

NOTE: BALLADEERS WILL BE PERFORMING!
(7:30-7:50pm at Birch St Performance Tent)

*sponsored by Downtown Camas Assoc.

An evening of entertainment with the Drama Team and the Balladeers

Tuesday, December 16th
School Cafeteria
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

2 Plays on the stage -
each play performed twice

What a Tangled Web....A Play about Honesty
(6:00 pm & 7:00 pm)

The Big Switcheroo...A Play about Respect
(5:30 pm & 7:30 pm)

Balladeers Choir performs -6:30 pm



Assemblies for the school will be performed
December 17th during school hours.

December News

Counselor's Corner: 2014 Helen Baller Giving Tree



The Helen Baller Giving Tree will be up **December 4-15, 2014**. The tree will have gift requests from Helen Baller families in need. Simply pick a tag and "sign out" as the person responsible for fulfilling that gift. Bring back the item requested in a wrapped package with the tag attached. Please bring back to the school's office and "sign the gift back in" as completed by **December 16, 2014**.

Thank you for helping make this a joyous holiday for all Helen Baller families!

COLLECTION DRIVE RESULTS!



Helen Baller students collected:
10,930 Box Tops for Education earning \$1,093
3,419 Labels for Education earning 9,295 points
 that can be redeemed for school supplies.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this effort!

The following classes earned Pizza Parties:

Teacher	# Box Tops
Campbell	1,795
Mahoney	1,095
Miller	833

Mrs. Campbell's class won the grand prize trophy!

Special THANKS to the volunteers that made our HEARING and VISION SCREENING a success this year! We appreciate you for giving of your time: Sloane Copa, Michelle Brockus, Karin Lourens, Laura Compton, David VanCleave, and Valerie Cook.

•••••
 • **Thank you Nikki Schuchart for taking on the role of FUNDRAISING CHAIR for Helen Baller PTA!** We are grateful for your willingness to give of your time and help support our school in this important role!
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Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly Update

Helen Baller was the only Camas school to send PTA representatives to this important meeting to set 2015-16 priorities.

WSPTA Top 5 Priorities for 2015-16

1. Funding McCleary
2. Create positive school climates through social emotional learning
3. Increasing capital funding
4. Increased access to higher education
5. Breakfast after the Bell

To learn more:

<http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>



NOW until DECEMBER 5th!

The Camas and Washougal school districts hope to beat the 2013 record by collecting 85,000 pounds of non-perishable food! This will help support our local community through the holiday season. Personal care items (toothpaste, soap, etc.) and clothing are also needed. Our Helen Baller goal is to collect 2,000 items.

Please send your non-perishable food and personal care donations to school with your child.

December News

FUN RUN UPDATE!

**Total Number of Miles Run: 1039 (54 more than last year!)
Total Amount of Donations Received: \$6,317**

Here are our winners by grade:

Grade	Gold Medal Winners	Number of Laps
Kindergarten	Boston Barnes	13
First Grade	Cohen Butler Cade Lukens	12 12
Second Grade	Kai Echeverio Jack Bacher	13 13
Third Grade	Owen Tuttle Benjamin Carter	15 15
Fourth Grade	Benjamin Floyd	15
Fifth Grade	Tyler Dinh	23

Grade	Silver Medal Winners	Number of Laps
Kindergarten	Lauren Hood	12
First Grade	Fletcher Campbell Taylor Hill Jacob Brockus Sophia Lapin	11 11 11 11
Second Grade	Sawyer Clifton Harrison Wight Beckham Young	12 12 12
Third Grade	Sara Gerstler	14
Fourth Grade	Chevy Thrush Eoin Ryan	14 14
Fifth Grade	Lukas Scharrelman	19

Grade	Bronze Medal Winners	Number of Laps
Kindergarten	Christopher Houlding Lance Oliver Logan Moses Luke Rubano	11 11 11 11
Fifth Grade	Lance Stuck Benjamin Burnett Dax Clifton	18 18 18

Want to learn about Helen Baller Teachers & Staff?



The PTA has put together a binder that is kept in the main office that has one page per teacher/ staff. The page shares a little bit about them including: birthday, likes, dislikes...etc..

The perfect "elf" to help with the holiday gift season.



It's never too early to start planning for our **Auction on 5/1/15**. The PTA is hard at work procuring awesome auction items, and we'd appreciate your help.

If you have friends or family who own or run a business, club or group in the community, we'd love your help to ask for a donation item, gift basket or gift certificate for the auction.

Please run your idea by president@helenballerpta.org to ensure we are not duplicating efforts.

It is for a great cause and we will provide a tax ID for the donations!

Looking Ahead to January



School resumes on January 5th!
See you then!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**PTA
General Membership
Meeting
January 22, 2015
6:30pm**



**Baller Blast Kick-Off
Planning Meeting
1/15/14 at 11am
Come join us.....**

JANUARY NO SCHOOL DAYS

MLK: January 19, 2015
Grading Day: January 26, 2015



As you make plans for the new year...
please consider if you'd like to get
involved with these great events the PTA has planned for 2015!

School Dance Event Date: 2/6/15	Auction Event Date: 5/1/15	Baller Blast Event Date: 5/1/15
Do you like to plan the best party in town?	Have lots of creative ideas for auction items?	Enjoy planning fun games?
Are you amazing at decorating with next to nothing?	Know the right people to ask to donate? Like to organize lots of details?	Good at managing many different projects and bringing it all together?
To Volunteer Contact: president@helenballerpta.org		

