



# Oregon City Public Schools

*Learning to be our Best*

P.O. Box 2110 (1417 12<sup>TH</sup> St.), Oregon City, Oregon 97045-5010

Larry Didway, Superintendent • Telephone: (503) 785-8430 • FAX: (503) 657-2492

**Dear Colleagues,**

Budget time is upon us and I want to remind you about the great value that **Outdoor School** provides. Currently, ODS reaches over two-thirds of the sixth grade students in our region – about 16,000 annually. ODS also utilizes over 3,000 high school students every year, giving them valuable career readiness and leadership skills.

Outdoor School is...

- **Science education** closely linked to Oregon Content Standards for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as a safe and welcoming environment that magnifies and amplifies learning,
- **Best practice** science instruction and authentic science inquiry taught by skilled educators,
- One of the longest running and **most successful** residential science programs in the country (475,000 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 120,000 high school students since 1966).

I understand that school districts are facing many funding challenges, but did you know that there are funds available to match your district's investment in this valuable and transformative experience?

<b>School districts do not have to pay for the entire program alone! Here is some basic information on funding options available to your district:</b>	
<b>ESD Resolution Money</b>	The state gives money to school districts to use at ESDs that can be used for Outdoor School.
<b>Metro Reimbursements</b>	School districts that attend Outdoor School for a minimum of 3 days are eligible for a \$60 per student reimbursement provided by Metro. <b>(Contact Freda Sherburne, Metro @ 503-797-1522 <a href="mailto:freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov">freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov</a>)</b>
<b>Grants</b>	School districts can apply for various grants to offset the cost of the program. Last year, the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation donated \$800,000 to schools attending Outdoor School! <b>(Contact Lara Christensen <a href="mailto:lchristensen@oregoncf.org">lchristensen@oregoncf.org</a>)</b>
<b>Friends of Outdoor School Foundation</b>	Friends of Outdoor School employs a variety of methods to raise money and awareness for school districts that participate in Outdoor School. <b>(Contact Kim Silva, 503-257-1774, <a href="mailto:kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org">kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org</a>)</b>
<b>Parent Fundraisers</b>	Through parent fundraisers at the school level, districts can raise money to send students to Outdoor School. Some school districts charge parents a fee to attend outdoor school. <b>(Contact Kim Silva, 503-257-1774, <a href="mailto:kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org">kim@friendsofoutdoorschool.org</a> or John Jackson, 503-614-1645, <a href="mailto:jjackson@nwresd.k12.or.us">jjackson@nwresd.k12.or.us</a>)</b>

As budgets are being put together this winter, my hope is that you will consider including Outdoor School as a way to bring meaningful, hands-on learning to your students. Every child deserves the Outdoor School experience and we can make sure they do!

Sincerely,

Larry Didway, Superintendent

PS: Also know that many people and organizations will work with you in creating funding solutions so that all sixth grade students can experience a week of authentic science education while building a greater connection to our environment and community.