

Welcome Kindergarten and New Ainsworth Families!

As the interim New Family Mentor and Hospitality Chair for the school year I would like to welcome you, again, to the Ainsworth Community. All of us on PTA look forward to meeting you soon!

If you have general questions about starting at Ainsworth, please email me.  
Contact: Lynn Brown, [portlandlb@msn.com](mailto:portlandlb@msn.com), mom of a kindergartener, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and twin 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the Spanish Program

We hope you were able to attend the **Kindergarten and New Family Social** and the **Playdate in the Park** last week. Both were fun opportunities to let the kids socialize with classmates, find a friendly face, and to meet other parents and a few staff members. We've had a bumpy start with the air quality and fires, but I think despite a few tears, the first day of school for our kinders was a success!

You should have already received the News & Notes email from Principal Kris Meyer, with some of the below information, but we know it's a lot to take in – and we wanted to provide an FAQ to help ease you in for the year, as well as a few other helpful links. We look forward to meeting you, and having a great year at Ainsworth. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

Warmly,  
Lynn Brown  
Ainsworth PTA  
[portlandlb@msn.com](mailto:portlandlb@msn.com)

**Mark your calendar:**

**September 14 – Back to School Night** – 6pm-7:30pm, children invited to attend with their parent/guardians. Additional details coming soon!

**September 15 - PTA Meeting** — Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the Ainsworth Library. Learn about what the PTA does and is currently working on, meet other parents, learn how you can get involved, and hear about some immediate volunteer needs. We will also be offering evening meetings. Details coming soon!

**September 20 – Late Opening** – late bell rings at 10:05am.

**First Week October – Ainsworth Foundation Meeting** – come learn about how the Foundation supports Ainsworth staffing needs, Foundation events, and how you can get involved. Check back on the [Ainsworth Calendar](#) for the official date, time and location – coming soon.

**October 6 – Buckaroo Carnival** is our annual school carnival, with a western theme! Games, Bouncy Houses, live music from the Oregon Trailers, food carts, treats, you name it – an evening of family fun! Saddle up and get your tickets [here!](#)

**October 20<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ainsworth Dance** – Join us for the newly themed Ainsworth Family Dance! Kids, grab your favorite adult, and boogy on over to Ainsworth! All proceeds go to the Ainsworth Foundation – and promises to be a fun night for all! Register [here!](#)

## **Ainsworth FAQs**

### **Where do I park?**

Roads get busy around pickup and drop off every day. If you are going to the building with your child, park a block or two away and walk. Rules are in place to ensure safety, including the following: do not drive down SW Spring St next to the school; do not walk across SW Vista Ave at SW Spring St, instead cross at the light at SW Elm St; do not stop on SW Vista Ave in front of school.

If you are dropping off your child, there is a “kiss and drop” along the north side of the school at Elm St, between SW Montgomery and SW 21st Ave. Enter Elm from Montgomery, drop your child off at the designated area (there are signs), then exit by turning left onto SW 21st. Do not continue on SW Elm to SW Vista.

### **What is the Back to School Booster Pack and *and how do I fill it out?***

Click here for the [Back to School Booster Pack](#) – it contains online order forms for:

- online school directory (formerly known as the Buzz Book – this will have contact info for your child’s classmates’ families),
- ordering your child’s yearbook
- purchasing tickets for PTA hosted school events, including Buckaroo
- Additional fundraising opportunities!

### **Where can I get Ainsworth Gear?**

Get your Ainsworth Spirit on! All orders will be delivered the office, and you will be notified when ready. [Order Here!](#)

### **How do I keep up on what’s happening at school?**

One very important way to keep up on the important news from school is to read the bi-weekly **News & Notes** email from Principal Kris Meyer and Assistant Principal Grace Casale (sent by the Principal’s Secretary, Noah Chadd, [nchadd@pps.net](mailto:nchadd@pps.net)).

We also encourage you to learn more about the Ainsworth PTA and Ainsworth Foundation. Getting involved is the best way to have a pulse on the school happenings and meet your community!

Visit: [PPS Ainsworth website is updated regularly.](#)

Visit: [Ainsworth PTA Website](#)

[Visit the Ainsworth Foundation Website here.](#)

On Facebook: Ainsworth Elementary School Official

### **How can I get involved?**

There are many ways to be part of the community: in the classroom, in the lunchroom, with art and music, at recess, PTA, Foundation, with specific events – Like Buckaroo, Book Fair, Field Days, Science Fair, Red Ball Auction - the list is plentiful and there will certainly be a match for your skill set and interest. Our community is as great as we make it!

Volunteer opportunities are listed in **News & Notes** and emailed by room parents and our PTA Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Kulas at [ainsworthvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthvolunteers@gmail.com) . The PTA website has a great list of [volunteer opportunities](#).

To volunteer at school, you must submit a **background check form**, which can be found [here](#). You must also sign in and out at the office every time you volunteer.

### **How do I pay for school lunch?**

If you'd like your child to be able to purchase lunch, you need to set up an account and pay online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com> To sign up, you'll need your child's ID number, which you can get from the office (503-916-6288 or email Kendall Bromley, the School Secretary, at [kbromley@pps.net](mailto:kbromley@pps.net)). You may also drop a check by to the lunchroom manager.

### **Where do I find bus schedules?**

Buses are available for children who live within the Ainsworth school boundary. Schedules can be found at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/depts-c/bus/index.php>. Select Ainsworth on the drop-down menu. Make sure to check out snow routes, which differ from the regular schedule, both in time and location. You should get a phone call on inclement weather days letting you know if school is cancelled, delayed, or snow routes are in effect.

**What after school activities are available?**

In addition to Ainsworth's excellent on-site [after care](#) , many opportunities for after school activities arise throughout the year. Some are organized informally among parents and take place off campus, and others are offered on campus. Please check the PTA website [here](#) for schedules and links to registrations. The schedules will be fully updated soon!

**We recently moved to Oregon from another state. Anything special we should know?**

Welcome to Oregon! One thing to note as school begins is that OR requires Hepatitis A vaccination while other states may not. Check OR vaccination requirements at <http://public.health.oregon.gov/preventionwellness/vaccinesimmunization/gettingimmunized/pages/school.aspx>

**Late starts, teacher in-service days and vacations.**

Visit the [PPS District Calendar 2017-2018](#) for the annual calendar.

Take a look ahead at the school calendar to make sure you have childcare coverage and are aware of the late starts and various days off in the PPS school year. On late start days, school begins 2 hours late (10:05 a.m. final bell). The school bus will pick up students two hours after their regularly scheduled time.