

Dear Families,

The first month of school has gone by so quickly. We are off to a great start! We opened our doors to over 460 students this year. It is such a wonderful learning community here at Laurelhurst with great teaching and learning in every classroom. I would like to share two events that happened in September to give you a sense of what our school is all about.

We started the school year off with a Welcome New Families “Extending the Aloha Spirit” Evening event. Over 300 people attended this event. It was really exciting to be apart of the enthusiasm and hope shared by so many new students and families. Be sure to check out the display board in the front hallway that features pictures of our new students and their families. When I visit each kindergarten classroom I see a positive learning environment in which students are learning, making new friends, and quickly adjusting to new school routines. It is such a joy to see their happy, smiling faces each day. We have started our Kindergarten Buddies program with upper grade classrooms. The kindergarteners are also enthusiastic participants in our whole school lunch composting project and in our new all-school garden. They represent our future.

In late September I spent three days at Camp Orkila on Orcas Island with our fifth grade students. Many of these students have been at Laurelhurst since Kindergarten. I have watched them grow over the past four years to be responsible, creative, independent thinkers and learners, and environmental stewards. They were also great representatives of our school in a different setting – on the ferry ride, on the buses, in the large dining hall, in the cabins, and in the various classes offered by the Camp Orkila staff. I am proud of our fifth grade students. They represent what a fifth grade student should know by the time they finish four to five years here at Laurelhurst. I know that they will be well prepared for middle school by the end of the school year. They are on their way!

Sincerely,
Kathy Jolly
Principal