



Wilkes Elementary School  
17020 NE Wilkes Road  
Portland, OR 97230  
503-255-6133 • FAX 503-252-0339

May 8, 2013

Dear Wilkes Parents and Students,

Our family is growing! The Reynolds School Board recently voted on a necessary boundary adjustment to relieve Alder Elementary School from being overcrowded. We are lucky enough to be benefitting from this change. We will gain approximately 80 students from Alder and 3 additional teachers. The addition to our staff will allow us to have 3 classrooms at each grade level, which carries many instructional benefits. We anticipate lower class sizes in our primary grades, grade levels can structure reading and math using a walk to read model, which will allow for instruction more closely matched to student need, and there will be additional placement options to best match teacher to student. These are just a few of the benefits presented within a larger school setting.

In order to make this boundary adjustment as successful as possible we are asking the entire community to join us in welcoming our new families. We will be hosting a summer event to bring both of our communities together and would love for everyone to attend. We will be sending out event details before the end of the school year so please stay on alert for this information.

This change may be difficult for families that have grown up in and loved Alder Elementary. We understand and feel the best thing to do is to show the families the many things there are to love about Wilkes as well. We are so proud as a SUN community school to be able to offer after school classes, a 4-week summer program, and adult evening classes. We have been working on maintaining our school garden and continue to offer nutrition and cooking classes through OSU. Our commitment to PBIS supports a safe and happy learning environment for our students. Most importantly, our focus on academics for each and every student provides an opportunity for our students to find academic success. Even though we are very proud of who we are and what we have to offer, each year we strive to be even better and reach even more of our students. You can help us by offering your feedback and experience for us to learn and grow from. Please keep us informed on how we are doing through your lens. We would also greatly appreciate you sharing your experience with our incoming families. I am sure they would value greatly your views on our school.

We hope you are feeling as positive and enthusiastic about this change as we are. The benefits to becoming a larger school and being able to support the need of the district are very rewarding.

I look forward to having our expanded community all together very soon.

My best,

Lisa McDonald  
Principal  
Wilkes Elementary School  
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