Dear Helen Baller Families,

It is hard to believe that we are starting our second month of school. We had an excellent first month of school. It was fun seeing all the kids after summer break. I have been in all the classrooms seeing all the great things the students are doing. I am very impressed with the students’ work ethic, academics and behavior.

This month the students and staff have been hard at work learning the school rules and expectations. At Helen Baller everybody is responsible for knowing and following the Baller Big Three. We are responsible, respectful and safe at Helen Baller. In addition, we teach the children the six Pillars of Character which are being trustworthy, responsible, respectful, fairness, caring and demonstrating citizenship. The behavior expectations and six Pillars of Character are posted around the school and taught to the students throughout the year. We are working to create a positive school climate that fosters cooperation, academic excellence, respect and safety. If you have any questions about Helen Baller’s rules or expectations please contact me.

This year we are trying to provide a few more opportunities for our students. We would like to offer the following for our students: Chess Club, Science Club, Awesome Authors and intramural sports in the morning. If you are interested in helping support these opportunities please email me at .

On Thursday, October 4th, we will be having a PTA General Meeting in the library starting at 6:00 p.m. During that meeting I will be going over our goals for the year, MSP scores and answering any questions parents may have. We hope to see you there!

Friday, October 19th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the PTA is having Baller Blast. There will be tons of games, a dunk tank, raffles, food and much more. It is a great opportunity to have some fun with your family and connect with other families and the school. More information will be coming soon. Hopefully we see you there!

If at all possible please try to avoid picking up your child/children early from school. It is difficult for children to keep pace when they are missing class. In the event that you do have to pick your child/children early, please send a note or call the office ahead of time. This will allow for the teacher and office to prepare ahead of time for the early dismissal. **Unless it is a dire emergency please let us know no later than 2:30 if you are making different school arrangements.**

**Your planning ahead helps us make dismissal time a safe and organized time for all.**

I want to say thanks to all the families and community members for helping make the start of the year a great one. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me in person, by phone or email. Have a great October and go Packers!

Sincerely,

Aaron Parman,
Principal
Baller Bear
Calendar of Events

October 1st – 10th – Scooter Town
October 4th – Picture Day
October 4th – PTA General Meeting in the Helen Baller Library
   6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
October 12th – No School –
   Teacher Inservice Day
October 16th – PTA board meeting, 2-3pm
October 19th – Birthday Table
October 19th – Baller Blast
October 20th – Family Halloween Night at Liberty Middle School
October 24th – Boo Bash, 3-5 pm
   Downtown Camas
November 28th – Character Counts Assembly

PTA INFORMATION:

PTA Website:
   www.helenballerpta.org

PTA President: Cheryl Johnson
   president@helenballerpta.org

Vice President: OPEN POSITION
   vicepresident@helenballerpta.org

Secretary: Monica
   secretary@helenballerpta.org

Treasurer: Kim Newell
   treasurer@helenballerpta.org

Spiritwear: Diana Sterle
   Helenballerspiritwear@comcast.net

Newsletter: SueAnn Murphy
   Helenballer.newsletter@gmail.com

Fundraising: David Van Cleave
   fundraising@helenballerpta.org

   Your time is a gift...
   Thank you for Volunteering!

   How do I sign up? Check out Signupgenius.com
   And enter volunteer@helenballerpta.org
   To see a wide variety of ways That you can help!

Need more information on the PTA:
   info@helenballerpta.org

   Check us out on Facebook:
   facebook@helenballerpta.org
SAFE ON MY OWN
For ages 8 to 11. This class teaches safety & basic 1st aid while children are home alone.
Bring snack to class.
Wednesday, October 3rd
2:00-4:00 PM
Fee: $35.00
Staci Firl, instructor
Camas School District (JDZ)
Busing is available to JDZ

PARENTING WITH LOVE & LOGIC FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
For parents with children toddlers-elementary age. Feeling stressed out with parenting? Learn to effectively decrease conflict and increase compliance, build responsible behavior, and encourage good decision making with these tried and true methods. Includes dealing with power struggles, setting limits, creating age appropriate consequences, and learning to communicate in ways that get kids attention.
Mondays, October 8th - November 5th
10:00-11:15 AM
Fee: $50 per person or couple
Dr. Amanda Weatherby, Ph.D, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, instructor
Register through Camas Community Ed
841 NE 22nd Avenue
Camas, WA 98607
(360) 833-5548
(360) 833-5544
www.camascommunityed.org

Drama Team News -
The Helen Baller Drama Team has grown! We have added 4th graders this year (in addition to the 5th graders.) We have a FABULOUS group of 30 students who will be working on learning all about drama, acting, backstage, sets/props, and costumes this fall. Our first performance will be at the school assemblies on November 28th.

Drama Team members meet on Wednesday mornings before school from 8:00 - 8:55 AM. Drama can be joined for Fall, Winter and/or Spring sessions.

If you would like to volunteer your time or donate for the event, please sign up at Signupgenius.com and search volunteer@helenballerpta.org. Thanks to all our wonderful Baller families who have helped make the Birthday Table a huge success!

Baller Birthday Table:
All students who had August or September birthdays were invited to sit at the Birthday Table with Mr. Parman and enjoy an ice cream treat on Friday, Sept. 21st. Thanks to all the parents and family members who were able to attend. The kids loved having a family member there to help them celebrate!

A special thank you to the Naron Family and the Hansen Family who helped support the Birthday Table last month. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

October birthdays will be celebrated at lunchtime on October 19th. Watch for an invitation to come home with your child the week of October 15th. All parents are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

If you would like to volunteer your time or donate for the event, please sign up at Signupgenius.com and search volunteer@helenballerpta.org. Thanks to all our wonderful Baller families who have helped make the Birthday Table a huge success!

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Success Book Roll Call

Below is a list of students who have signed the Success Book during the month of September. 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!

Phoebe Hall
James Podrez
Quantez Kellison
Ella Shannon
Logan Reichert
Dana Songeni
Rylan Lanham
Ashley Gillespie
Aurora Chaney
Grace Varsek
Jordan Nottingham
Kenny Wright
Kai Cathcart
Delany Stock
Emily Asbury
Ryan Pitts
Jasper Lane
Gavin Jones
Rylie Tiedeman
Dylan Goodwin
Courtland Anderson
Jayden Foster
Anne Califf
Laila Markland
Weston Field
Regan VanCleave
Noah Dangerfield
Julia Marsh
Edison Twyman
Delany Anderson
Renae York
Lance Stuck
Tristen Mangenelli
Macynn Schmid
Rantin Reynolds
Deitrich Vu
Allyson Stoller
Zachary Woodward
Stephanie Kartashev
**Book Swap for Kids and Teens:** Trade your used books (or movies or music CDs) with the library or with others. Free! Take home as many books as you bring! The library will donate several boxes of books to the swap. Friday October 5th @ 2:30-4:30pm.

**Teen Read Week:** Come look at the famous teen book in a jar, and if you can guess what it is, you get a prize! All ages can play. October 14-20.

**Boo Bash:** The library will be on the route for the popular annual Boo Bash. Dress up in costume and come trick-or-treating with the businesses in downtown Camas! Wednesday October 24th @ 3-5pm. The library could really use candy donations for this event. If you are willing to donate an unopened bag of individually packaged candy, we would very much appreciate it (the Boo Bash usually draws about 2,000 kids). Just drop it off at the service desk. Thank you!!

**Pick Me a Perfect Pumpkin Please**

Join us for Pumpkin Stories and a Craft too!

**Family Storytime:**
- Tuesday, Oct. 9th at 10:30am or 11:30am
- Friday, Oct. 12th at 10:30am or 11:30am

**The Yearbook Team Needs Your Pictures!!!!**

The Yearbook has begun production this year and we are in need of some Candid shots from:
- First day of school,
- All school parade,
- Back to School night.

Please search your photos and send the best ones to us by:
- emailing up to 15MB of photos to yearbook@helenballerpta.org
- burn a CD of the photos, label HB yearbook, and send into school
- download to our Shutterfly website (email for link & invite to site)

**Musiking Team News -**

Musiking has begun! If you are in 3rd - 5th grade, you may come and see what this musical group is up to this year. Come to a lunch recess practice and try it out. Watch for the signs outside of the Music room for when the team is practicing. If you join, you will be asked to sign a contract for the remainder of the school year and you will be get to perform for the school and for the community on many occasions. It's a great way to learn or improve your music ability and be a part of a vibrant team at Baller. Send any questions to Mrs. Hardy at patti.hardy@camas.wednet.edu.

**Baller Blast!**

Friday October 19
At
Helen Baller Elementary
6-8 pm

Do you have a Baller license plate frame? If you do and would like another one to replace your sun-bleached frame, please email Diana @ spiritwear@helenballerpta.org and she will send home one with your student that has been 'treated to reduce the sun-bleaching effect' and make your auto look like new! Email student name & class room, and number of frames purchased for your vehicles.
This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Camas Educational Foundation. To celebrate, board members have named the annual auction, “Soaring with CEF: Our 15 Year Journey.” The non-profit foundation is hoping this annual dinner and auction will raise $100,000 which will go to support all students in the Camas School District. Last year’s event raised more than $85,000. Thank you, we couldn’t have done it without you.

CEF has given almost $1 million to the schools over the last 15 years and with your help, we can continue to invest in our community. You can help in so many ways.

- **Raffle tickets** for a “Journey of a Lifetime” are on sale now.
- **Donations** of airline miles, goods, services and cash are needed to make this event a success.
- **Reservations** are available for this incredible event with a four-course, sit down, dinner, silent and live auctions, and social hour. Please join us.
- **Volunteer** to help with this event.

Please don’t wait as this event needs everyone’s support. Thank you.

Find us at [www.cefcamas.org](http://www.cefcamas.org) to donate, to volunteer and to make reservations. Raffle tickets can be purchased by contacting us at cefcamas@gmail. Questions can be directed to our auction chair, Mandy Huth at mandy_huth@yahoo.com.
**Steps to Respect Program**

Children learn best when they feel safe, respected, and cared for. In our continuing effort to create a safe and positive learning environment, our elementary counselors district-wide teach a schoolwide bullying prevention program called *Steps to Respect*. This program is designed to prevent bullying and promote responsible, respectful student behavior.

The program is offered in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms and includes ten, 30 minute lessons once a week. The lessons include videos, handouts, and lots of role playing to reinforce the skills taught. Students participating in the program learn:

- How to recognize, refuse, and report bullying when it happens to them or someone else.
- Friendship skills that reduce the risk of being bullied, including how to make friends, join group activities, and manage conflicts.
- Emotional skills, such as understanding the feelings of others and managing emotions.
- How to use positive values—specifically, responsibility, respect, and caring for others—as a guide for behavior.

If you have any questions or concerns about *Steps to Respect*, please feel free to contact me. Together, we can work to create a school that is safe and secure for all students.

**Second Step Program**

In addition, all elementary counselors teach a program called *Second Step* in Kindergarten through Second Grade classrooms. This program was designed by the same group of people who developed the anti-bullying program *Steps to Respect*. It is offered in Kindergarten all year long in one 15 minute lesson per week and in 1st and 2nd grade for 10 thirty minute lessons in January, February and March. The lessons include videos, songs, picture cards, and lots of role playing to reinforce the skills taught.

Students participating in the program learn:

- Skills for learning: how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and be assertive in asking for help with school work.
- Empathy: students learn to identify and understand their own and other’s feeling and how to take another’s perspective and how to show compassion.
- Emotion management: students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings such as anxiety or anger.
- Problem solving: students learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

There are home link activities for this program if you are interested. If you have any questions or concerns about *Second Step*, please feel free to contact me.

The group that developed both of these programs is Committee for Children and their website is [www.cfchildren.org](http://www.cfchildren.org) if you are interested in learning more.

Edie Hagstrom, School Social Worker/Counselor
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- TARGET 1.5 eBoxTops per $10 spent
- Office DEPOT 3 eBoxTops per $10 spent
- Expedia 1 eBoxTops per $10 spent
- Oriental Trading 4 eBoxTops per $10 spent
- BEST BUY 0.5 eBoxTops per $10 spent
- Famous Footwear 7.5 eBoxTops per $10 spent
- jcpenny 2 eBoxTops per $10 spent

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