

# EDUCATION & CAREERS

The Portland Observer

SPECIAL EDITION

# 38

years of  
community service

SECTION B

## 'Homeless School' Celebrates Opening

Permanent site at Killingsworth and Cully

The Community Transitional School recently moved to its seventh location in 18 years, but this time, the school for homeless children will stay put. The private nonprofit K-8 school, for

the children of families who are homeless or living in transition throughout the Portland-metro area, finally owns its own new building on Northeast Killingsworth Street in the Cully neigh-



Tables are filled for breakfast at the new Community Transitional School, a private non-profit K-8 school for the children of families who are homeless or living in transition throughout the Portland area.



Students arrive to classes at the Community Transitional School at 6601 N.E. Killingsworth in the Cully neighborhood.

borhood.

Friday, the school board, staff and students opened their doors to contributors, volunteers and other friends to celebrate the new school at 6601 N.E. Killingsworth, a \$3.6 million capital campaign launched in 2006 that paid for the land and the building.

"We are thrilled to finally have our own school, and we want to thank everyone who has been so generous in helping us build it," said Principal Cheryl Bickle, who has taught at the school since it started at the Portland YWCA. "Our students face

so many other changes in their lives. It's wonderful that they will be able to share with us a sense of ownership and permanence, knowing that this is truly their school."

Typically, the transitional school's students move between shelters and motel rooms, sometimes sleeping on the floors and couches of friends or relatives and sometimes sleeping in vehicles. These children are at risk for failure in school and at risk for repeating their parents' lives of homelessness and poverty.

Bickle said the stability of a permanent

location will mean the staff can better focus on providing encouragement, education and support to at-risk students. The school has an average daily enrollment of 75 students, and about 225 students a year.

Teachers have designed a curriculum for students who have missed a lot of school because of their families' transient lives. The school also provides many basic needs, including two meals a day, clothing, school supplies and bus

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## Young Filmmakers Honored

Young filmmakers participate in a youth film competition sponsored by the Multnomah Bar Association at the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland. See story, page B4



Jessica Jenkins (left) and Kimberly Heine are enrolled in a youth leadership program at Open Meadow High School in north Portland.

## Leadership Program Grows Support

A program for local students to learn skills in civic engagement, philanthropy, leadership and teamwork is expanding.

"Community 101," is currently in place in 35 schools across Oregon and in several Portland schools, but will grow to 100 schools by the 2010-2011 school year thanks to additional support from the Portland General Electric and Oregon Community foundations.

In Community 101 schools, students are awarded \$5,000, which they distribute in grants to nonprofit organizations in

their community. Supervised by a teacher advisor, the students use a course curriculum to guide them through the grant-making process, visiting nonprofits in their community and decided which programs they will fund.

The students also volunteer an average of two hours a month at local nonprofits to gain a firsthand understanding of the need. Students most often choose to help organizations that serve the homeless and hungry, victims of abuse, pregnant teens and drug and alcohol users.

"I didn't know about nonprofits until

we started doing the project," said Jessica Jenkins, a Community 101 student at Open Meadow High School in north Portland. "Now I know the money we give will make a real difference in how many people they can help."

Schools participating in Community 101 in Portland are David Douglas High School, Fir Ridge Campus, Jesuit High School, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Public Charter School, Lincoln High School, Open Meadow High School, Parkrose High School and Portland YouthBuilders.

### Bicyclist Rights

Wednesday, May 14 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., join the free vehicle-law class sponsored by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance at 233 N.W. 5th Ave. To register, call 503-226-0676.

### Educate, Empower, Engage

Thursday, May 15, the Portland NAACP Branch Freedom Fund Dinner will take place at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 N.E. Airport Way. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. Visit [pdxnaacp.org](http://pdxnaacp.org) for more information.

### Calling All Men

Friday, May 16 at 7 p.m., Corner Stone

Community C.O.G.I.C., 2216 N.E. Killingsworth, extends an invitation to all men to join the 'men only service' with guest speaker Pastor Bill Russell; for more information call 503-281-4587.

### Strut Fashion Show

Friday, May 16 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St., local designers and artist will presents the fashion show fundraiser to benefit Basic Rights Oregon supporting domestic partnerships and anti-discrimination laws; \$15. For more information, visit [strutpdx.com](http://strutpdx.com).

### Juneteenth Celebration

Portland's Juneteenth celebration will be

held Saturday, June 14 with a parade at 11 a.m., starting from the Wells Fargo bank at 5730 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Activities will follow at Jefferson High School from 1 to 8 p.m. with free food for children, entertainment and booths set up by local businesses. For more information, call Doris Rush at 503-605-8252 or Tisha Stigler at 503-249-9093.

### Great Slough Clean Up

Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers will enjoy a morning paddle while searching for and removing litter from a two-mile stretch of the Columbia Slough. To get involved, call 503-281-1132.

### Pride and Culture Festival

May 16 thru May 27, a Disability Pride and Culture Festival features film screenings, live performances, lectures and more to celebrate regional and national artists with disabilities. The show includes 'Body Thought Nature,' May 16 at Jefferson High School, with an art exhibit at the YWCA Conference Room, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave., from May 15-27. Call 503-358-9085.

### Pittock Mansion Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Pittock Mansion, 3229 N.W. Pittock Drive, will host the plant extravaganza featuring garden delights from local nurs-

eries, proceeds to benefit Pittock Mansion programs.

### Renters Rights

The Community Alliance of Tenants is seeking volunteers to work the peer-run advocate renter's rights hotline. Training classes will held on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, from 2 to 6:30 p.m. For more information and to get involved, call 503-460-9702.

### Garden Clean-Up Party

Saturday, May 17 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., volunteers are needed at the Pier Community Garden, at North Iris Way to clean-up the garden. To volunteer, call 503-823-1612.