



The Ainsworth Foundation
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Dear Ainsworth Family,

Hello! The Ainsworth Foundation would like to welcome all the new families who have joined our community, and reacquaint the Foundation with the returning families. Ainsworth Elementary is a special school with a great community of supportive parents. One of the ways that the parents at Ainsworth support the school is through the Ainsworth Foundation.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization lead by a board of directors comprised solely of parent volunteers, and it raises money to pay for teachers, specialists, and educational assistants. The Foundation helps Ainsworth bridge the gap between the Portland Public Schools budget appropriated to Ainsworth and the money needed to provide the education we want for our children.

Nearly 60% of Ainsworth families contributed to the Foundation in 2009-2010, and we were able to raise just over \$280,000. With that money, the Foundation was able to fund two classroom teachers and three educational assistants for the 2010-11 school year. That means there are now five staff members at Ainsworth who would not be there without Foundation funding! These additional teachers allow our children to have more reasonable class sizes and enjoy art, music, physical education and library. Without the money raised by the Foundation, our children would not have these additional educational opportunities.

To continue the level of staffing Ainsworth currently enjoys, the Foundation needs to raise approximately \$350,000 this year. We've set a goal of \$750 per child. Attached is a financial update that shows how much the Foundation has raised each of the past few years, the number of donors, and a range for the amount per donation. As you can see, the donations range from under \$250 to over \$5,000. While not all families can contribute at the same level, the Foundation will go a long way toward reaching our goal if we can achieve 100% participation at the level each family is comfortable. Every donation helps, regardless of size.

The Ainsworth Foundation primarily raises money in two ways. First, the Foundation asks for direct donations from parents, which means writing a check to the Foundation or donating online at www.ainsworthfoundation.org. You can even set up a monthly payment through Pay Pal, which allows you to spread your payments over the year. So if your goal is to donate \$750, you can have \$63 deducted from your account each month.

Second, the Foundation puts on a fundraising gala each year called "Red Ball." Red Ball includes a silent auction, a live auction, dinner and entertainment. Typically two-thirds of the money raised each year is through the proceeds from Red Ball. Not only does it serve to raise money for our children's education, but it also brings the Ainsworth community together for a night of revelry and fun.

Red Ball this year will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the Governor Hotel. Mark your calendars now! It is a great way to help reach your personal donation goal.

Also, please note that each grade has a class captain or captains, who are parent volunteers available to answer questions about the Foundation and Red Ball, and who can relay your feedback and comments to the Foundation Board.

Please consider helping the Foundation by volunteering your time and talents to one of the Foundation and Red Ball subgroups. We always welcome new people and new ideas, and volunteering is a great way to become part of the school community and ultimately help make each child's education experience at Ainsworth that much better. Please visit our website and join the Foundation and Red Ball subgroups on Big Tent.

Thank You,

Claude F. Bosworth
Ainsworth Foundation Co-President

Nathan M. Ayotte
Ainsworth Foundation Co-President