

## “School Improvement Wednesdays”™ Begin with Short Days for Students

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

School Improvement Wednesdays kicked-off this week with early release for all Bend-La Pine Schools elementary and middle school students. Beginning Wednesday, September 27, schools dismissed elementary students at 2:00 p.m. and middle school students at 1:00 p.m. Students at Three Rivers School in Sunriver are released at 1:30 p.m. This schedule remains in effect through June 6, 2007. “The early dismissal provides school staff an opportunity to focus on school-improvement through a variety of training, planning and collaboration opportunities,” said Superintendent Doug Nelson. Staff will use the time to learn about new teaching techniques, participate in training and meet with their peers to share best practices. “The Bend-La Pine Schools have been producing a high level of student achievement in recent years. This time allows us to continue to build on our successes,” said Nelson. “By providing a few hours each week we can help our teachers move to an even higher level” in turn, they bring their new skills to the classroom and our students benefit,” he adds. Several community groups are offering after-school enrichment programs and childcare for students during Wednesday’s early release. For more information about these alternatives, please visit [www.bend.k12.or.us](http://www.bend.k12.or.us) on the web or contact your local school. About School Improvement Wednesdays The Bend-La Pine Schools implemented School Improvement Wednesdays in the fall of 2005. The technique was developed as a way to increase instructional days, reduce what the public had identified as the high number of shortened weeks and what teachers had identified as interruptions to the continuity of instruction, provide for improved collaboration opportunities for teachers to better prepare to meet the needs of their students, and to comply with contractual and statutory regulations.

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