



Oakland News

January 2011

Oakland Elementary School
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A Message from the Principal

One little book...one big result. "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" is a children's book billed as a guide for daily happiness for children. Using this book to promote a climate of kindness and inclusion at Oakland School this year has been positive for children and adults. The book was a starting point for teachers and special area staff who have continued to find creative ways to model, recognize, and reinforce acts of kindness and other positive behaviors. The students, however, embraced the language and the concept of the book quickly and now "bucket-filling" and "bucket-dipping" statements are heard often. Parents and grandparents have commented about children bringing "bucket-filling" home to the family and how they have expanded this idea in their home. In an effort to document the contagious effect of this simple concept, please take time to share any "bucket-filling" anecdotes from your family on the Hoot at Home form on the next page.

Two gifts I received for Christmas at school this year must have had "run-away" tags! If your family gifted me with bags of edible goodies, please accept my thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Best wishes for a healthy and wonderful 2011!

~Mary Kay Scharf

School Closings

Although rare, it is sometimes necessary to close school due to winter weather conditions. When a decision to close school is made, the information will be available on the district's website (www.district87.org). An announcement will also be made on WJBC AM 1230.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

January	5	Last day of Winter Break
January	6	School Resumes
January	13	6:30—PTO Meeting
January	17	NO SCHOOL Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday
January	18	NO SCHOOL School Improvement Day
January	27	6:00-7:30 Health Fair
February	18	NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences
February	21	NO SCHOOL President's Day
February 28 - March 11		ISAT Testing

It's not too late!

In last month's newsletter, we asked for your help to raise money for SMART™ Board Clickers. If you would still like to make a tax-deductible contribution to Oakland School for our "Clicker Fund", please submit your check as soon as possible. Donations of any size are welcome and very much appreciated!



Oakland School Health Fair
Thursday, January 27 6:00-7:30

Oakland School Multicultural Fair
Thursday, February 24 6:00-7:30

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, January 27 and plan to attend our free, family-centered Health Fair. Enjoy and learn from over 25 interactive stations throughout the school.

If you've never attended our health fair before, make this your year to try it. There will be at least 5 new stations this year.

Stop by and try some healthy food samples, play a couple of health related games and even receive a free screening or two. We promise you won't be disappointed!



Interested in sharing your culture with the Oakland School community? Oakland School is having its fifth annual Family Multicultural Fair on Thursday, February 24th from 6:00 to 7:30 in the evening. The last four have been great successes, and we look forward to yet another great event! To ensure a successful fair, we are seeking family participation to demonstrate what life is like in other cultures. We would like to expose the students to various aspects of each culture: clothing, food, crafts, dancing, games, music, language, etc. If you can assist in **any** way, please look for a form in January that your child will receive from his or her teacher. On this form you will be able to sign up to help and say how you would like to contribute! Thanks!



HOOT at Home "How Oakland Operates Together"

Congratulations to Avery C. who was last month's winner of the HOOT at Home Bonus question. She won a gift card to Smoothie King for learning great ways to calm down strong feelings!

Throughout this year, your student has learned a lot about how to be a bucket filler. All our classrooms have read the book: *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?; A Guide To Daily Happiness for Kids*, by Carol McCloud.

We are proud that Oakland School is a bucket filling school. You can have a bucket filling home as well! Ask your child what they have learned about being a bucket filler.

As a New Year's Resolution, have your family resolve to do one act of kindness for someone else each day. Have dinner together and talk about how you filled a bucket that day – or – how someone else filled your bucket that day.

HOOT at Home Bonus!!!

Complete this form and return to school by January 31st for a chance to win a prize!



HOOT at Home Bonus Ticket

Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Parents—Tell us how your child has filled your bucket or any other bucket-related story from home:

Scrip News from PTO

Our December Scrip order was one of the biggest we have ever had-THANK YOU to those who ordered! It was great to see even more new names on the order sheet!

Here are a few ideas to maximize the fundraising potential of Scrip for Oakland PTO:

- Kohl's scrip can be used to pay off Kohl's credit card bills! If you shop at Kohl's, plan ahead and order scrip to pay your bill when it comes.
- If you or someone you know has a business that makes purchases from a participating retailer, look into purchasing scrip cards to use for those things.
- ScripNow is adding new retailers quite frequently. This option allows you to purchase vouchers that can be printed immediately-no waiting, no shipping, less planning ahead! Watch for more retailers to join.
- If you shop at Kroger, purchase a reloadable card through our scrip program, reload it before you start your shopping, and it will be ready to use when you check out! You can even use your credit card for reloading if you want to earn points for your credit card account!

We have noticed an increased interest in this program-the earning potential is great-and with no extra out of pocket expense or door to door selling! Check it out-maybe it is something you can do to help out the students at Oakland School!

Nutrition Matters

Monkey See, Monkey Do!

By Julie Fehrenbacher MS, RD, LDN School Nutrition Director

Did you know that your kids are watching "EVERYTHING" you do? Even your eating habits!! It is proven through research that the eating behaviors you model for your child will influence what they choose to eat and drink.

You may think if you provide healthy foods or tell your child what to eat that they will; NOT necessarily! They need to see the adults around them eating the foods they should be eating.

SO, do your part:

1. Eat fruits and vegetables with your children—EVEN if you don't like them!
2. Drink milk; preferably skim with your children at meals or snacks.
3. Consume empty calories (cookies, cakes, pies, chips) once in awhile, so that your children learn moderation!



Bus Issues

If you have concerns about a late bus or a situation that has occurred on the bus, please contact the school office at (309) 662-4302.

Please keep in mind factors such as the weather and traffic may affect arrival times.




Tar Wars

The McLean County Health Department recently sponsored the Tar Wars: 2010-2011 Poster Contest for our 5th graders at Oakland School. This year's school winner was Hadley H. of Mrs. Hiles' class. Great job, Hadley! Other winners were Lauren L. of Mr. Oberts' class, and Aubree A. of Mrs. Stanek's class. Honorable mentions went to Justina J., Kylie C., Eva C., Brylee L., Noah M., Katie C. and Yashasvini R.

ISAT Testing Dates are February 28-
March 11. Please do not make appointments
for your child during these 2 weeks.

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>January 25—7:00 pm Band Concert at Oakland Gym</i> <i>January 26—7:00 pm Orchestra Recital at BHS Auditorium</i></p> 						1
2	3 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	4 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	5 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	6 SCHOOL RESUMES	7	8
9	10	11	12 8:15 Student Council Meeting Report Cards go home today	13 Scrip Order Deadline 6:30 PTO Meeting	14	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL <i>Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday</i>	18 NO SCHOOL <i>School Improvement Day</i>	19	20 School Special Chalupa	21	22
23	24 NO NAME- CALLING WEEK	25 Band Concert	26 8:15 Student Council Meeting Orchestra Recital	27 6:00-7:30 Health Fair	28	29
30	31	<p>The winners of the 5th grade t-shirt contest are Nakia, Mariah & Aubree. Look for order forms to come home in January.</p>				