

Oakland News

October 2010



Oakland Elementary School
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Messages from the Principal

During the first week of October, students will participate in an Oakland Owl logo “selection election.” Three “candidates” are vying for the role of representing our school on shirts, stationery, note cards, and more. Originally scheduled for September, the event was moved to coincide with our Fall Festival activities on Friday, October 8th! We will introduce you to Oakland’s Owl in the next newsletter.

Peanut Butter Alert! Despite all of our efforts to limit the exposure of nuts and peanuts to our many children with allergies, a student experienced a severe reaction at school this week! I appeal to you to support our efforts to keep our children safe.

- ~ Unless your child will eat no other foods for lunch or peanut butter is a component of a specialized medically-based diet, please do not send these products to school for snack or lunch.
- ~ One of the problems we identified is the inclusion of Reese’s and Butterfinger candy bars in Lunchables...please be aware of this and substitute this if possible. We prefer NO candy be included in lunches from home.
- ~ Children who do bring peanut products for lunch sit at a special table and are required to thoroughly wash their hands before going to recess.

Thank you in advance for helping keep our school environment safe for these children.

~Mary Kay Scharf

Friendly Reminders

- ◆ As the weather turns colder, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Remember, students go outside for 20 minutes every day the windchill is 20 degrees or warmer. They will need a warm coat, hat, and gloves/mittens to be protected from the cold.
- ◆ School hours are 9:00 am-3:15 pm. Repeated unexcused tardiness or leaving school early will result in consequences, including morning detention.
- ◆ Invitations to parties cannot be distributed at school. Due to health concerns and scheduling, treats for all occasions must be arranged with the teacher in advance.
- ◆ Changes in how a child goes home must be communicated in writing to the teacher. If no parent contact is made, students will be sent home in the usual manner.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

November	4	6:30 PTO Meeting
	18	Family Reading Night
	25-26	NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Break
December	2	6:30 PTO Meeting
	22	End of 2nd Grading Period
December	23	Winter Break Begins
January	5	Last day of Winter Break
January	6	School Resumes



Nutrition Matters!

Have you heard the phrase "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day?" Well, it is true! A fed mind is a healthy mind. Healthy minds are better able to concentrate, learn, and focus on lessons in class.

District 87 offers breakfast every morning!

If your child eats lunch for free or reduced price they will also receive breakfast at free or reduced price (\$0.30). Paid students are \$1.50 (elementary); \$1.75 (BJHS/BHS). Let us help you have a smoother morning getting out the door by eating breakfast provided by our food service staff!

If you have any ideas for our breakfast menu, we would love to hear them!
Questions: Call Julie Fehrenbacher, School Nutrition Director
309-827-6031 ext 229



Get Carried Away with a Good Book at the Barnes & Noble Book Fair!

You are invited to a fun evening of reading and shopping at our local Barnes & Noble on Thursday, October 21 from 4:00 - 9:00 pm. At least 10% of each purchase will benefit Oakland's Library Media Center, including all books, CDs, DVDs, nook™ eReaders, and nook™ accessories! Plan to enjoy a light dinner or dessert at the café, as these purchases also count toward our fundraiser. Select a special book for your child's classroom by browsing the baskets of titles pre-selected by the teacher. Books from our state's 2010-2011 reading lists (Monarch Award [Gr. K-3], Bluestem Award [Gr. 4], and Rebecca Caudill Award [Gr. 5]) will also be available for purchase. Guest readers will be present to share their favorite titles, and student artwork will be displayed in the café.



Even if you cannot join in the evening's festivities, you can still help out. Purchases made during store hours (9:00 am - 10:00 pm) on Thursday, October 21 will count toward our fundraiser totals. Online orders placed between Friday, October 22 and Monday, October 25 also contribute to our fundraiser. Visit www.bn.com and enter **Book Fair ID #10294684** at the time of check out.

The voucher attached to page 5 **must be presented** at the time of purchase for a portion of the proceeds to be donated to Oakland's Library Media Center. Barnes & Noble Scrip Cards (in \$10 and \$25 amounts) will be available for purchase in the school office beginning October 19. Supplies will be limited, so stop in soon!
Thank you for your support!



Ways You Can Help Us

The front circle drive is to be used by buses and approved daycare vans only during the hours of 8:30-9:00 am and 2:45-3:30 pm. If you are dropping off or picking up a student at those times, please plan accordingly.



Please be considerate of the many cars behind you by turning right out of the parking lot onto Oakland Avenue during arrival and departure times. It only takes a few moments to go around the block, and it allows everyone to depart the parking lot in a more timely manner.

Please do not park on the building side of the front drive at any time. It is imperative that emergency vehicles have 24-hour access to our school; parking on both sides of the drive prevents that. Please help...the life you save may be your own!



As a reminder, the handicapped parking spaces (1 in the front of the building and 1 in the parking lot) should only be used if you are entering the building and have the proper permit.

We Give a HOOT!

A brief introduction to HOOT – How Oakland Operates Together – was included in the September newsletter and in all orientation meetings. The school-wide positive behavior intervention program includes many components. A description of some of these are included:

- * We implemented the bucket-filler token system to recognize positive behavior. ALL staff members carry bucket slips that are given to students who are caught doing something positive or who consistently make appropriate choices. The slips are placed in a large bucket in the lobby on Fridays. On Monday mornings, students eagerly await Okie the Owl's announcement of which grade level acquired the greatest percentage of bucket slips the previous week. A special "trophy" (a green bucket filled with small items such as pencils or stickers) is delivered to all classes in the grade level to display through the week.
- * A matrix of student expectations for each area of our school was designed and shared with students. The first days of school were dedicated to the instruction and practice of these expectations. (Watch for more information on the website.)
- * We identified "3 Bigs" or our three highest priority behaviors and incorporated them into positive statements in the Oakland Owls Oath. The oath is stated by all students each morning just before the Pledge of Allegiance. (See oath on this page.)
- * All teachers implemented "Thinking Spots" in classrooms and common areas. Students who make repeated poor choices have the "opportunity" to think through these actions and make a plan for better behavior on a written document. Different forms were created to match the developmental readiness of children in K/1, 2/3, and 4/5.
- * Creatively designed posters provide signage of target behaviors and are displayed for student viewing. The posters include simple language and limited words in an effort to focus the attention of students and to provide reminders.
- * A chart of major and minor inappropriate behaviors with clear definitions was created for use in the system. Translated to a form that is sent home for parent signing, the HOOT form is something we hope you NEVER need to see! However, this is a critical communication tool, and students who receive one are required to return it the next school day of attendance to avoid further consequences. Students who do not return this document the following school day are assigned a before or after school detention.
- * Our team scheduled monthly meetings to analyze the collective data related to inappropriate behaviors. We use this data to help us target and increase or decrease various behaviors. More about what we do with this data will be shared in a future newsletter.



Oakland Owls

We are respectful.

We are responsible.

We are safe.

We give a HOOT!

As a staff, we chose to place our focus on prevention of problems/behaviors instead of reacting to them. Providing a positive climate in a setting in which students have a clear understanding of behavioral expectations in all areas has had positive results already!

News from Oakland PTO

Oakland School's Scrip program is off to a great start this year. We noticed we have several new families participating and hope we can continue to add to our customer base. Please remember Scrip is a fundraiser that benefits Oakland School PTO while purchasers get dollar for dollar what they purchase. Everyone uses gas, purchases groceries, and occasionally eats out—please check out our list of participating retailers at ShopWithScrip.com. If each Oakland family participated, it would be very easy to add thousands of dollars to our school's PTO budget which directly benefits our kids. If you have questions, please contact one of the Scrip volunteers. In need of a quick gift card for a gift? Give the school office a call to see what we have in our inventory for immediate purchase.

Bergner's Community Days event is Saturday, November 13th. A flyer and coupon booklets will be sent home in mid-October to kick off this fundraiser. The top seller of coupon booklets in Grades K-2 and 3-5 will win a Toys 'R Us gift card! Plan ahead and order your Bergner's gift cards through the Scrip program in October.

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<p>Parent Teacher Conference Day is Friday, October 29.</p> <p>Have you scheduled a time to meet with your child's teacher yet?</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Chicken Giggles & Smiling Potatoes for Lunch Today</p> <p>Student Council Essay Deadline</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1st Grade to Ropp Cheese Farm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:45 Room Parent Social</p> <p>6:30 PTO Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:30-3:00 Fall Festival</p>	<p>9</p> 	
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Columbus Day</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:15 Student Council Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>School Special Fish Nuggets</p> <p>Scrip Order Deadline</p>	<p>15</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Teacher Institute</p> <p>End of 1st Grading Period</p>	<p>16</p>	
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Principal Appreciation Week</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Don't forget to pick up your Barnes & Noble Scrip Cards to use at the Book Fair! They are available in the office.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:15 Student Council Meeting</p> <p>United Way Coin Drive Begins</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Barnes & Noble Book Fair Family Activities 4:00 pm-9:00 pm</p> 	<p>22 23</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>All purchases made at Barnes & Noble between 9:00 am—10:00 pm on Thursday, October 21 will benefit Oakland's Library Media Center.</p> </div>		
<p>24</p> <p>31</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Parent Teacher Conference Week</p> <p>Red Ribbon Week</p> <p>Take the time to teach your child the importance of saying "NO" to drugs & alcohol.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>United Way Coin Drive Ends</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences</p>	<p>30</p>	

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

**Thursday, October 21
Family Activities from 4:00 – 9:00 pm**

Guest readers will share their favorite selections between 4:30 and 9:00 pm, including the book **Have You Filled a Bucket Today?** Related bucket-filling books will also be featured. Student artwork will be displayed within the café. Titles from the 2010-2011 reading lists (Monarch Award, Bluestem, and Rebecca Caudill nominees) will be available for purchase, as well as owl-themed books and accessories.

At least 10% of sales will benefit Oakland's Library Media Center. Almost **all purchases** fall within the parameters of the fundraiser, including books, CDs, DVDs, nook™ eReaders, nook™ accessories, **and** food/beverage items from the café.

If you are unable to make it between 4:00 – 9:00 pm, you can still support Oakland's Library Media Center! All purchases you make at Barnes & Noble between 9:00 am - 10:00 pm will contribute to our fundraiser.

You **MUST HAVE THE ATTACHED VOUCHER**
(to the right) in order for
your purchases to be counted toward
Oakland School's fundraiser.



Barnes & Noble Bookfair

supporting
Oakland Elementary
School's

Library Media Center



*Please present this voucher
prior to making your purchase.*

**Thursday, October 21
9:00 am – 10:00 pm**
*Family Activities
from 4:00 – 9:00 pm*

Barnes & Noble
1701 E. Empire (near Schnucks & Toys R Us)

Bookfair I.D. #10294684

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

