

Oakland News

December 2011



Oakland Elementary School
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A Note From the Principal

Our annual Family Health Fair is just around the corner on Thursday, January 26th. This event has become a favorite of parents and students. Each year, we add to or change some of the activities to keep it interesting and enjoyable. We are seeking new participants who will contribute to our event. *Please contact Nurse Colleen if you have interest in providing an activity related to physical, intellectual, social, or emotional health.* You can reach her by email at spaniolc@district87.org or by calling the school at (309) 662-4302.

Last year, I shared some of the Scharf Family favorite games as gift ideas for the holiday season. Having received a great deal of positive feedback, I decided to share a few of our new favorites:

Pick Two: This is a word-making game similar to Bananagrams. A choice for even beginning spellers, it will also challenge competitive adults.

Like Minds: This game of categories is similar to Scattergories. Given a category, partners secretly name items in the category, scoring points for similar responses.

Qwirkle: A colorful game of attributes, this game stimulates the brain. Playing with fewer attributes expands the age appropriateness to include primary age students.

Doodle Dice: A fun and *quick* game with a range of complexity for all ages. Roll dice with various shapes to match the pictures on cards.

All Time Favorites: Blokus, Set, Pictionary, Rat a Tat Cat, Five Crowns, Apples to Apples, Bananagrams, and Catch Phrase.

I wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

-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) and announced on the radio at WJBC AM 1230. Families will also receive a phone call(s) through the automated School Reach system.





HOOT at Home
“How Oakland Operates Together”



Thanksgiving is behind us. Our tummies are full, the dishes are clean, the family has left, and the shopping season has begun. Hopefully in the madness of the last few days, you have taken time to reflect with your children on what they have been thankful for this year. December is always a whirlwind of shopping, presents, and lots of “stuff”. This December, challenge your children to think of this time of year as a time for **giving** instead of getting.

Start the conversation today. Have them fill in the blanks below. If you would like, return the completed bonus ticket by Dec. 19th for a chance to win a Smoothie King gift card and an opportunity to share with our staff the true meaning of the holidays.

HOOT at Home Bonus Ticket

Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____

What do the holidays mean to you?

What are you doing for others this season?

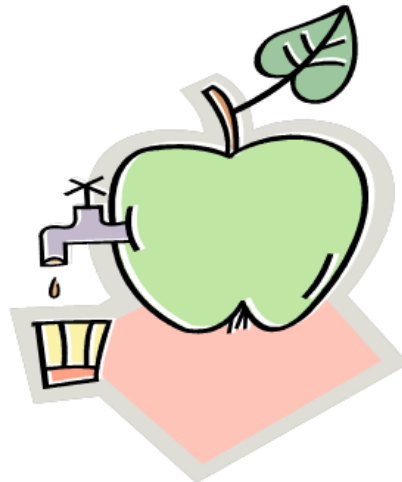
What is your favorite holiday memory?

Achieving Nutrition Through Beverages

Brooke Seibert, Dietetic Intern
Julie McCoy MS, RD, LDN, School Nutrition Director

District 87 realizes the importance of increasing the nutritional quality of the beverages served to our students. We have accomplished this by minimizing the amount of sugary drinks available and maximizing the beverages with lower calories and higher nutrients. Instead of sodas and sugary fruit drinks, we offer zero-calorie flavored waters and sports drinks, 100% juices, and low-fat milks.

It can be very easy to consume many extra calories in the form of drinks throughout the day! Please try to express the importance of choosing nutritious beverages to your child and help them develop this healthy life-long habit. And don't forget, you are one of your child's biggest role models!



Seasons' Readings!



This December, we would like to give each family the "gift of reading." Beginning Thursday, December 15 through Wednesday, December 21, your child will be allowed to borrow up to five library books to enjoy with your family throughout winter vacation! This special book checkout activity will take place as part of your child's weekly scheduled Library Media Center class.










Our first annual "Seasons' Readings" event invites children to select **any five books** that interest them. The goal is for students to come home excited about the books they have selected, and in turn, *share that excitement with you*. "Unwrapping the Gift of Reading" could include reading a story to your child, listening to him/her read aloud, or taking turns reading aloud. It could also include talking about the book's characters, predicting the storyline, or summarizing lessons learned. This time doesn't have to be scripted...we just want families to take a break from the hectic holiday season and enjoy the wonderful gift of reading! As a way to demonstrate your family's commitment to reading and the importance of books, we will send home a blank present cut-out with your child's stack of books. During winter break, families are invited to decorate their gifts however they wish (adding your families names, the titles of the books you shared, and the phrase "Seasons' Readings" are just a few ideas). Each note will include the date your child's books are due, and we encourage families to enjoy these books until after winter vacation ends. On your child's "due date," s/he can return the books, along with your family's decorated present. A collage will be made to celebrate Oakland's commitment to reading!



Skoob the Shelf Elf



Have you ever heard of Skoob, Oakland's "shelf elf?" Skoob is the friendly elf who encourages children to take care of their library books. He is famous for his seven useful rhymes:

-  Return your books when they are due, so others can enjoy them, too.
-  Keep your books clean and neat, away from all you drink and eat.
-  If you need to save your place, stick a bookmark in that space.
-  Turn the pages with great care; leave them whole without a tear.
-  Keep books safe and out of view from little ones and dogs that chew.
-  Use a stick you can't go wrong; put books back where they belong.
-  When in the library make this choice: Always use your quiet voice.

Book Fair News

Thank you for supporting our Fall Book Fairs! Our students have been wishing for several, new titles, and your support has made a **huge** difference in expanding our library's collection. Here is a summary of our progress from the Fall 2011 semester:

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Final Profit: \$947.13

Number of books purchased for the L.M.C. with Scrip cards: 81

Number of new hardcover books purchased with profits: 50

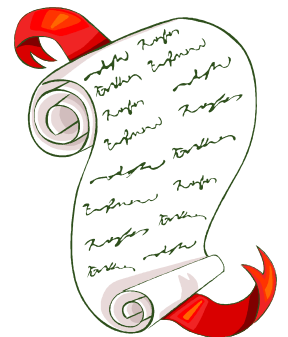
Scholastic Book Fair

Final Profit: \$1250.00

Amount of money collected from "Change Wars": \$580.03 (matched by Scholastic for national charities)

Anticipated number of new hardcover books purchased with profits: 65

"Bonus dollars" from Scholastic: \$1250.00
\$98.43 used immediately to purchase 24 books;
remainder to be redeemed for future award books



Sick Kids Need to Stay Home and Healthy Kids Need to be at School!

- ◆ **Fever-100° or higher**-A fever is a sign of illness. A child with a temperature of 100° or higher should **not** attend school. The child should be free of fever (without medicine) **for 24 hours** before returning to school.
- ◆ **Sore Throat/Colds/Cough**-Minor cold symptoms are common and usually don't interfere with school attendance. A persistent, frequent cough and/or constant nasal drainage may affect your child's performance at school, and he may be more comfortable at home.
- ◆ **Rash**-A rash may cover the entire body or only one area. A child that has a rash that is draining, has open areas or is causing the child to itch excessively should **not** attend school. A rash accompanied with other symptoms such as a fever, sore throat, irritability, vomiting, etc. should **not** attend school.
- ◆ **Vomiting/Diarrhea**-A child who has vomited should wait 24 hours and be able to retain solid foods before returning to school. A child who is having diarrhea should **not** attend school.
- ◆ **Strep Throat**-requires 24 hours of treatment with an antibiotic and no sign of fever for 24 hours.
- ◆ **Confirmed Pink Eye**-requires 24 hours of treatment with an antibiotic.

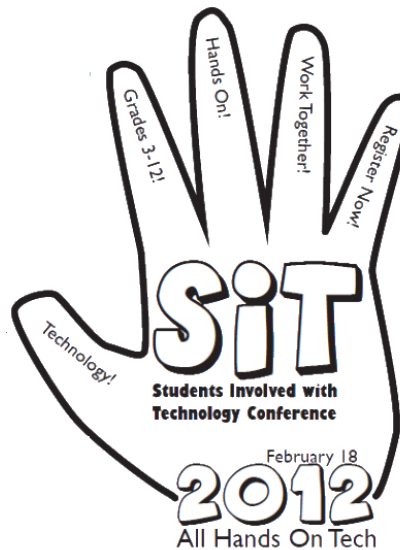


Consider a Donation for The Baby Fold

Oakland's Girl Scout Troop 1365 will be partnering with The Baby Fold this holiday season. During the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees Christmas Parade on December 3rd, the girls will be collecting diapers. If you would like to help out, you can now donate to this cause. If you are unable to attend the parade and would still like to make a donation, please contact Troop Leader Sue Summers at (309) 212-8955 for delivery options. The troop of eight 3rd grade girls from Oakland School appreciates your support of their community service project.

Mark Your Calendars!

January	4	Last Day of Winter Break
	5	School Resumes
	16	NO SCHOOL <i>Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday</i>
	17	NO SCHOOL <i>School Improvement Day</i>
	25	Group Picture Day
February	26	Health Fair
	10	No School—P/T Conferences
	18	SIT Conference at Heartland
	20	No School—President's Day
March	23	Multicultural Fair
	5-16	ISAT Testing <i>(Please refrain from making appointments for your child during this 2 week period.)</i>
	23	12:05 Dismissal
April	26-30	Spring Break
	6	Non Attendance Day







On February 18, 2012 the SIT Conference Committee will host the 12th annual Students Involved with Technology (SIT) Conference at Heartland Community College's Workforce Development Center. The SIT Conference is a one-day technology conference for students in grades 3-12. The conference is by students for students (yes, the presenters are students and the attendees are students)!

For information about the SIT 2012 or past conferences, please visit www.sitconference.org. The website contains links for

registration; the fee for attendees, presenters and sponsors is \$25.00. For more conference (or scholarship) information contact: info@sitconference.org, or call Tammi at 309-828-7115. The registration deadline is noon on January 18, 2012.

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Students go outside for recess everyday when the wind chill is 20 degrees or above. Rain, heavy snow, or an uncleared blacktop are the only exceptions to this rule. Please help your child be prepared for outdoor recess by making sure he or she wears a hat, coat, and mittens on cold days.</p>			1 6:30 PTO Meeting	2 12:00 2nd Graders to see The Nutcracker 	3
4	5	6	7 8:15 Student Council Meeting	8	9 PTO Michael's Restaurant Fundraiser	10 PTO Michael's Restaurant Fundraiser
11 PTO Michael's Restaurant Fundraiser	12	13	14	15	16	17
						
18	19	20 2:30 Holiday Room Parties	21 Last Full Day of Attendance Before Winter Break Begins End of 2nd grading period	22 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	23 NO SCHOOL <i>Winter Break</i>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			<h2>HAPPY WINTER BREAK!</h2>			