

# Oakland News

November 2011



Oakland Elementary School  
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## A Note From the Principal

Oakland School is filled with excellent teachers who bring their "A" game to school every day. They continually make daily plans considering the art and science of instruction, as well as the love of children. They build relationships with families that are often long lasting. One teacher has been doing this over a career of 38 years. Approaching each day with energy and creativity, Mr. Ed Storrs can be found leading students through sound effects and whole body motions in order to learn and understand science concepts. You may see him in the lobby two mornings a week as the long time "general manager" of the Oakland School Store. You might also find him in the perpetual role of "good sport" during assemblies as an actor, guinea pig, or holder of the signs. He is a caring co-worker who often leads our group in our efforts to support each other.

Several times a year, when it is learned I am the principal of Oakland, young adults (and slightly less-young adults) begin to tell me stories about Mr. Storrs and the whacky things he did to excite students about science or to help students remember important facts. Each spring, Illinois State Scholars who are students at Bloomington High School are honored at a dinner. These scholars are asked to invite a person who has been instrumental in their success. Mr. Storrs seems to be the most invited elementary teacher in the years I have attended.

Recently, a very distinguished award was bestowed upon this legend in our presence. While tens of thousands of teachers have been prepared at Illinois State University, each year only six to seven are inducted in the College of Education Distinguished Alumni Hall. This year, Mr. Storrs was among those honored. While teachers do not stay in the profession for 38 years for public accolade, it is wonderful this prestigious recognition was provided to him. We, too, honor him and feel honored ourselves to call him our co-worker and friend.

Do you have a teacher from your past who provided inspiration for you? Did someone go the extra mile to help you succeed? Did a teacher provide a loving, caring relationship at a time when it was painfully needed? If so, I challenge you to locate this person and send a quick note of appreciation. While this is not the gas that fills a teacher's tank to keep on teaching, it certainly will fill a bucket!

*~Mary Kay Scharf*

## Help Us Stay Healthy

Cold and flu season has arrived early this year. We are asking for your assistance in controlling the spread of illness throughout the school. The Centers for Disease Control have identified the following as flu-like symptoms:

- ~ Sore or achy muscles and joints and/or fatigue
- ~ Cough and/or sneezing, runny or stuffy nose
- ~ Fever of 100 degrees or more or chills
- ~ Sore throat and/or headache
- ~ Vomiting and/or diarrhea

Please keep your child home until all symptoms are gone. Once your child is fever free for 24 hours without medication, and is not experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea, they may return to school.





## **HOOT at Home** **“How Oakland Operates Together”**



The holidays are just around the corner. This is a time when many of us are able to enjoy the warmth of family, the comfort of delicious food, and the excitement of opening gifts. It is also a time to be thankful and appreciate the wonderful things we have in our lives. As you reflect on the festivities during the upcoming months, please take a moment to think about those in our community who are less fortunate. Take the opportunity to teach your children a valuable lesson about the importance of giving to others. Your children know the importance of “filling buckets” at school; please challenge yourself and your family to continue that mission at home by finding time to give back to those in need. Some opportunities within our community are listed below.

**\*Salvation Army – 829-9476:** There are many opportunities to help with a range of volunteer responsibilities available throughout the months of November & December – some of those are listed below. Should you want further details, contact Joyce Glasscock, at 829-9476, ext. 203.

**Bell Ringing:** Volunteers are needed as Christmas Bell Ringers beginning November 18 through December 24. Volunteers are needed Monday-Saturday, 10 am-8 pm. Individuals, clubs, church groups, sororities, fraternities, civic groups, etc. are welcome. Those interested can sign up to be a bell ringer over the Internet; go to [www.ringbells.org](http://www.ringbells.org) and click on Bloomington. You will receive a confirmation via email. If you can't sign up on-line, call Steve Schroeder, 829-9476, ext. 204.

**Food Drives:** The Salvation Army relies on help from the public with food donations for their holiday assistance program. Any group wishing to host a food drive can contact Steve Schroeder, 829-9476, ext. 204 for pickup and drop-off times.

**Coats for Kids & Families:** Donate new or gently used coats, hats, mittens or gloves to the Salvation Army Now through December 10. Items can be dropped off at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Center for Health at Ft. Jesse, Starbucks at Veterans Pkwy/Washington and The Salvation Army (611 W. Washington). Items will be distributed to children and families who are in need of clothing.

**\*WJBC – Brotherhood Tree – 829-1221:** Ask for Janae or look online at [www.wjbc.com](http://www.wjbc.com).

**Donations:** Only new gifts are accepted and can be for children or adults. Each gift should be wrapped and marked with age and contents. Checks are also accepted, along with donations by Paypal ([www.wjbc.com](http://www.wjbc.com)). Donations are accepted the day after Thanksgiving (November 24) through Wed, December 14.

**Volunteers:** Help to arrange where the gifts will be dropped off before they are taken to the State of Illinois Army National Guard armory, use of the State of Illinois Army National Guard armory, dates and times when the charity will be doing its service, refreshments, and which corporations/companies will help with the Brotherhood Tree. Another volunteer job is collecting gifts and supplies and bringing them to the State of Illinois Army National Guard armory which is located at 1616 S Main St. Bloomington,

**\*Home Sweet Home Ministries – 828-7356:** Contact Sabrina Burkiewicz at 828-7356 x215 or [sburkiewicz@hshministries.org](mailto:sburkiewicz@hshministries.org).

**Adopt a Family** HSHM is looking for families, individuals, or groups to adopt a needy family and provide Christmas presents for them.

**Holiday Meal Delivery** HSHM, with the help of many volunteers, delivers and serves hot meals to people who are shut in or hungry in the Bloomington, Normal and surrounding areas. Volunteers work for a couple of hours between 9 am to 1 pm on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve Day 2011.

- Assemble meals and utensils in delivery boxes
- Food preparation
- Deliver meals
- Set up and/or tear down
- Serve 12:30 meal at Billy Shelper Center to homeless and hungry clients

**\*Toys for Tots – US Marine Corps Reserves – 826-5588:** New toys are collected and distributed to needy McLean County children through community holiday assistance programs. Monetary donations are very much appreciated, as well. Donated toys can be dropped off November 2 through December 21 at the drop-off boxes in Toys R Us or Eastland Mall. The Steering Committee needs volunteers to serve on the committee for the seasonal toy drive. Contact Matt Drat, [matt@mcleantoyfortots.org](mailto:matt@mcleantoyfortots.org), or call the number above. \*\*We were unable to verify drop-off dates, there are multiple drop-off locations throughout Bloomington/Normal.\*\*

**\*Children’s Foundation – Adopt-A-Family – 827-0374:** Business groups, families, or individuals can adopt-a-family for Christmas. Donations of gifts, household items, and money are appreciated. (This program serves only the families receiving services through The Children’s Foundation.) Contact Katie Allen at the number above or at [kallen@childrenshomeandaid.org](mailto:kallen@childrenshomeandaid.org) for more information.



# TO THE BOOK FAIR AND BEYOND!



## Reading Is Out of This World!

### NOVEMBER 2011: SCHOOL BOOK FAIR HOURS



Monday, November 14 - Friday, November 18  
ALIENS v. ROBOTS "Change Wars" in Front Lobby

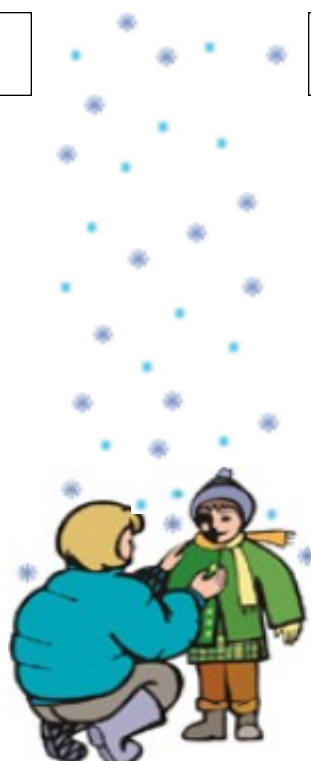


Tuesday, November 15	3:45 - 5:00 pm - Teacher Preview Party & Hassle-Free Shopping for Parents
Wednesday, November 16	8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Students shop at pre-assigned times; parents may shop anytime
Thursday, November 17	8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Students shop at pre-assigned times; parents may shop anytime
<i>A Book Fair preview flyer will be sent home soon that list your child's class shopping time.</i>	5:30 - 7:00 pm - "Space Spaghetti Dinner" <i>Details will be sent home in a separate flyer.</i>
	6:00 - 7:30 pm - "Family Fun Night" Activities
	5:30 - 8:00 pm - Book Fair Open in the Library Media Center



### Mark Your Calendars!



- December**
  - 1 6:30 PTO Meeting
  - 21 Full Day of Attendance
  - 21 End of 2nd Quarter
  - 22 First Day of Winter Break
- January**
  - 4 Last Day of Winter Break
  - 5 School Resumes
- February**
  - 10 No School—P/T Conferences
  - 20 No School—President's Day
- March**
  - 5-16 ISAT Testing  
*(Please refrain from making appointments for your child during this 2 week period.)*
  - 23 12:05 Dismissal
  - 26-30 Spring Break



### Friendly Reminders

- School starts promptly at 9:00 and ends at 3:15. Instruction takes place the entire day! Late arrivals and early dismissals not only disrupt your child's learning, but also the students in the classroom.
- 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.
- Changes in how a child goes home must be communicated in in writing to the teacher. An email is also acceptable, but should be sent by 11:00. When emailing, be sure to include a copy to the office in case a teacher is absent. If no parent contact is made, students will be sent home in the usual manner.

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Student Council Food Drive this week  50th Day of School	2  8:15 Student Council Meeting	3  Kindergarten to BCPA for Play  6:30 PTO Meeting	4 	5	
6  Daylight Savings Time Begins	7	8 Picture Retake Day 	9	10 Dental Day 	11 	12 PTO Bergner's Community Days
13	14 Book Fair Week	15 3:45-5:00 Hassle-Free Book Fair Shopping for Parents	16 8:15 Student Council Meeting  Students Shop at Book Fair	17 Students Shop at Book Fair Book Fair, Family Fun Night & Spaghetti Dinner <i>Watch for more information to come home soon!</i>	18 	19
20 	21 5:00-7:00 PTO McTeacher Night 2507 Oakland Ave	22	23	24 NO SCHOOL  	25 NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29	30	<p>The Barnes &amp; Noble Book Fair earned just over \$1,000 for our Library Media Center. Thank you for your support!</p>		