

Oakland News

October 2011



Oakland Elementary School
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A Note From the Principal

Dear Oakland Owl Parents and Guardians,

- ◆ The 2011-2012 school year is well underway. Our continued focus for this school year is to improve academic achievement and support a positive school climate. Teachers spend before and after school time and teacher work days to closely analyze individual assessment data for all students in order to identify strengths, adjust strategies, and plan instruction. I will also be sending home a brief survey for parents in the next week. The purpose of the survey is to gather information from you to help us in our mission of continuous improvement.
- ◆ We are working diligently to maximize a safe and positive climate at Oakland School. Our HOOT process includes clearly defined expectations in all settings and has given us a common vocabulary with which to reinforce and redirect students. Read more about our celebrations of awesome behavior later in the newsletter.
- ◆ October is Anti-bullying Awareness Month and we continue our efforts in this area. Video clips, assembly skits, and other events will be shared with students to increase the awareness of what bullying is and what children can do to put an end to this senseless behavior. I am excited to preview a program for K-2 next week titled: Wise Owl Bully Prevention Kit! Hopefully it will provide even more resources for the teachers of our youngest children to stop it before it starts!

~Mary Kay Scharf

You are invited to the 1st Annual Library Volunteer Meeting

Are you interested in helping in the Library during the school days on Monday or Friday mornings,
or any time during the day on Wednesdays?

Are you a State Farm employee who needs an opportunity to earn volunteer hours outside of the workday?

Are you looking for a way to help a classroom teacher?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this meeting is for you!

For your convenience, there will be two *identical* sessions:

Tuesday, October 18 3:45-5:00 pm

OR

Monday, October 24 6:00-7:15 pm



Topics will include:

- How to create Reading Counts labels for books within classroom libraries
- Re-labeling the entire Juvenile nonfiction section to better serve students
- Taking a library tour to learn about its organization and offerings
- Learning how to read spine labels
- Assisting with check out procedures and learning grade-level expectations
- Maintaining the library's shelves: creating displays, facing out appealing books
- Discussing issues related to student privacy, including Lexile measures
- Completing paperwork: availability, interests, background check

If you would like to attend one of these informative meetings, please RSVP to
Amy Oberts, Library Media Specialist at oberts@district87.org by Friday, October 14.

Bloomington Public Schools District 87 · Dr. Barry Reilly, Superintendent

Board of Education: Michael Harrison, Sr, Joe Butcher, John Dirks, Dr. Steve Perry, Millicent Roth, Judith Webster & Mary Yount

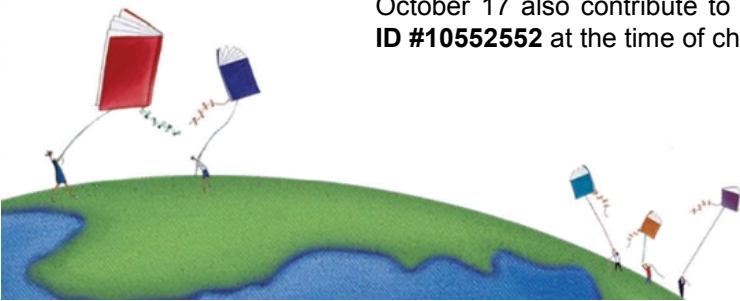
Get Carried Away with a Good Book at the Barnes & Noble Book Fair!

You are invited to a fun evening of reading and shopping at our local Barnes & Noble on Thursday, October 13 from 4:00 - 8:30 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. Please consider selecting a special book for your child's classroom by browsing the baskets of titles pre-selected by the teacher. Books from our state's 2011-2012 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 13, will count toward our fundraiser totals. **Online orders** placed between Friday, October 14 and Monday, October 17 also contribute to our fundraiser. Visit www.bn.com and enter **Book Fair ID #10552552** at the time of check out.

Your student will soon bring home a voucher which **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) are available for purchase in the school office. Supplies will be limited, so stop in soon! **Thank you for your support!**



PTO Dining Out News

Thank you to everyone who visited Gene's Dairy Delight for the fundraiser in September. Upcoming events include:

- ◆ October 1-15 Brown's Produce
- ◆ October 14-16 Michael's Restaurant
- ◆ November 11-12 Bergner's Community Days
- ◆ November 21 McDonald's Spirit Night

Watch for more information on the website or coming home soon!



HOOT at Home "How Oakland Operates Together"



We are excited to include Mrs. April Powell as part of the Oakland staff. She is a graduate student intern working with Mrs. Ryder this year. April is a currently completing her Masters in Social Work at the University of Illinois. She has worked for several years as a social worker in Pontiac and is excited to begin the opportunity of working with children in a social work role at school. Please welcome her when you see her around the school!



As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are excited about celebrating great behavior at Oakland School with our HOOT HOOT HOORAY Days! Maybe your child has mentioned them already. All students who have not completed a Thinking Spot Form and/or have not had a bus referral are able to participate. In September, we had two celebrations, one with popsicles after recess and another that gave children the privilege to chew gum in the afternoon. The timelines for these celebrations are unpredictable and will occur randomly throughout the year. Please be sure to ask your child about them.

HOOT at HOME Bonus: Create your own positive behavior celebrations at home. Challenge yourself to catch your child doing the right thing, and be sure to let them know you noticed. Verbally praise good behavior and try to stay focused on the positive things your child does throughout the day. Then, create your own unpredictable celebration with a special snack, a movie night, an extra book read to them at night, time on the computer, or whatever fits for your family. Enjoy!

Student Council News

The Oakland School 2011-2012 Student Council members are as follows:

India S.	Danielle S.	Macy S.	Jadiamond B.	Noele B.	Hannah W.
Colton C.	Mirza C.	Drew C.	Kayla H.	Alexa H.	Avery C.
Maria L.	Skyler M.	Clarissa M.	Lydia M.	Molly N.	Jamie H.
Jack P.	Destiny R.	Macy R.	Kenede R.	Katharine S.	Ashley O.
Hailey A.	Suraj A.	Akshita B.	Erin B.	Zoey C.	Evelyn S.
Connie C.	Kendra C.	Ryan G.	Maci G.	Kobie G.	Jake H.
Allison H.	Gagan K.	Nolan K.	Elaina K.	Maddie K.	Raven P.
Robbie P.	Payton R.	Grishma R.	West R.	Ujwala R.	Carly R.
		Tyler R.	Arshi S.		

Student Council meetings are scheduled for 8:15 a.m. on the following dates:

October 5	October 19	November 2	November 16
December 7	January 11	January 25	February 1
February 15	March 21	April 4	April 18



Due to limited supervision, student council members should not be dropped off until 8:10 a.m. Brothers and sisters should arrive at school at the regular time. Your cooperation in this safety issue is greatly appreciated.

The Student Council sponsors this year are Mrs. O'Brian and Mrs. Stanek.

How to Prepare for a Parent Teacher Conference

Parent teacher conferences will be held October 24-28. If you have not already done so, please contact your child's teacher to set up a conference time. The parent teacher conference is one of the few times during the year in which you'll have the uninterrupted, undivided attention of your child's teacher. During the parent teacher conference you can expect the teacher to give you an overall picture of how your child is doing in school, to address any issues and concerns she may have and to answer any questions you may have about your child's school performance. To prepare for your child's parent-teacher conference, follow these steps:

1. Mark your calendar. It's vitally important you attend this conference. It's your opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and to learn about his classroom performance.
2. Talk to your child. Ask your child if she has anything specific she wants you to speak with the teacher about. Ask him how he thinks he is doing in school, what he enjoys or what troubles him.
3. Write down your questions and concerns. Time is limited, so keep on track and make a list of the things you'd like to discuss with your child's teacher.
4. Go into the conference with an open mind. It can be difficult not to be defensive if your child is criticized, but prepare yourself to hear out your child's teacher. Give feedback and ask for ways you can help to improve problem areas.
5. Bring a notebook. You'll want to take notes on things the teacher discusses with you so you don't forget what you discussed.

Helpful Tips

- ◆ Be positive about your conference, even if your child has expressed a dislike for his school or schoolwork.
- ◆ Tell the teacher anything that may be affecting your child's performance. Change in the home, like the birth of a new baby, is information your child's teacher needs to know.



Breakfast News

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. Did you know Oakland offers breakfast every morning? If your child is being dropped off at school and is going to



join us for breakfast, he or she should arrive before 8:45 am.

This year we have several new healthy items on the menu. We are offering more protein sources and fruit!

Let us help you have a smoother morning getting out the door by eating breakfast provided by our food service staff!

Lunch Time

October is National Farm to School Month. Also October 10th -14th is National School Lunch Week (NSLW). The theme for this year's NSLW is "Let's Grow Healthy". It emphasizes eating local fruits and vegetables. To celebrate these events in your school we have created bulletin boards for the lunchroom that encourage eating fruits and vegetables and eating food that was grown locally. Here are a few ways you can celebrate NSLW and Farm to School Month at home.



- ◆ Make a dinner with your kids that showcases a fruit or vegetable as the main item.
- ◆ Purchase foods that are grown in Illinois and let your kids know.
- ◆ Make a goal with your family to try one new fruit or vegetable in the month of October.

IMPORTANT PRICING INFORMATION

If your child is purchasing only a milk during breakfast or lunch (with no meal), the cost is \$.50. Even if you are receiving reduced/free lunch, you still have to pay \$.50 for each milk.

Full Breakfast Price—\$1.50
Full Lunch Price—\$2.05

Reduced Breakfast Price—\$.30
Reduced Lunch Price—\$.40

Mark Your Calendars!

- November** 3 6:30 PTO Meeting
10 Dental Clinic
17 Family Fun Event
- December** 21 Full Day of Attendance
22 First Day of Winter Break
- January** 4 Last Day of Winter Break
5 School Resumes
- 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



Oakland Elementary PTO on FACEBOOK

Like us on Facebook by October 27, 2011 to be entered to win a Smoothie King gift card. Winner will be posted on Facebook.

Oakland Elementary PTO Meetings | 1st Thursday of the month | 6:30
FREE CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN 3 AND OVER

1. Scan the QR Code.
2. Log in to Facebook.
3. Like us to stay informed.

Download a **FREE QR CODE** app to your smartphone and stay connected to Oakland Elementary PTO.

WHAT IS SCRIP?
Scrip is a term that means "substitute money". When you purchase Scrip, you're purchasing gift cards which are used just like cash for everyday expenses like food, clothing, gasoline and other essentials. This means, if you order a \$25 Chili's card, you receive a \$25 card to spend like cash and Oakland PTO earns \$2.75 (or 11%) from your order. Watch the contributions add up!

Download a **FREE QR CODE** app to your smartphone to stay connected with Oakland Elementary PTO.

Oakland PTO earnings

\$100 card \$3 donation	\$30 card \$3 donation	\$50 card \$4 donation
\$25 card \$3.25 donation	\$10 card \$1 donation	\$20 card \$5 donation
		\$100 card \$4 donation

SAMPLE
\$23.25

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>If you're unable to attend the Room Parent Meeting, but would still like to become a room parent, please email Katy Grady (ktgrady@comcast.net) or Grace Sorensen (grace.sorensen.pmqj@statefarm.com).</p>						1 PTO Brown's Produce Fundraiser Begins 
2	3	4	5 8:15 Student Council Meeting International Walk to School Day	6 5:45 Room Parent Meeting 6:30 PTO Meeting	7	8
9	10 NO SCHOOL Columbus Day 	11	12 	13 4:00-8:30 Barnes & Noble Book Fair	14 Scrip Order Deadline PTO Michael's Restaurant Fundraiser	15 PTO Brown's Produce Fundraiser Ends PTO Michael's Restaurant Fundraiser
16 PTO Michael's Restaurant Fundraiser	17 Principal Appreciation Week	18 6:00-7:30 ESL Night	19 8:15 Student Council Meeting	20 Family Game Night <i>Watch for more information to come home soon!</i>	21 NO SCHOOL Teacher Institute End of 1st Grading Period	22
23 30	24 Parent Teacher Conference Week 31	25 Red Ribbon Week			27 NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences	29