

It's Elementary!



The Oconto Elementary School ✦ Oconto Literacy Charter School Family Newsletter

December 2009
Volume 1, Issue 4

Chad M. Collier
Principal

OUR STUDENTS: **NOVEMBER POSITIVE CHARACTER TRAITS**
show KINDNESS to others at all times.
Remember their good MANNERS and use them daily.

From the Principal's Office:

Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended last month. **Our goal was set for 100% participation and most of our teachers were able to achieve this goal!** Our overall turnout this year was 96.9%. Thanks to all parents who made the extra effort to attend. Research has shown that children learn best when parents take an interest in their education. We always encourage you to communicate with your child's teachers throughout the school year. If you weren't able to attend your conference, it's not too late. Simply call the school (834-7808) and your child's teacher can arrange a conference for you.

Mrs. Gilson and all OES/OLCS students are working hard perfecting the holiday programs, which are scheduled for Thursday, December 17th. We hope you will be able to join us for some holiday entertainment. Please find the article in this issue for more specific information.

On behalf of the elementary teachers and staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and families a very **Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!**



Thanks,
Mr. Chad M. Collier

Important Dates

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| December 7 | PTO Meeting - 3:30 PM |
| December 8 | Influenza Flu Clinic 1:45-5:30 |
| December 14-18 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| December 16 | Progress reports Go Home |
| December 17 | OLCS Board Meeting 8:30 am |
| December 18 | OES Holiday Programs |
| December 23 | Last day of school before break |
| January 4 | School Resumes |
| January 4 | PTO meeting – 3:30 PM |

OES Holiday Music Programs

The annual holiday programs are scheduled for Thursday, December 17th and our students, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Gilson, are busy putting together a wonderful program for all.



The 4K and Kindergarten will have an afternoon performance at 1:00 P.M. The first through fourth grade classes will have their performances in the evening. Grades 1 & 2 are scheduled to begin at 6:00 P.M. and grades 3 & 4 at 7:15 P.M. If at all possible, we do expect the students to attend the performances with their class.

After hanging up coats in their lockers, student performers in grades 1 - 4 should report to their assigned seats in the gym. After the evening concerts, students will be dismissed to their respective neighborhoods and parents should pick them up there. Supervision of 3rd and 4th grade students will not be provided during the 1st and 2nd grade program nor will supervision be provided during the 3rd and 4th grade program for 1st and 2nd grade students. Students are welcome to watch the other grades perform if accompanied by an adult. **Students should not be left unsupervised during concert times to wander the hallways or commons area.** We hope that everyone will enjoy the performances and don't forget to checkout your child's beautiful artwork inspired by Mrs. Bridget Paquette!

OES/OLCS HOLIDAY PROGRAMS December 17, 2009

- 4K & Kdgn.....1:00 P.M.
- Grades 1 & 2.....6:00 P.M.
- Grades 3 & 4.....7:15 P.M.

For the evening performances, students should hang coats up in their lockers and then proceed to their assigned seat in the gym. Students should report 15 minutes prior to their scheduled program.

 **Merry Christmas** 
from the Elementary School Team

**From Cheryl Beekman
Family Involvement Coordinator**

Dressing for Winter Weather

Now that winter is here to stay, so is the cold weather and snow. Please try to dress your child appropriately for this type of weather. If you are unable to supply these items, please inform your child's teacher or contact me at 834-7808 ext 656. We will ensure your child receives the needed items. Thank you to the many local organizations and families, and the Brayson Wusterbarth Foundation, who have donated winter clothing and/or money to our student assistance program, ensuring all of our children will be warm this winter.

Gifts of Appreciation

Many people like to give a small gift of recognition to their child's teacher for Christmas; however it's not easy to find something useful or practical on a budget. Here are a few quick, easy and inexpensive ways to show your appreciation.

- **Pool your resources** – set up a class collection. Ask each parent to donate a certain dollar amount so you can purchase one large gift together such as a gift certificate to a local restaurant or favorite store. Purchase a card and have every child sign it and present it to the teacher.
- **Buy supplies for the classroom** – Many teachers spend their own money to purchase supplies, materials and rewards for their students. Contributing supplies benefits your child and provides a small financial relief to the teacher. Gift ideas include art supplies, books, games or activities.
- **Best of all - Notes of appreciation** – Write a note to the teacher thanking them for all their hard work. Tell what you and your child likes best about their class. Many teachers feel renewed by your expression of appreciation.
- **Show appreciation to all staff** – The school does not function without the dedication of everyone. Show your appreciation by delivering something yummy (like a gift basket of candy or tin of popcorn) to the staff lounge for all to enjoy.

The real gift here is not the gift at all, it's that you appreciate what they do and have taken the time to let them know. Have a great holiday season.

**Buy One Get One Free
Book Fair
December 14 - 18th**

Books make great Christmas gifts. Choose from hundreds of books, posters and school supplies. All items will be buy one get one free.

Book Fair hours:

Mon., Dec. 14 - 7:45 - 9 am and 3-4:30 pm

Tues, Dec. 15 - 7:45 - 9 am and 3-4:30 pm

Wed., Dec. 16 - 7:45 - 9 am and 3-4:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 17- 12:30 - 3:30 pm and 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Fri., Dec. 18 - 7:45 - 9 am and 3 - 4 pm

**Nutrition and Fitness Corner
Fitness and Nutrition Tip**

This month set your house and family up for nutritional success. Children learn their good and bad habits from those they live with and spend the most time around. So set yourself for success by only bringing good food into your house. Have fresh fruit available for snacks and fun water bottles cold and ready. A bowl of cut up veggies in the fridge make a quick snack to grab or bowl of almonds on the counter encourages good snacking. You can control what types of foods are brought into your house and kids will try it, especially if it is all that's offered and around for them. Give it a shot!

-This tip brought to you by Peterson Chiropractic, Oconto and the Oconto School's Nutrition Committee.

**The Gift of Time: 10 Simple Parenting Tips
that Give Your Children More of You**

Gift of Time Tip #3: Create a Fun Bedtime Routine

Establishing a fun bedtime routine is something children look forward to and allows you to bond with your children on a daily basis. Get the logistics like teeth brushing out of the way before cuddling, stories or a simple hug good-night. Remember that once you have said "good-night" to not get suckered into the "just one more story" or "another glass of water" request. Children need to go to sleep on time, so they awaken refreshed and not grumpy. Smooth bedtimes also give you much needed rest on your own.

Gift of Time Tip #4: Go on Date Nights

Set aside one evening per week for "date nights" spent together as a family and make it a tradition. Have dinner together, play at the park, go out for ice cream, or watch a movie and have popcorn in the comfort of your own home. Friday evenings often work best, as homework and weekend commitments don't interfere. The goal of this time is to catch up and have fun together because families who play together often are the ones who stick together.

Kid's Care! Community Can Drive



Oconto Elementary School and Oconto Literacy Charter School are happy to help the community by collecting non-perishable food items. All items will be donated to NEWCAP. From now through December 18th, bring these items into your child's class. Each grade level is competing to WIN. The grade that collects the most wins their choice of a popcorn party or an ice cream party! Watch our Christmas tree in the commons area grow with ornaments as more and more food items are collected, and gathered under the Christmas tree.

