

It's Elementary!



The Oconto Elementary School ✦ Oconto Literacy Charter School Family Newsletter

September 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

Chad M. Collier
Principal

SEPTEMBER POSITIVE CHARACTER TRAITS

OUR STUDENTS: demonstrate good **character** and practice many positive character traits. are **goal setters** who accomplish short and long term goals each year.

From the Principal's Office

I hope that the school year has gotten off to a great start for your family. On behalf of the entire staff at OES/OLCS, I would like to welcome you to another exciting, educational year. I am looking forward to the educational opportunities your child will experience this year. It is a privilege to have been appointed your new principal, and I look forward to getting to know you and your children better as the year progresses.

Like my predecessor, Mrs. Barbara Blum, we will continue many of the fine traditions, such as our Citizenship program, that have made this school one of the best in the area.

It was very nice seeing all of you at the August 26th Orientation, and I very much so enjoyed visiting with every classroom on the first day of school. I am a firm believer in a strong parent-family relationship. This partnership is the key to the success of your children in school.

This is the first issue of *It's Elementary* for the 2009-2010 school year. It will be published and sent home September through May with the youngest student (grades K-4) in the family. You may also view this on the OES website at www.oconto.k12.wi.us. In each issue you will find important dates to remember, information about upcoming events or programs, and anything that should be of interest to you with regard to what's happening at OES/OLCS.



New Team Members at OES and OLCS

We have some new faces this year in the building. Tammy Borchers (formerly Grade 1) was transferred to our new Kindergarten position, and Kimberly Schultz (formerly Title I Math) moved into the open 1st Grade position. We have some new staff to the building as well: Title I Math Teachers (Kendra Wolf & Ashley Pecha) and Family Involvement Coordinator (Cheryl Beekman). We are glad they are joining our team and we hope you, too, will welcome them!



Mrs. Kendra Wolf



Miss Ashley Pecha



Mrs. Cheryl Beekman

Important Dates

September 14	PTO mtg. – IMC at 3:30 PM
September 21	Bd. of Ed. Mtg. – District office 7:00 PM
September 23	US Constitution Day/Wisconsin Day wear RED, white and blue
September 24	OLCS Board Mtg. – OLCS office 8:30 AM
October 2	PTO Fundraiser Begins

OES & OLCS FAMILY NIGHT
Thursday, October 8, 2009
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.
Mark your calendars!

OES Attendance Line: 834-7808 Ext. 646. - Please call before 9:00 A.M. if you know your child will be absent.

**From the desk of Cheryl Beekman
Family Involvement Coordinator**

I am so excited to be the new Family Involvement Coordinator for the Oconto Elementary School. I have already enjoyed meeting so many parents and volunteers, and look forward to meeting many more. For those of you that don't know me, I was born and raised here in Oconto, I've been married for 20 years to my husband Gary, and we are the proud parents of three children, ages 16, 14 and 12.

As many of you already know, one of the roles of Family Involvement Coordinator is to work with all of the volunteers that help to make OES such a great place for our children. There are many benefits of being an OES volunteer: It is fun, it's a great way to meet parents of your children's friends and class mates, and most importantly, it's yet another way to help you stay connected with your child(ren) and what going on during their school day – the kids love it, too!

Some of the many ways you can volunteer your time:

Teacher/Classroom Helper	Reading Buddy
Lunchtime Supervisor	Science Fair Judge
Field Trip Chaperone	Concession Stand Assistant
Bake Sale Chef	PTO Member
Box Top Clipper/Counter	Playground Supervisor
Homework Helper/Tutor	After-school Programs

***We have immediate need for lunchroom helpers.
Please contact me if interested.***

Even if you've filled out a volunteer form in the past, please help me to keep my volunteer information updated by completing another form. You can obtain these forms either from me, or the school office. If you've previously completed the volunteer training, great! You don't need to complete it again.

If you haven't yet completed the volunteer training, it will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, Sept. 9th – 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 14th – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9th – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14th – 7:00 p.m.

**All new volunteers must attend an orientation and training session.*

A GREAT, BIG THANKYOU to everyone who has donated school supply items – they are much needed and greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions concerning volunteering or the Family Involvement Program, please feel free to contact me at 834-7808, ext. 656, or email me at cheryl.beekman@oconto.k12.wi.us.

Have a great school year!

Oconto Unified School District Website

The Oconto Unified School District has a website at www.oconto.k12.wi.us. It is there as a resource for our parents and the community. If you click on the OES or OLCS link, you will find information about our schools and upcoming events. The Family Handbook and the required student forms are posted on an OES webpage. We hope this website meets your needs. However, if you have any suggestions as to how we can make it better or more convenient, please don't hesitate to contact our office with your suggestions and/or solutions.

Morning Drop-Off Zone



Please be reminded that the ONLY drop-off zone again this school year is the driveway off of Doran Street. Parents or caregivers should enter the employee parking lot through the entrance gate, then proceed to the drop-off area along the sidewalk. Students then walk to the playground area where supervision begins at 7:50 AM each morning.

Get Involved – Join the Kid's First PTO!

A great way to learn more about the school, get connected with parents, and get involved is to join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). The Kid's First PTO plays an important role in building the kind of supportive environment where teachers and students alike can do their best work. The first PTO meeting will be **Monday, September 14th at 3:30 PM**. For more information contact Alissa Boucher at OES - 834-7808.

Coats for Kids Program

The leaves will soon be changing color and the temperature will drop, meaning only one thing – another long Wisconsin winter is coming and many children are without warm coats. NEWCAP's Coats for Kids program provides low-income families with winter coats for their children. Beginning Sept 8th - Oct. 5th, you may drop new or gently used winter coats in a collection barrel located outside the OES main office. Families in need of coats should call NEWCAP, Inc. at 920-834-4621.

Nutrition and Fitness Corner

Some of the most important school supplies won't fit in a backpack! These supplies are very important for a good day at school. They include: a healthy breakfast, a good night's sleep and good shoes to support the body. Other healthy habits to include this school year are regular dental, chiropractic and medical check-ups. All these work together to make the best you possible!! Best of Healthy Luck to You this School Year!!



Proudly Sponsored by Peterson Chiropractic, Oconto and for more Nutrition and Fitness Information visit: www.petersonfamilychiro.com

Family Fun Fest '09

Farnsworth Public Library will be hosting FAMILY FUN FEST again this year! Mark your calendars for:

Saturday, September 26th

Noon to 2:00 PM

This event is open to community members of all ages!

Join us for:

Pumpkin carving contest (all ages)

Giant bouncy ball races

Pumpkin hula hoop toss

Inflatable bounce house

Cookie decorating

Basket raffles

Musical hay bales

Music by KC & the Beat

Food and refreshments for sale

In the event of rain, activities will be held inside the library. This event is sponsored by FRIENDS.

Reminder:

Hot Lunch Price/ticket

Students \$2.70 -- Adults \$3.95

Books & Bears

Farnsworth Public Library will again be distributing books and bears as part of the Leola McKee Books & Bears program.

This program was started by Leola's family as a way to recognize first grade readers and to celebrate their new-found reading skills and abilities.

This year's presentation will take place Tuesday, October 6th from 3:45 PM to 4:15 PM and 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM. We invite you to attend which ever time is most convenient for your family.

If you have questions about this program, please contact us at 834-7730.

Board Members Needed

The Oconto Literacy Charter School (OLCS) is seeking individuals interested in becoming members of the OLCS School Board. If interested, please send a letter of interest to:

Chad Collier, Executive Director
Oconto Literacy Charter School
810 Scherer Avenue
Oconto, WI 54153
(920) 834-7808
chad.collier@oconto.k12.wi.us

Deadline: September 20, 2009

Coffee with the Principal

Mr. Chad Collier, Principal, will meet with all interested parents, guardians, and community members for an informal cup of coffee. We can discuss current issues, activities, and provide a forum for questions. This meeting will take place September 22nd at 8:30 am in the commons area at OES.



We're going green!

In an effort to reduce our impact on the environment and lessen the amount of paper we use at school, we are offering you the opportunity to receive this newsletter via e-mail, in lieu of a paper copy. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please fill out the information below and return to your child's teacher. If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy, you will not need to return the form. Thank You!

Child(ren) Name _____

Parent Name _____

E-mail Address _____