



OAKHURST NEWS

A combined publication of School and PTA



Pinellas County Schools

10535 - 137th Street North
Largo, FL 33774
(727)588-6801

Principal: Nanci B. Wilson

Editor: Jenny Buhler

PTA President: Nicole Heath

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www.oakhurst-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us

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The Principal's Corner

Dear Oakhurst Parents and Guardians,

Our beautiful new building is finally open. Students and teachers started in the ten new classrooms on November 2. We will have an official ribbon cutting ceremony on November 17 at 6:15 right before our Technology night. If you would like to tour the building and learn some great technology information, please plan to join us that night.

The Great American Teach In will take place on Wednesday, November 18. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your profession with our future leaders. Contact your child's teacher if you can participate.

Students making Honor Roll and Principal's List on their report card will have the opportunity to celebrate with thirty minutes of activities and a treat with Mrs. Kennedy and myself. These celebrations will take place on the following day and times:

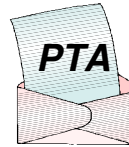
November 20, March 5, and June 7:

3rd Grade	12:45-1:15
4th Grade	1:20-1:50
5th Grade	1:55-2:25

Our November Book of the Month is All The Places to Love by Patricia Mac Lachlan. It is a story that makes you appreciate all the beautiful and special places in our lives.

Ask your children if they have a special place that they love.

(Principal Cont' page 2)



A Letter from the PTA President

With the sugar rush behind us we can now look forward to turkey & being thankful in the month of November. I know at Oakhurst we have so much to be thankful for. I wanted to say thank you to the great board members I am working with this year. They are really something to be thankful for. I know how hard you are working, thank you!! With all the hard work of our students, families, faculty & staff, PTA is able to do so many great things for the students & staff of Oakhurst Elementary. Thank you to everyone who has joined PTA this year!! If you have time to volunteer or not, your membership is appreciated!! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered (or plans to) this year!! It takes a village. I think we have a great village!!

Between fundraisers & skate nights, Grandparents Week & costume contests we have had a very busy past few weeks. Things will slow down a bit as we ease into Thanksgiving. This month we have our cookie dough fundraiser going & just in time to have them back for the December Holidays. Our Skate Night was our biggest one ever!! I hope you all had a great time!!! It sure looked like you did!!

There are still so many ways to jump in & volunteer at school or at one of the upcoming events. There will soon be an initial planning meeting for both 5th Grade Celebration & Our 1st Ever Winter Carnival!! If you have some free time & would like to help please feel free to give me a call anytime. My cell # is 727-644-2486. You can also find all the dates & information for these meetings as they become available on our school website oakhurstpta.com.

Nicole Heath

PTA President



GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN & CAREER DAYS

NOVEMBER 16 - 20, 2009

Oakhurst will be celebrating Career Days by combining them with the Great American Teach-In the week of Monday, November 16 – Friday, November 20. We would like to invite parents to visit our school on Wednesday, November 18 and talk with our students about their careers. You can share with a class for as little as 15 minutes or as much as 30 minutes about your job or career, the special clothing or equipment used and the training/education that prepared you for your job. Anything you can bring to share visually will help students better understand the work you do.

To get involved, please complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher
NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9.

Your child's teacher will contact you to schedule your visit during Career Week. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Hart at 588-6801.

NAME _____ JOB/CAREER _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ (HOME)
_____ (WORK)

CHILD'S NAME _____ CHILD'S
TEACHER _____

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Mary Smith Hart
School Counselor
Oakhurst Elementary
727-588-6801

(Principal Cont')

Thanksgiving is a special time of the year that makes us stop and appreciate all we have to be thankful for. In addition to my family and friends, I am thankful for your children that you send us each day. They are a wonderful reflection of your positive influence. Take time to enjoy and appreciate them.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Nanci B. Wilson

Adopt A Class

Thank you to the following for your generous contributions and adopting a class.

Watch for the rest of the generous contributors in the December, newsletter.



Richard & Marjorie Dowty	The Abqaurp Team
Mike Buppert	Thomas V. Varvaro, Inc.
Jefferey & Kathleen Fortino	Patrick & Paula Cheshire

NOVEMBER

- November 1 Daylight savings time ends
(Fall Back)
- November 4 Cookie Dough Fundraiser begins
- November 10 PTA Board meeting (5:30)
- November 10 SAC Meeting (6:30)
- November 10 Thanksgiving Feast  ry
(PTA Hospitality Committee)
- November 12 Picture Retakes
- November 13 Report Cards K-5
- November 13 Final turn in Cookie Dough fundraiser
- November 18 Great American Teach In
- November 23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
School Closed



DECEMBER

- December 8 PTA Board Meeting
(5:30)
- December 15th Holiday Feast
Winter Wilderness
Library
- December 21 - January 1st Winter Holidays
School Closed

Oakhurst Elementary Mission



Oakhurst Elementary is a community of caring mentors who are committed to motivating students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens by promoting "The Mustang Way" Respect, Responsibility and Honesty.

Spike News

Stephanie Martin



Dear Oakhurst Readers,

Thank you all for a successful first month of reading! September was a big month with our three-way tie for first place: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Jenkins, and Mrs. Rodenhuis's classes, they all had 100% participation. These classes received 4 free books form SPIKE!

Second place was Mrs. Menning's class place with 94% completion, and those students also earned 4 free books for their class libraries.

Third place was Mrs. Picken's class, whose students won another 4 books for 91% involvement.

Congratulations to all the top performing classes! Keep reading kids! All of you who turn in September, October, and November reading logs will get a free book for your home libraries.

Remember, reading logs are due on the first Monday of the month to your teachers.

KEEP READING!

SPIKE

BENEFITS OF PTA MEMBERSHIP

To become an Oakhurst PTA member, please visit our website, Oakhurstpta.com and click on the membership tab. There will be a link there to download a membership form. Simply print it, fill it out and attach your \$5 to the form and either bring it into the front office or have your child give it to his/her teacher. We really appreciate your support! Without members, we would not be able to offer the PTA sponsored programs here at Oakhurst. Your membership = successful programs.

For only \$5.00 per member, when you join the Oakhurst PTA you automatically become a member of the National PTA, the largest child advocacy group in the nation. Your membership fees help to support the mission and purpose of the National PTA, as well as that of the Oakhurst PTA. You do not have to volunteer your time or attend meetings, but you show a commitment to children and families by joining. PTA memberships are done annually, so even if you joined last year, you would need to re-join and submit the \$5 dues this year to count for this year's membership. You will receive a membership card shortly after joining. This card will be valid for one year. With your PTA membership, you will also have access to tremendous discounts with several national companies such as MetLife, T-Mobile, and Barnes and Noble. Please follow this link to check out the discounts for PTA members: http://www.pta.org/local_leader/1981.htm

Thank you for supporting our Oakhurst PTA!

If you have any questions, please email me at dculbertson@tampabay.rr.com.

Fall Fundraiser Update

The Fall Fundraiser was delivered to the students on Thursday, October 29th. It was one of the most successful fundraisers in recent years so a huge THANK YOU to all that participated. The much-needed money we raised will be used to support all of the outstanding programs that are offered at Oakhurst. The "little green book" that the students sent in with addresses has also proved to be a success with just over \$1500.00 being raised! The fall fundraiser will wrap up on November 3rd with the magic show being held for students that sold 3 or more items.

The overall top seller for the school was **Eric Walter**, with the first runner up being **Christina Whiteley**. Congratulations to you both!!! The top sellers per grade were as follows:

Kindergarten – Ella Edmiston

First Grade – Enisa Struthers

Second Grade – Alesyia Dushane

Third Grade – Christina Whiteley

Fourth Grade – Eric Whittle

Fifth Grade – Eric Walter

We had 33 students who sold over \$200.00 worth of merchandise and were treated to a pizza party outside! Mrs. McGovern's also was treated to a pizza party for selling the most items overall. Next up is COOKIE DOUGH! The sale will kick off on Wednesday, November 4th and end on Friday, November 13th. We are using Tasty Batters from Nestle. It can be purchased in tub form.

Thanks again for everyone's support!!!!

Michelle Fox
Way and Means

FRIDAYS Are Oakhurst T-Shirt Day!!



Don't forget to buy your new Oakhurst shirt for only \$8.00 each (\$10.00 for an adult 2X).

If you get a magnet and a shirt it is only \$10.00 (magnets sold separately are \$3.00).

Show your school SPIRIT and get one today!

KEEP YOUR FAMILY ON TRACK. GET VACCINATED AGAINST THE FLU

Many households at this time of the year are a whirlwind of after-school activities, sleepovers, field trips and visits to the grocery store. Managing such a busy schedule is no easy task and can seem even more difficult if someone in your house gets the flu. That's why it's important that you consider having your entire household vaccinated against influenza every year. And this year we have two flus to be concerned about- seasonal and H1N1 (swine flu).

Now is the time to protect your family with both a seasonal influenza and H1N1 vaccination. You can make an appointment with your health-care provider, or take advantage of the H1N1 vaccine (but not seasonal) program that the Pinellas County Department of Health will be offering in schools in November and December for students of all ages.

The school vaccine program will be **voluntary** and require a **signed consent** form as well as a completed screening questionnaire by the parent so the health department can determine the appropriate vaccine. Both the **H1N1 flu shot and H1N1 flu nasal spray will be offered free to all children enrolled in public schools**. There is information posted on the Pinellas County Schools website-including school vaccine schedules and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Don't delay. More than 4 out of 5 people in the U.S. are recommended to get a seasonal flu shot, including those with chronic medical conditions; children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years; and close contacts of anyone in these groups, including parents. Chances are we all know someone who should get vaccinated against influenza every year.

Influenza is not the common cold. It's serious. Each year, approximately 226,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized with complications from influenza and an average of 36,000 people die. And we are right now in the midst of an H1N1 pandemic, which seems to be targeting children and young adults. And even though most cases recover in 5-7 days, there have been deaths also reported from this flu.

To help encourage local immunization, The American Lung Association in Florida Gulfcoast Area is teaming up with local community schools, businesses, hospitals and city government to bring the *Faces of Influenza* educational initiative to the Tampa/St. Petersburg area. The program is designed to help Americans see themselves and their loved ones among the many "faces" of influenza.

Vaccination is the best protection available against seasonal and H1N1 influenza. For more information on influenza, vaccination and the *Faces of Influenza* initiative, visit www.facesofinfluenza.org, contact your school nurse, Pinellas Department of Health (824-6900) or school health services at 588-6320.

Let's all have a healthy year!

Art in the News Administration Building Art Exhibition

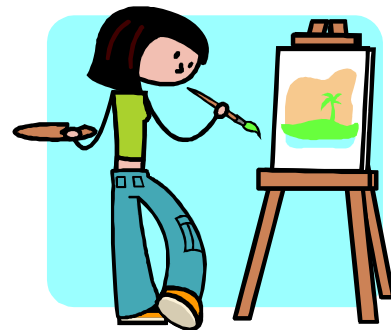
It's that time of year again for the Pinellas County Schools Administration Building Art Exhibition!!! This special exhibition showcases artwork of Pinellas county students. The Artwork was selected from the 2008-2009 school year. The selected Artwork will now be on display for the 2009-2010 school year.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students whose creative artwork was chosen for this special exhibition!!!

Trian Phung, Katie Richards, Rachel Wing, Nikki Iachini, Maggie Vaughan, Kristin Moorehead, Elizabeth Kidney, Hope Heron, Caroline DeMuth, Katherine Lingenfelter, Skyler Hamilton, Yulmaris Grau, Stephen Durst, Josie Mead, Tori Wateska, Chyanne Armstrong, Katelyn White.

A special reception will be held for students and their families on November 4, 2009. Congratulations to these talented students!!!

Kathi Knapp
Visual Art teacher



Parents,

Our physical education department will be testing your child in the five health components of fitness. We will be striving to help students understand the health components of fitness, how to assess them and then how to use their personal information to develop a lifelong fitness program that they enjoy.

Pinellas County uses the Fitnessgram testing protocol. Fitnessgram tests the five health components of fitness which are: aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility.

- Aerobic capacity / cardiovascular endurance tests include the Mile run, Pacer test and Walk test.**

- Body composition is determined by either skin fold measurements or Body Mass Index. The BMI is a calculation of the ratio of weight to height. Most of our schools will use this method. Weighing and measuring will be done discreetly during class.**

- Muscular endurance is measured by using the curl up which measures abdominal strength and endurance and the trunk lift which measures strength, endurance and flexibility.**

- Muscular strength is tested by push ups, modified pull ups, pull ups and the flex arm hang.**

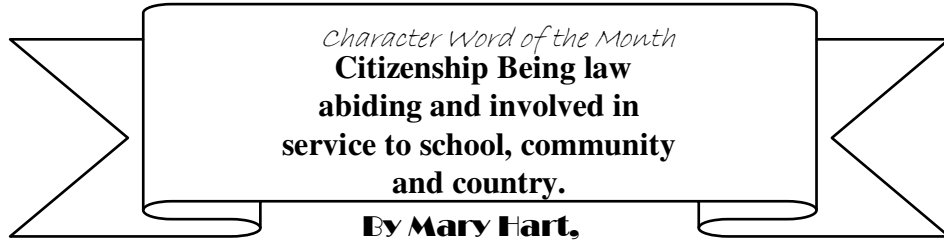
- Flexibility is measured by the sit and reach test and the shoulder stretch.**

Each test measures minimal fitness and compares the students score to the healthy fitness zone for their age and gender. The test also gives the students pointers on how to either improve or maintain their fitness level. It is our goal to help students make good choices in their fitness activities so that they can live a long, healthy life. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's physical education teacher.

DINNER



DILEMMAS



**By Mary Hart,
Oakhurst Guidance Counselor**

You, as a family, are encouraged to discuss a separate ‘situation’ each week of the month, presented as a “Dinner Dilemma”. You could decide how the character quality relates to the situation presented. Additionally, you could discuss how the character quality of the month applies to each family member. The character word for the month of November is **Citizenship**.

<p>Week 1 Situation: Sam’s class goes to lunch. When they sit down there is a mess under the table left from the previous class. The cafeteria monitor comes by and asks Sam to clean up the mess. Dilemma: On one hand Sam knows being a good citizen means keeping the school clean and safe. On the other hand Sam knows his class did not make the mess. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?</p>	<p>Week 2 Situation: Sue, wanting to be a good citizen, was moving the neighbor’s trash can back to her garage. The neighbor yelled at her, “Don’t step on my flowers!” Dilemma: On one hand Sue wants to be a good citizen by helping a neighbor. On the other hand her neighbor never says, “Thank you,” and often yells at her. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?</p>
<p>Week 3 Situation: Sam’s class votes on a service learning project that Sam does not like, did not vote for, and does not want to do. Dilemma: On one hand Sam knows as a good citizen the majority rules. On the other hand Sam does not want to participate in the project he did not vote for. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?</p>	<p>Week 4 Situation: Sue was chosen to be a safety patrol because she is a good citizen. She sees her best friend running down the hall. Dilemma: On one hand Sue knows she should write a referral on her friend. On the other hand Sue does not want to get her best friend in trouble. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?</p>

Pinellas County School Board
 588-6300
 Website: www.pinellas.k12.fl.us

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Oakhurst Elementary
 588-6801

Nanci B. Wilson
 Principal

Kelly Kennedy
 Asst. Principal

Mary Hart
 Guidance Counselor



PTA email: oakhurstelementary@yahoo.com

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