

Oakhurst Elementary News

Oakhurst Elementary
PTA
everychild.one voice.®

Kelly Kennedy, Principal

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January/February 2021

Denise Rohrs, PTA President

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A note from our Principal, Kelly Kennedy

Dear Oakhurst Families,

The 100th Day of School is Friday, February 5th! It is hard to believe that we are this far into the school year! We still have a lot of work to do, so please keep routines going at your house to ensure that students complete homework and get to school on time and prepared each day!

Just a friendly reminder that all students should arrive on campus and be at their classroom door by 8:30 AM. We start announcements promptly at 8:40. If your child is not in their seat, they miss this important routine each day.

Just a reminder that all students receive free breakfast. Our gate opens at 8:15 and breakfast begins being served at that time. If you want your student to take advantage of this free breakfast, please have them here by 8:35. Students must be in the café line by 8:35 in order to be served.

Report Cards go home on Tuesday, February 2nd. Our fabulous Grade 3 – 5 students have accomplished a lot. We had 100 students receive the Honor Roll and 91 students receive Principal List. Wow! That is amazing! Way to go!

Parents, please make sure your students are logging onto iStation and DreamBox each week. Grades K – 2 should be completing 5 lessons per week on DreamBox. 3rd – 5th should be completing 10 lessons per week. Please ask your child's teacher for more info!

A favorite Oakhurst tradition is dressing up for Fancy Nancy Day which is always celebrated on Valentine's Day! This year we will celebrate Fancy Nancy Day on Friday, February 12th. Please watch for a flier coming home with more info in my Sunday call!

Thank you for your support! I am a phone call away if you need me for anything! ~ Mrs. Kennedy

A note from our PTA President, Denise Rohrs

Happy New Year Oakhurst Families!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break and a happy and healthy start to 2021.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to the families that donated to The Holiday Teacher and Staff Luncheon in December. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for this event. The donations received included a sponsorship from The Hustle and Heart Group at Keller Williams Seminole. Thanks to each of you the luncheon was a huge success. I would also like to thank our OES PTA Hospitality Committee for planning a wonderful day of hot meals catered by Heavy's Food Truck and they also gifted a beautiful 2020 holiday glass to each teacher and staff member at Oakhurst.

Your OES PTA is busy planning the remainder of the school year. Unfortunately, some of the in-person events we had hoped to hold in the Spring, will be canceled. However, we are reinventing and reimagining those events for you to enjoy



Character Word for December – Kindness

Kylie Fleming
Cal Orem
Anika Nowland
Romello Forman
Leah Rogers
Evelyn Chartier
Lucas Mungavin
Aliaksei Chekan
Elijah Joustra.
Lucy Zimmer
Caroline Fisher
Olivia Steiger
Abigail Crain
Emma Turner
Alannah Bottichio
Kate Scott
Olivia Sigley
Owen Kristich
Zoley Joneyshile Ramos
Dallas Ferlanie
Alexandra "Sasha" Shishkov
Victoria Smith
Lydia DiSano
Mason George
Addison Brown
Cole McGonigal
Dylan Pike
Kylie Smalley
Emery Roberts
Liam Reed
Maisie Brett
Zyon Spady
Jillian Kassel-Lankford
Nova Comey
Ezequiel Pimentel Roxa
Charlie Markiewicz
Mia Toigo
Ben Hughes
Rachel Henn
Noah Tollon
Jakob Sarabia

from the comfort of your home! We will be providing details soon regarding a new version of celebrating our Grandparents and a new family engagement event to replace our Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son events. Stay tuned for those details.

PTA is working on our next Virtual General PTA Meeting, coming up on Monday, February 22nd at 6pm. At the General Meeting we will be holding a PTA Q&A, so come ready with all your PTA questions. We will also be electing a nominating committee that will help select the 21/22 PTA Executive Committee. The General Meeting will be followed by a fun, at home VIRTUAL scavenger hunt that will include multiple prize giveaways. The first 100 families that sign up will be admitted to the Zoom meeting. So, mark February 22nd at 6pm on your calendars and keep an eye out for all the details coming soon!

Coming up in February we will be holding a virtual fundraiser! Why does Oakhurst PTA fundraise? We fundraise so that we can provide support to students, teachers and staff. This school year, we have relied on donations to fund PTA programs. The funds raised have been used to purchase each student a calendar agenda, provide Birthday books, provide books and prizes for our SPIKE program. We have also provided WOW winner bracelets and pencils, as well as the medals for Principal List and Honor Roll. This school year, PTA has provided support to our teachers and staff through our luncheons and in January our PTA began providing a monthly motivational gift to all of the Oakhurst staff. In February we are saying "Thank you for making our students such smart cookies" with an Oreo treat! It is a small way of telling our teachers and staff how important they are, day in and day out! PTA is also in the process of purchasing 10 sets of headphones for each classroom on campus. Through fundraising and with our OES families help, this is how your PTA provides support to Oakhurst Elementary students, teachers and staff!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding PTA please feel free to reach out to me at rohrsd@gmail.com. We would like to thank everyone that has supported the PTA this school year! ~ Denise Rohrs



Character Word for January – Self-Motivation

Kaylee McGonigal
Joseph Suarez
Layla Lantzman
Hanna Kosses
Donnie Nephew
Nora Colbert
Ariana Buffo
Nicholas Grasham
Ava Carter
Lydia Smith
Carter Brooks
Abigail Crain
Lyla Zimmer
Alannah Bottichio
Dylan Morgan
Athena Hixson
Mason Sammarco
Sterling Pahl
Preston Yen
Grant Tacia
Frankie Angelaccio
Alexandria Field
Joshua Schmittendorf
Riley Woodruff
Ca'mira Pearson
Natalie Francona-Wilson
Madison Rossicoe
Owen Nymark
Pierce Keich
Krystian Hay
Story Walser
Lukas Hare
Cruz Jansen
Tristan Wheeler
Jada Lapham
Jamin Nymark
Addyson Hoffman
Brinley Shultz
Jacquelyn Gars
Riley Garbo

SPIKE



Way to go Ms. Gonzales' class for having 100% SPIKE participation for December. That earned your class 4 books to add to your class library and a popsicle party! Mrs. Fulle's and Ms. Bulger's class also earned two books each for their class libraries. Keep up the great work mustangs.

Congratulations to Jameson Hanlon and Tatiana Southard! They were the winners of the SPIKE reading log drawing for November and December. They each won a Skate party for them, and 9 of their friends', courtesy of Astro Skate. Get those reading logs in and you could be the next month's winner.

January reading logs are due by Friday, February 5th. Please email your completed SPIKE logs to oakhurstspikelogs@gmail.com. Also, please make sure your log includes the students name and teachers name.

February is also our next SPIKE celebration. Monthly prizes and celebration prizes will be distributed by February 16th.

Happy reading,
SPIKE

5th Grade Parents



The 5th grade celebration is in the works. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 12th at 7:15 pm.



February BoxTops Competition: We know BoxTops is moving to virtual scanning, but we want to do one final BoxTops clipping push to raise as much money as we can for Oakhurst Elementary. Please send in any clipped BoxTops that have not yet expired, in with your child. The class who submits the most BoxTops by the end of February will earn a prize!

VOLUNTEER



Oakhurst PTA is looking for a few parents to join the nominating committee that will help select the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2021/2022 school year. Joining the nominating committee does not require you to join the PTA board. The purpose of this committee is to seek out qualified people to serve in an Executive role on the 21/22 PTA board. To be able to serve on the nominating committee you will need to meet with other committee members via Zoom a couple of times over the next few months. If you are interested in sitting on the nominating committee please contact Denise Rohrs at rohrsd@gmail.com

A Note from Nurse Kelly ~

A Great New Year's Resolution-Eating A Healthy Breakfast!

Here are just a few reasons why breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Many studies have linked eating breakfast to good health, including better memory and concentration, and lower levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol. Eating a good breakfast also lowers the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

Did You Know?

A healthy breakfast is available at no cost to Oakhurst students in the cafeteria before school every day! Studies show that eating breakfast at school is associated with better attendance rates, fewer missed school days, and better test scores.

Tackling Constipation In Children

One of the most frequent issues the school nurse addresses is constipation. Students are often shy about discussing their bowel habits, struggle to feel comfortable "going" at school, or simply have a "tummy ache", and don't know why. If your child tends to become easily constipated (without an underlying condition), the following 4 steps may help:

1. **Water-** Drinking enough water is key. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle daily, and sip throughout the day.
2. **Exercise-** Staying active helps the food move more quickly through the intestine. Even a brisk walk is beneficial to get things going.
3. **Fiber-** Fiber adds bulk and makes it easier to go. Fruits, veggies, whole grains, and nuts are all healthy choices to up your child's fiber intake.
4. **No Holding-** "Holding it" while at school can lead to discomfort and disrupts your body's natural rhythm. If your child is shy about going at school - please reach out. Discreet measures can be put into place to create a comfortable bathroom routine during the school day.

OT Corner ~

Time and again, especially in the elementary school setting, we see so many kids walking around with their shoes untied. Not only does this pose a safety risk, but it encourages the dependence on others to help them.

It's time to encourage independence with our students. Below you'll find a few different methods to help make it easy for your student to learn to tie their shoe. Make it fun, change the verbiage to a character or game/video they have interest in.

And remember, it takes practice, try to have them practice consistently at least twice a day for 5 days, in no time they will have it down!

Teepee Method:

- Build a teepee
- Come inside
- Close it tight so we can hide
- And around we go
- Here's my arrow
- And here's my bow

Minecraft Method:

- Steve finds an X
- Steve goes under the X
- And is pulled tight
- A creeper stands up
- Steve runs around the Creeper
- He falls into a hole
- The Creeper pulls him back out



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

OES PTA would like to thank all the families that donated to the 2020 Teacher and Staff Holiday Luncheon. We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from our families. The contributions for the luncheon included a sponsorship from The Hustle and Heart Group at Keller Williams Seminole. We would like to say a huge thank you for their generous donation. In December, Teachers and Staff were treated to a catered lunch by Heavy's Food Truck as well as a small gift from the PTA to show our appreciation for how hard they work for each of our students every day!

The Tutton Family	The Wallace Family	The Tesoro Family
The Fox Family	The Kent Family	The Nymark Family
The Gayden Family	The O'Gara Family	The Latto Family
The Grunsfeld Family	The Hughes Family	The Scott Family
The Bowden Family	The Jansen Family	The White Family
The Moravick Family	The Yakich Family	The Barretto Family
The Smalley Family	The Pahl Family	The LaMee Family
The Dennis Family		The Shultz Family
The Molodchenko Family		The Krummerich Family



Gold PTA Membership
The Stotts Family

Bronze PTA Membership
The Fox Family

Thank you MIDFLORIDA Credit Union for the Gift of Reading! We appreciate you providing all of our kindergarteners with a brand new book for the holidays, along with the fun prerecorded video to share the exciting read aloud!



Oakhurst Elementary Monthly Calendar of Events

Details also found on PTA Website:
www.oakhurstpta.com

Friday, February 5th – January Spike Logs due by email

Tuesday, February 9th – 5:00pm
SAC Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, February 9th – 7:15pm – 5th Grade Celebration Meeting (Virtual)

Friday, February 12th – Fancy Nancy Day

Monday, February 15th – No School

Friday, February 19th – Staff/Teacher Luncheon provided by PTA

Monday, February 22nd – 6:00pm – General PTA Meeting (Virtual at Home Scavenger Hunt)

Friday, February 26th – Mustang Round Up (Virtual)

We're on Facebook!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/Oakhurst-Elementary-School-PTA-1253467454805192/>



The PTA will be kicking off the Spring Fundraiser on Wednesday, February 3. With the current COVID restrictions, our fundraiser will be done completely virtually, but our students have the opportunity to win the same great prizes.

Anyone that sends out 10 or more emails the first night of the fundraiser will receive their Golden Ticket prizes on Thursday, February 4th.

There will be also be a drawing for an Ipad for anyone that sent their 10 messages February 4th. Students that send 20 or more messages will be entered into a drawing for two different mini refrigerators filled with cash. These drawings will be held on February 5 and 8.

The money raised through the fundraiser will be used for classroom support, school events and PE equipment.

The fundraiser will run through February 17.

Why does OES have a PTA?

PTA = Parent Teacher Association

OES PTA joins parents and teachers to work together in partnership, for each child at Oakhurst.

When you join OES PTA by either paying membership dues or joining the PTA board -- You also become a member of the PCCPTA PTA (Children Matter), The Florida PTA (A Family of Advocates for All Children) and the National PTA (every child. one voice.)



- ❖ PTA helps to link families to important school information.



- ❖ PTA hosts fun programs and events for our students and families.



- ❖ PTA raises money to support Oakhurst teachers, staff and students.



- ❖ PTA inspires and encourages the love of reading.

Did You Know?

PTA was founded 124 years ago by 2 women who were concerned about the endangerment that faced children. They did not belong to a school, they did not have the right to vote at the time, and social activism was not popular. But their resolve to provide betterment for children was strong, as were the more than 2,000 people that showed up to their first meeting. Since then PTA has continued to provide for the betterment of children. PTA has advocated for many things to help improve our children's lives, such as:

- Creation of Kindergarten classes
- Child labor laws
- Mandatory immunizations
- Hot and healthy lunch programs
- Arts in Education
- Tougher Child Trafficking Laws
- School Safety, including Anti-Bullying Campaigns

These are just a few of the things that PTA has advocated our Legislators to establish or improve.

When you join PTA, you join an Association that has a rich history of advocating for ALL children. Please consider becoming a part of this rich history, by joining PTA. Oakhurst PTA is also looking for a few individuals who can help continue the wonderful traditions at Oakhurst. Without you, we cannot continue to advocate for ALL children at Oakhurst.

To submit an article to the newsletter please contact the front office at 727-588-6801 or send to smith-mrkajaL@pcsb.org
Check out our award-winning website www.oakhurstpta.com