

Oakhurst Elementary News

Oakhurst Elementary
PTA
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Kelly Kennedy, Principal

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March / April 2021

Denise Rohrs, PTA President

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Spring 2021

A note from our Principal, Kelly Kennedy

Dear OES Families,

This month we begin our Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in grades 3-5. Exact dates for students will be communicated by their classroom teachers. We kick off the testing with 4th and 5th graders taking the Writing portion on April 13th and 14th. We wish them the very best of luck! Their teachers have prepared them well and I am very confident that they will perform successfully.

Over the last few weeks, students in K-5 have taken MAP assessments to measure their progress since the beginning of the school year. We use these results to support our student in their areas of need and celebrate their strengths! With a few months remaining in the school year and only a few weeks left prior to FSA, concentrated focus in an area of need can make a big difference for your student's success. Reach out to your classroom teacher for additional practice or support if needed. If you would like to get more information and/or resources for FSA (Florida Standards Assessment) please visit the following link

<https://fsassessments.org/users/students-and-families.stml>

I would like to congratulate our 5th Grade Battle of the Books team and Mrs. Kasprzyk for coming in 5th in the District! Our awesome team is: Captain Chloe Gregor, Chase Hauser, Grace McCullough and Teagan Jones! Way to go!

Oakhurst is a Summer Bridge site for current K – 4th graders! All K – 4th graders are invited, but targeted students will get a letter stating they need to attend. Engage your child in learning over the summer and sign up at reservation.pcsb.org. Pinellas County Schools Summer Bridge programs will be face-to-face only this summer! Summer Bridge provides engaging activities to prepare students for maximum success when the next school year begins. Summer Bridge will be June 21 to July 15, Monday through Thursday. New this year: Transportation will be available. Learn more at www.pcsb.org/summerbridge. Also, Pinellas County Schools will also be offering a wide variety of educational and enriching Summer Camps. Learn more at www.pcsb.org/summercamps. All summer programs will be held in accordance with Pinellas County Schools health and safety protocols.

Thank you for your support! Go Mustangs! ~ Mrs. Kennedy

A note from our PTA President, Denise Rohrs

Happy Spring!

It is hard to believe that we are down to our last quarter of the school year. Despite the challenges of this school year, it has flown by!

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the families that participated in this year's fundraiser. Our reason for fundraising is simple... PTA cannot operate without funding! In a non-covid year we would have held amazing events for all our families to attend and enjoy in-person. Instead, this year we have had to reimagine and reinvent PTA and have put our efforts into helping support teachers, staff





Character Word for February - Tolerance

Ava Martes
Kiley Woodruff
Tyler Lott
London Smith
Graham Beliveau
Ryland Hobby
Eden Perez
Elijah Joustra
Sadie Spotts
Ender Tutton
Mason McClellan
Iker Hernandez Lugo
Kiernan Cole
Asher Gayden
Amber Dziamba
Makhai Barnett
Makena Nowland
Kelly White
Collin Followell
Amir Habibzadeh
Kevin Ayala-Ortega
Matthew Ireland
Vaughn Sisson
Eric Langebrake
Brody Gaw
AJ Gann
Lexie Wall
Mara Blanchard
Sophia Donofrio
Caleb Peck
Xander Bradford
Michael Ireland
Lacey Lurhs
Kobie Wilkins
Carlos Morales
Victoria Munger
Olivia Leonard



and students on campus! This year's fundraiser also helped our wonderful PE Department. We raised \$4,639 in PE equipment. Our PE department is busy spending the money on new equipment to benefit the entire school such as: Lacrosse Sticks and Goals, as well as Disc Golf. How AWESOME is that!

Later this year we will be helping our teachers once again, with another \$25.00 gift card to use on classroom supplies. We are also working on an end of the school year take home surprise for each Oakhurst student! Those details will come out later this year.

Keep your eyes out for a Grand-Pals take home bag, coming at the end of March! We treasure our Grandparents at Oakhurst. Since we were unable to hold our annual weeklong lunches on campus this year, Oakhurst PTA is sending home a fun activity packet with each student. Instructions will be included in the packets on how to submit photos of students participating in these activities. We are so excited and cannot wait to see all the photos.

In March we said thank you to our teachers with "You are Worth More than a Pot of Gold Found at the end of a Rainbow" and coming up in April we will thank them with "For All You Give, For All You Do, This Morning Treat, Is Just For You". It is just one way of letting our teachers and staff know how incredibly important they are!

Don't forget that Fridays are OES Spirit Days whether on campus or at home, so make sure to proudly wear your Oakhurst shirts! Our online school store is still open! And all remaining shirts in inventory are being sold at a discounted rate of \$5.00. Supplies are limited and no new shirt orders will be placed. Visit our school store at <https://oakhurstlargo.new.memberhub.store/store> You can also purchase school magnets and keychains in the online store.

Make sure you are receiving Mrs. Kennedy's weekly calls and emails for up-to-date school and PTA news. You can also follow OES PTA on Facebook, look for Oakhurst Elementary School PTA. Another great source for information is our website at www.oakhurstpta.com

Even though many events were cancelled this school year, we were still able to continue our SPIKE program. Make sure your student turns in their SPIKE reading logs via email by the 5th of each month. It is a great opportunity for students to earn prizes, incentives, and FREE books! And the higher the class participation, the more FREE books the teacher can earn!

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 March - Honesty

Grayson Ruscetta
Lincoln Hixson
Rowan Maguire
Isabella Smith
Regan Pike
Graham Beliveau
Lily Blankenship
Samantha Wojtkun
Nathaniel Nunez
Evan Reed
Sabree James
Caldwell
Jace Wilson
Kayden Klein
Carpenter
Caleb Bunn
Emilia Georgi.
Lilly Gregor
Calyn Vayne
Naomi Igoe
Alexander Stark
Autumn Zimmer
Sadie Jo Wall
Connor Glazier
Isabella Peterson
Sophia Bellow
Julia Grasham
Hadley Namey
Karter Kendrick
Aubrey Gallant
Brooks Riggs
Cailynn Rouse
Lana Parinello
Gavin Hernandez
Johven Carlton
Lily Lecureux
Abbie Marsili
Wyatt Tacia
Noah Walser
Elliot Baez
Wilber Olivet-Suchite
Joseph DaCosta



5th Grade Parents

The 5th grade celebration is in the works. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13th at 7:15 pm.

5th Grade

January SPIKE News



Congratulations to Ms. Foley's 5th grade class for having 100% of their January SPIKE reading logs submitted! They earned a popsicle party and 4 Harry Potter books for the class to enjoy! Ms. Gonzales' and Mrs. LeColst's class also earned a combined total of 4 books. Way to go all!!!

Congratulations to Ezequiel Pimentel-Roxa from Mrs. Wilson's class for being the SPIKE raffle winner for January! He won a Skate party courtesy of Astro Skate. Congratulations to the 202 students that submitted their December and January reading logs earning a brand new book and a treat. Keep up the great work Oakhurst students!

Water your mind, Read. - SPIKE
oakhurstspikelogs@gmail.com.

Happy Reading – SPIKE

Please email questions to oespiketeam@gmail.com

February SPIKE News

Way to go Mrs. LeColst's class for having 100% of their reading logs turned in! They earned a popsicle party and 4 books for their classroom library. Ms. Gonzales' class and Ms. Foley's class were not far behind earning a total of 4 books for their classrooms.

Congratulations to London Smith for being the winner of February's SPIKE drawing! She won a skate party courtesy of Astro Skate.

April is the last month for SPIKE logs, so "Take a look, grab a book, feed your brain!" and get your reading logs turned in. You can do it Mustangs!



Why does OES PTA Fundraise?

OES PTA Fundraises to provide support to students, teachers, classrooms and staff.



Teacher and Staff Luncheon and Monthly Motivational Treats



Student Agendas



T in PTA Teacher Assist Gift Cards



Birthday Books and Certificates



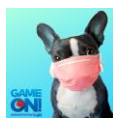
10 pack of headphones for each classroom

Monthly SPIKE prizes and free books to students and teachers



And....

- Honor Roll & Principals List Medals
- Red Ribbons
- Wow Room Support



Oakhurst families we are overwhelmed by your outpouring of support for our Game On fundraiser! We raised over \$23,000 for the school. Your support is allowing Oakhurst PTA to continue some of the great programs we have planned for the remainder of the year. Such as our virtual family talent show with swag bags and our first ever take-home Grandparents / Grandpals event! This year your donations not only supported PTA events, but it also provided our PE department with a \$4,600 gift card for equipment. OES PTA is so excited to have partnered with our PE department this year. Your Oakhurst PTA thanks each and every family that supported our Game On fundraiser!

A Note from Nurse Kelly ~

Limiting Screen Time For Children

When the pandemic began last year, many educational and social activities for students were driven online. Computers gave us the ability to connect with loved ones, continue school and work, and pass the time during isolation. Nearly a year later, it is worth evaluating children's screen time as life slowly adjusts to the new normal. A question the school nurse is often asked: how much is too much? Early data from a landmark National Institutes of Health (NIH) [study](#) that began in 2018 indicates that children who spent more than two hours a day on screen-time activities scored lower on language and thinking tests, and some children with more than seven hours a day of screen time experienced thinning of the brain's cortex, the area of the brain related to critical thinking and reasoning.

Here are some ways that parents can balance screen time in a healthy fashion:

1. **Set Limits-** Decide what your family is comfortable with... and stick to it. A clear, defined time limit is the easiest way to control how much screen time your child is getting.
2. **Encourage Traditional Activities-** Dancing, reading, playing an instrument, drawing, baking... what does your child find engaging besides a device? Developing unplugged interests will help promote balance.
3. **Model Boundaries-** Children are always watching. When we put down our phones, we teach the discipline we are asking for without saying a word.

Are you interested in joining the Oakhurst PTA board for the 21/22 school year? If your answer is yes, we can't wait to talk with you! Contact Denise Rohrs at rohrrsd@gmail.com to setup a Zoom meeting today!



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

OT Corner ~

Healthy Sleep Habits

Now more than ever our kids need sleep. We tend to forget that they need more than us. Their busy schedules tend to prevent that. While a child sleeps their body not only gets to rest from their strenuous day, but it's important for their growth both physically, intellectually, and helps support their social and emotional happiness. Regular sleep deprivation can lead to difficult behaviors including irritability and difficulty concentrating.

Of course, the actual amount of sleep each child needs differs from person to person, The American Academy of Sleep Medicine provides some research-based guidelines:

- Children aged 3-5 years old generally need 10-13 hours (including naps)
- Children aged 6-12 years old generally need 9-12 hours
- Teens aged 13-18 years old generally need 8-10 hours

When a person gets enough sleep, it can aid in boosting their immune system, and assists with better school/work performance including: behavior, memory, and overall mental health.

Here are some great ideas from The American Academy of Pediatrics to help with boosting your child's sleep.

- Make increasing the number of hours sleeping a family priority
- Everyone in the family has a goal to increase their sleep by an hour
- Create a regular bedtime routine
- This also assists with time management, executive functioning, and gives the body a chance to calm down
- Be active during the day
- Avoid overscheduling
- Give everyone, including the kids a chance to unwind
- Monitor screen time
- Screens (TVS, laptops, tablets, video consoles) and other blue-lights affect the body's natural release of melatonin, which then affects the body's ability to go to sleep
- The AAP recommends shutting screens off 60 minutes before bed

(healthychildren.org; The American Academy of Pediatrics)



Autism Awareness Month

April is National Autism Month, a celebration that emphasizes better awareness of the signs, symptoms, and reality of autism.

What is Autism?

Autism is a developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. Autism is a spectrum condition, meaning there is a broad range of signs and symptoms.

Diagnosing Autism

This can be hard because there is no medical test that exists. Autism can be detected as early as 18 months. Many people won't be diagnosed until they're teens or adults. This can cause a delay in treatment and other services.

Signs of Autism

- Little interest or interaction with other children or caretakers
- Erratic outburst over minor issues, or changes to their routine
- Knowing fewer words for their age, and difficulty communicating their needs and wants

Treatments and Interventions for Autism

If you suspect your child or family member has autism, please reach out to their primary care provider as soon as possible. Starting interventions early is always best for the individual, as there is currently no cure.

The following are some forms of treatments they may receive. Always talk to your child's primary care provider before making any healthcare decisions.

- Behavior and communication approaches
- Dietary changes
- Medications



Oakhurst families our PTA is having a
SPIRIT wear sale!

Head on over to our online school store at <https://oakhurstlargo.memberhub.store>, where you can purchase the remaining school shirts in our inventory for only \$5.00. There is a limited number of shirts left and not all sizes are available. No new shirt orders will can be placed. If you have any questions please feel free to email Denise Rohrs at rohrrsd@gmail.com.

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

Oakhurst Elementary Monthly Calendar of Events

Details also found on PTA Website:

www.oakhurstpta.com

April –

- 1st – Thursday – No School
- 2nd – Friday - No School
- 9th – Friday – SPIKE Calendar due – email to SPIKE
- 13th – Tuesday – SAC – 5pm – Media Center or Virtual
- 13th - Tuesday – 5th Grade Celebration Meeting – 7:15pm – Virtual
- 29th – Thursday – Talent Show – details coming soon
- 30th – Friday – Mustang Round Up – Self-Control – 8:10am

We're on Facebook!!!

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

Get Ready to Celebrate Grandparents and Grand-Pals!

At OES we treasure our Grandparents and are honored to celebrate the special relationships that our students have with them. As with many other school activities this year we have made a few adjustments to how we recognize our awesome Grandparents.

Instead of inviting guests to have lunch on campus this year we will be sent home a great activity packet. This included fun interactive activities and a craft that students can complete with a Grandparent or a Grand-Pal (another special adult in their life!) while at home. Each of our students will be able to participate in this wonderful tradition at Oakhurst. Thank you for participating in this exciting new way to celebrate all of our Grandparents and Grand-Pals!

Have you wanted to get more involved with your student's education? Have you wanted to get to know other Oakhurst families? Have you wanted to know all the amazing things that happen within the walls of Oakhurst Elementary? Then joining the Oakhurst PTA or our SAC Committee is the place for you! Contact Denise Rohrs at rohrsd@gmail.com for PTA information or Jeff Rohrs at jeff.rohrs@outlook.com for SAC information.

Who is Your Oakhurst PTA?

Your OES PTA Board Consists of:

An Executive Committee:

President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary

An Executive Board:

Oakhurst Elementary Principal
Chair, Co-Chair, Coordinator and
Committee Positions



Oakhurst Elementary PTA Executive Committee:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Oakhurst Elementary PTA Executive Board:

- Ways and Means
- Festival Coordinator
- Membership Chair
- Faculty Representative
- T in PTA Committee
- Programs Chair
- All Hands Chair
- Grandparents Lunch Chair
- Website Chair
- Spirit Shirt Design Coordinator
- All Pro Dad's Chair
- SPIKE (Students and Parents Involved in Kids Education) Chair and Co-Chair
- Health and Safety Chair
- Grants Chair (Brand New in 20/21 school year)
- Hospitality Chair and Co-Chair
- Box Tops Chair
- Reflections Chair
- SPIRIT Chair and Co-Chair
- Volunteer Coordinator Chair and Co-Chair
- Newsletter Chair
- Birthday Books Coordinator
- Legislative Chair
- Spirit Night Coordinator
- Field Day Chair
- 5th Grade Committee Coordinator
- Diversity and Inclusion Chair (NEW for 21/22 school year)

Mrs. Ruscetta, our gifted teacher, along with her 2nd and 3rd grade gifted students would like to give a big THANK YOU to Mike's Pizza for the donation of pizza boxes. They are studying the Earth's natural resources and how we can help conserve them. One way is through solar energy. Each student made a working solar oven using the pizza box and even made s'mores! The students really enjoyed the lesson and learned a lot. Thank you again, Mike's Pizza!

