



OAKHURST NEWS
A combined publication of School and PTA

**Oakhurst
PTA**
everychild.one voice.

Pinellas County Schools

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

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Editor: Jenny Buhler

PTA President: Nicole Heath

September, 2009

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

Volume 11,

Issue 1



*The Principal's
Corner*

Dear Oakhurst Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back everyone. I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy some lazy summer days. In our effort to save money and trees our Oakhurst Newsletter will be available each month on this website(www.oakhurst-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us.) Book mark this as one of your favorite sites as it will be filled with lots of information. If you don't have access to a computer and would like a hard copy, please notify the school and we will send one home with your child.

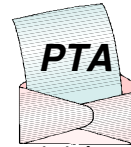
Oakhurst has a new feel to the school this year. We have over 150 new students, 15 new staff members, a soon to open new two story building and a new bus and car loop. Wow, all of this will take some getting used to.

For the 6th year in a row, Oakhurst earned an "A" grade from the state of Florida. I want to thank our motivated students, dedicated teachers and committed parents for all of your efforts.

Please join me in welcoming our newest staff members:

Teacher	Grade Level	Last School
Dana Booth	Pre Kindergarten	Madeira
Melissa Fulle	Kindergarten	North Ward
Melissa Chin-Flores	1 st Grade	North Ward
Heather Turner	3 rd /STARS	Bauder
Dana Booth	Pre Kindergarten	Madeira
Erin Weingart	3 rd Grade	North Ward
Tanya Jacobs	4 th Grade	Bardmoor

(Principal Cont' Page 2)



**A Letter from the
PTA President**

Welcome Back Oakhurst Families & Staff,

With our days of summer behind us we are ready to kick off this new school year.

We are excited to have so many new families at Oakhurst this year!

PTA could think of no better way then a Welcome Back Dance to welcome everyone this year & have a chance for families & faculty to get to know each other.

We have a great community feel at Oakhurst & that is just one of the great things about our school. Come and meet our principal, assistant principal, teachers & PTA board members. Every one will have a great time mingling, dancing & sharing some food. This event is "**off campus**".

It will be held on Friday, September 11th From 6pm to 8pm.

Location:

Largo Southwest Recreation Complex

13120 Vonn Rd,
Largo, 33774

No drop offs please Parents/Guardians must stay

Our first PTA General meeting will held in the cafeteria on Wednesday September 16th at 6:30pm. This year we are planning on having food and lots of information at all three of our general membership meetings. If you have not had a chance to join the PTA yet this year, please do.

The cost is \$5.00 and does not require any volunteer time.

Watch our calendar on the **NEW Oakhurst PTA Website:** (oakhurstpta.com) to stay up on all that is happening this year at Oakhurst Elementary.

Have A Great Year,
Nicole Heath

PTA President

(Principal Cont')

Nicole Fiegle 5th Grade 74th Street
 Shannon Georges Gifted California
 Valerie Bowman Autistic Rawlings
 Jackie Guthrie Library Info Spec. Palm Harbor

Support Staff

Gloria Haught STARS Asst
 Louis Frangione ESE Assoc.
 Theresa Rooney ESE Assoc.
 Adam Graves ESE Assoc.
 Janice Smith ESE Assoc.
 John Bell Plant Operator

Once again, we are very fortunate to have such top notch people joining our staff.

Our Book of the Month for August is Bats at the Library by Brian Lies.

It goes with our Commitment to Character word of the month: "Respect". We are going to be 'batty about books' this year.

I am looking forward to all of the exciting challenges that lie ahead of us this year. If there is anything I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome your input.

Sincerely,
 Nanci B. Wilson
 Principal

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 October, newsletter.

Robin & Tom Falone	Michelle Meador
David & Eva Weiner	Lisa & David Yawn
John & Karen Van De Putte	John & Joann Vaughan
Christine Burns	Laima Kepalas
Dawn & James Henkel	Jeffery & Nicole Heath
Carol Cline	Joseph & Mary Ann Lamoureux
Professional Condo Concepts, Inc.	

Annual School Report

The annual school report summarizing our school's results for last school year 2008-2009 is now available at the school. This report is referred to as the No Child Left Behind School Public Accountability Report and is based on information provided by the Florida Department of Education. Please contact the school if you would like to review the report or receive a copy. The report can also be accessed at the Department of Education website:

<http://doewebprd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm>.

Introducing the Mustang Student Leadership Team

This year we will be combining the Multicultural Club with the Student Council, to form the Mustang Student Leadership Team.

Throughout the year this organization will participate in community outreach projects that reflect our core character traits of Respect, Responsibility and Honesty. Interested students in grades 3-5 will be asked to fill out an application, with two students from each class being selected. Officers will be selected by the student leadership team at our first meeting.

SEPTEMBER

September 7 Labor Day School Closed

September 8 PTA board meeting (5:30)

September 8 SAC Meeting (6:30pm)

September 11 Welcome Dance (6-8pm)
Largo Southwest Recreation Complex
13120 Vonn Rd, Largo, 33774

September 15 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunch

September 16 General PTA Meeting (6:30pm)

September 25 Mid Period Reports

OCTOBER

October 8 Student Pictures

October 12 Columbus Day

October 13 PTA Board Meeting (5:30pm)
Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunch

October 16 School Closed for students

October 19-23 Grandparents Lunch

October 31 Halloween
End of report period

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.

Attention New Parents

If you are new to Oakhurst please bring in a recent utility bill and fill out a small amount of paperwork if you haven't already. Welcome!

Lynn Porter

Oakhurst Elementary

Data Management Technician

727-588-6801

Spike News



Hi kids Remember me? Well in case you are new to the school or have never become familiar with my face, let me introduce myself.

I am SPIKE! I am the mascot for the reading program at Oakhurst Elementary School. My name stands for Students and Parents Involved in Kid's Education.

Your PTA is proud to once again sponsor this program for you. My job is to encourage you to read as often possible.

Here's how the program works:

- Each month you will receive a SPIKE calendar.
- Every day that you read for at least twenty minutes, have an adult family member initial that date on your calendar.
- The first week of each new month, you will turn in your completed calendar with twenty minutes for twenty days to your teacher (signed by your parent or guardian.)
- To help you track your progress at home, I'd like to give you a bookmark. After you turn in your calendar, you may mark your accomplishments with a sticker next to the corresponding month. This is to celebrate with your family and I won't need it back.
- After completing and returning three months worth of reading I will give you a free book. Keep reading and after five completed months you get another free book, but wait there's more. After seven completed months you get ANOTHER free book.

Additionally, the classrooms can win books for their libraries based on how many of their students participate.

The top five classes will be presented with the SPIKE mascot, to keep in their rooms until the next calendar count.

Finally, all students who complete eight approved calendars get to come to an end of the year party with games, snacks, inflatable's and much more!

Most importantly, all my readers get the best gift of all ...improved academic skills!

I look forward to a great year, and to seeing all of your completed calendars turned in.

Happy reading.

Your friend,

SPIKE

HAVE YOU JOINED THE OAKHURST PTA YET?

If you did not get a chance to join our PTA on back to school night, we encourage you to fill out the membership form you received in your packet. 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.

Denise Culbertson

VP-Membership

The Physical Education Department

Dear Parents and students,

Welcome to another great year at Oakhurst Elementary School.

The Physical Education Department looks forward to working with you and your child/children.

We strive to provide a pleasant and safe experience for all children involved in our activities. Therefore, it is important that both children and parents understand the objectives and procedures of this class. Please take a few moments to review the following items and discuss them with your child/children. We ask that all students listen and follow all directions; use the equipment safely and properly and return all equipment to the proper area.

Always be a good citizen and follow the Mustang Way by showing respect, responsibility and honesty.

It is important that your child wear proper clothing for P.E. so that he/she may participate safely. We ask that all children wear sneakers; no flip-flops, sandals, heeled shoes or crocs will be accepted. Hats and water bottles are encouraged!! Please write your child's name on the bottle. Girls should wear shorts under their skirts.

By not following the rules and expectations, discipline checks will be given and the student will receive a time-out from the activity. Three discipline checks will result in a note sent home and to be signed by the parent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the P.E. Dept.



Thank you.
Mrs. Hay
Mr. Weller
Ms. Waters
Ms. Rogers
Mrs. Hinrichs

Science News

Happy New Year to all! We are looking forward to a busy science year with new expectations for the children to learn and a larger Science Fair.

Please watch this spot for updates on many Science topics as the year progresses.

Mrs. Mangold (third grade teacher) mangoldd@pcsb.org

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!

Oakhurst Elementary Fundraiser



We are so excited for this year's fundraiser to start! The kickoff will start on Thursday, September 10th and run through Friday, September 25th.

The company that we will be working with, Great American Opportunities offers a variety of products such as gift-wraps, chocolates, magazines, holiday décor and jewelry.

They also have an online ordering site where they offer exclusive personalized or monogrammed products such as stoneware, accessories and stationary which can ship directly to your home!



We will present the "Lucky Duck" program with the kick off of the fundraiser. For each set number of products that are sold, each student will receive his/her choice of a rubber duck on a necklace - the amount of ducks you can collect is unlimited - there are 16 styles to choose from! During the selling season, we will have random "duck calls" on Mustang news. If the "duck call" announced was the style of duck that you chose, you will win "duck food" (i.e. gummy worms, etc!)

At the end of the program, each class will have the option to "ring around the teacher" by giving them their ducks. The teacher with the most ducks will win lunch for the whole class!

In addition, students that have sold 3 or more items will be eligible to attend a magic show where the top seller will be a participant in the show!!! More information will be sent home with each student at the programs start and we will have sample product to view at both the PTA general meeting and the Welcome Dance on September 11th. So much to look forward to and can't wait to find out who are the "Lucky Ducks"!!!

Stop by our table at the **Welcome Dance** to taste test cookies and vote for your favorite for our cookie dough sale which will be November 6th - November 20th!



PTA Hospitality Committee



Out to
LUNCH!

Another school year has begun, which means we are beginning to get things underway. We are excited to be chairing the Hospitality Committee! We have come up with some exciting new ideas this year for all the incredible teachers and staff here at Oakhurst.

For anyone not familiar with the Hospitality Committee, we would like to take a moment to explain what we do. Every month we organize and plan a luncheon for the entire Oakhurst staff in an effort to show appreciation for all their hard work and dedication to our school and our children. Because of their efforts, Oakhurst is a great school! These luncheons are just a small way for us to acknowledge their efforts and to say "thank you" for all that they do.

Here is how our committee works: Once a month we would call you and ask for a donation off of our "needs" list. The list is based on the theme of the month. Or, if you have a special recipe that goes with our theme for that month we would love to have it! For all you chefs out there, this is a fun way to showcase your culinary talents. But, being a Hospitality volunteer doesn't always mean you have to cook. There are many things on our list each month that could be easily picked up at your favorite grocery store.

Thank you to all of those who have been on the Hospitality committee in the past. We hope that you will once again join us. To those of you who have not been on Hospitality, we urge you to give it a try. The time it takes to volunteer is minimal. It is a great committee to volunteer for if you are a working mom or dad. We have also had the pleasure of having a few grandmas volunteer in the past.

If you have any questions or would like to join us, please feel free to call me, Michelle Alfred (584-8180), or Kim Reed (773-5589). Have a great year!

Mustang Publishing



A PTA Sponsored Program

Mustang Publishing is a program, sponsored by PTA, that gives the children at Oakhurst the opportunity to publish their writing. Each student is able to receive one published book per school year. The book can be a short story, a collection of poems or even works of non-fiction. This is a great program that combines the hard work of our teachers, parents and students!

Our process to make the books involves several steps. Volunteers are so important to the success of this program. **Currently, we are in need of a chairperson to head up this amazing program.** Without a chairperson, this program will not be available this year.

In addition, there are various opportunities to get involved within the committee and they are explained in more detail below:

❖ Volunteers who can pre-make book covers needed!

If you can iron, this is the place for you. We need volunteers who can iron fabric onto ¼' cardboard to make the covers for the students.

❖ Volunteers who can type and scan books needed!

If you have a computer and scanner, we need you. We need volunteers that can type text and scan illustrations for each book. A very easy to use computer program is provided by PTA for this process.

❖ Volunteers to bind the printed pages into the chosen cover needed!

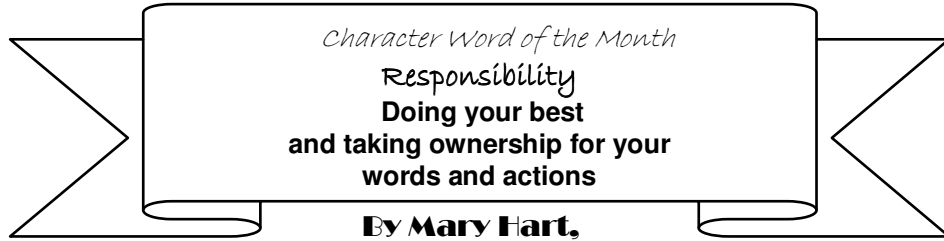
If you know how to sew, please let us know. We need volunteers that could sew the printed pages of the books into their chosen cover. It is a simple stitch straight up the middle of the book and a little more glue to hold it all in.

We hope you will consider leading this award winning program. If you have any questions or would like to get in involved please feel free to call me, Michelle Alfred (584-8180).

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 September is **“Responsibility”**

<p>Week 1 Situation: Sam received an expensive video game for his birthday and could not wait to show it to his friends. One of his friends wanted to borrow it. Dilemma: On one hand it’s good to share. On the other hand it is Sam’s responsibility to take care of his possessions. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?</p>	<p>Week 2 Situation: Sue heard her friends spreading an untrue rumor about another girl in her class. Dilemma: On one hand it’s responsible to inform someone when others are saying untrue or hurtful things. On the other hand a responsible person does not spread rumors and should tell people who do that it is wrong. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?</p>
<p>Week 3 Situation: Sue is on a team that is doing a research project on water conservation. Sue feels she is doing most of the work. Dilemma: On one hand Sue has the responsibility to make sure her team makes a good grade. On the other hand it is not Sue’s responsibility to do all the work. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sue?</p>	<p>Week 4 Situation: Sam saw a sibling taking money out of his mother’s purse. Dilemma: On one hand Sam has the responsibility not to get his sibling in trouble by telling. On the other hand Sam has the responsibility to tell his mother. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?</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



Mustangs
 2008-2009

PTA email: oakhurstelementary@yahoo.com

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