

ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL 2013-2014

OUR CHILDREN, OUR HOPE, OUR FUTURE



MARCH 2014

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PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

It was 20 months ago that Mr. Stokes and I first assumed leadership positions at OPS. Like the 20 month-old child who first stares in the mirror, recognizing the reflection of his/her face, we, decided that now was a perfect time to stop and reflect on the current face of OPS - on our accomplishments thus far and our goals moving forward.

In the past 20 months, we have worked to improve operations by updating our student management system in numerous ways, including the opening of the parent portal this week. We have updated school safety procedures, focusing on both physical and emotional safety. We have embraced a new rotating schedule to better meet the needs of students. Additionally, we have accepted the challenge that ACHIEVE NJ and the new teacher evaluation system provides, including the setting by teachers of Student Growth Objectives, an increase in formal teacher observations by administration and a renewed focus on documenting teacher practice.

We've worked to improve communication between the school and our parent community through the launching and consistent updating of our new school website, regular community blasts and administrative presence at school events. In addition, we are in the process of launching "The Parent Academy" --- a series of workshops and a spot on our website to help our families understand and support the academic and social challenges that their children face.

In the area of curriculum, we continue to deepen our focus on literacy instruction with a current emphasis on developing strong writing workshops. We've worked to increase the authentic use of technology into classrooms through the use of SMART technology, document cameras, iPads and additional portable electronic devices - the potential of which can be fully realized since we are now a 100% Wi-Fi-accessible building!

Finally, we've worked to create a positive environment for all members of the OPS community by creating school spirit teams and spirit

assemblies focused on developing skills such as conflict resolution and cultural sensitivity. We've created opportunities that foster togetherness such as our student government's heart initiative, Read Across America theme days and incorporating "Mix-It-Up" days at lunch in an effort to facilitate new friendships. We've turned what could have been a winter full of recesses stuck inside into an enriching experience through "Operation Indoor Fun," where our older students mentored younger children and where all students engaged in a myriad of activities.

As we move forward, there is still much to do. We are eager to find more opportunities for our students to develop independence and lead our community. Curricularly, we will continue to focus on technology and literacy and to refine our usage of focus periods. Most of all, we look to find ways to continue to move OPS forward while also acknowledging the history and tradition of the past.

--- Megan Bozios

What is the Parent Academy?

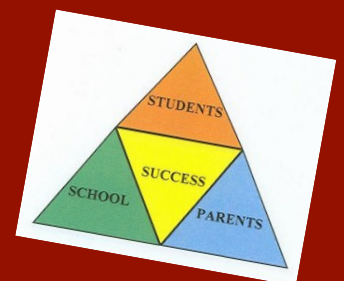
Our students are most successful when there exists a partnership between home and school. In order to achieve this partnership, we are launching a new program, entitled "The Parent Academy" --- a series of workshops and a new part of the website that will include resources about helping your child grow academically, emotionally and socially. Information regarding time, location and sign-up will be sent out prior to the session.

April 1st --- Helping your Child Grow as a Reader

May 7th --- Developing Writers

TBD --- Keeping your Child Cyber-Safe

Sept. 2014 --- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying: What is it?



When to keep your child home from school?

- * If a child has vomiting or diarrhea -- they should stay home for 24 hours.
- * If a child has a fever (100 degrees or higher), they should stay home for 24 hours *after the fever has subsided*. Keep in mind that a mildly elevated temperature may be an early indication of illness.
- * If a child has a sore throat with fever and/or vomiting, consider a visit to the pediatrician. Students who test positive for strep must stay home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours.
- * If a child has discharge or crusting from the eyes, please consult with a pediatrician. Students should be discharge-free before returning to school.
- * If a child has a bad cold or any other illness that prevents them from being able to focus in the classroom - or might disturb/infect the rest of the class - a day of rest at home can be very therapeutic. You may prevent a more serious illness by giving your child time to recover.

OPS UPDATES

- The 6th grade just completed the Science Expo, sharing their experiments and new knowledge with the entire community.
- The 5th grade is creating skits in World Language, choosing a French-speaking city to simulate a news broadcast.
- The 4th grade had a special assembly aimed at bringing the civil rights movement alive.
- The 3rd grade has completed quilting in art class and are currently using watercolors with pastels to add texture in order to create Georgia O'Keeffe flowers.
- The 2nd grade recently learned about good dental health during a special assembly.
- The 1st grade embraced the 100th day of school with beaded necklaces, games of Chutes & Ladders and an app on the iPad that made the students appear 100 years old.
- The Kindergarten just finished writing "How-To Books", sharing everything from How to make a Snowman to How to make a love potion!
- The Pre-K is learning all about colors, creating rainbows and conducting experiments in mixing colors together.
- OPS raised \$6400 dollars for the American Heart Association through JUMP ROPE FOR HEART!
- Students are completing hands-on learning to discover where maple syrup comes from, and how it is produced in our Science Lab. There's even a maple tree right outside the window that is tapped!

What is the Parent Portal?

The Parent Portal provides families an opportunity to access the following electronically:

- Emergency contact information that can be updated by parents at any point in time
- Report cards
- Up-to-date attendance records
- An accurate A-F calendar

The OPS website has information on how to change your password under the Parent Heading, Resource Tab.



*"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."
— James Cash (J.C.) Penny*



