

ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL 2014-2015

THE YEAR OF THE HERO

AUGUST 2014



“I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people.”
---Maya Angelou

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Every Saturday morning when I was in elementary school, I watched the *Super Friends* cartoon. Some days I dreamed of being Wonder Woman with incredible strength (and some awesome accessories!); other days, I envisioned myself as Superman, flying stealthily across the sky. When children take on the personas of heroes --- whether mythological heroes or historical heroes, comic book heroes or community heroes, they give themselves the opportunity to dream of the difference they can make in the world.

Heroes make a difference because when called to serve, they use their strengths to better their local and global world. This year at OPS is “The Year of the Hero”. We will learn about and celebrate the heroes of literature, history and today’s world. We will work to identify

each of our individual strengths as we take on “heroic” acts, sharing our talents with others and making our OPS community the best it can be.

In literature, heroic stories often have characters meeting up with mentors and allies. Our journey is no different. We have several new allies joining our team this year. Mr. Matthew Wilson takes the helm as Superintendent, and Mr. Brian Mistretta rounds out our administrative team as the new Supervisor of Special Services. Additionally, we welcome Mrs. Sheryl Eaton back to OPS as a full year leave replacement teacher in 4th grade, and we extend a warm OPS greeting to Ms. Danielle De Lucia who joins us in third grade. Finally, Mrs. Priscilla Aristaskian will join our nursing staff; and we will have numerous new instructional aides working with our students.

With our team complete, we forge ahead. As a school, we will continue to accept the challenges associated with the Common Core Standards and PARCC testing. We will continue to work on developing our literacy program and finding new ways to authentically incorporate technology into instruction. Additionally, we will pilot a new math resource in grades K-2.

One of the reasons I loved the *Super Friends* is because the superheroes united to form the Justice League. Together they were unstoppable! We will be the same when each of us rises to the challenge of identifying and sharing our strengths. United, together, we will make OPS . . .

One Powerful School!

--- Megan Bozios

Preparing for September 4th . . .

Please complete the school information forms listed below in paper form. Forms can be found on *our* school website at www.oradellschool.org.

*Student Emergency Card

*Milk Order Form

*Annual Health Update

The following forms need to be completed IN THE PARENT PORTAL. If you need assistance with this, please contact Mr. Stokes.

*Afterschool Dismissal Form

*Media Release/Publicity Form

*Acceptable Use Policy

*Student Handbook Sign-Off Form

Why is the Parent Portal so Important?

If you received weekly OPS email blasts last year, you know that we were diligently trying to meet the goal of having every OPS student registered in to the parent portal. The importance of this can NOT be OVERSTATED! The parent portal will serve as our link to OPS families moving forward. For example:

- Want to know about a snow day? Well, if your phone number isn't accurate in the parent portal, you won't get the call.
- Hate getting the call? Well, log in to the parent portal and choose to get a text or email instead.
- Want to know how your child is doing academically? Report cards will be accessed in the parent portal. Paper report cards will be phased out during the 2014-2015 school year.
- Are you a 6th grade parent who wants to keep tabs on how your child is doing academically on tests and assignments? The parent portal is your answer.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY** --- Want your child to be dismissed from OPS? **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE DISMISSAL FORM IN THE PARENT PORTAL.** Starting on Wednesday, September 10th, students will not be dismissed without a parent or guardian picking them up IF we do not have a completed dismissal form for them.

Completing Forms in the Parent Portal

Four of the six **REQUIRED** Back-to-School forms must be completed electronically through Oradell Public School's Parent Portal! Each is located under the "Survey" section on

the left side of the portal. The forms are:

- Dismissal Form
 - Parent/Student Handbook Sign off
 - Media Release Form
 - Computer Technology Contract
- You must fill the forms (all four) for **each** of your children. Please answer every question and most importantly, at the bottom, click **SAVE and CLOSE** when you are finished. By just clicking "Save", it will not submit the document.

The only other way to obtain the forms (paper copies) will be by visiting the main office.

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Principal Kevin Stokes at Stokes@oradellschool.org.

Revised Birthday Celebration Routines

Just a reminder that classroom birthday celebrations will NOT include food this year – healthy or otherwise. This new routine was shared with parents and teachers in the spring newsletter. As a result, our classroom teachers have been thinking of new and creative ways to celebrate children's birthdays. We will continue to have food during all other classroom celebrations. Our goal is to help children learn healthy habits and understand that they can have fun and feel special without a cupcake!

OPS SCHOOL TOURS

Have you ever wondered where the Science Lab is? Or maybe the 6th grade wing? On Friday, August 29th, the OPS Administrative team will be giving tours of the building at 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM. Please meet outside the front entrance of the school.

Exciting OPS News

- Our Kindergarten and 2nd Grade teams will be incorporating a new word study program called "Words Their Way" (a new spelling and phonics program). Our first grade teachers implemented it last year.
- We now have TWO laptop carts. Each contains 25 MacBook Airs. One will be exclusively for 6th grade use and the other will "tour" the building.
- We continue to make numerous security enhancements to our school building and our school routines.
- The schedule for our next round of Parent Academies is one the way. The first one will be about our new math resource in Grades K-2 called GoMath!

REMINDERS

- Don't forget to encourage your child to keep reading and to bring their reading log back to school on September 4th!
- Please return your milk forms ASAP!
- Please continue to check the Oradell Public School website to find important notices about the year ahead!
- Just a reminder, we continue to utilize an A-F schedule. The letter is always on the front page of the website, and your child's teacher will inform you of what special area class they go to each day.