

# Oradell Public School

*Peace, Love & Panther Pride!*

## OPS UPDATES

- Students in grades 3-6 will use laptops on a one-to-one basis during the day. Our 6th graders will use new Chromebooks this year.
- Our Kindergarten classes had new SMARTBoards installed over the summer to increase student engagement in the learning process.
- Students in Kindergarten and grade 1 will utilize "Foundations" as a new resource to reinforce phonemic awareness and word attack skills.
- Teachers in grades 3-6 worked diligently during the summer months to update the Language Arts curriculum to ensure more efficient scaffolding across the years.
- In an effort to build community and collaboration, while also reducing the number of events during a hectic spring, Field Day will be held for Kindergarten through grade 5 on Tuesday, October 9.
- Congratulations to Ms. Guinan (now Mrs. Sinclair) and Ms. Castillo (now Mrs. Velmonte), who were both married during the summer.
- Coming soon to a mobile device near you... OPS will be launching a new District app to keep families informed.



August 2018

## A Note From the Principal

**Peace, Love & Panther Pride!** We live in a world of comparisons – a world where everywhere you look (whether that be across the street or at the latest social media post), you see someone who runs faster, dresses better, etc. Our children, just like us as adults, are abundantly aware of others around them. They, too, are concerned about keeping up, about being good enough. They, too, sometimes are enveloped in feelings of insecurity, concerned that others are better athletes, more popular classmates, etc. Sometimes these comparisons to who and what we see around us can create anxiety. This year at OPS is about focusing on loving oneself, finding peace with who we are as individuals and as a community, and realizing that we have a lot about which to be proud. Panther Pride is about being proud of who we are as members of the OPS community *AND* being proud of our community – a

community steeped in tradition and continually evolving.

Yes, we can always be better; however, before we start worrying or complaining about what needs to be better this year, let's stop, take a breath and identify an area that is going well. We can do this as a community, and we can also do this with our children. When your child comments about a classmate that is reading at a higher level or has the newest iPhone, let's teach them to reflect on their strengths and what they have. We can also help them to make a plan for how to become a stronger reader or how to save the money to buy that coveted new phone, but let's also focus on the accomplishments they have already made.

Just as we as individuals have much for which to be grateful, we, as the OPS community, have much about which to be proud. We have a building that is safe and continually receiving updates,

which over the past two years have included air conditioning the auditorium, installing solar panels, and upgrading sound systems throughout the school to increase safety. We continue to attract and maintain highly qualified educators and are able to provide them with ongoing professional development to continually evolve instructional practice. We have a parent community, including a PTA, who regularly finds ways to support the students of Oradell Public School.

This year, as a community, we will continue to set goals, and we will continue to grow. However, we also will learn to reflect on and celebrate who we are. While there are definitely challenges at OPS, I am continually proud to help lead and serve this community. This year, let's join together and roar loudly, showing that we have **#PantherPride**.

— Megan Bozios

## Preparing for September 5th...

Please complete the school information forms listed below in paper form.

Forms can be found on our school website at [www.oradellschool.org](http://www.oradellschool.org).

\* Annual Health Update \* Dismissal Permission \* Milk Ordering

The following forms need to be completed in the parent portal:

\* Media Release \* Student Handbook Sign-Off

\* Emergency Contacts Update

- Please make sure to include here people who can pick up your child from the Nurse!
- Please make sure you have chosen the options for how you would like to be contacted. If you click every phone number listed, all of those numbers will receive "Snow Day Announcements." If you do not click text, you will not receive text blasts.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- We utilize an A-F schedule. The letter is always on the homepage of the website. Your child's teacher will inform you of the special area class schedule.
- All students will dismiss at 12:30 on September 5th. Our Kindergarten students ONLY will dismiss at 12:30 on September 6th and 7th so individual student data can be gathered during screening appointments. YMCA aftercare will be on-site for the half days.
- Don't forget to sign up for the PTA at [oradellpta.org](http://oradellpta.org). It is a great way to stay informed and to order lunch. This year, families will be able to order from Nicholas Markets on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please see the PTA website ([oradellpta.org](http://oradellpta.org)) for more information.
- Remember to notify the main office when your child is going to be absent. To simplify this process, parents may now digitally submit an absence via the link on the homepage of the OPS website.
- Only Kindergarten parents may accompany their children to the classrooms on the first day of school. If you are attending the PTA Welcome Back breakfast, please enter the building through the doors on Center Street by the green awning.

## Meet the Newest Members of the OPS Community...

Each school year brings new faces to our community. New faces bring new perspectives and new ideas to OPS, which help all of us grow. Along with welcoming several new instructional aides, lunch aides, and substitutes to our OPS family, we also welcome:

- **Sheila Daley** as School Psychologist. Ms. Daley attended Tulane University as an undergraduate and later earned a Master's Degree in Applied Educational Psychology from Northeastern University. Ms. Daley brings seven years of experience as a School Psychologist to our Child Study Team.
- **Yvonne Garcia** as World Language Teacher. After being an OPS parent and an instructional aide, Ms. Garcia now joins us as the new World Language Teacher. Ms. Garcia is excited to share her love of the Spanish language and culture with the students. She has been busy updating the World Language room.
- **Rosine Ghichlian** as a Special Education Teacher. Ms. Ghichlian is certified as both a general education and a special education teacher. She also brings additional certification in multisensory teaching and four years of classroom experience to OPS.
- **Mary Anne Doran** as Special Education Teacher. Ms. Doran joins OPS with experience teaching both general education and special education for over 15 years in three states – Maryland, New York, and New Jersey! Ms. Doran is excited to share her knowledge of workshop teaching and her experience in a co-teaching model with the OPS community.
- **Tracy Kaminski** as Third Grade Teacher. Prior to joining OPS as an instructional aide, Ms. Kaminski taught for many years, teaching everything from Second through Sixth Grade. She has also has been an educator at the Morris Museum and the Bronx Zoo. On top of her general education certificate, Ms. Kaminski is also highly qualified in the state of New Jersey in both Language Arts and Mathematics.
- **Gina Odlum** moves from the part-time nurse aide to School Nurse. Prior to joining the OPS health office, Ms. Odlum worked at Hackensack Hospital as a Postpartum Mother/Baby Nurse for 19 years.
- **Kristen Scanlon** as Second Grade Teacher. Ms. Scanlon is a second career educator who spent the past two years working in the Ridgewood Public School System. Prior to journeying into education, Ms. Scanlon used her Master's Degree in Industrial Psychology to work in Human Resources. A lifelong learner, Ms. Scanlon is currently completing an additional certification in Applied Behavior Analysis.
- **Victoria Smith** as Kindergarten Teacher. Ms. Smith spent the past five years teaching Kindergarten and First Grade in Brooklyn, NY. Her Master's Degree focused in the area of incorporating STEM education in the primary classroom. Ms. Smith is excited to share her love of learning with her students.
- **Danielle Westdyk** as First Grade Teacher. Ms. Westdyk is certified as both a special education and general education teacher. She joins OPS after teaching for the past four years in Bergen County. Ms. Westdyk is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Literacy with a concentration in Reading.
- **Christine Yu** as Leave Replacement Teacher. Originally from the Midwest, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, Ms. Yu brings four years of first grade teaching experience in Bergen County to OPS. She will serve as a leave replacement teacher in two different positions this year.

