

In Otter Words...



News from Oakstead Elementary School

Tammy Kimpland
Principal

Sandra Stine
Assistant Principal

August
2017-2018

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER

Dear Families,

Welcome to Oakstead - Home of the Otters!! We are so excited about the opening of school and are thrilled to have you be a part of this special year. Our current enrollment is 825+ students in grades Pre-K through Fifth. We look forward to working with all of our students and families this year. **Mark your calendars now for Open House!** Tuesday, August 29th will be Prek and Kindergarten at 6:00 p.m. and 2/3 grades will be at 7:15 p.m. On Thursday, August 31st will be 1st grade at 6:00 p.m. and 4/5 grades at 7:15 p.m.

Some Reminders: Each child received a Welcome Folder on Orientation Day. The information on the left side of the folder needs to be completed and returned the first week of school. The material on the right side is for your information.

When **dropping off/picking up your child**, please use the car pick up area. We expect each child to wait until his or her name is called before allowing the students to leave the sidewalk. We are concerned about your child's safety, and if we all work together, we will have a safe arrival and departure from school. All cars need to have a "**current year**" car tag. This year the tag is white with yellow trim.

If you need to pick up your child early from school, please send a note to your child's teacher. We will not be dismissing children after 3:20 p.m. from the office. We are committed to not interrupting instruction time and you will be helping us give the message to students that school is important. The student hours are from 9:40 a.m. until 3:50 p.m.

If you have not already paid your **voluntary supply/periodical fees**, we would appreciate it if you would do so. These fees help us purchase many items that we use to further your child's education. In addition, many of our classroom teachers, are requesting "Time for Kids" and National Geographic magazines for instructional ready.

We are in the process of electing eight to ten parents to our **School Advisory Council**. Voting will take place during Open House. A School Advisory Council is a link between the school and the local community. It provides for active participation by the various stakeholders in the school community in identifying critical student needs and developing goals and plans for meeting those needs.

This is just a reminder that **if you are going to be on campus, you need to come to the office for a visitor's badge**. This simple request will keep our campus safe and secure. This system will also be used for volunteer sign-in.

We are busting with kids again this year and our lunchroom is very crowded. We ask that if you come for lunch with your child you eat outside with them.

Thank you in advance for helping us with all our changes.

Recess Before Lunch -Pasco County

Oakstead is excited to be part of a statewide project that aims at promoting better nutrition and academic achievement for all of our students. This initiative is called *Recess Before Lunch*. As the name implies, it allows students to go to recess first, and then eat lunch. Following lunch, the students return to the classroom ready to learn. This relatively easy switch can have tremendous positive impacts on our students' food and nutrient intake, discipline and behavior issues, and the number of nurse visits; all of which can affect classroom learning readiness. Several other Florida schools in Collier, Duval and Okaloosa counties along with Pasco are using the new *Recess Before Lunch* program sponsored by the Dairy Council of Florida.

We look forward to a great school year and know that students will work hard to reach their highest potential. We appreciate all the support and involvement of our families and the community.

Sincerely,

Tammy Kimpland
Principal

Sandra Stine
Assistant Principal

How to contact us:

Oakstead Elementary
19925 Lake Patience Road
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638
Phone: (813) 346-1500
(352) 526-1500 or (727) 246-1500
Fax: (813) 346-1591
Website: <http://oes.pasco.k12.fl.us>



Notes from the Clinic

We have many students who have accidents and spills throughout the school day and require a change of clothing. We recommend a change of clothes in all K/1 students' backpacks.

It's recommended that students who have had the stomach flu be kept home for 24 hours after they have stopped vomiting. District policy states that students must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Although head lice is not a major problem at Oakstead, we occasionally have occurrences. One way to keep these cases to a minimum is for parents to get involved. "Check your child's homework, check your child's head," is Pasco County's motto. Should your child have head lice, please contact our clinic assistant at 346-1505.

Florida KidCare: Free or low-cost health insurance for kids

Your child may be eligible for affordable, low-cost health insurance offered by Florida KidCare even if both you and your spouse are working. Florida KidCare offers four different programs to meet the needs of eligible *uninsured* children from age 0 through 18 who live in Florida.

Your child may be eligible for Florida KidCare:

- Face to face interviews are not required
- Grandparents may apply for grandchildren living in their home even if they do not have legal guardianship
- A parent's immigration status is not considered when applying for qualified non-citizen children
- The state of Florida cannot provide information to INS about people applying for KidCare or medical services.

Florida KidCare may be contacted at 1-888-540-5437 (toll free) or on the web at www.floridakidcare.org.

Notification of Inspection for Asbestos Containing Materials in Public Schools

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule, 40 CFR Part 763, Asbestos Containing Material in schools, commonly referred to as AHERA. This rule requires all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control release of asbestos fibers.

All inspections for Oakstead Elementary School have been completed and a Management Plan describing the results of the inspection and the action plan to control any asbestos found during the inspection, where applicable, has been submitted to the governor for approval. A copy of this plan is located in the administrative office of this school and at the Pasco County Schools Maintenance & Facility Services Department and is available for review upon request.

Cafeteria information - We want parents to feel welcome to occasionally join their child(ren) for lunch. You are welcome to buy a lunch in our cafeteria or pack your lunch and join your child at a picnic table outside. We are busting with kids this year and our lunchroom is very crowded. Please be sure that your child meets his/her class at the cafeteria at the end of the 30-minute lunch period. All visitors must sign in the front office prior to meeting your child at the cafeteria. You may **not** take other children from the cafeteria to eat with you and your child. Due to safety and liability issues, children who are not in attendance at Oakstead Elementary are not permitted on our playground equipment.

Please remember if you are celebrating a birthday to arrange it in advance. This takes place during lunch time. Only store purchased items are able to be served. No cakes please. Students with allergies will use their "treat box" at this time.

IMPORTANT: Free and Reduced meal (breakfast and lunch) applications need to be completed each year.

If you want your child to be considered for free or reduced price meals, please go to the county website and fill out an application. This process takes approximately 10 days to enroll. You need to pay for school lunches until notified of your status.

Custody Issues

Important Note: If you have any custody concerns, please provide the school with the most recent, original, certified custody papers. By law, birth parents share equal custody and access to their children's records, unless we have a court order on file that states differently. Also, do not list a noncustodial parent on the emergency card unless that person is allowed to pick up the child from school.

WE CARE VERY MUCH FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS AND APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

VISITORS - All visitors, including lunchtime visitors, must sign in at the office. Please be sure to bring your driver's license when signing in so that it can be scanned by the Raptor system and we can issue a visitor's sticker. **Parents/guardians need to send a note if somebody other than the parent/guardian is picking up or having lunch with your child. Please do not go directly to the classroom.** You may meet your child outside of the cafeteria when you come in for lunch.



Pasco County School Board

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