

In Otter Words...



News from Oakstead Elementary School

Tammy Kimpland
Principal

Sandra Stine
Assistant Principal

2nd Quarter
2017-2018

Administrative Corner

Dear Families,
Welcome Back! We hope that everybody had a happy and fun filled holiday and is rested and ready to return to school. We have a lot of information to share with our students for second semester.

Thank you to parents, family, friends and community members who presented to our students during the Great American Teach-In. Special thanks to Mrs. Ortiz and Mrs. Bennett who did a wonderful job coordinating all of the activities for our students.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers and business partners during these past nine weeks. We appreciate all the "extra" you do for our school during this special time. Thank you also to our wonderful PTA for sponsoring so many of our school-wide events and activities.

FSA TESTING

We'd like to remind parents that students do their best when they have had a good night's sleep and start their day with a nutritious breakfast in the morning. This is especially important for our 4th and 5th grade students who will be taking the **FSA Writing** test on March 5th. Students in 3rd-5th grades will also be taking the FSA during the months of April/May.

The School will be a "quiet zone" during testing and students will not be called from class during these times. Modifications will be made to our Specials and lunch schedules. It is very important that students arrive to school on time during testing. Students who arrive late will remain in the office to observe the "quiet zone" and will have the opportunity to make up the test at a later time. As much as we appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers, during all of our testings dates, **we will be closed to volunteers and there will be no lunchtime visitors on testing days.** Due to FSA testing, we are unable to give you an accurate lunch time for your child. You are welcome to continue to enjoy lunch with your child on other days.

2018-2019 Information

We started preliminary planning for the 2018-2019 school year. Your child will bring home a bright colored **Pre-Registration/Student Demographics** sheet in mid February. This is a **two-sided** form. Please take a moment to complete the pre-registration information. On the student demographics side of the form, please make corrections, if applicable, and sign the bottom. We would appreciate it if you would send the form back to school with your child. This is also a way for us to update your contact information. Please call the front office at 813-346-1500 if you have any questions.

School Choice Open Enrollment

Applications for students who live outside of our attendance zone will be accepted during the **month of February**. An electronic application is available online at the District website: <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us>. If your child was already approved for the 2017-2018 school year and you live in Pasco County, **you do not need to re-apply for the 2018-2019 year.** If you moved and live outside of the Oakstead school zone, you must re-apply. If you live outside of Pasco County you must complete a new School Choice Application every year.

Let's Communicate!

Please make sure you are set up to receive our school CNXT. In addition, we will be updating our website and Facebook on a weekly basis. We will also be using our "School Connects" system for phone calls and e-mail updates. Please feel free to e-mail administration with any questions or comments as well.

MyStudent:

Our absence line will still call parents even if we are notified that they are absent. This is an automated system and we can not program it differently. Thank you for your understanding.

From the Center For Disease Control-Flu Prevention

Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Some people, such as older people, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications. **The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year.** Flu vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months and older. Making healthy choices at school and at home can help prevent the flu and spreading the flu to others. Ask children to:

*Cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze and have them throw the tissue away after they use it.

*Wash their hands often with soap and water, especially after they cough or sneeze. If water is not near, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

*Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

For more information about flu prevention, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

Dates to Remember

January

15 No School - Martin Luther King Day
16 Report Cards
25 Conference Night

February

9 Progress Reports
26-27 FSA Writing

March

6 Spring Pictures
15 End of 3rd quarter
16 No School - Teacher Planning Day
19-23 No School - Spring Break
26-27 FSA Reading - 3rd Grade

Bits and Pieces

If you have had a **change** in personal information such as your **address** or your home, work, or cell **phone numbers**, please send a note to school so we can update your information.

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.

Many of you have asked about clubs for this semester. We will be starting up in late February or early March. Watch your Tuesday folder for more details.

We will also be offering a few summer camps during the months of June and July. We will be sending home this information as well.

Congratulations to Mr. Watson, Mrs. Maffia and our talented chorus students for their wonderful holiday performances. We would also like to thank our staff and families for a festive and fun sing-a-long.

Many thanks to our business partners: Target, Dairy Queen, Lowes, McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, Publix, Wal-Mart, Outback, Chick-fil-A, Chilis, Beef O' Brady's, Sonic Drive-In, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, Planet Smoothie, Cracker Barrell, Culvers, Starbucks, and Big Apple Bagels.

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>



Pasco County School Board
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Cynthia Armstrong, Chairman
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7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard
Land O' Lakes FL 34638

Phone: (813)794-2000
(352)524-2000 or (727)774-2000
Website: <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us>



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“A mind once stretched to a new idea never regains its original dimension.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes