

Oakhurst Elementary News

Oakhurst Elementary
PTA
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Kelly Kennedy, Principal

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September, 2020

Denise Rohrs, PTA President

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**Character Word for
September -
Responsibility**
Doing your best and
taking ownership for
your words and actions.

Responsibility winners will
be announced in the next
PTA newsletter

**Character Word for
October -
Cooperation**
Getting along with
others and working
together

Happy Fall



A note from our Principal, Kelly Kennedy

Welcome Back to School, OES Families! It was a great first month back! Our opening was very different, but we were so ready to welcome our Mustangs back! It was wonderful to have our Mustangs back in the classroom, whether on campus face to face, or virtually. It has been so long! Welcome to the 2020 – 2021 school year!

Thank you to everyone that made it possible for us to return in a safe way. From our Plant Operators that cleaned and sanitized our campus to our instructional teachers, who learned yet another completely new platform to meet the needs of both face-to-face and virtual students. This has not been an easy transition, but our OES team has handled it both professionally and with care for students and colleagues.

Finally, please take the time to join our fabulous PTA. Although first semester will look a bit different with virtual events, our PTA is always finding ways to support our school community. Thank you for your support!

Kelly Kennedy, Principal

A note from our PTA President, Denise Rohrs

This time of the year is usually packed with PTA events. However, due to Covid-19 we had to cancel many of our back to school and fall PTA events. We are hoping after the first of the year, to bring some of our most loved events to you. So, please make sure you are receiving Mrs. Kennedy's weekly calls and emails for up to date PTA news. You can also follow OES PTA on Facebook, look for Oakhurst Elementary School PTA. Another great source for information is our website at www.oakhurstpta.com

Friday's are Spirit Days whether on campus or at home, so make sure to proudly wear your Oakhurst shirts. Our online school store is still open! Please keep in mind that shirt orders are taking much longer than normal due to supply issues. You can purchase shirts, magnets, keychains and your Oakhurst PTA membership here <https://oakhurstlargo.new.memberhub.store/store> Your support is greatly appreciated and helps us continue our award winning programs. Even though we cannot be on campus we are still able to provide support to our teachers, thanks to your generosity. At the start of this school year we provided teachers and staff with a boxed grab and go breakfast. We are also happy to announce OES PTA will be providing \$25 gift cards to each eligible teacher, very soon!

Even though many events have been cancelled we are still able to continue our SPIKE program. Make sure your student turns in the SPIKE reading logs via email by the 5th of each month. There will be the opportunity for students to earn prizes, incentives, and free books! And the higher the class participation the more books teachers can earn as well!

On Tuesday, September 29th we will be hosting our first PTA Virtual Literacy Night at 6pm via Zoom. We are excited to bring a whole new literacy night to our families. We hope you will join us! The first 100 people to register will be admitted. This is an OES family event! We will have two special guests that will read in English and Spanish. There will be an exciting K9 demonstration! Families can also learn about our SPIKE reading program. And two lucky people will win giveaways at the end of the event.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding PTA please feel free to reach out to me at rohrrsd@gmail.com. We would like to thank everyone that has supported the PTA this year and wish you all a healthy October!

All Hands - Calling ALL HANDS!

Teachers need our help, now more than ever! For this reason, your Oakhurst PTA has organized ALL HANDS! ALL HANDS is a group of volunteers that meets monthly with projects for their students and classrooms. Projects may include cutting for art projects, collating homework packets, tearing sheets from workbooks, etc. We encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, all are welcome to please join us and lend a helping hand!



All Hands will be a little different for the beginning of this school year. It will still be held on the second Monday of each month at 9am and will be a Grab and Go packet that you take home to complete. A sign-up genius will go out via Mrs. Kennedy's calls where you can sign up for projects to take home. You will pick up the packet in the front office, complete and return by a specified due date. Additional details on the All Hands program will go out with the sign-up genius.

Please email Frank Hegedus at fh45321@yahoo.com for more information!

Volunteering Opportunities

Oakhurst loves our volunteers, however with the current state of Covid 19 we are limiting volunteer opportunities. We still encourage you to register to volunteer so that you're ready to go when the call for volunteers is needed.

If events do resume, PTA will send out a Sign-Up Genius with volunteer times and actions for PTA events.

Oakhurst's Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Shepherd will be in touch for any school-based volunteer opportunities as they arise.

To start the volunteer registration process, please click on the link below:

<https://asd.pcsb.org/schoolwiresforms/volunteer/>

SPIKE welcomes you to a new school year.



Time to crack open those books and let your minds soar into a new adventure. Don't forget to fill out your digital reading logs every time you complete your at home reading.

Make sure your completed reading log is submitted by October 5th.

The September's prize will be a fun keychain.

Happy Reading – SPIKE

Please email questions to

oesspiketeam@gmail.com

5th Grade Parents -

It is time to plan the 5th grade celebration. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13th at 7:15pm. The link will be sent out in the weekly Oakhurst update.

Our Book Fair is online! Support our school and help your child discover new books, favorite characters, value packs and more! Orders are delivered right to your home and you can take advantage of FREE shipping on book purchases over \$25.

Our Fair is a little different this Fall but we can still support our readers and our school with this virtual event. If you have questions about books, how to order or the Fair please don't hesitate to contact me at kasprzykm@pcsb.org.

Thank you for supporting the Oakhurst Library!

Mrs. Kasprzyk



<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/oakhurstelementaryschool>

Literacy Night

Celebrate Literacy Night with
Officer Dziamba and K9 Drax!

Listen to Officer Dziamba read an OES “Book of the Month” followed by a K9 Demonstration of Drax’s amazing abilities!

Karen Reed will also read the OES “Book of the Month” in Spanish!

SPIKE Reading will introduce the new 20/21 school year program!

Literacy Night will be held via Zoom, to register please go to link below

<https://forms.gle/iy77DvS6t3My9ndq8>


Tuesday, September 29th
At 6:00pm via Zoom
Literacy Night will follow a 10 minute
Oakhurst Elementary General PTA meeting



As Halloween approaches, here are some tips from the CDC to be safe and healthy if you choose to trick-or-treat this year.



1. *Wear your mask!* Make sure that your child can easily breathe with their mask and costume- and offer breaks as needed during your travels.
2. *Stay with a small group!* Choose to trick-or-treat with family, or just a few friends that you know are practicing good social distancing every day.
3. *Bring hand sanitizer!* Doorbells, handles, and candy bowls are all high touch surfaces. Sanitize your child's hands frequently, and WAIT to eat candy until you can thoroughly wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.
4. *Maintain personal space!* Encourage your child to maintain distance while showing off their costume, stay outside a home while receiving candy, and quickly choose their treat (no lingering),
5. *Don't share props!* If trick-or-treating with a small group, teach your child not to pass around their wand, lightsaber, or tiara. A good tip is to look with your eyes, not with your hands.



The
Oakhurst
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Top 5

Proud to be a
National PTA®
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2018-2020

5 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR OAKHURST PTA

1. Purchase a PTA Membership.
2. Purchase spirit gear in our school store by clicking [HERE](#)
3. Save your Box Tops and send them in to your teacher or scan your grocery receipts into the App to earn Virtual Box Tops.
4. Register your Amazon account via smile.amazon.com to support Oakhurst Elementary School PTA.
5. Register your Coke Rewards to Oakhurst Elementary at us.coca-cola.com/give

*Click [HERE](#), or visit the Oakhurst PTA web-page at oakhurstpta.com look for "Give Back" for more information about each of these programs and how to start giving back TODAY!

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5 WAYS YOUR PTA SUPPORTS OAKHURST STUDENTS & STAFF

1. SPIKE Reading Program provides free books, prizes and incentives for students that complete their monthly log.
2. Student Agendas - The PTA purchases agendas for each OES student.
3. Birthday Books - A book of the students choice and a pencil are provided to each student for their birthday.
4. Teacher and Staff support is provided through our monthly All Hands program, luncheons throughout the year, and our "T" in PTA program.
5. OES PTA provides many family engagement events throughout the year such as Literacy Night, Dances, our Annual Festival and our beloved Grandparents Week.

Referendum 2020: Quick Facts



Referendum funds strengthen reading, music and art programs; provide current technology and textbooks; and help recruit and retain quality teachers. Pinellas County voters have renewed the Referendum every four years, by large margins, since the half-mill property tax was approved in 2004. An independent committee oversees the distribution of funds to ensure money is spent as voters intended. Every penny collected through the Referendum is locally controlled and supports Pinellas County teachers and students. The Referendum costs the average single-family homeowner with a homestead exemption about \$7.15 a month.

High-Quality Teachers

- Eighty percent of the Referendum revenue supplements teacher salaries, demonstrating the high value Pinellas County Schools places on recruiting and retaining quality teachers.
- Each teacher receives a salary supplement of \$5,321 for the 2020-2021 school year as part of their base salary.

Invigorated Visual Arts Programs

- All schools receive equitable funding for quality art supplies, equipment and technology that help students produce strong and award-winning works of art.
- Each year, nearly 14,000 students, including those whose families are not able to afford admission fees, participate in field trips to local art museums and venues.
- Students have growing opportunities to collaborate with local artists and arts organizations for innovative learning experiences and schoolwide art projects.
- Improved resources and teacher training are raising the bar for student artwork, which is showcased at 19 art exhibitions at museums and galleries in our community.

Revitalized Performing Arts Programs

- All schools receive funding for music, theater and dance equipment, technology, sound systems, uniforms and materials that support award-winning performing arts programs.
- Pinellas was able to rebuild its string orchestra program. Without the Referendum, there would be no funding for string instruments, string teachers and the All County string program.
- Teachers and students have opportunities to work with nationally recognized conductors, artists and clinicians.
- Partnerships with professional arts organizations bring performing artists into schools, support field trips and performance opportunities for 15,000 students each year.

Stronger Reading Programs

- A literacy intervention program for struggling readers in grades K-2 supports students in all Pinellas elementary schools.
- All math, science and social studies classrooms are equipped with diverse and up-to-date reading materials to supplement core instruction.
- Middle and high school reading classrooms receive materials that would not otherwise be available, including instructional software, and engaging fiction and nonfiction.
- Teachers have opportunities to train with nationally recognized literacy experts.

Up-To-Date Technology

- Students throughout the district have access to computer labs and updated technology that prepare them for college and careers.
- Interactive whiteboards and projectors have been installed in classrooms throughout the district to help teachers provide engaging lessons.
- Teachers have access to high-quality software applications that promote student engagement and provide access to internet resources in a safe environment.
- Highly skilled technology staff train teachers to integrate current technology into their lessons and personalize learning to meet the needs of each student.

Sign up for the latest news regarding educational/children's legislative issues. You will only receive emails during legislative session.

<http://cqrcengage.com/npta2fl/home?0>

Membership Update – Member Hub

The PTA Welcome Back to School Packet has gone digital this year! Below are all the forms that would normally come home in your student's binder from the PTA. You will find the forms for OES PTA Memberships, t-shirts and spirit gear. These forms can be used by those that wish to pay by check or cash. Forms can be returned to school with your student or dropped off in the front office.

If you would like to purchase a PTA membership, t-shirts or spirit gear by credit card please visit our online school store at <https://oakhurstlargo.new.memberhub.store/store>. Keep in mind when purchasing shirts this year, the ladies v-neck shirts are running two sizes too small – so size up by two sizes.

Thank you to everyone that has already placed shirt and spirit gear orders.

[Oakhurst President Letter Welcome Pack 20.21 Revised .pdf](#)

[Oakhurst Tshirt Order Form 8.10.20.pdf](#)

[Spirit Gear Order Form 8.10.20.pdf](#)

Box Tops 4 Education

As you already know, Box Tops 4 Education is going digital. We hope you have downloaded the app and have chosen Oakhurst as your school. The new blue Box Tops must be submitted through the app (and not clipped). Not all products have the new digital Box Tops so please keep looking for the old pink ones and sending them in to school. The clipped ones will be accepted until their expiration dates.



The Box Tops program is an awesome way to earn funds for our school just by buying products we already use. We're hoping to make this year's earnings our best ever and will need your help to make that happen. Visit www.boxtops4education.com/ for product listing and additional information. THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

PE News

A reminder to parents please make sure your student is bringing a water bottle to school each and every day. This is very important especially on PE days. There are many students who do not have a water bottle at PE and during these hot summer months it is critical that they have one. Please make sure the water bottle is labeled with their name as well.



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern



News From Nurse Kelly -

As a reminder, students that feel unwell for any reason should remain at home until all symptoms subside. While this has always been our school policy, it is especially important as we safeguard against Covid-19. County policy mandates that any student that exhibits symptoms at school will be immediately isolated, sent home, and cannot return to school without a Dr.'s note for an alternative diagnosis, or a negative Covid test. The goal is to create a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. Thanks for doing your part by reporting illness to the school, and keeping your unwell child home!

Occupational Therapy (OT) Corner

Rise and Shine, back to school we go!

Just as your child's body needs food, their sensory system needs input to process, organize and use the information they are constantly receiving from their environment. This 'feeding' of your child's sensory system throughout the day helps them stay calm, alert and regulated.

Following these simple activities consistently will provide immediate and cumulative results so your child can rise and shine putting their best foot forward for success throughout the day!

Helpful Hints for Morning Time:

- Keep a consistent routine (wake up, brush teeth, get dressed)
- Use a calm, soft voice
- Gradually increase lighting in the room
- Discuss what is going to happen through the day

Rise and Shine! Morning/Wake Up Sensory Diet:

- Play soft, calming music
- Deep pressure massage
- Squeezes to back, legs, feet, head, arms, hands
- Use vibrating toothbrush
- Wash face with cool water
- Allow child to dress themselves, so they are in control of the feeling of clothing on their skin
- Use a seat cushion or lap pad in your child's chair at the breakfast table to provide sensory input
- Provide chewy (granola bar, bagel, raisins) or crunchy food (dry cereal, apples, toast)
- Drink cold, thick liquid through straw (juice, yogurt, applesauce)

Oakhurst Elementary Monthly Calendar of Events

Details also found on PTA Website:

www.oakhurstpta.com

September 29th – General PTA meeting and Literacy Night

October 5th – September Spike logs submitted electronically to oakhurstspikelogs@gmail.com

October 12th – All Hands Pick Up

October 13th – SAC – 5:00pm – Virtual

October 13th - 5th Grade Celebration Meeting – 7:00pm – Virtual

October 23rd – End of First Quarter

October 26th – No School for Students

October 30th – Virtual Mustang Round Up – Cooperation

We're on Facebook!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/Oakhurst-Elementary-School-PTA-1253467454805192/>

Thank you to all of the families that have sponsored our Oakhurst PTA!



Gold

Tesoro Family Lahaie Family
Panez Family Maguire Family
Latto Family Joustra Family
Wilson Family Gillespie Family

Silver

Baase Family
Ireland Family
Autrey Family
Rasmussen Family
Nguyen Family

Bronze

White Family Jansen Family
Bowden Family Zimmer Family
Blanchard Family Chartier Family
Hall (Katie) Family
McClelland Family
Carpenter Family
Hall (Rosetta) Family
Blankenship Family

To submit an article to the newsletter please contact the front office at 727-588-6801 or send to smith-mrkajaL@pcsb.org
Check out our award-winning website www.oakhurstpta.com