

On-going Kindergarten registration at Otis. Don't wait until next fall!



ECEAP positions open now! Call 241-5754.

Otis Orchards Newsletter

Our school and community work together to build a caring and safe learning environment in which expectations are set high for all.



MSP News

What is the MSP? It is the **Measurement of Student Learning**, formerly the WASL. Washington students are regularly tested by the state to find out if they're on track learning the important skills they need to be successful while in our schools and after graduation. Students are tested on basic academic skills (such as math computation) as well as more advanced skills (such as comparing and contrasting reading passages).

This year, the test has been shortened; each subject area is tested in one

day instead of 2–3 as in year's past.

In May, our 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students will be administered the MSP. This testing meets state and federal requirements.

We pay close attention to the results of state testing. This information helps us to improve the way we teach, and, ultimately, do a better job of meeting every student's learning needs.

We know you want your child to succeed in school, and we want to be partners with you to make that happens.

Since there is only one day of testing for each subject, it is very important that your child is at school on the testing days. Though there are days available for make-up tests, nothing can replace the all school testing environment to encourage students to do their best!

MSP Testing Dates Mark Your Calendars!

May 12— 3rd- 5th grade math

May 18— 3rd–5th grade reading

May 25— 4th grade writing
5th grade science

Important Dates

March 12	No School
March 15–17	Jump Rope for Heart
March 17 @ 6:30	Skate Night @ Roller Valley
March 22–26 @ 12:15	Parent/Teacher Conferences— Early Release
March 23	Last day to turn in Silverwood reading
March 29– April 2	Spring Break
April 12	Math Night 6:00 -7:30
May 7 @ 8:00	Muffins for Moms
May 10 & 11	DIBELS fluency testing K–5
May 12	MSP Math tests 3rd–5th
May 13	Leo's Class Picture Day
May 18	MSP Reading tests 3rd–5th
May 22	Otis Community Days Parade
May 25	MSP 4th -Writing 5th—Science
June 4	Dads R Fun Breakfast @ 8:00
June 15 9:00–11:30	Play day

Silverwood Theme Park

Reading Program

- Silverwood reading forms due by March 23. Students get a free pass for a day of fun this summer, just for reading 600 minutes. Your child still has time. If you need a

form to document the time, stop by the office. Forms must be signed by parent or guardian. Our goal is to have more students than ever earn their

pass and have a day in July this summer in which many of our students can meet at



Silverwood.

Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to your child is one of the best ways to help your child succeed in school. This will also help your child learn to enjoy reading.

- Involve your child in the story. Have him turn the pages, or read one line and let him read the next.
- Take your time and don't rush the story. Reading slowly will help you read clearly.
- Does your child listen actively when you read aloud? It's a key to understanding what's happening in the story. Try these simple tips to build listening skills:
 1. Ask your child to retell small parts of the story to you, or

ask him questions while you read. *Examples:* "What will happen next?" "Why do you think she did that?" Find the answers to the questions together.

2. After you've read a story together two or three times, skip a word or two. Ask your child to fill in the missing word or words.

Hint: This works especially well with rhyming stories.

Read Aloud Favorites

- **Doctor DeSoto Goes to Africa**
In this tale by William Steig, the famous mouse dentist travels to Africa. But before he can repair the tooth of Mudambo the elephant, an unhappy monkey kidnaps him.

- **The Whingdingilly**
Scamp is bored with his life as a dog. Then Zildy the witch changes him into a Whingdingilly. Life is anything but boring now—Scamp Read story but is happy? this by Bill



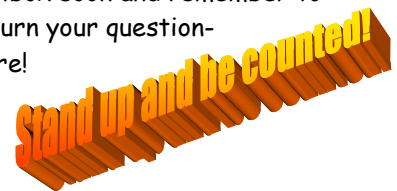
2010 Census

Have you ever wanted to know how many people live in Otis Orchards? It's time to find out!

The Constitution requires a count every 10 years of everyone living in the United States regardless of their nationality, citizenship status, race, age, or gender. This count is called a

census, and it's happening this month! Our community's business and civic groups, as well as local, state, and federal governments, will use the census data collected this year to make many decisions, including where to build community centers, schools, and hospitals. That's why your voice must be heard.

10 minutes to complete, and is 100% confidential. Watch for it in your mailbox soon and remember to return your questionnaire!



Math Connection



- **Math Night**
Don't miss out on Otis Math night, April 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.! There will be numerous grade level games to play as well as a chance to learn about and play the several math K—8 online activities and resources from the EVSD website.

- **Multiplication tip**
Help your child understand multiplication by having him think if "x" as "groups of" (*example: 3 x 2 means "3 groups of 2"*). Then, have him practice with an empty egg carton and beads. He can put 2 beads in each of 3 sections and count by groups (2,4,6) to get the answer. $3 \times 2 = 6$.

- **Make fraction cards**
Gather index cards, a pencil, and crayons. On each card, have your child write a fraction ; $1/2$, $1/3$, $3/4$, etc. and trace around a round object (a jar lid, a large button) so the circles are the same size. Then she can divide each circle into an equal number of slices based on the bottom number (*the denominator*).
Example: Write $3/6$, divide the circle into 6 slices and color 3 slices.

Otis focuses on Character Traits

A person of character..

- Is a good person, someone to look up to and admire.
- Knows the difference between right and wrong and always tries to do what is right.
- Sets a good example for everyone.
- Makes the world a better place.

Each month our school focuses on an important character trait.

September— Sportsmanship

October—Citizenship
 November —Caring
 December—Responsibility
 January —Diligence
 February —Respect
 March —Trustworthiness
 April -Courage
 May —Wisdom

February students of the month demonstrating Sportsmanship at Otis:

1st- Elizabeth Keith
 Ayden Ellis

2nd— Gunnar Johnson
 Dante Ihle
 3rd— Sam Cales
 Sulana Kopets
 4th— Chris Kent
 Ashley Bruce
 5th— Jacob Keene
 Renay Monohan

Next months' character trait:



Daily school attendance will ensure success

It's a fact. Kids who are in school every day do better than those who aren't. A study from the *Journal of Educational Research* found that attendance makes a big difference. Here are some tips to help your child get up and out the door, on time, everyday:

- **Start the night before.** Is homework in the backpack? Are permission slips signed? Does he/

she have lunch money?

- **Put the backpack** by the door your child will go out.
- **Lay out clothes**— down to the socks. This one step will avoid more morning fights than anything else you do.
- **Create to-do list** of jobs that have to be done in the morning.

The bottom line is when children miss

school, they miss opportunities to learn.

Are you doing everything you can, to have your child at school **on time everyday, all day?**

Early pick-ups at the end of the day

Source: Douglas J. Lamdin, "Evidence of Student Attendance as an Independent Variable in Education Production Functions," *The Journal of Educational Research*, Vol. 89 No 3

The East Valley Planned Enrichment Program

The East Valley Planned Enrichment Program (PEP) would like to alert parents to our upcoming Spring Recommendations. PEP is a pull out, highly capable program that serves children who live in the East Valley School District and meet the selection criteria. We service approximately 70 students which represents close to 5% of our population in grades 2-5.

Students are referred to the PEP Program by a teacher, parent, stu-

dent or other interested individual. The parent and the classroom teacher fill out a questionnaire about the student. After receiving permission, the students take a series of tests depending on their grade level. All students are tested on the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT). This test is classified as an ability test and is different from group achievement tests. This information is placed on a scoring matrix with the stu-

dent's reading and math achievement information. A recommendation regarding program enrollment is then made. If you would like to have your child assessed for possible enrollment in the PEP program, please alert your child's teacher at Spring conferences or call Heather Schultz at 927-3228.

Everyone is invited to **Information Celebration** on March 22 @ 6:00 in the Otis Or-

