

October 27, 2009



EVSD Otis Orchards News

News From Ms. Savall

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

Congratulations to staff, students, and parents on receiving two awards this year!

- **2009 Outstanding School Award**
 - awarded for improved student achievement for last seven years
 - awarded to the top 5% of Washington Schools
- **2009 Apple Grant for \$25,000**
 - awarded to the top 5 schools in Washington State
 - grant **money** must be used for **outdoor capital project**
 - student and parent input encouraged—please attend the PTSA meeting Wednesday, November 4 at 6:00 or contact Ms. Savall
 - ideas generated through ASB— greenhouse, community garden, and/or playground equipment

Thanksgiving Feast

Wednesday, October 28th is the last day to prepay for lunch tickets to join your child for our annual Thanksgiving Feast on **Thursday, November 12th**. Adult lunches are \$3.50. We are sorry for the inconvenience of having to purchase tickets two weeks in advance. We hope to see you here!

Harvest/Halloween Parties



Classroom parties will be on Friday the 30th. If your child is going to wear/bring a costume, please make sure it is safe and appropriate for our preschool and elementary children to see. No violent costumes depicting horror will be allowed.

Dads Are Fun

This event formally called **Donuts for Dads**, is scheduled for **December 4th at 8:00 a.m.** Otis is piloting a healthy breakfast snack program replacing donuts. Our kitchen manager, Judy Boykin made homemade muffins for our **Muffins for Moms event**. Join us to see what tasty treat she makes for our Dads!

Important Dates

October 30	Harvest/Halloween Parties
November 4–6	4th & 5th grade Hoops Camp 3:15–5:00
November 10	Veterans Day Assembly - 2:00
November 10	Presentation of Outstanding School Award at EV School Board Meeting– 5:30
November 11	Veterans Day - No School
November 12	Thanksgiving Feast
December 15	2nd & 3rd Grade Music Concert @ 7:00
December 18	Community Christmas Sing Along @ 2:00

Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Parent/teacher goal setting conferences are **November 18–24**. If you have a certain day that works best for you, please e-mail your child's teacher before schedules are created. E-mail addresses are listed on page three of this newsletter.
- Please arrive on time for your child's conference and bring him/her if possible. This is a goal setting as well as an academic conference. Please write down and bring with you, any questions or concerns you have.

Read All About It

School-Wide Walk to Read Program

Kindergarten through fifth grade students are participating in a school-wide reading program. All students are placed into reading groups based on the skills they need. All staff available are teaching reading groups so that groups can stay reasonably small. First through fifth graders have one hour of reading instruction in the Walk to Read Program as well as another 30 minutes of reading instruction in their own classroom.



Free After-School Programs Offered

- All 4th & 5th graders are invited to attend our first annual Hoops Camp! It is November 4—6 from 3:15 to 5:00. A snack will be provided for all students that join in on the fun. Registration forms will be sent home again on Wednesday. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help with the camp.
- There will also be an Art Camp offered December 2 -4. Details on this camp will be distributed soon.

Remember—The most important 20 minutes every day is spent reading with your child. Don't miss out on this important time to spend together!



Congratulations to the Otis Students of the Month

September—Respect

Lindsay Bartholomew Nate Stoner
 Megan Manuel Chantelle Thompson
 Ethan Mankins Britney Martin
 Nate Seaman Alexis Kneale
 Deborah Aguilera Dakota Gamble

October—citizenship

Damion Croskrey Alyssa Mitchell
 Rouvim Kopets Lauren Duncan
 Lucy Yan Jeremy Brown
 Raylynn Bucher Hannah Brake

- First through fifth grade students that demonstrate the character trait of the month are selected by their teacher.
- Students of the Month are given their certificate at the Character Trait assembly, have their picture posted in the main hall, and have a pizza lunch with Mrs. Savall.

Lunch Menu Change

Hot Lunchers, please read!

Our lunch menu has changed on November 5th and November 12.

November 5th menu; Hamburger
 Dill pickle/lettuce
 Shoestring Fries
 Orange Halves

November 12 menu ; Turkey Gravy
 Whipped Potatoes
 Cranberry Sauce
 Wheat Roll
 celery/carrot sticks



Thank You!



- Thank you **PTSA** board members, Christie Burton-Hart, Heidi Gillingham, Jodi Hart, and Laura Browning for your hard work with planning events for our students and their families.

- Thank you Otis PTSA Fundraiser supporters for the new playground equipment purchased this fall and for your support of this fall's fundraiser.
- Thank you to all our awesome **parent and community volunteers!**

Your dedication to our students is very much appreciated.

Focus Volunteer of the Month

Debbie Branson, Alexis Branson's Grandmother comes to Otis five times a week to help support our Walk to Read Program. Thank you Mrs. Branson!



Thank you for joining us for Grandparents Day on October 15. It was a HUGE success. We had over 150 Grandparents/visitors join us. A big thank you goes to our cooks, Judy Boykin and Gwen Huck.

Staying Healthy

Children Need Their Sleep



It is very important that your child has **8—10** hours of rest **each night**. As I make my rounds through the classrooms each week, I see several students barely able to stay awake. Many state that they were up late watching TV or playing video games. Please help your child to succeed by ensuring they get their rest.

Keep Sick Children Home

- If your child has a temperature of 100 or more, he must stay home for 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medicine..
- Coughing
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Green runny noses

Thank you to all our wonderful parents that have kept your sick children home. Though we have a higher rate of absenteeism than we had hoped for, we are keeping the flu from spreading to everyone.

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Vaccination Clinic Information

Otis Orchards Elementary School
Tuesday December 1, 2009 – 4 PM to 6:30 PM

Trent Elementary School
Wednesday December 2, 2009 – 4 PM to 6:30 PM

There is no cost to receive the H1N1 vaccine.



Operation “Proud Heart”

- East Valley School District has been asked to help ship Christmas Stockings and Goodies for deployed military. Contact **Ann Airey** at District Office **241-5035**.
- Care packages are put together here ‘at home’ and sent to military deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the globe.

Care Package Wish List:

Socks, foot powder, Dr Scholl’s shoe liners & moleskin pads, eye drops, Advil, Tylenol, Excedrin, Q-tips, tooth paste & brushes, AA batteries, lip balm, powdered beverage packets, breath mints, hard candy, gel deodorant, beef jerky, Zip lock bags, good sunglasses, pens & pencils, magazines, and small note pads. THINK SMALL & COMPACT.

Let’s show support to our troops that protect our county.

Send your donations to school. We will collect these items in the office. The last day to send in your donations is Wednesday, November 18.

Thank you for your support.

Otis Staff E-mail Addresses

AM Kindergarten— ruscam@evsd.org
nelsont@evsd.org

First grade — bruntons@evsd.org
johnsonsl@evsd.org

Second grade— cutshallt@evsd.org
dahmenl@evsd.org
wilsonm@evsd.org

Third grade— portera@evsd.org
waterburyl@evsd.org

Fourth grade— lillquists@evsd.org
utgaardp@evsd.org

Fifth grade— webbk@evsd.org
valitchka-moorer@evsd.org

Librarian— olsonm@evsd.org

Music—saurettel@evsd.org

Health & Fitness—smith-houns@evsd.org

Resource room— clarksons@evsd.org

Special Education— Cooneyr@evsd.org

Principal—savalls@evsd.org

Office staff - johnsonc@evsd.org
ruegseggerj@evsd.org

Veterans Day Program November 10 @ 2:00

It is our pleasure to be honoring all Veterans who have served in any branch of the service during wars or conflicts. We are asking all students, staff and community member to please help us honor local Veterans on this special day. We have planned a wonderful assembly.

All Veterans and their families are invited to join us for coffee and donuts at 1:45.



We honor our Veterans by placing certificates in the hall and their picture in a power point presentation. We recognize how valuable these pictures are, so only send duplicates or copies. We will return all pictures that are labeled with the student's name and grade.



Please invite all Veterans, neighbors and friends to this memorable Otis event!

Please send the following information to Otis Orchards by Monday, November 2;

- Veteran's name
- Branch of service and rank
- War or conflict and dates of time served
- Student's name and relationship the Veteran has to Otis student
- Photo of Veteran. If you have sent pictures in previous years, **please be assured they are still in our slide show.**



Strategies to Help Your Child with Math Problem Solving at School and with Homework

Otis staff have developed a **school wide math problem solving process**. This is being modeled weekly by their teacher until students are able to work through the process independently. It is exciting for me to see kindergarten through fifth grade students using varying levels and steps of this process with success.

When your child gets stuck on a math problem, she probably can't always remember how to get herself back on track. Remind her to reread the problem and help her work through all the following steps to success.

Following is the instructions that each teacher is using;

1. **"I need to know"** – Underline the question and write it out.
2. **"I know"** Circle the important information.
3. Use pictures, numbers and/or words, depending on grade level. K just pictures, 1st pictures and numbers, 2– 5 pictures, numbers and words
4. Therefore...(the answer) Include the equation.

Example: Joe had \$3.00. He bought a smoothie for \$1.50 and a muffin, 2 for \$2.50. How much did he spend for breakfast?

1. *I need to know how much Joe spent.*
2. *I know he bought a smoothie for \$1.50 and a muffin, 2 for \$2.50.*
3. $\$2.50 - 2 = \1.25 , $\$1.50 + \$1.25 = \$2.75$
I had to figure out how much one muffin was so I divided \$2.50 by 2. One half of 2 is \$1.25. Next, I added the \$1.50 for the smoothie.
4. *Therefore, Joe spent \$2.75 for breakfast.*

Support your beginning reader with three simple strategies

He's just learning to read and he is so proud. But when he reads aloud, it's s-l-o-w. Here are three ways to support your beginning reader.

1. Help him choose the right book.

Beginning readers should start by reading from books they find easy. Ask your child's teacher or the librarian to help you select books at the right level. Look for books with pictures, or those with just one sentence on a page. As his confidence grows, he can move on to more challenging books.

2. Take turns. Read a sentence yourself, touching the words as you read them. Then ask your child to read the same sentence. **Or read a sentence and then ask** him to read the next sentence.

3. Bite your tongue if he reads a word incorrectly. Give him a chance to correct the miscue herself. If he doesn't, ask, "Did that make sense to you?" You can help him sound out the word and then let him reread the sentence.



Favorite 'Read Together' Books

Pumpkin, Pumpkin by Jean Titherington
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
by Bill Martin Jr.
Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs by Byron Barton
Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch
Frank and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
The Best Way to Play by Bill Cosby