



OAK STREET SCHOOL

September 24, 2009 - Edition #2

A Place Where Hearts & Minds Continue to Grow



(Don't forget to call 563-4950 if your student will be absent)

Also, please be sure to return all emergency forms to your student's teacher!

School Hours - 8:15 AM – 2:25 PM

Internet - The Plattsburgh City School District Internet address is www.plattscsd.org

News & Notes: Welcome to our **SECOND** edition of News & Notes for the 2009/2010 school year. **News & Notes will be sent home on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.** Please take time to read New & Notes regularly as it is one of our main vehicles for communicating with families. Calendars are included for your convenience in posting important dates and information at home.

Parent Representative - Pam Salvamoser – 562-8028 or at psalvamoser@verizon.net

Intramurals: Soccer intramurals begin Tuesday, September 22nd at 2:30 PM. Team Rosters and schedules are posted on the gymnasium bulleting board and also copies are available in the main office for families.

Open House: Thanks to the many families that visited us on the 15th. The FSA did a wonderful job preparing and serving Michigans. We are thrilled with the parent support that we receive at Oak Street School.

Free & reduced meals: Mrs. Zales would like to remind families about our free and reduced breakfast and lunch program. Proper nourishment is very important to the learning process.

Please take the time to fill out an application if your income qualifies you to do so. If you need information on the income eligibility guidelines, please call the office (563-4950).

News from Mrs. Quinn, PSCD Health Coordinator:

Our Title IV funding source (Safe and Drug Free Schools money) requires that we let our district families know how the funds are utilized. Based on recommendations from the Health Education Advisory Committee, (made up of several stake holders) and administrators, the funds are targeted for on-site preventive/interventive counseling services at Stafford Middle School and Plattsburgh High School two and three days per week respectively. These services are

provided by Champlain Valley Family Center with certified prevention counselors housed in each of the schools. Janine Kemp is at PHS and Kelly Fuller is at SMS. Counseling services are available to students who may be at risk for substance abuse and/or other anti-social behaviors which may contribute to academic problems. School staff and family members are encouraged to refer those students who may benefit from counseling. For more information or to speak to a counselor for referral they can be reached by calling the schools.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

The district will no longer be handing out perfect attendance recognitions this year due to the expected number of illnesses that may be caused due to the H1N1 virus. Therefore, perfect attendance will not be a determining factor in identifying those students who will receive a Jaguar Card. Thank you for your understanding of this matter.

PARENTING CLASSES – A note from Mrs. Pike

(1, 2, 3 MAGIC) will be held at Oak Street Elementary on the following dates: October 22, January 21, and April 22nd. The classes will run from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be served.

If interested in attending, please call Jane Pike, Child Advocate, at 563-4950 and indicate the date(s) you would be attending. Should you not be able to attend on these dates, please call me and I will coordinate a time to meet with you. Hope to see you there!

Voice mail: Oak Street School has voice mail. Parents can call and leave a message before school starts regarding their child's absence or tardiness from school that day. Hopefully, this will make it easier for parents to call at their convenience. If you wish to talk to our secretary, Mrs. Bonnie Waldron, please call back. When the line is busy voice mail automatically picks up the calls. If you have an emergency you can call 561-4760.

Please call before **2:00 PM** regarding any changes to your child's after school arrangements. This will enable us to deliver the message before school ends.

School Breakfast and Lunch Programs:

The following are a few reminders that will help us greatly in the cafeteria:

- A. The breakfast and lunch programs are already underway. Breakfast is \$1.25 Lunch is \$1.85. All milk products are \$.65.
- B. Payment to the students account can be made at anytime. If paying by check please make it out to the Plattsburgh City School District.
- C. There is no charging. Students will call home if they forget their lunch money or their lunch.
- D. Please label all lunch boxes with child's name and the classroom teacher's name. This is critical in ensuring that we find the lunch box if it is misplaced.

REMINDERS

Parent Luncheons: Parent Luncheons will be held every month throughout the school year on the 1st Friday of the month. On Parent Luncheon Day, we encourage you to eat lunch with your child in the Oak Street Cafeteria. Our first Parent Luncheon will be Friday, October 9, 2009.

Just a reminder, that you are always invited to eat lunch with your child at Oak Street School. If you are buying the cafeteria lunch please call the office and let us know that you are buying the lunch. We look forward to your visits to Oak Street School.

Below please find a list of the times for Lunch/Recess

3H – 11:45 – 12:30	3K – 11:40 – 12:25
3L - 11:50 – 12:35	4M – 12:00 – 12:45
4P – 12:05 – 12:50	4S – 12:10 – 12:55
5E – 12:25 – 1:10	5K – 12:15 – 1:05
5L – 12:20 – 1:00	

Sign In/Out Procedure: In order to be certain that all of our children are safe, we need to be sure parents and students are aware of the sign in and sign out procedures. Any parent visiting the school for any reason must:

- 1 Check in with the secretary/sign in
- 2 Take a visitor's badge
- 3 Wait in the lobby unless directed otherwise
- 4 Return badge and sign out of the building when exiting. Thank you.

This is to be done every time!!! We cannot ensure safety of the children unless this procedure is followed every time. We ask that parents sign in automatically. If you are asking yourself- "I wonder if I have to sign?" - the answer is **YES**. It is important that this procedure is followed.

In addition, if a student has to leave school for any reason before the end of the day, we need a note from the parent. The parent must also sign the sign-out book in the main office before a student may leave the building.

Bottle and Can Drive - Friday Mornings - The FSA will continue to oversee the weekly bottle and can drive. Every Friday you may drop off your bottles (in a box) and cans in the container at the front entrance of the school. This is another FSA fundraiser and the money raised will go towards purchases and events to better our schools.

Campbell's Soup Labels and General Mills Box Tops for Education: This year Oak Street will be encouraging parents to save those labels! We will be collecting General Mills Box Tops and Campbell's Soup labels in an effort to raise additional money for school projects. Participating in the program is easy. Simply save the UPC's from participating Campbell's product and cut the Box Tops and send into school. A container is available in the office and items can be dropped off during school hours. **We appreciate ALL that you do and thank you for your continued support to help out school !**

Support Oak Street School – eat at Papa John's Papa John's, in conjunction with Oak Street Elementary School has formed a partnership to raise funds for our school. When you, a family member, or a friend places an order at Papa John's on the designated night each month, 15% of the total net sales will be donated back to our school. Please watch for information about this great fundraising activity !

Parking Lot: The parking lot is a very busy one. It is always a good idea to avoid the parking lot especially during the heaviest traffic times.

We remind everyone that a school bus with flashing lights must never be passed. The drivers are instructed to call the police if the bus is passed with its flashing lights on. Please note the following times.

8:00 breakfast begins.
8:15 the students enter the building.
2:25 dismissal

Indoor Recess: During inclement weather indoor recess will be conducted in the assigned areas of the building. We would like to encourage students to bring a quiet activity from home to use during this time. Please be sure anything brought from home has the child's name clearly written on it. Trading cards are not allowed in school.

We remind everyone that we only stay inside for recess during inclement weather. We ask that you dress the children in the morning assuming that we will be going outside for recess.

School Attendance and Arrival: It is very important that your child is in attendance at school unless he/she is ill or affected by a family emergency. It is also important for students to arrive at school by 8:15 am. All minutes of instruction time are valuable. When students are tardy, their transition into the school day is affected and basic instruction has often begun. We are also shaping important understandings and habits related to the importance of being on time and responsible when children are young. These habits continue into the middle, high school and post secondary and employment stages of a person's life.

Important Dates for Future Reference

Please make note of the following dates. In future News & Notes, they will be listed on the monthly calendar as they come up!

Early Releases Dates (11:20 Dismissal)

October 22 nd	March 18 th
December 10 th	April 22 nd
February 4 th	May 13 th

FSA Meetings –October 21st, November 18th, December 15th, January 26th, February 24th, March 24th, April 21st, and May 26th and June 16th.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on:

December 3rd (6:00 PM– 8:00 PM)
December 4th (8:00 AM – 1:00 PM) no school for students on this day

No School for students Grade K –Grade 5

Staff Development Day – October 13, 2009
Parent Teacher Conference Day – December 4, 2009

Holiday/Vacation Dates – school closed

October 13th
November 11th and November 25th – 27th
December 24th – January 1st
January 18th
February 15th – 19th
April 12th – 16th
May 31st

RESULTS OF THE PARENT SURVEY

2008-2009

Parent Survey 2008-2009

Our Behavioral Intervention Committee (BIC) has compiled all of the parent responses to the surveys that were completed last June. After reviewing the information we have found 5 areas that provided the largest amount of concern amongst our parents. The areas are listed below with actions that we are taking to improve each area.

Bullying

- Each classroom at Oak Street will be participating in 2nd Step – Steps to respect training that will be done by Jane Pike and Garret McLean. This program specifically defines and teaches about bullying prevention.

- The staff will have an in-service at our first staff meeting to ensure that all staff are clear about the characteristics of bullying and how to respond to a bullying situation.
- The school will be releasing information to share with parents that is based on bullying.
- In the 2008-2009 Oak Street had 2 incidents of bullying that were reported out of a total of 226 referrals.

Academic Progress at School

- Parents who are interested in Oak Street's overall achievement on the NYS Assessments can go to the New York State Education Department website and view our school report card.
- We did think that it would be important for parents to understand the process that we go through to ensure that students are achieving and making appropriate progress. Our building practices Response to Intervention. All concerns regarding students get forwarded to our Child Study Team through a CST referral. This team reviews all of the testing and demographic data on a student. We complete report card reviews every marking period and file reviews throughout the summer on all of our students. Students who are identified as being at risk get brought to Child Study Team and a plan of action is made that is individualized to the need of the student. The intervention is progress monitored to identify success or the need for a change in plan. Parents are kept aware of this information via the classroom teacher or AIS provider.

Rubric versus Number Grade on Report Cards – Many parents commented that they do not understand the progress their children are making based upon the rubric and would rather see number grades.

- Concerns will be brought to Elementary Principals meeting by Mrs. Zales

Penalty Box

- We have 2 new monitors on our team. We have provided training on the PBIS rules of be respectful, responsible and safe. The monitors understand that students are asking to be treated fairly and with respect.
- Playground rules are now posted on the playground for all to see and use as a reteaching tool.

Homework

- If your child is spending more than 45 minutes to one hour on homework than you should be notifying your child's teacher.
- If your child seems to have too little homework please remember that there is always standing homework that students can be doing – math fact flashcards, practicing spelling words and reading for pleasure.