



Tiger Tales

Newsletter for the Families of Oakdale Elementary

Sept. 29, 2006

Health Hotline: 651-702-8502

Main Office: 651-702-8500

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 10/4** 3rd Gr. Field Trip to Gibbs Farm
10/6 All School Morning Meeting and School Spirit Day – wear blue, gray and white
10/10 School Board Study Session, 7 PM, District Ed. Center
10/12 Title 1 Night, Magic of Reading Show, 6 PM.
10/12 Burger King Family Night, 4 – 8 PM.
10/16 PTO, 6 PM, Media Center
10/18 Kindergarten Field Trip to Apple Orchard
10/19 – 10/23 NO SCHOOL – teacher convention

Music News from Mrs. Norman

The first choir practice for 4th and 5th graders was this week on Wednesday, Sept. 27th. If your child missed the first practice, don't worry and simply have them come next week on Wednesday, October 4th at 8 AM. The choir is active for the whole school year. The kids will sing for Veterans Day, Mall of America Holiday Festival (Dec.), the District 622 Cultural Fair, the Volunteer Breakfast (spring) and with the Oakdale Elementary Band (spring). Joining choir is free and there are no auditions. I do not take attendance or give grades for choir. If your child does need to miss a practice, you can leave a message at 651-702-8586. I would rather have children in 4th or 5th grade try choir for a short time in the year, than to never try at all.

Oakdale Elementary

Citizenship Award Winners

For the week of September 18 – 22, 2006:

Jeremiah Hunter (K), Jinke Guan (K), Rachel Mix (1), Joshua Warmka (1), Tyler Maruska (1), Annie Sumption (2), Arica Baker (2), Matt Zawislak (2), Emily Logan (3), Dianna Mellema 930, Naomi Hudak (3), Kailea Leier (4).

Save your Back-to-School Receipts

Minnesota has two programs to help families pay expenses related to their child's education. The two programs are called: the K-12 Education Subtraction and the K-12 Education Credit. Both programs lower the tax you must pay, and may result in a larger refund when you file your Minnesota tax return. Documentation in the form of receipts is required.

Eligible education expenses include:

- Textbooks and other instructional materials, such as paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.
- Rental fees or purchase cost of musical instruments and calculators.
- Up to \$200 worth of computer hardware or educational software.
- Instructional portion of the fees paid for after-school or summer enrichment programs.
- Tuition for summer camps with an academics focus, such as language or fine arts.

For a complete list of qualifying and non-qualifying expenses, as well as maximum amounts, visit the Minnesota Department of Revenue website, www.taxes.state.mn.us or contact the department by calling 651-296-3781.

Meet some new Staff at Oakdale!

Name: Mary LaViolette, ESL Education Assistant

Hometown: I was born and raised in St. Paul and currently live in Maplewood.

How long at Oakdale Elem.: This is my first year at Oakdale. I have worked in the district for ten years; first in Title 1 and for the past six years in ESL (English as a Second Language).

My birthday: May 18

My family: My husband, Ernie and our daughters, Carolyn and Renee.

My favorite hobby: gardening

Favorite food: pasta

Something few people know about me: I've lost 40 pounds in the last year!

Parent involvement is critical

Parent involvement in school is critical. If children see parents or other adults helping in their school, it sends the message that learning is important to the people who are important in their lives. Here are 2 more ways that you can get involved.

Volunteer your time – Please don't feel like you have to make a huge commitment in order to volunteer. One hour a month makes a big difference.

Do not delay – Start getting involved today. The sooner you do, the sooner you, your child and our school will benefit.

If you have not sent in your Volunteer Survey form, please do that as soon as possible.

If you need a new form, please call the office or your child's teacher and a form will be sent home with your child.

Campbell's Labels for Education

Campbell's Labels for Education has changed their program starting this September 2006. Campbell's is no longer accepting the traditional label anymore.

Campbell's now wants us to collect and send in UPC codes **instead of the label**. They say this new way makes it easier to clip and save Campbell's points. Most labels are worth 1 point, but some are worth 5 points and those say it right on the UPC code area. Right now our school has 27,500 labels/points banked and we will soon be ordering from the Campbell's Labels Catalog. Thank you for all the labels you have sent in, in the past. Please continue to send them in, in the form of UPC codes.

Newly Updated Website

The school website is newly updated! Check out these new features:

- Daily tips on parenting – scroll to the bottom of our homepage
- School success ideas for parents – scroll to the bottom of our homepage
- School improvement page – read about past successes and current plans
- Volunteer survey – click on the "volunteer" button on the left hand side of our homepage
- Site council – click on the "site council" button on the left hand side of our homepage to get contact information for your representative and see a schedule of topics for 2006-2007

<http://oakdaleelementaryschool.webaloo.com/>

**Reminder: Magic of Reading show
Thursday, October 12, 6 PM, Please RSVP**