

Odem Elementary School Newsletter

"Where the Future Begins!"

Special Points of Interest...

November 17—PE/
Music Turkey Trot

November 17 -Kinder
Feast @12 noon OE
Cafeteria

November 20 to 24—
Thanksgiving Holi-
days—No School

November 27—OE
Fund Raiser Megan
Party.

December — 4 to 8—
State Assessment Days

December—9—UIL
Meet—Taft

December 15—2nd
Grade Polar Express/
PJ Day!

December 19— Kinder
through 2nd Music/PE
Program at 6:00 pm at
the OJH Cafetorium

December 20—End of
the 3rd Six Weeks.

From the Office of the Principal

Esmeralda Martinez



Greetings OES Parents!

It's hard to believe that the 2nd six weeks is over and that we are now at the beginning of the 3rd six weeks. Our students are learning and discovering new things every day with the commitment and guidance of their teachers. School and classroom routines and procedures have been established. Student expectations have been set to ensure an ongoing successful academic year of hands-on meaningful learning, rigor and relevance with connections made to real world experiences.

Our cafeteria is now being fully utilized by our students. We are so proud and excited to have a beautiful facility with a stage, lights and dual functioning tables that turn into benches for programs that we will be hosting in days to come. If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, we welcome you to do so. The OES front office area is still under construction and is temporarily located in room 15 until its completion.

With the holidays' right around the corner, I would like to take this time to wish our OES Families a



blessed holiday season!

safe, memorable, and



ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks



From
Dr. Veronica Gutierrez
Curriculum Dept.

Greetings!

Here are some useful tips on how you can support your child in math:

The Six DO's for Families and Their Math Students

- Be positive
 - Link mathematics with daily life
 - Make mathematics fun
 - Learn about mathematics-related careers
 - Have high expectations for your students
 - Support homework—don't do it!
- Look for "word problems" in real life. Some examples might include:
- Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, "How many books do you have about wild animals?"
 - If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left.
 - When saving for a purchase, compare the cost of the item to the amount of money you have; then ask your child to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy the item.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 361-368-8121 ext. 232 or gutierrezv@oeisd.org.

From
Esmeralda Martinez



What is an "impairment" as used under the Section 504 definition?

An impairment as used in Section 504 may include any disability, long-term illness, or various disorder that "substantially" reduces or lessens a student's ability to access learning in the educational setting because of a learning, behavior, or health related condition. A physical or mental impairment does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities.

Many students have conditions or disorders that are not readily apparent to others. They may include conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy and asthma. Hidden disabilities such as low vision, poor hearing, heart disease or chronic illness may not be obvious, but if they substantially limit that child's ability to receive an appropriate education, they may be considered to have an "impairment" under Section 504 standards. As a result, these students, regardless of their intelligence will be unable to fully demonstrate their ability or attain educational benefits equal to that of non-disabled students.

For questions please email me at martinez@oeisd.org

From
Lsa Perez
District Nurse



It's the most wonderful time of the year — or so you keep telling yourself, teeth clenched, as the stress of the holidays mount. The shopping, the baking, the wreath and card making...

According to a recent "Stress in America" survey, adults are more likely to find family responsibilities stressful than they have in the past. For many of us, the holiday season can bring an increased sense of family responsibility and, along with it, additional feelings of stress. If you find yourself stressed this year, following these tips may help you and your family enjoy the holidays with less stress and more fun!

STRESS: UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
Holidays can be stressful when people put pressure on themselves to have a "perfect" holiday.

SOLUTION: Just relax! The holidays are about being with friends and family and none of us are perfect. Be yourself and enjoy the people around you for who they are.

STRESS: TOO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES
Scheduling too many activities during the holidays can put a big strain on both you and your family.

SOLUTION: Don't take on more than you can handle, learn to say "No," and do not over commit yourself or your family. Don't be afraid to ask for help! What children really want is to spend time with you!

STRESS: FINANCIAL PRESSURE
Overspending adds stress and can ruin the holiday spirit. **SOLUTION:** Your family and friends do not want you to go into debt due to holiday gifts or events! Buy smaller gifts, create handmade gifts...remember it's the thought that counts!

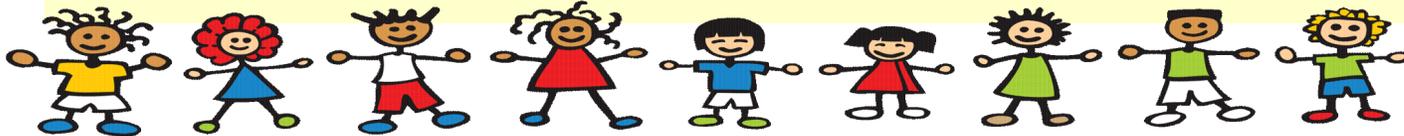
It's important to remember that your family is not alone! The holidays—with busy schedules, high costs and long to-do lists—are a natural trigger for more stress than normal.

If your family gets stressed out, that's okay! The important thing is how you choose to handle the stress.

Before we know it, the holidays will have passed us by, and we don't want to be so busy and stressed we didn't even get to enjoy them with our children!

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks

From Yvette Maldonado
Custodial Dept.



Why a Clean School Can Impact Student Success

With drastic changes in our fall weather, from hot to cold and cold to hot, it is no surprise that students and district staff are getting sick with colds, soar throats and all that comes with it. It's during this season, that keeping our four campuses highly cleaned and sanitized is our number one GOAL as a TEAM.

We know clean schools lead to increased student attendance because students are healthy and well.

Remind your children to always flush and to always wash their hands.

Together, we can impact student success with clean schools and hands.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FROM THE

OEISD CUSTODIAL DEPT.

From Arnold
Maintenance
Dept.



The 2nd Six Weeks has ended. The maintenance department has had a few challenges this six weeks with the sudden down pours.

We are working very hard on resolving our A/C issues throughout the district especially our Intermediate Campus.

Grounds, football field and any maintenance problem that arise continue to be on our daily tasks. We appreciate your patience as we work to keep our district clean and up and going.

We continue to ask for your assistance in observing the district's cross walks by stopping in these areas. We also ask that you observe the "SLOW" signs painted/displayed throughout the district. Slow and Safe driving around Owl Square ensures the safety of all our students/faculty and staff. Also, please note that we now have a *Speed Hump* located between the Administration Building and the High School Gym. Signs have been placed so drivers can be aware of this new safety addition to Owl Square.

If you see a light out around the campuses, please e-mail us at villgasf@oeisd.org so we can tend to those safety/security notices as soon as possible.

Happy Thanksgiving Day
From the OEISD Maintenance Dept.
361-368-8121, ext. 266

From
Roel Arguelles
Transportation
Dept.



The Transportation department has rolled once again through the 2nd Six Weeks.

Before every route or extra curricular activity we run our daily inspections on all the buses to make sure they are safe to run.

Our bus fleet is up and going with the exception of our Pre-K Bus. Our district vehicles are all up and rolling along as well.

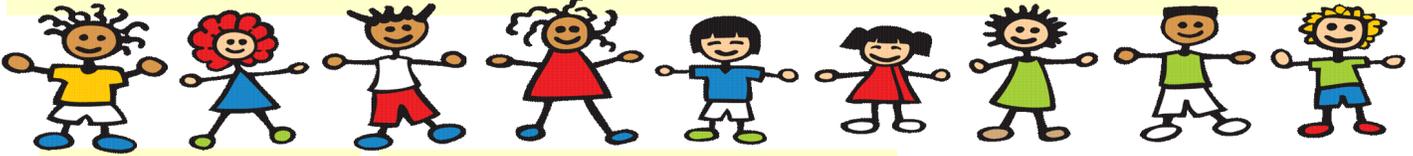
A friendly reminder to all parents/guardians of our bus riders: If you have a change in your child's drop off destination, the teacher and the bus driver *must have a written note with a parent signature and be approved by the school office personnel by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the request.* After ten consecutive days of not using the bus service, that service may be discontinued.

For the safety of our students we are asking all parents and the Odem Community to please observe this very important traffic rule: When a school bus has the stop sign out and the red lights flashing, on a two-lane, undivided roads, drivers are required to stop in both directions.

Happy Thanksgiving Day
From the OEISD Transp. Dept.

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks

From
Traci Pogue



News

What is the purpose of an ESL program?

- An ESL program develops competence in English.
- An ESL program prepares the students to be successful in all academic subjects.
- An ESL program emphasizes the mastery of English language skills, as well as, mathematics, science, and social studies, using research-based methodologies appropriate for second language acquisition.

Who is eligible for an ESL program?

- Students in prekindergarten through high school who speak or hear a language other than English in their home and who are learning English are eligible.
- Students will be assessed in language proficiency and based on their results, a recommendation for placement will be made by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), and parent permission will be required for participation.

Traci Pogue

OJH Principal

361-368-8661



From
Jana
Kieschnick

Odem Edroy ISD is now accepting referrals for students who may need Gifted/Talented services for the school year. This program is designed for students who exhibit intellectual and creative thinking abilities at an extraordinary level not normally served in the regular classroom. Services are provided only upon identification of educational needs of the student. Anyone wishing to refer a student attending Odem-Edroy ISD in kindergarten through twelfth grade this school year can go to the OEISD website and print a form or go by the student's campus office and request a copy of the referral form. This form must be returned to the school counselor by January 16,

From Lisa Flores

CTE

You may have already heard how extremely proud we are of our high school student, Arturo Lopez. At the Craft Training Center he was only one of three area HS students that completed his NCCER SMAW Degree Plan. Arturo graduated from the CTC on October 26 and will now have employment options in the welding field upon graduating from Odem HS in May 2018. He is currently working on his next welding certification. This is just one example of the opportunities offered by Odem High School's CTE program. We have three more students attending CTC for welding and one for electrician. Congratulations Arturo Lopez!

Lisa Flores

OHS Asst. Principal &

CTE District Coordinator

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!

Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks



From
Leigh Ann Ray
Parent Liaison - Birth - 3

EARLY OWL LITERACY

Odem parents and their 0 to 3 year old children are invited to participate in an early literacy program beginning Tuesday, November 28th at 10 am, in the Elementary parenting classroom. This new class will provide books to each student as well as opportunities to participate in monthly field trips and activities, that will promote early literacy. Transportation will be provided after the first meeting. Please join us for a good time and a head start for our youngest Owls!

lray@oeisd.org

From Melissa Vela
District Coordinator



The first semester of school is quickly coming to an end, and Odem Elementary and Odem Intermediate students have already begun preparation for the UIL academic competition that will be held on December 9th.

Students will be competing in various events such as number sense, dictionary skills, spelling, storytelling, music memory, ready writing, art memory and oral reading. Students have been working hard on their assigned event for competition with their UIL sponsors.

Sponsors for Odem Elementary/Intermediate are as follows: Mrs. McDowell (Number Sense), Mrs. Gamez (Dictionary Skills), Mrs. Decker (Spelling and Maps, Graphs, and Charts), Mrs. Clenney (2nd grade Storytelling), Mrs. Sorrells (3rd grade Storytelling and Listening Skills), Mrs. Rakowitz (Music Memory), Mrs. Gonzalez (3rd and 4th Ready Writing), Mrs. Rogers (Art Memory), Mrs. Cantu (4th and 5th grade Oral Reading), Mrs. Hunter (3rd and 4th grade Spelling), Mrs. Serrano (5th grade Ready Writing) and Mrs. Earley (2nd grade Creative Writing).

Best of luck to all of our UIL competitors and UIL sponsors on December 9th.

From Debbie Serrano



The elementary, intermediate and junior high libraries have been bustling with patrons. Students have been coming in to choose books to read both for pleasure and to meet their AR goal. Students who met their goal the 2nd 6 weeks were treated to an AR celebration. Elementary and intermediate students were treated to ice cream floats. Junior high students will be treated to a movie and popcorn in the library at a later date. All libraries have had new books added to their collections. Students are excited about the new books as several of them are books that they have requested.

The librarians also recognized Rockin' Readers at the end of the 6 weeks. Teachers nominated students who showed reading improvement, worked extra hard to meet their goal this 6 weeks, or reached a new reading level. The students were treated to pizza and cupcakes. A few football players and a cheerleader served the students and interacted with them as they ate. The students and volunteers all enjoyed the luncheon.

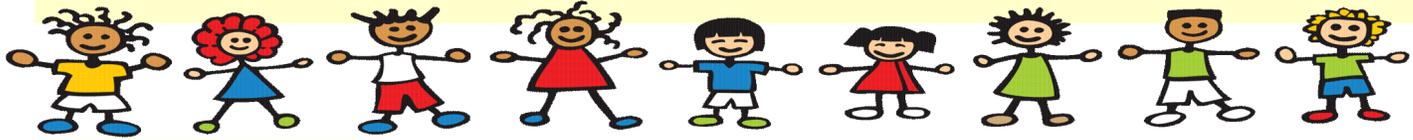
High school students continue to utilize their new library for quiet studying in the study rooms, utilize the available technology and of course, check out library books.

Debra Serrano

OEISD District Librarian

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks

From
Yolanda Alvaro, Director
Special Ed./Dyslexia

Inclusive Education

Here at OEISD we advocate for inclusive education as much as possible. This happens when children with and without disabilities participate and learn together in the same classes. Research shows that when a child with disabilities attends classes alongside peers who do not have disabilities, good things happen..

Inclusive education occurs when there is ongoing advocacy, planning, support and commitment. These are the principles that guide quality inclusive education:

- **All children belong.** Inclusive education is based on the simple idea that every child and family is valued equally and deserves the same opportunities and experiences. Inclusive education is about children with disabilities - whether the disability is mild or severe, hidden or obvious - participating in everyday activities, just like they would if their disability were not present. It's about building friendships, membership and having opportunities just like everyone else.
- **All children learn in different ways.** Inclusion is about providing the help children need to learn and participate in meaningful ways, sometimes, help from friends or teachers works best. Other times, specially designed materials or technology can help. The key is to give only as much help as needed.
- **It is every child's right to be included.** Inclusive education is a child's right, not a privilege. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act clearly states that all children with disabilities should be educated

From
Dr. Lidamar Yruegas
ELAR CS

Research has revealed that parent involvement in early childhood literacy is directly related to students' success. As a parent, there are several small things you can do at home to promote literacy. Something as simple as picking up a magazine or newspaper in front of your child, models behavior that reinforces the importance of reading. Other activities such as asking your child to draw a picture and tell you a story about the picture, having them practice using their imagination by generating a fictitious story, or even having them sing aloud in the car all helps develop your child's vocabulary, listening and speaking skills, and also promotes literacy development. If you have a younger child who's still learning to read, read to your child frequently and engage them in the story by asking them to make predictions as you read. Together, we can make strides in Early Childhood Literacy Development.

From Sonia Gamez
SCI CS

Hello OEISD Families!

Science education begins at home! Children are naturally curious and love to experiment. Providing opportunities for children to experience hands-on investigations at home encourages and increases this natural curiosity and promotes problem solving techniques.

Examples of learning science at home:

- Go outside! Allow your children to play outside. Their senses will be overwhelmed with sounds, sights, and touch as they explore the textures and sounds of the world around them.
- Cook! Allowing children to help with cooking and baking allows them to experience changes in states of matter as well as chemical changes.
- Tinker! If something breaks, such as a toy, allow children to try to problem-solve in order to fix the item.

As parents, one of the best things to do to encourage a scientific mind is to promote curiosity. Make observations, ask questions, and try to explain why things are the way they are.

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks

From Tony Ramirez Social Studies CS

The 2nd Six Weeks here at Odem Elementary has come to a close. Students have been learning about the importance of rules and citizenship. Students learned how important rules are to keeping our school and classrooms in order and secure. They also learned about the importance of citizenship and the importance of voting. Mrs. Bush's 1st grade class spent some time conducting secret ballots on favorite food at lunch, favorite Halloween candy and favorite drinks all in an attempt to get students to participate in the practice of voting.

From Armando Huerta Athletics Director

Elementary Athletics

The Odem athletic department would like to encourage all the young owls in the district to follow and take interest in our athletic programs. As the holiday season approaches, our fall sports are coming to a close. In volleyball our 7A team finished (7-0) and as district champions. The 8A team finished (5-2) and in 2nd place. 8th grade football finished (7-1, 4-0) and district champs. 7th grade football finished (5-2-1, 2-1-1) and in 3rd place. Hs volleyball finished (15-13, 4-6) and in 4th place. They lost in the BI-District round of the playoffs. The varsity football team has finished the regular season (6-4, 4-1) and as Co-Champs of District 16-3A. They will begin the playoffs this week against Stockdale. With the close of the fall, comes the start of our winter sports. Both boys' and girls' JH basketball is underway. Games are on Mondays till Christmas break then will resume on Thursdays after the break. Hs girls' basketball has begun and will have games on Tuesdays during the tournament portion of the season. Again we encourage all little owls and their families to take interest in our athletic programs as they will become the future of those programs. For more information on our athletic programs please visit our school website or www.odemowlathletics.com.



From Clarissa Moreno

Parent Involvement
Coordinator

News

Great jobs parents, we had a successful 2nd Six weeks. Congratulations to OIS students, they had the highest attendance rate! OEISD staff would like to thank you for sending your child to school on time and ensuring they are prepared for class. Lets keep up the great work!

We have events coming up, so stay updated by using Living Tree. We will share strategies to help make us awesome parents, so please come and support OEISD.

Updates

I will be sending out a letter and a flyer detailing information about the Parental Involvement Conference taking place on February 6, 2018 from 8:30am -1:00. OEISD will cover the admission fee and provide transportation. You also receive a free shirt for attending!

Events to Attend

Elementary

- Literacy Night 11/7
- Parental Involvement Conference 2/6/18

Intermediate

- Literacy Night 11/8
- Parental Involvement Conference 2/6/18

Junior High

- Parental Involvement Conference 2/6/18

High School

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

2nd Six Weeks

From
Joey Avila
Technology Dept.



Hello from the Tech Department, as we are approaching the end of the semester we would like to remind you about Digital Citizenship. Just like we use our manners and show people respect in real life, we need to do the same when we are online. Our digital world is expanding and we are now learning and interacting in an online cloud environment. Here are some tips.

Be careful about what you make public online

Know the difference between sharing and stealing online content

Beware of users pretending to be who they are not

Watch out for ads, they often lead to spam email and or viruses

From
Debbie Serrano



Chess is continuing to meet on Tuesdays at the intermediate library. Students from grades 3-12 are invited to join. Attendance has grown since the first meeting. JH and HS students are teaching and playing against elementary students to give them both competition and experience. Despite the vast differences in ages and expertise, the students all work well and are learning from each other. Meetings will be moved to Wednesday starting the first week in December.

Any student from grade 3-12 is still able to join.

From
Janie Luna
Cafeteria



Lunaj@oeisd.org

361-368-8121 x 264

Food Service Newsletter

Welcome to the Food Service Department Breakfast and Lunch : Free to all Students to the end of Nov 30, 2017. Our school community can access our menus on our school website.

The tray containing 3 component must be served . A fruit or vegetable for breakfast.

What is included in a full Lunch?

A school lunch included five food component: with protein and whole grain. A side of vegetables and a selection of low fat or fat free milk. Students must have 3 components for a meal to be considered a meal . At least one of the 3 components must be a fruit or vegetable.

Join us for breakfast and lunch!



From Lisa Flores

Greetings OES Parents!

It's hard to believe that the 2nd six weeks is over and that we are now at the beginning of the 3rd six weeks. Our students are learning and discovering new things every day with the commitment and guidance of their teachers. School and classroom routines and procedures have been established. Student expectations have been set to ensure an ongoing successful academic year of hands-on meaningful learning, rigor and relevance with connections made to real world experiences.

Our cafeteria is now being fully utilized by our students. We are so proud and excited to have a beautiful facility with a stage, lights and dual functioning tables that turn into benches for programs that we will be hosting in days to come. If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, we welcome you to do so. The OES front office area is still under construction and is temporarily located in room 15 until its completion. With the holidays' right around the corner, I would like to take this time to wish our OES Families a safe, memorable, and blessed holiday season!

Lisa Flores
CTE District Coordinator