



Olympia South Elementary School Newsletter

November - 2007

103 NE 5th Street - Atlanta, IL 61723 - Phone 217-648-2302 - www.olympia.org

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 03 Market Day Pick-Up, Cafeteria, 9:00 – 10:00 AM
- 05 Beich's Candy Orders delivered to school
PTO Meeting – Library – 6:30 pm
- 06 P/T Conf. 3:00-7:00
- 07 P/T Conf. 3:00-7:00
- 09 NO SCHOOL
- 15 Family Reading/Activity Night
- 22 NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving Day
- 23 NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving vacation

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES –

November 6 & 7 are the dates for Parent-Teacher Conferences, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is an important time of the year. It is a chance for you to ask questions about the classroom and your child's progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter. Have you received a notice for the conference time? If not, call the school to confirm a conference time.

There are things you can do that will help lay a foundation with the teacher for helping your student:

- **Talk to your child.** Find out what he thinks his best subjects are and what subjects he likes the least. Ask why. Also, ask your student if there is anything he would like you to talk about with his teacher. Make sure your child doesn't worry about the meeting. Help him understand that you and his teacher are meeting to help him.
- **Make a list.** Before you come to the meeting, it will be helpful to make a list of things you want to talk about with the teacher. For example:
 - Questions about your student's progress
 - How you, the teacher, and the school can work together to help your child
 - Questions about the school's programs or policies
 - Your student's home life, personality, concerns, habits and hobbies, and other things you feel the teacher should know about that might help in working with the student (e.g., religious holidays, music lessons, part-time jobs, a sick relative)

The questions you ask during the conference can help you express your hopes for the student's success in class.



It's a good idea to ask the important questions first, in case time runs out. The teacher's answers should help you and the teacher work together.

The following is a poem entitled:

“UNITY”

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher – the tools he used
Were books, music and art.
The other, a parent, worked with a guiding hand,
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled with touch
That was careful, deft and sure.
While the parent labored by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last, their task was done.
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

Author Unknown

PUBLIC ACT 95-0680 – A new law requires (instead of permits) each public school classroom to observe a brief period of silence for all students at the opening of every school day. This information is being sent to parents indicating that a moment of silence is being observed at the beginning of each school day as a result of a new State law. This moment of silence shall not be conducted as a religious exercise, but as an opportunity for silent prayer or for silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day. This law is observed in all public elementary

MISS O'GRADY'S CLASS HAS GONE "BUGGY" –

After a unit on insects and butterflies, the first graders at Olympia South were asked to make an insect with their families. They were able to use anything they had in their homes. Family help was a must



and creativity was promoted. The only requirements were that the insect had to have six legs, a head, a body, and two antennae. Wings were optional. The insects are unique and one even has the ability to move its wings. Our insects felt that the classroom was fun, but wanted to explore the school, so they crawled and flew their way to the library where they are currently on display and getting their fill of insect books! If you happen to be at Olympia South make sure to stop by and check out our insects. By Jamie O'Grady

RED RIBBON WEEK -

What a great week of learning! Red Ribbon Week was highlighted with many fun and educational activities. Each day had a slogan and theme for student and staff participation. During the week we featured two special readers who made the rounds to all classrooms. The Superintendent and Business Manager read a book and shared a message to make smart choices for life. There was a lot of excitement and amazement as visual messages emerged on the classroom doors throughout the week. Everyday a slogan and dress theme was featured to send a drug free message. Finally, students expressed themselves with important messages on the sidewalk and playground. Learning is a fun and exciting project at Olympia South.

The themes for the week challenged the students to think about their choices;

Monday, "Stay in the Game, Be Drug Free," students "sport" their favorite team or athletic clothing; Tuesday, "Wear Red" Be REDdy to say "No!"; Wednesday, "Shade Out Drugs and Sock It to Drugs," sunglasses and mismatched or crazy socks were popular; Picture Day Thursday, "Picture Me Drug Free," in honor of school pictures we presented our best self; and Friday, "Use Your Head, Don't Do Drugs," crazy hair, wigs and hats "topped off" the week. What a fun learning experience!

Superintendent Hutchison and Business Manager Wise arrived on separate days but with the same message - "We are Hooked on Books, Not Drugs." The two gentlemen read to each class, at all grade levels, sharing a favorite book and presenting an important message. It was great that both were able to take time out of their day and share it with the students of Olympia South Elementary.

A door decorating contest was held to spread the message about living a drug free lifestyle. The door themes were creatively designed and it was great fun to see them emerge. Congratulations to: First place winner - Miss Oester's 1st grade with an idea not to 'monkey with drugs'; second place went to Miss O'Grady's 1st grade with the idea not to get caught in the (spider) web of drugs; and the third winner was Mrs. Kindred's 3rd grade with the message "leap on our pad, away from

drugs!" There were great ideas throughout the building and even more enjoyment viewing and learning the important lessons.

Time, talent and effort were given to this week of fun learning activities. Congratulations to all the students and staff for a job well done!

DINOSAURS ROAMED OLYMPIA SOUTH -

On Thursday, October 18, 2007 dinosaurs invaded the gym at Olympia South. Mr. Dan Stone and his wife set up a museum like display filling the gym with a jungle setting incorporating many dinosaur replicas.

The centerpiece was a full size replica of a skull and tusk from a mastodon found in Ohio. This museum piece helped focus the attention of the students on intriguing animals that roamed the earth thousands of years ago and are now extinct. Mr. Stone engaged the students with facts and stories revolving around dinosaurs. He also encouraged them to observe and investigate what they saw and to use the scientific method throughout the activities scheduled for the day.



As a special memory of the day, every student walked away with a gem. We truly had a DINOSAURUS size learning EXPERIENCE!

PTO HOSTED FUN FILLED NIGHT -

The PTO's Wiener Roast evening was a lot of fun, sharing food and fellowship with families from throughout the school's three communities. The evening also provided the first opportunity to sign up for Parent / Teacher Conference schedules for November 6th & 7th. Books were available for purchase from the Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the faculty and staff. The sale profit was over \$800 of Bonus Bucks to be spent in the Scholastic Book Fair Store. Thanks for the fun!

MT. HOPE-FUNKS GROVE LIBRARY IN MCLEAN -

November events include:

- November 12 - Preschool Storytime - 10:30 a.m.
- 12-17 - Stop in anytime during regular library hours to make a Children's Book Week craft
- 20 - Thanksgiving Read & Craft
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 27 - Family Movie
3:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, please call 309 874 2291.

New Library hours: Mon. 10-3, Tues. 2-8, Wed. 2-8, Thurs. 2-8, Sat. 10-3.

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

FROM: SCHOOL NURSE PAM STEGEMAN

You may have heard in the news about a staph infection called Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus referred to as MRSA. It is resistant to antibiotic therapy. This staph infection was once isolated to hospitals and other healthcare facilities. It has been found in schools and other communities and is known as community-associated MRSA. Although Olympia has had no reported cases of MRSA, the district feels it necessary to be proactive against the staph.

Staph starts as a skin infection that such as a pimple/boil which is red, painful, and swollen with pus or other drainage should be evaluated by a physician. If a MRSA infection is left untreated, it can cause pneumonia and infectious of the blood/joints. MRSA is spread by close skin-to-skin contact. The best defenses against MRSA as suggested by the IDPH are the following:



- ❖ Wash your hands!! Use an alcohol gel, if unable to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- ❖ Do not share personal items such as water bottles, washcloths, towels, clothing, uniforms, sheets, pillows with another person. Anyone can be a MRSA carrier and not be aware of it.
- ❖ Do not share eating or drinking utensils.
- ❖ Make sure you wash your hands after touching high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, light switch, faucet handles, drinking fountains and the toilet. These areas need to be cleaned daily with a 1:10 ratio of alcohol/water.



Market Day Update:

We want to THANK everyone for their continued support of Market day at Olympia south elementary!!!

October Winners (Congratulations!!!) ***Order \$40 or more and you could win also!!! More winners will be announced for November sales.

- Munch Packs -LINDA HAWKER
- Apple Blossoms -MACAELA COMPTON
- Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough -CATHY DREYER
- \$25 MARKET DAY GIFT CARD - TARA VANHOORN

In the Month of November market day provided some yummy snacks for the Preschoolers and ECE!!!

November is Pie Month. If you didn't get your pies ordered, extras were purchased. Call Kelly (309-261-1422) or Linda Hawker at the school & ask about the extras.

Fruit Medley Deep Dish Pie - Apple Deep Dish Pie - Andes Chocolate Mint Layer Pie - Lemon Supreme Pie -French Silk Pie - No Sugar Added Apple Pie - Apple Cranberry Deep Dish Pie - Pumpkin Pie - Pecan Pie -New York Style Cheesecake - No Sugar Added New York Style Cheesecake
NEW Pumpkin Praline Cheesecake - Turtle Cheesecake - NEW Taffy Apple Deep Dish Pie

November Pickup is Saturday, **November 3th** from 9:00-10:00 am.
(Market Day Sales and Pie Orders!!!
You will receive a Reminder call on Friday November 2nd.)

December specials...

- **Complete your holiday meal and receive FREE Gingerbread Men*!**
 - Receive 12 FREE Gingerbread Men cookie shapes with qualifying purchase of 1 Roast and 2 Sides. Look for these items at www.marketday.com or on your December order sheet holiday insert.
- **Cookie Dough in December (Holiday Baking made easy!!!)**
 - Chocolate Chunk Cookie Dough - NEW Holiday Gems Cookie Dough - Monster Cookie Dough -Oatmeal Raisin Cookie Dough - NEW Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough - Snickerdoodle Cookie Dough -NEW Sugar Cookie Dough - White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Cookie Dough - NEW Gingerbread Men - Holiday Cookie Shapes Kit NOW with 13 oz. of White Icing - Holiday Sprinkles

December's pickup is Saturday, December 8th from 9:00-10:00am.

Thanks, Market Day Committee

Kelly Byrd, Laura O'Donnell, Shirley Howie

Questions, call Kelly 217-648-5393/309-261-1422.

