



## NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER



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#### **Dates to Remember**

- Auditions for the OMS play, *Twin Desperados*, will be on December 7 and 8.
- The Winter Band and Chorus Concert will be on December 14 at 7:00 P.M.
- Half-day of student attendance (11:25 am dismissal) on December 22 due to School Improvement Planning
- Winter Break will be from December 23 thru January 5, 2010.
- Second quarter grading period ends on December 22.
- There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 4 due to School Improvement Planning.
- OMS Dance on January 22, sponsored by 7th grade.

Visit us online by using the  
links from the district website:  
[www.olympia.org](http://www.olympia.org)

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

With the second quarter of the school year half over, 6th grade students should now be adjusted to their middle school schedule. Through the efforts of our 6th grade teachers, the problems 6th grade students had with their lockers and making it to each class on time seem like issues of the past. Generally speaking, all students seem to be settled into their routine and doing a great job!

One way to involve yourself in your child's education is to monitor homework completion each night, through the use of our "homework planner" notebooks. You may also choose to communicate back and forth with the classroom teachers by using this very same method. A good homework tip before your youngster turns in his/her homework is to encourage them to take some time between finishing an assignment and proofing it. Problems are often more obvious with a fresh eye.

Thank you to the many parents who drove out to OMS on the morning of November 10 for our first Breakfast of Champions. Thank you also to all the OMS faculty who attended as we honored and recognized the hard work and accomplishments of OMS students who earned all A's and B's for the first quarter. Our next recognition event for students earning all A's and B's will be held in January at a similar time...your presence at these assemblies sends a powerful message to your student. It also is an honor and privilege for me and the OMS faculty to be able to spend time with parents during a positive event.

It is my hope that your student has enjoyed these past two grading periods at OMS. I have enjoyed getting to know you and working with your children, and am looking forward to these next two grading periods of the school year!

Respectfully yours,

Dan Lamboley

## “SPARTAN PRIDE” AWARDS AT OMS

In an effort to reward students for choosing appropriate behaviors and displaying overall characteristics of good citizens, Olympia Middle School has instituted a “Spartan Pride” award. This weekly honor is awarded to a student who has been nominated by his/her team of teachers for displaying the following character traits: *Respect, Generosity, Organization, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty and Enthusiasm*. The honored student then receives a certificate, an Olympia water bottle, a coupon for a free cookie from the OMS cafeteria, and a chance to win the quarterly drawing prize. The winners of this coveted award so far in this second quarter are: **Genna VanWye, Sammy Hamad, Shane Flener, C.J. Tackett, Taylor Wilkins, and Thomas Hallstein**. Each student that wins this award during the second nine weeks will be entered into a drawing to be held at the next OMS Breakfast of Champions Assembly in January.

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## STUDENT SPIRIT WEAR

Student Spirit Wear is here! This year you can place your order on-line. Place your order between **11/16/2009** and **12/07/2009**. Go to **kesslersteamsports.com** and click on **My Team Shop**. Enter team access code **sparta6QA**. It is that easy. Orders will be sent directly to OMS where they will be distributed to students. The logo on each spirit item is seen below and will include lettering that says “Olympia Middle School”. Please consider purchasing some Spirit Wear for your son or daughter. Spartan Pride...Pass It On!



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## MIDDLE YEARS

Middle grade students go through dramatic changes and desperately need their parents' support.. Many parents want to help, but are not sure what to do. With the *Middle Years* parents can find the help they need with little effort. Every issue of the *Middle Years* offers practical ideas to: strengthen the home and school relationship, enhance parenting skills, strengthen family life, understand middle school behavior, and build positive character traits. To access a monthly *Middle Years* newsletter go to the district web page and click onto Middle School Information. Each month the *Middle Years* newsletter will be published on-line with the monthly OMS newsletter.

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## SOAR

### **S**partans **O**ff and **R**unning!

One smart way to train for a marathon is to partner up with a successful runner and train together. This is no less true when it comes to academic goals. With that in mind, OMS is gearing up for a new peer tutoring program. Students interested in becoming a tutor will be able to obtain applications in December. Once selected, students will receive training and support from OMS staff. They will be paired up with students interested in having peer support. This program will begin as an after school activity geared toward helping all students finish the race successfully. Watch for more information coming soon. Remember, the best minute you spend is the one you invest in someone else. Help someone SOAR! Let's all finish the race strong.

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## 6TH GRADE FESTIVAL OF HOLIDAYS

The OMS sixth graders will be learning about various holidays celebrated around the world during the month of December. On the morning of Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the sixth graders will hold a Festival of Holidays to share what they have learned with their fellow classmates and invited guests. We look forward to a celebration of world cultures in our classrooms! (Snow date for the Festival of Holidays is Monday, December 21.)