

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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## Odem Elementary and Intermediate School

### Report Cards

Odem Elementary and Intermediate Schools have started with a bang. The first six weeks will be finishing on Friday, September 28, 2018. Report Cards will be distributed on Friday, October 5, 2018. Instructions for txConnect Access will be sent home with report cards. This will allow you to see student's grades.

The second six weeks will begin on Tuesday, October 2. Progress Reports will be distributed on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Parents please make sure you are communicating with teachers. Teachers can be reached by email using their last name and first initial, for example garciac@oeisd.org. Students will be off on Monday, October 1 for staff development. There is also an early release date on Friday, October 19th.

If your student is absent please make sure a doctor's excuse or parent note is sent with your son/daughter.

### October Activities

October is Anti Bullying and Kindness Counts month. Students will show their unity by wearing orange on Wednesdays during October. The district will have a Unity Rally on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 8:30 am at Owl Stadium. Guest speaker will be Jillian Williams, a former Odem student and Ewing's Sarcoma survivor.

Ms. Williams did not charge the district to come speak but did ask for donations to her foundation. William's foundation is called Live N Leap. The organization is similar to Make a Wish foundation T, but for young adults 19-29. The class, which collects the most money will be rewarded with a Movie and Popcorn at Odem Elementary. Odem Intermediate students will compete as a campus to achieve a set goal. If the goal is met, the students will receive free seating on Friday with music.

### Project Turnaround

Project Turnaround will continue at Odem Elementary, 1st and 2nd grade, and Odem Intermediate, 3rd and 4th grade. The students are participating in the Too Good for Drugs evidence based curriculum.

Trained instructors are delivering drug prevention to our students. Instructors from Project Turnaround will come in every Tuesday for 30 to 45 minutes delivering lessons.

### Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week begins October 29. Red Ribbon Week was established in 1985 in remembrance of DEA agent of Enrique Camarena. Parents and community wanted a way to bring drug awareness and prevention to their children.

OES and OIS students will show they are drug free by participating in the various dress up days beginning on Monday, October 29.

**Monday**- Put Cap on Drugs—Wear your favorite cap.

**Tuesday**- Sock it to Drugs- Wear crazy socks.

**Wednesday**- Scare Drugs Away- Wear a costume.

**Thursday**- Shade Out Drugs- Wear Sunglasses

**Friday**- Team Up Against Drugs- Wear your favorite shirt/ jersey.



## Firsts

Every school year is filled with firsts - first grade, first day, first period. In addition to the obvious... First time to ride a school bus. First "A" and perhaps first "F." First time being disciplined by a person other than a family member. First role in a school play. First field trip to a museum. First cell phone. First time to see or experience bullying. First high stakes test – STAAR. First time home alone after school. First time to play in school athletics. First time being rejected or eating alone. First girlfriend or boyfriend and first breakup. First time to be tempted with tobacco or alcohol or drugs. First time to play a musical instrument. First instrumental competition for a "chair." First part-time job. Receiving driving license – first time to drive to school without parents and perhaps first automobile accident. First prom.

What is a parent and school to do when kids encounter challenges and setbacks?

Learn the lesson of hurdles! As a kid in my small junior high, most of the boys participated on the track team in the spring. I was short and husky, and not particularly fast. Nevertheless, the coach had us try every track and field event at least one time at a practice session during the season. I remember the hurdles. I was terrible. I didn't clear one hurdle without touching it. Several times I stumbled over the hurdle and crashed on the cinder track. I hated it, BUT once a week I would try to run the hurdles. Once a week I would try to improve a little bit. Once a week I learned how to fall forward, and then keep going.

Some of the "firsts" children encounter will be hurdles. It seems to me the task of parents and school is to:

- Help children recognize the hurdles for what they are. Some are challenging opportunities, such as a science fair or spelling bee. Some are dangerous, such as alcohol and drugs and inappropriate use of social media. reinforcement.
- Train children how to overcome the hurdles through character development, positive social skills, learning how to be a problem-solver, applying good ol' common sense, and avoiding risky choices and behaviors when necessary.
- Support children when they mess up, and they will mess up, but teach them how to fall forward and then encourage them to keep going.

During the school year children will face hurdles and stumble, but they can finish the "race" with perseverance and confidence if we provide consistent, positive reinforcement.

Forsyth, S. (2018, September). *ESC 16*. (C. Terri Stafford, Ed.) Retrieved 09 26, 2018, from Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Initiative: [page/4569/September%202018%20-%20English.pdf](https://www.esc16.org/page/4569/September%202018%20-%20English.pdf)



### Up and Coming Events

- October 1 – No School– Staff Development
- October 2– Project Turnaround 1st– 4th grade
- October 5 – Report Cards
- October 9—Project Turnaround 1st– 4th grade
- October 16- Project Turnaround 1st– 4th grade
- October 23 Project Turnaround 1st– 4th grade
- October 24– Progress Reports; Unity Day Rally
- October 29-November 2– Red Ribbon Week
- October 30 Project Turnaround 1st– 4th grade

### Technology Is on Our Side

Parents take advantage of technology. Our teachers use a number of apps and software to keep you up to date with your student. Including email addresses which are usually the teacher's last name and first initial for example garciac@oeisd.org .

Teachers are using Living Tree to get out information to parents. Please be on the look out for it.

Students grades can be accessed through TxEIS using last years username and passwords.