

Odem Elementary School Newsletter

"Where the Future Begins!"

Special Points of Interest

Jan. 8 to 19—TPRI Testing for Grades K to 2nd

Jan. 15—Martin Luther King Day (No school—Teacher Planning Day)

Jan. 16—G/T Referrals are due.

Jan. 18—PK-4 Field Trip to Early Scholars Academy (London ISD)

Jan. 24—Live Stock Show

Feb. 1st—Group Pictures

From the Office of the Principal

Esmeralda Martinez



Greetings OES Parents!

As a new year comes, it brings the excitement of a new year and new opportunities to learn. Our students at Odem Elementary have been working especially hard in key focus areas in reading and math. We appreciate parental support for our teachers and students by playing an active role in your child's education. Attendance is extremely important and plays a huge role in student success! Getting to school on time is of equal importance. Our building opens at 7:30 a.m. School times are 7:55 – 3:45 for K – 2 and 7:55-3:00 for Pre-K. Thank you for sharing your children with us and please do not hesitate to come to me with questions, concerns or suggestions.

**Campus Perfect
Attendance - 2nd Six Weeks**



Enjoying Library Time!



Odem Elementary Honors
Our School Board Members
School Board Recognition Month

Dear Odem Elementary Parents,

With respect to all students and staff on our campus, we will no longer be accepting Valentine's Day deliveries. In the best interest of all of our students, the factors determining this decision are listed below.

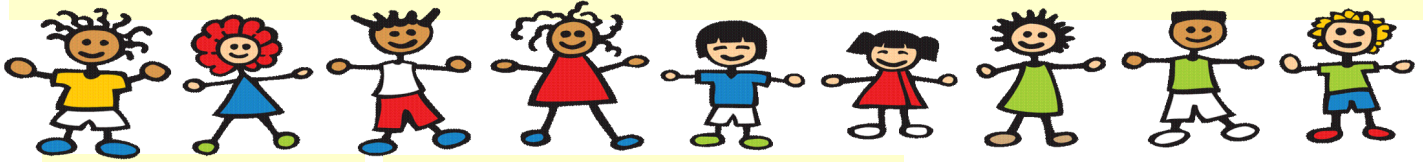
*Educational Disruption for both teaching and learning
Not all students receive deliveries and this presents
Multiple problems
Safety issues on our busses with oversized objects,
balloons, etc.*

*Thank you very much for your
understanding, support and coop-
eration.*

*Sincerely,
Esmeralda Martinez
Principal, Odem
Elementary*

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WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!



3rd Six Weeks

From
Traci Pogue



ESL/ELL— Empowering ELL Parents and Families at Home.

All parents can be helpful in their children's literacy development, regardless of their language, education, or literacy level. Parents who speak little or no English can contribute to their children's education in valuable ways. English language learners may benefit when they develop solid literacy skills in their first language before learning to read in a second one. Through Spanish, they are developing key language and literacy skills that may enable them to become excellent readers in English. Here are some suggestions:

1. Storytelling
2. "Read" wordless picture books
3. Say rhymes and sing songs
4. Make frequent trips to the library
5. Engage in meaningful conversations
6. Watch educational children's television programs together.

Traci Pogue
Odem Jr. High Principal
361-368-8121



From
Jana
Kieschnick

Gifted children are so diverse and do not exhibit all characteristics all of the time. There are common characteristics that many gifted individuals share:

- Rapid learner; put thoughts together quickly
- Excellent memory
- Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
- Exhibit unusual emotional depth and complexity
- Thinking is abstract, complex, logical and insightful
- High energy level
- Concern with worldly events
- Highly developed curiosity
- Aims for perfection
- Keen sense of humor
- Vivid Imaginations
- Creative
- Responds and relates to older children and adults

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, 2018.

From Lisa Flores

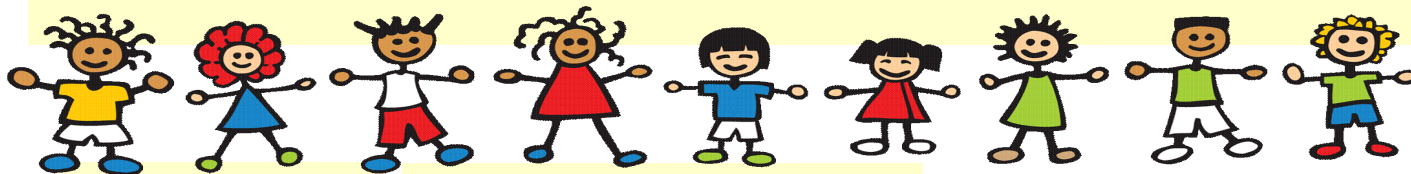


CTE News!

This spring semester, we have 8 students who will begin the Phlebotomy Tech Training Program. Students will receive all training at Odem High School. So what is a Phlebotomy Tech? Phlebotomists play a vital role in the operations of the clinical laboratory. Phlebotomy is the procedure of puncturing a vein to collect blood either for analysis or transfusion. A phlebotomist is the individual who collects blood by venipuncture to assist in the assessment of a patient's medical condition. After successfully completing the program, students will earn a certificate in order to be eligible to sit for the national examination through the MedCA. Entry level pay in our area range from \$11 to \$14 per hour. We are so excited for our 8 high school students!

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**From
Dr. Veronica
Gutierrez
Curriculum Dept.**

Greetings!

What math activities can I do with my child?

Understanding Numbers

- Count everything! Count toys, kitchen utensils, and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer. Help your child count by pointing to and moving the objects as you say each number out loud. Count forwards and backwards from different starting places.
- Counting books also capture children's imagination, by using pictures of interesting things to count and to add.
- Point out how numbers are used on the television set, the microwave, and the telephone. Spot numbers in books and newspapers. Look for numbers on signs in your neighborhood. Encourage your child to tell you whenever he or she discovers a new way in which numbers are used.
- Ask your child to help you solve everyday number problems. "We need six tomatoes to make our sauce for dinner, and we have only two. How many more do we need to buy?" "You have two pillows in your room and your sister has two pillows in her room. How many pillowcases do I need to wash?" "Two guests are coming to eat dinner with us. How many plates will we need?"
- Practice "skip counting". Together, count by 2's and 5's. Ask your child how far he or she can count by 10's. Ask your child to try

**From
Esmeralda
Martinez**



What are "major life activities"?

Major life activities include, but are not limited to: self-care, manual tasks, walking, seeing, speaking, sitting, thinking, learning, breathing, concentrating, interacting with others and working. As of January 1, 2009 with the reauthorization of the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act, this list has been expanded to also include the life activities of reading, concentrating, standing, lifting, bending, etc. This may include individuals with AD/HD, dyslexia, cancer, diabetes, severe allergies, chronic asthma, Tourette's syndrome, digestive disorders, cardiovascular disorders, depression, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, HIV/AIDS, behavior disorders and temporary disabilities (e.g., broken writing arm, broken leg, etc.). Conditions that are episodic or in remission are also now covered if they create a substantial limitation in one or more major life activity while they are active. Students who are currently using illegal drugs or alcohol are not covered or eligible under Section 504.

For further information please contact martineze@oeisd.org.

**From
Lisa Perez
District Nurse**



A message from the school nurse:

A few friendly reminders.....

Please do not send your child to school if he/she has or has had:

Fever more than 100 degrees within the last 24 hours (**must be fever free without medication**)

Two episodes of vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours.

Continuous coughing not relieved with cough medicine.

Odem-Edroy ISD does not allow school personnel, including the nurse, to give any medication without a District Medical Form signed by the parent and a doctor. This includes all over the counter medications. These forms are available on-line and in the school nurse's office. Since students need to be picked up when they become ill at school we need current telephone numbers. Please inform the school immediately of any change in your current telephone number (s) so we may be able to contact you when needed.

Thank you in advance for working with us to keep students and staff healthy and in school.

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3rd Six Weeks

From Yvette Maldonado
Custodial Dept.



Why a Clean School Can Impact Student Success

With the Flu Season being so aggressive this year, our number one priority is to keep our four campuses highly cleaned and sanitized to prevent the spread of the flu virus.

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.

Yvette Maldonado
maldonadov@oeisd.org

From Arnold Maintenance
Dept.



The 3rd Six Weeks has ended, and after spending time with family and friends during the Christmas Holidays, and the maintenance department is ready for the 4th Six Weeks!

We continue working very hard on resolving our A/C and Heating issues throughout the district. We appreciate everyone's patience on this issue.

Grounds, football field and any maintenance problem that arise continue to be on our daily task list. Our main goal is to keep our district clean and up and running efficiently.

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. Also, please note the new Directional Signs painted on the Junior High School/Football Stadium parking lot. These signs help with the daily flow of traffic in a safe way. Slow and Safe driving around Owl Square ensures the safety of all our students/faculty and staff.

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.

OEISD Maintenance Dept.

From Roel Arguelles
Transportation
Dept.



The Transportation department has rolled once again through the 3rd Six Weeks and enjoyed the Christmas Holidays along the way, with Student Safety being our number one goal!

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

A friendly reminder to all parents/guardians of our bus riders: If you have **a change in your child's drop off destination**, the campus office where your child attends school, **must** have a written note with a parent signature and be approved by the school office personnel by 2:30 p.m. on the day of the request. Once we receive the note from the campus office that same day, we copy the note and hand it to the driver before they depart. After ten consecutive days of not using the bus service, that service may be discontinued. For the safety of our students, 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.

OEISD Transportation Dept.
Roel.Arguelles-arguellesr@oeisd.org
361-368-8121, ext. 266

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3rd Six Weeks



From
Leigh Ann Ray
Parent Liaison - Birth - 3



EARLY OWL

LITERACY Early Owl

Literacy is a program for Odem parents and their 0 to 3 year old children. We use our time together having fun while practicing literacy. This class provides a free book as well as opportunities to participate in monthly field trips and activities, that promote early literacy. Two of our recent field trips were; a trip to the library to see Mr. Kippy and a play day at TAGS Gym in Portland during there "Toddler Time" gymnastics. **YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 13th FOR VALENTINE'S ACTIVITIES, STORIES, and a PARTY for all of our guest.** Come join us for a good time and a head start in literacy for our youngest Owls! For more information, email Leigh Ann Ray at rayl@oeisd.org

From Melissa Vela
District Coordinator
UIL
Spring semester

is underway and UIL academic competition has concluded for the elementary levels. Students can continue to stay active on other academic events and activities held on both the elementary and intermediate campuses.

Students can join the chess club to keep their decision making skills sharp. Chess club members meet on Wednesdays after school at the intermediate campus to challenge each other and compete in chess matches. Parents continue to encourage your students to stay involved in all academic

From Debbie Serrano



The libraries continue to be busy with patrons. Students at elementary, intermediate and junior high campuses are doing well with the AR program. Students are rewarding at the end of each 6 weeks for reaching or surpassing their reading goals.

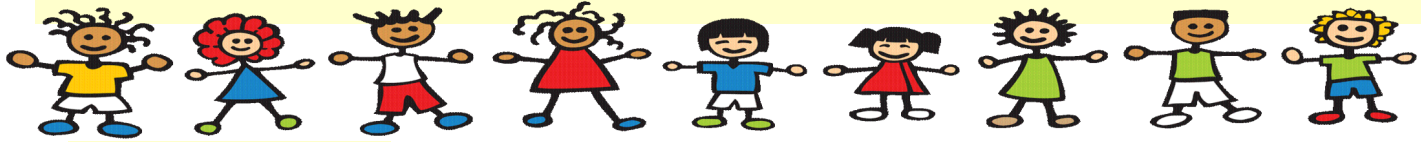
Every library has added several new books to their collections in order to keep up with the students' interests and reading levels.

The elementary library will be hosting a book fair for elementary and intermediate students, Feb 5-9th. Students will be visiting the book fair at the elementary library during their music time on Monday and Tuesday to browse and fill out their wish lists. Students will be able to come by before and after school and during their music time the rest of the week to make their purchases. In addition, we will have a family night on Tuesday, February 6 from 5-7pm. Families are invited to attend and receive a small treat.

All families are invited to the book fair to help support all OEISD libraries.

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3rd Six Weeks

From
Yolanda Alvaro, Director
Special Ed./Dyslexia

Back-to-School Tips for Special Needs Students

Many kids aren't really excited to head back to school after their Christmas break, but for special needs students the transition from home to school can be extra rocky. There are a few things you can do at home to help make the new beginning more exciting and less stressful. Get your child with special needs focused after the holiday break with these back to school tips.

Provide Structure at home. Whatever you can do to keep structure to their days at home can help. Start their day by telling them what to expect for the day.

Associate School with fun. Talk to your child about the things they have to look forward to when going to school.

Work behind the Scenes for a good first week. If there have been any changes to; care plans, medications, changes at home, let your child's teacher know in advance.

Prepare for the first day back. The use of social stories can assist your child in the transition.

Examine your child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Familiarize yourself with the plan again and work on activities at home to help your child transition better.

Share the joy and have fun!

From
Dr. Lidamar Yruegas
ELAR CS

As your child is learning how to read and developing his or her reading abilities, building good reading stamina is important. Reading stamina is that ability to read independently for longer periods of time without getting easily distracted or distracting others. The length of time a child can read depends, of course, on a number of factors such as their age, their access to materials that interest them, and their experience with reading.

As a parent there are several things you could do to help your child develop their reading stamina. When selecting books at the public library or book store, make sure that they select a book that is just right for their reading ability. This means selecting a book in which he or she should be able to decode almost every word in the book correctly without adult assistance. Also, having your child select a book on a topic that satisfies his or her interest will help keep him or her stay engaged and prolong the time they spend reading. You want to also help your child set reasonable goals and increase the time spent reading in small increments. When your child meets a goal, you want to celebrate their progress no matter how small. Not only can this encourage a love for reading; but, as your child moves into higher grade levels, having good reading stamina will help your child navigate the longer texts and assignments.

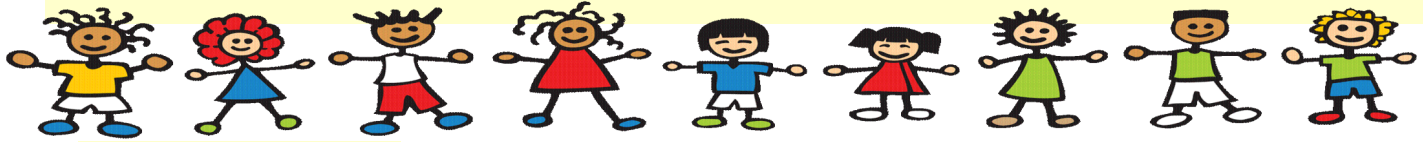
From Sonia Gamez
SCI CS

Hello OEISD Families!

Students at OEISD experience vast opportunities to practice hands-on science activities through engaging lessons on a regular basis. Our Pre-K students study animals and their habitats with the use of class pets, such as frogs and turtles. Intermediate students explore magnetism and electricity using common objects, such as batteries, wire, and paper clips. Our junior high students conduct investigations to explore the world around them as they identify leaf structures outside. High school students investigate different types of water plants and microscopic organisms to identify structure and functions of living organisms. Please remember to keep students interested in scientific concepts at home by encouraging curiosity, exploration, and investigation of common objects.

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From
Tony Ramirez

Social Studies CS

Social studies students at Odem Elementary were busy finishing up the first semester. First grade students in Mrs. Bush's class were busy mastering map skills. Students learned what a compass rose is used for and learned cardinal directions. The students then applied these skills on their playground. They also compared maps and globes by using a Venn Diagram. Students also identified bodies of water and different types of landforms. All of these skills will be vital for the students as they go from grade to grade over the next few years.

From
Armando Huerta

Athletics Director

The Odem athletic department would like to encourage all the young owls in the district to follow and take interest in our athletic programs. With the first semester behind us, all fall sport accolades have been received and basketball is in mid-season. Many of our HS athletes were selected to the fall All-District teams. HS volleyball placed 3 ladies on the first team, 3 on the second team, and one honorable mention. 2 students were selected to the State All-Academic team. Football placed 15 players on the first team, 11 on the second, and 4 honorable mention. 14 football players made the all-academic team, with 7 of those making the All-State academic team. For details on these accomplishments, please visit www.odemowlsathletics.com. As mentioned previously, basketball is in mid-season on all levels. Girls current records are as follows: 7A (5-0), 7B (4-1), 8A (4-1), 8B (5-0), 9th (1-2), JV (10-3), Varsity (21-6). Boys records are as follows: 7A (6-0), 7B (4-2), 8A (6-0), 8B (4-2), JV gold (8-5), JV blue (10-2), Varsity (14-9). HS programs have just begun their district schedules. 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.odemowlsathletics.com.



From
Clarissa Moreno

Parent Involvement Coordinator

News

Great jobs parents, we had a successful 3rd Six weeks. Congratulations to OIS students, they won the Odem Can Food Drive! 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. If you are attending, I will be sending out an message about a meeting time.

Events to Attend

Elementary

- Parental Involvement Conference
2/6/18

Intermediate

- Parental Involvement Conference
2/6/18

Junior High

- Parental Involvement Conference
2/6/18

High School

- Parental Involvement Conference
2/6/18

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From
Joey Avila
Technology Dept.



What's new at OEISD Technology? 3D Printing! We now have four 3D printers at our district and we cannot wait to see how our students will use them to learn and create in the classroom! As we continue integrating new technology we will keep you posted, have a great day.

From
Debbie Serrano



Chess club meets on Wednesdays in the intermediate libraries. Students from 3rd grade through high school are still invited to join and participate. There is no deadline to join the club.

From
Janie Luna
Cafeteria Dept.



Food Service Newsletter

During the months of January and February we will be focusing on Whole grain rich. As of school year 2014-2015 all grains that school served had to be whole grain rich. Odem Schools currently offers ALL whole grain rich products with Breakfast, Lunch, and it's A-La-Carte items.

Why should I eat more whole grains?

Eating 3 or more servings can decrease the risk of having a stroke, developing type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. They may also help you reach and maintain a healthy and weight.

Most Americans eat 1 or less serving of whole grains per day.

What is whole grain rich?

The food items contains at least 50% whole grains.

The item has 8 or more grams of whole grains per serving.