

4th Six Weeks

# Odem Intermediate School Newsletter

## Soaring To New Heights



OI Hooter News  
Coming UP

March 1st- 5th Grade Reading Benchmark Testing

March 1st- Open House 6:00 pm- 7:00pm

March 7th- Spring Picture Day

March 8th- Progress Reports Go Home

March (12th-16th) Spring Break No School

March 20th- Health Fair @ Intermediate Gym

March 27th - 3rd & 4th Grade Math Benchmark Testing

March 28th- 3rd & 4th Grade Reading Benchmark Testing

March 29th- 5th Grade Science Benchmark Testing

March 29th- (3rd-5th Grade ) Movie Night @ Odem Intermediate Gym 6:00pm-8:00pm

March 30th - No School Good Friday

## News from the Principal

*Jana Kieschnick*



There are a lot of great things happening at Odem Intermediate! The STAAR testing will begin April 10th. The schedule is below. Because these state tests are extremely important, please do not make any appointments for your child on the scheduled dates. You can help your child be successful by making sure that he/she gets a good night's sleep, eats breakfast, and arrives on time to school everyday.

### STAAR Test Dates:

April 10	4th Grade STAAR Writing & 5th Grade Math
April 11	5th Grade STAAR Reading
May 14th	3rd & 4th Grade STAAR Math & 5th Gr. Math Re-test
May 15th	3rd & 4th Gr. STAAR Reading & 5th Gr. Reading Retest



### Top Ten AR Readers

1. Jeriah Cisneros
2. Alma Rojas
3. Leigha Naranjo
4. Michael Ynfante
5. Eva Garcia
6. Aliana Montez
7. Timothy Rogers
8. Brooke Martinez



# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks

From  
Joey Avila  
Technology Dept.



Hello parents from the Technology Department, we are excited to share with you on our progress here at OEISD. We are continuing our advancement with Google and Chrome-books. They are so many new apps and extensions that are allowing your student to work in a learning environment that goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. We have also just introduced 3D printers as well as getting all core classes setup with interactive projectors. Our future projects include adding digital signage and interactive stations at our media labs at each campus here at OEISD.

From  
Debbie Serrano



[serranod@oeisd.org](mailto:serranod@oeisd.org)

Chess club is continuing to meet on Wednesdays in the intermediate library at 3:45. We had 4 new members start in January! New members are always welcome.

From  
Janie Luna  
Cafeteria Dept.



[lunaj@oeisd.org](mailto:lunaj@oeisd.org)

361-368-8121 x 264

Food Service Newsletter

Free Breakfast & Lunch for All Students Effective Immediately.

Every student in Odem—Edroy ISD will receive free breakfast and free lunch every day at each campus, at least through the end of this school year (2017-2018). Parents and guardians need to be aware that there will be no charging. If a student chooses more than one main dish or other extra items, they will have to pay cash for them or have enough money in their accounts to pay for the extra item(s).

Odem—Edroy ISD appreciates the work of the members of the District Food Service Department who worked so diligently with the Texas Department of Agriculture to secure our participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks



Leigh Ann Ray  
Parent Liaison - Birth - 3

We have been having a great time in our Early Owl Literacy classes. The only thing that is missing is YOU and your 0 to 3 year old. Whether you are the child's parent, grandparent, guardian or baby sitter, we would love to have you come join us for the 3 remaining classes of 2018. In March we will be traveling to the Victoria Zoo. We will all go together by bus. I hope you will join us for a good time.

When: Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Where: Meet in front of the Odem Elementary for a trip on the bus to Victoria, Tx

Time: The bus will leave the school at 9:30 am and return by 2.

Check out our past classes on Livingtree and the OEISD webpage banner.

From Melissa Vela  
District Coordinator



UIL offers numerous contests for grades 2-8, and according to the UIL website more than half a million students participate in UIL academic contests each year.

UIL activities are meant to complement the academic curriculum, and are designed to encourage and motivate students to think outside the box and acquire higher level thinking skills. UIL activities are created to challenge students to tackle issues of importance, and to provide students with the opportunity to practice and master specific academic skills in and outside of the classroom.

Parents continue to encourage your students to par-

From Debbie Serrano



Odem Intermediate will be celebrating Read Across America the last week of February. There will be dress up days each day as well as guest readers on Friday, March 2. The dress up days are as follows.

**MONDAY - CAT IN THE HAT – WEAR RED AND WHITE**

QUOTE FOR THE DAY – YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES. YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE.

**TUESDAY - GREEN EGGS AND HAM – WEAR GREEN**

QUOTE FOR THE DAY : TODAY YOU ARE YOU, THAT IS TRUER THAN TRUE. THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE WHO IS YOUER THAN YOU.

**WEDNESDAY - WACKY WEDNESDAY – WEAR MIXED MATCH CLOTHING (NO HAIR COLOR)**

QUOTE FOR THE DAY – WHY FIT IN WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT!

**THURSDAY - O THE PLACES YOU'LL GO – COLLEGE SHIRT**

QUOTE FOR THE DAY: THE MORE YOU READ. THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN. THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO.

**FRIDAY- FOX IN SOCKS – WEAR**

# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks

### From Yolanda Alvaro, Director Special Ed./Dyslexia

The Dyslexia Program used in OEISD is Take Flight. Take Flight was designed and written at The Texas Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. This program includes five components of effective reading instruction supported by the National Reading Panel research.

- 1) **Phonemic awareness** in Take Flight includes a systematic exploration of the articulation of phonemes and is fully integrated within decoding and spelling instruction.
- 2) All phoneme-grapheme correspondence rules are introduced over a shorter time than previous programs, allowing time for practice toward accuracy and automaticity in the application of **phonics skills** and for more guided reading practice with controlled and regular text. Also, there is an expanded use of etymology in teaching word analysis strategies.
- 3) **Vocabulary** is expanded and enriched by developing morphological knowledge, word relationships, figurative language, syntax and semantics by direct instruction and in the context of reading.
- 4) **Fluency** instruction incorporates guided and timed repeated reading of decodable words, phrases and connected text. Incentives, concrete measures of progress and daily home practice are also important elements of fluency training.
- 5) A combination of techniques is used for instruction in **reading comprehension**, including comprehension monitoring, question generation, story structure, summarizing and inferencing. Students also learn how to utilize graphic and semantic organizers when reading narrative

### From Dr. Lidamar Yruegas ELAR CS

Yruegasl@oeisd.org

State assessment time can be a stressful time of the year. As the time to take these tests approaches, stress the importance of the test, be available to review with your child, and make suggestions that will help your child keep calm. If you come up with a quick activity to help your child de-stress on their own throughout the test, make sure that it can be done quietly, independently, and will take a couple of seconds. For example, the activity could consist of closing their eyes, counting to ten, and taking a deep breath. The night before the test, have your child gather clothes and anything else he or she will need the next day. This will eliminate any scrambling around in the morning and prevent any unnecessary jitters. You want to also make sure that your child eats a healthy breakfast so that he or she has the stamina to stay focused throughout the test. Overall, the best thing you can do as a parent is reassure your child that he or she will do well, and show him or her that you have faith in his or her abilities. Your love and support will help your child's confidence as he or she endures the often dreaded STAAR test.

### From Sonia Gamez SCI CS

gamezS@oeisd.org

Hello OEISD Families!

The second semester is in full swing at OEISD and students are highly engaged in meaningful learning. While all grade levels continue higher order thinking and investigations of science concepts, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Biology students are additionally preparing for their performance on their science STAAR exams.

#### Elementary and Intermediate Science:

Students are engaged in kinesthetic and tactile lessons to help promote foundational scientific learning. Students in PreK-3 have spent the past weeks observing the incubation of eggs and now have chicks in their classroom!

Third grade students continue their exploration of space as they prepare reports and models based on research. Additionally, students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade use models made up of beads to compare the relative size differences of planets and objects in the solar system.

# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks

From  
Traci Pogue



poguet@oeisd.org

## Tips for Building an English Vocabulary

*Learning the vocabulary of any new language is considered to be the key to understanding what students hear or read during the school day. It is very helpful for English Language Learners to build their English vocabulary as quickly as possible to increase learning of both the English language and new concepts and ideas.*

### Remember the Basics! Practice makes perfect!

- Learning a new language takes time to comprehend and practice. Be realistic about how quickly your student can progress and be patient!
- Making mistakes is part of the learning process.
- Students are both active and passive learners. They typically "understand" and "recognize" new English words before they are comfortable "speaking" or



From  
Jana  
Kieschnick

kieschnickj@oeisd.org

What can parents do for their gifted and talented child? Children have strengths in different areas, whether in math; language arts; physical, natural, and social sciences; music; visual and performing arts; leadership; athletics; philanthropy; or some other field. To help bright children discover what they do best, we need to help them by doing the following:

- Be attentive to your child's comments and observations.
- Create an environment that promotes self-expression.
- Promote exploration and discovery.
- Emphasize effort and progress rather than perfection.
- Show your child how mistakes can be opportunities to discover and learn.
- Model positive ways to ad-

From Lisa Flores

## CTE

floresL@oeisd.org

In CTE News...February is CTE Month!

Take a look at all of the free resources available to students and families. At [www.texascareercheck.com](http://www.texascareercheck.com), you can explore careers and the education needed for the career that interests your student. Take a look and compare the cost between two schools. At [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com), you will learn the amount of money you will need to earn to pay for your living expenses. You can then choose an occupation to review if its salary will support your lifestyle. If you have questions about college, check out [www.texasgearup.com](http://www.texasgearup.com) to help answer all of your college questions. Don't forget that at OHS, we have students who have firsthand knowledge in welding, electrician, CNA or nurse's aide, phlebotomy and EKG. We also have students working toward a Microsoft Word certification. Next month we will have speakers and students ready to an-

# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks

From  
Tony Ramirez  
**Social Studies CS**

ramirezA@oeisd.org

Students at Odem Intermediate have been very busy during the 4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks learning about our nation's expansion during the 1800's. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students spent some time on Westward Expansion and our country's growth towards the Pacific Ocean. They made Sensory Figures in which they used the 5 senses in order to explain what life was like during this era for Native Americans and pioneers as they came into contact with one another. Learning about these topics now will serve these students well in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 11<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classes in the future.

From Armando Huerta  
**Athletics Director**

First and foremost, the Odem athletic department would like to encourage all the young owls in the district to follow and take interest in our athletic programs. We are currently in the most active part of our school year in terms of athletics. JH basketball has finished and track is beginning. HS basketball teams have begun their playoff runs, as all spring sports are commencing. We currently have kids in tennis, powerlifting, baseball, and softball in addition to the varsity basketball teams.

Both JH basketball programs had strong seasons. The girls' teams had two district champions and a runner up. 8A (6-3; runner up), 8B (7-0; champs), 7A (9-0; champs), and 7B (5-2). The boy's side featured a clean sweep of district championships. 8A (14-2, 10-0), 8B (9-1, 8-0), 7A (13-3, 10-0), and 7B (9-1, 8-0). All JH athletes are currently preparing for their first track meet here in Odem on Thursday.

The HS basketball programs are currently in the playoffs. The varsity girls are sitting at (31-6, 10-0). They not only won a district championship, but have also claimed a Bi-District (83-34 over Dilley) and Area (64-26 over Santa Rosa) championship. The JV girls finished their season (13-6). The boys are (25-9, 10-0) and also district champions. They just won a Bi-District championship over Hebronville by a score of (84-62). The boy's JV blue team finished (19-3, 9-1) while the gold team finished (8-7).

All other athletes are in spring sports. The girls softball team is (5-1) and coming off of a tournament championship here at home last weekend. The track team just hosted the first meet of the season in which Luis Garcia took home a gold medal (shot put). Tennis has gone to a few meets. Powerlifting has had a couple kids already qualify for regionals. Baseball will open their season by hosting a sub-varsity tournament this weekend. Again we encourage all little owls and their families to

From  
Clarissa Moreno  
**Parent Involvement**

### News

Great jobs parents, we had a successful 4th Six weeks. OEISD staff would like to thank you for sending your child to school on time and ensuring they are prepared for class. Let's keep up the great work!

We have events coming up, so stay in tuned by using Living Tree. Below you will find the next available Parental Involvement Conference to attend. So, mark your calendars parents. Thank you to all OEISD parents who attended the Parental Involvement Conference in Robstown. We enjoyed Dr. Elliff's presentation covering the 40 strategies of superhero parents. I hope you left with valuable information.

### Updates

I will be sending out a letter and a flyer detailing information about the Parental Involvement Conference taking place on March 22, 2018 from 8:30am-2:15pm. If you would like to attend, please contact me at (361)726-2260.

### Events to Attend

#### *Elementary*

- Sinton Parental Involvement Conference 3/22/18

#### *Intermediate*

- Sinton Parental Involvement Conference 3/22/18

#### *Junior High*

- Sinton Parental Involvement Conference 3/22/18

#### *High School*

- Sinton Parental Involvement Conference 3/22/18

# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks

**From Yvette Maldonado  
Custodial Dept.**



With the Flu Season continuing to be very aggressive this year, our number one priority continues to be keeping our four campuses exceedingly cleaned and sanitized to prevent the spread of the flu virus.

Keeping our schools clean, create a positive learning environment for our OEISD students. This is our number one priority.

Please remind your children to always flush and to always wash their hands.

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

OEISD Custodial Department

Yvette Maldonado

[maldonadoy@oeisd.org](mailto:maldonadoy@oeisd.org)

**From Arnold  
Maintenance  
Dept.**



The maintenance department is ready to go for the 5th Six Weeks!

We have been working very hard in preparing our baseball field, softball field, and track and field for our spring athletic events.

Maintaining our grounds, clean and crisp continues to be our main goal.

We continue to ask for your assistance in observing the district's cross walks by stopping in these areas, this includes an upcoming project of having a new crosswalk between the football stadium and the HS sidewalk— we will be marking the road on this section and will be posting "Pedestrian Crossing" signs in these areas in the near future. And as always, please remember that 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: [villegasf@oeisd.org](mailto:villegasf@oeisd.org) so we can tend to those safety/security notices as soon as possible.

**OEISD Maintenance Dept.  
Arnold Maldonado  
361-368-8121, ext. 266**

**From  
Roel Arguelles  
Transportation  
Dept.**



The Transportation department is ready to roll into the 5th 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.

To all parents/guardians of our bus riders: It is very important that 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. Please remind your child(ren) to practice safe riding—stay in their seat while bus is moving; be courteous with fellow riders. If not following the rules, the student will get a bus conduct write up that will be submitted to your child's campus. Transporting our most precious cargo to and from school is our number one priority.

**OEISD Transportation Department  
Roel Arguelles-arguelles@oeisd.org**

361-368-8121, ext. 266

# ODEM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!



Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Six Weeks



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

Greetings!

As we prepare for the weeks ahead, which consist of benchmarks and STAAR the week of April 9th for 5th grade, we urge you to send your child to after school tutorials when available. These tutorials are being offered to assist your child with specific gaps in their math skills. These gaps need to be addressed so that your child can be prepared for their upcoming assessments and more importantly so that they can have greater success in upcoming math courses. Also, we highly encourage all students log on to Think Through Math once a night for at least thirty minutes. Because Think Through Math is web-based, your child can access the program from any computer that is connected to the Internet, whether at school, home, or the library.

Thank you,

Dr. Veronica Gutierrez  
Curriculum Director/Math Instructional Coach

From  
**Esmeralda Martinez**



**Who decides whether a student is qualified and eligible for services under Section 504?**

According to the federal regulations, placement decisions are to be made by a group of persons who are knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, placement options, least restrictive environment requirements, and comparable facilities.

Unlike Special Education, the federal regulations for Section 504 do not require or even mention that parents are to be a part of the decision-making committee. The decision to include parents in the decision-making committee is a determination that is made by each school district and should be spelled out in the district's procedures for implementing Section 504. Parents should at least be asked and encouraged to contribute any information that they may have (e.g., doctor's reports, outside testing reports, etc.) that would be helpful to the Section 504 committee in making their determination of what the child may need. Schools are expected to make sound educational decisions as to what the child needs in order to receive an appropriate education.

**Esmeralda R. Martinez**

**504 District Coordinator**

[martineze@oeisd.org](mailto:martineze@oeisd.org)

From  
**Lisa Perez**  
District Nurse



[perezL@oeisd.org](mailto:perezL@oeisd.org)

Children's Dental Health Month in February is a great time to focus on the fact that kids' dental health is just as important as their overall health. Developing good dental habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children to get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. Here are a few tips to help promote good dental health.

- It's best to brush for your children up to the age of eight. Sometimes they want to do it themselves and that's fine. You can take turns. If they're resistant, you can have a contest to see who can brush better.
- When they do start brushing for themselves there are lots of fun (and free) apps to help them brush for the right amount of time.
- They need to brush with a pea-sized amount of toothpaste, with a soft bristled brush, twice a day.
- Once the primary molars come in, their teeth should be flossed once a day. They'll likely need help with that until about age ten. Visit the dentist regularly, your child should visit the dentist twice a year for a checkup.