

ODEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE FUTURE BEGINS!

Volume 1, Issue 1

1st Six Weeks

Important Dates:

October—Every Thursday UIL Practice from 3:45 to 4:45 pm for 2nd Grade Creative Writing and Storytelling.

October 19th—OE Fund Raiser money and orders are due.

October 21st—OHS Fall Festival at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.—OHS Stadium.

October 23rd through 27th—Red Ribbon Week (Drug Free & Bully Free)

October 27th—No School (Teacher Planning Day).

October 31st—PK & Kindergarten Halloween Parade—8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.

November 2nd—Picture Retakes

From The Office Of The Principal

Esmeralda Martinez



Hello Odem Elementary Families!

We are off to a great 2017-18 school year! Teachers are establishing relationships with their students, cooking up success and building communities in their classrooms. It is exciting to see this happening in our school and see the evidence of this work show up in student learning. We will continue our focus on instruction and student learning as a priority throughout the school year.

Construction is still on-going to our front office area and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience as we continue to move forward in providing our OES students with a safer school and learning environment. Our cafeteria is in the last stages of renovation and we are very excited to begin utilizing it.

National Red Ribbon Campaign™. Since its beginning in 1985, the Red Ribbon has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. In response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction cause by drugs in America. In 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

Monday, October 23: 'Red'-y to be Drug and Bully Free! Wear Red

Tuesday, October 24: Kick Out Drugs and Bullying!

Wear Boots

Wednesday, October 25: Lei Out Drugs and Bullying!

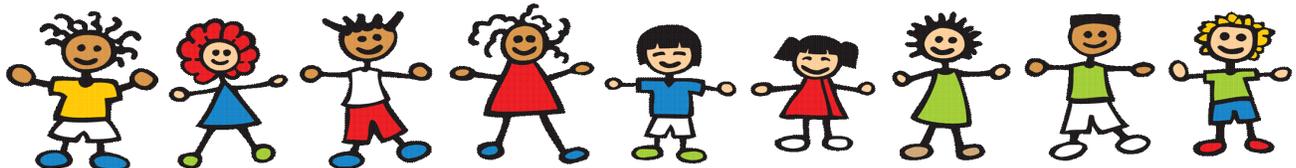
Wear Hawaiian

Thursday, October 26: Team Up Against Drugs and Bullying!

Wear Blue and Gold



We can send one large **ORANGE** message of support, hope, and unity to show that



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From
Dr. Veronica Gutierrez
Curriculum Dept.

Greetings!

As a parent, there is a lot you can do at home to help your elementary child in math. Mathematics is all around us! Why not use everyday situations to make math fun? The following activities represent just a sampling of the many everyday situations that involve mathematics and ways you can nurture your child's mathematical development during these activities.

- Count, count, and count! Young children love to count and will count everything and anything. Encourage your child to count out loud the number of blocks she has, steps climbed, or crackers on his/her plate.
- Practice classifying by separating toys into sets, such as cars, blocks, or dolls. Ask questions related to size or quantity: Which is larger? Which is largest? Which is smaller? Which is smallest? Do you have more dolls or more bears? Are there fewer dolls or fewer bears?
- Find two and three-dimensional geometric shapes, such as circles and spheres.
- Let your child help set the table. Fold napkins as rectangles one day, then as triangles the next. Find the number of chairs needed to match the places set. Determine the number of knives, forks, and spoons needed.
- Let your child sort the laundry. Before washing, have your child sort the piles by colors or by family members.
- Practice counting and making change. Ask your child to help you figure out how much money you have in your pocket. Let your child pick out the paper currency and change needed when making a purchase, and have your child tell you how much change you should get back.

I would also like to recommend reading the book "Helping Your Child with Math". It is available free at <http://www.math.com/parents/articles/helpmath.html>. This book provides 26 activities for kids ages 5 to 13. The activities use items you would already have around your home. The following links also provide many activities to do with your child at home.

From
Esmeralda Martinez



As the district's 504 coordinator, I would like to take the opportunity to share some information regarding the Section 504 Program. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is a federal civil rights statute which protects the rights of persons with disabilities. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities and allows them to participate freely in both public elementary and secondary education. The 504 Plan is a plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment. Included in the U.S. Department of Education regulation for Section 504 is the requirement that disabled students be provided with Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). These regulations require identification, evaluation, the provision of appropriate services, and procedural safeguards. An eligible student is a student who is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity such as learning. Major life activities include walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks. The disability must substantially limit learning activities for the student to be eligible for 504 educational services. If you have any questions, please contact me at 361-368-3881 x 239.

Esmeralda R. Martinez

martineze@oeisd.org

Odem Elementary Principal

District 504 Coordinator

From
Lisa Perez
District Nurse



Message from the School Nurse:

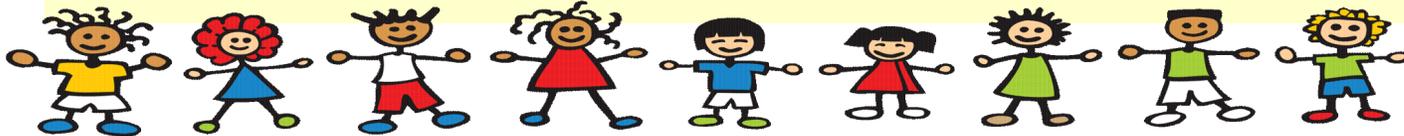
Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. "Every flu season is different, and we don't know ahead of time when we're going to start to see flu circulation," reports CDC. You should get a flu vaccine before flu begins spreading in our community. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against flu, so make plans to get vaccinated early in fall, before flu season begins. CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later.

Lisa Perez, RN

perezl@oeisd.org

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From Yvette Maldonado
Custodial Dept.



Why a Clean School Can Impact Student Success

With nearly 22 million school days lost annually to the common cold, preventing the spread of germs depends heavily on maintaining a clean school. There are many hotspots for bacteria in a school environment, and, adding to the challenge, cold and flu viruses can live on surfaces anywhere from a few seconds to 48 hours, making these areas highly dangerous when not routinely disinfected.

We all know having a clean school promotes a healthy environment, but a clean school can also lead to student success.

Keeping our four campuses highly cleaned and sanitized is our number one GOAL as a TEAM.

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.

From Arnold
Maintenance
Dept.



From Arnold Maintenance Dept.

The 1st Six Weeks for the 2017-2018 school year has ended. It was a very busy and productive six weeks for the maintenance department.

We are working hard on repairing and continuing to maintain our A/C units, grounds, football field and any maintenance problem that arises.

We 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. 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.

During Football games here at Owl Stadium, we ask that you please help us keep it clean by throwing your trash after every game. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

The Odem Pool Park belongs to us all—Help us keep it open by keeping it LITTER FREE and taking great care of it.

Maintenance Department Support
Learning Through Service

361-368-8121, ext. 266

From
Roel Arguelles
Transportation
Dept.



The Transportation department has rolled through the 1st Six Weeks for the 2017-2018 school year.

Thank you parents for your patience and understanding as we worked hard on getting all our riders on their route buses.

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

We are currently having some issues with A/C units in some of our buses, rest assure that we are in the process of getting all this issues repaired.

For the safety of our students we are asking all parents and the Odem Community to 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.

Transportation Department

Rolling Out Success at OEISD

arguellesr@oeisd.org

361-368-8121, ext. 266

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 **Form**
Leigh Ann Ray
Parent Liaison - Birth - 3

My name is Leigh Ann Ray and I will be serving as the District Liaison for children and parents of our community birth -three years old.

My goal is to serve our community by supporting our parents of our very youngest as we work jointly to prepare them to be excellent readers and overall students when they begin school here in Odem-Edroy ISD.

Please look for communications soon on upcoming activities for these parents and students. You can find these updates on the main district website and Face Book at www.oeisd.org

I look forward to working with each of you and please feel free to contact me if you should have questions.

rayl@oeisd.org

From Melissa Vela
District Coordinator



Parents,

Hello, my name is Melissa Vela and I am the UIL coordinator for the district. I look forward to working with all campuses, and having a successful year in all aspects of UIL competition from academics to athletics.

As the end of the six weeks is winding down, it is imperative that students stay on top of their grades. In order to participate in any UIL extra-curricular activities, including athletics, band, cheerleading and academic competitions, students must be considered "eligible" to participate. In most cases, this means that students must maintain an average of 70 or above on their six weeks grading report.

If a student does not meet these passing standards, they will become "ineligible" to participate in extra-curricular activities for a specified period of time. With that being said, students can still practice with their team before or after school, but they will not be permitted to travel with the team or participate in any competitions. Students will have an opportunity to regain eligibility at the three week progress report period, but the student must be passing all of their classes, not just the class the student failed previously. If the student does not regain eligibility at this time, the student will have the opportunity to regain eligibility again at the end of the next six weeks grading period.

In order to keep your child participating in all events at school, be active in monitoring your child's academic progress regularly. Sign up for the parent portal, contact your child's teacher, sign up for Living Tree notifications, and communicate with your child in order to ensure an "owlstanding" school year.

Melissa Vela

velam@oeisd.org

From Debbie Serrano



All 4 campus libraries are open and bustling with patrons! The librarians have worked at making a comfortable and welcoming environment for our OEISD students. Our staff includes

Becky Rackley-Odem Elementary

Debbie Serrano- Odem Intermediate

Claudina Perez-Odem Jr High

Felicia Lopez-Odem High School

Accelerated Reading will start on Monday, October 9 for elementary, intermediate and junior high campuses. The librarians and teachers are working together to help students achieve their reading goals every 6 weeks. Incentives are planned after each 6 weeks to reward students who have met or surpassed their goals. There are also end of the year field trips planned for students who meet their goals each 6 weeks all year.

The high school library is utilized daily by students who need to research, use technology, or quiet place to work or study. College level classes are also held in the library. Mrs. Lopez has technology devices for use for students to research or finish projects in the library.

We have begun a fundraiser to help with costs for incentives and field trips. Each library will have brag tags for sale. Brag tags will be spirit tags, seasonal tags, and popular emoji and current trend tags. Each tag is \$2. Students will also receive a free one from the library each 6 weeks when they reach their AR goals.

All librarians are looking forward to an exciting

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From Yolanda Alvaro, Director Special Ed./Dyslexia

Special education is specially designed instruction, support, and services provided to students with an identified disability requiring an individually designed instructional program to meet their unique learning needs. The purpose of special education is to enable students to successfully develop to their fullest potential by providing a free appropriate public education in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Parents who have children in Special Education play an important role in their child's education. It is imperative that we work together as partners to develop an appropriate IEP for your child. Odem Edroy ISD offers services to meet the needs of each student in the least restrictive environment ensuring access to the general education curriculum. We believe in inclusive education to the maximum extent appropriate. Years of research has consistently demonstrated that the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms results in favorable outcomes.

At OEISD we have great staff that is equipped to ensure that every child, regardless of needs and abilities is empowered to achieve to his or her potential. The goal of our program is to assist students in developing into self sufficient young adults. We have high expectations for all of our students regardless of their disability. Our staff works diligently to increase student engagement and decrease time off task as students take more ownership of their work. We realize that in Special Education there may be acronyms or terms used that you may be unfamiliar with, for this reason we encourage you to ask questions during your meeting as well as contact us if needed. We look forward to working as partners with you to ensure your child is receiving the best education to the maximum extent appropriate. Feel free to contact our department should you have any questions.

Dyslexia is one of the most common learning disabilities affecting Texas. This lifelong disorder can be detrimental to a child's education or an adult's professional development by inhibiting interpretation of spoken and written language.

With proper diagnosis, individuals can be taught appropriate, systematic and structured methods of learning that enable them to excel in their school and work environments. The dedication and understanding of family, teachers, and coworkers can greatly help those with dyslexia achieve success.

To raise awareness of this learning disability, **October** has been designated Dyslexia Awareness Month. It is

From Dr. Lidamar Yruegas ELAR CS



Next six weeks our K-2nd grade students will begin the Book It Program. Your child will set a monthly reading goal and if his or her goal is met, he or she will receive a Reading Award Certificate. This certificate can be redeemed for a free one-topping Personal Pan Pizza from Pizza Hut. Please encourage your child to strive to meet this monthly goal and together we can foster a love for reading!

Dr. Lidamar Gracia Yruegas, Ed. D

Odem-Edroy Independent School District

OJH Assistant Principal & ELA-R Spec

From Sonia Gamez SCI CS

Science is all around us. Children have a natural curiosity about the world around them. From observing and finding patterns in nature to helping with meal preparation, families are encouraged to help foster critical thinking skills at home that will greatly promote scientific thinking.

Elementary and Intermediate Age:

- Encourage children to use sensory observation skills to introduce a wide range of materials and natural phenomena.
- Encourage children to question how and why things work the manner in which they do. Ask questions such as "What would happen if...?"
- Visit museums, zoos, and natural parks to integrate new surroundings.
- Lead discussions on current weather events or let children assist with problem solving to troubleshoot household problems.

Secondary Age:

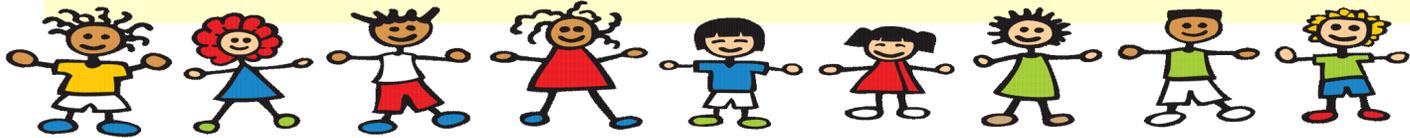
- Explore science during family vacations; such as hiking trips or beach vacations.
- Explore measurement and chemical reactions through cooking and baking.
- Visit museums, planetariums, zoos, and galleries.
- Watch the news for medical breakthroughs and scientific explorations.
- Investigate careers in science.

We also encourage students to incorporate technology time with science-based concepts and simulations. The integration of technology will enhance student interest and build on instruction obtained in the classroom.

gamezs@oeisd.org

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From Tony Ramirez Social Studies CS

Students at Odem Elementary have been busy this 1st Six Weeks celebrating Freedom Week. They have studied some of the different celebrations in America and their significance. 2nd grade students learned the importance of these celebrations by creating picture tabs of these important dates. They also created timelines in their study of our important historical past.

ramirezto@oeisd.org

From Armando Huerta Athletics Director

With school well underway, the Odem athletic department would like to encourage all the young owls in the district to follow and take interest in our athletic programs. Currently we have football, volleyball, and cross country in season. JH volleyball has games on Mondays while JH football has games on Thursdays. JH volleyball remaining home games are on Oct. 16 and 23. JH football remaining home games are on Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 2. HS volleyball has its four remaining games on the road, but should begin the playoffs soon. HS football has two remaining home games. Friday Oct. 20 is Little Owl Night and all young football players and cheer leaders are encouraged to attend the game to spend some time on the field. Last home game will be Friday Nov. 10. The cross country regular season will be over this week as the district meets take place on Wed/Thur. 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.odemowlathletics.com.



From Clarissa Moreno

Parent Involvement
Coordinator

News

Great jobs parents, we have had a successful first six weeks. 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!

Updates

Activities to attend

Elementary

- Fundraiser Kick OFF 10/12
- Living Tree-Coming Soon
- Literacy Night 11/7

Intermediate

- Fundraiser Kick OFF 10/10
- Living Tree--Coming Soon
- Literacy Night 11/7
- Dodgeball Tournament 11/17

Junior High

- Living Tree--Coming Soon

High School

- Living Tree--Coming Soon

Resources

The link below includes articles about *Tips for Your*

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From
Joey Avila
Technology Dept.

It was a busy summer here at Odem ISD and we are excited to have you back. The technology here was upgraded during this summer and we now have an updated network infrastructure that can handle all of our district network and wireless needs. We have added devices and interactive projectors to the classroom, cameras and access control to the new campuses, and much more. Thanks for your support and we will continue moving forward with tech here at OEISD.

avilaj@oeisd.org

From
Janie Luna
Cafeteria Dept.



lunaj@oeisd.org

361-368-8121 x 264

Food Service Newsletter

The staff of the Odem-Edroy School Lunch Program would like to welcome you back to another great school year. Our mission is to provide healthy and nutritious foods. Our staff is committed to serving fresh foods prepared daily in our central kitchen as well as positive customer service opportunities through out our cafeteria serving area.

Due to USDA Regulations, we were required to increase our meals prices for the upcoming school year in response to a provision called lunch price equity. Lunch price equity is a process in which the USDA requires a school lunch program align its paid lunch prices to more accurately reflect the reimbursement money paid by the USDA for free meals.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications: Odem -Edroy schools participate in School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Free and Reduced meals