



OCES Newsflyer

December 2013

Principal's Message



I am writing this message after a fantastic American Education Week! Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and many other community members visited OCES during this special week. Staff and students love the opportunity to "show off" their learning and their school. We had a total of 888 visitors! This kind of support puts smiles on the faces of children and adults alike.

I want to take this time to thank those who visited

and those who wished that they could have visited (sometimes commitments make it tough). Thank you for honoring our faculty and staff who provide a high quality education and maintain a beautiful facility. Thank you for honoring your little one and for recognizing their success in learning. Finally, thank you for your commitment towards your child's education.

I encourage everyone to continue this community effort towards supporting our future doctors, nurses, mechanics, cosmetologists,

business people and my favorite, educators! We are all in this together.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our families for thinking of others. The holiday food and toy drive is taking place in our building. Each morning on the announcements, a student shares what they sacrificed to help someone else. This message of sacrifice supports the "caring heart" piece of our motto. I am so proud of our children!

I trust you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will have a heartwarming Holiday Season.

Mrs. Dawn Rogers,
Principal
Mrs. Karen Marx,
Asst. Principal
Mrs. Linda McGean,
School Counselor
OCES Phone:
410-632-5370

Dates to Remember:

- ☺ **12/5** Berlin Christmas Parade
- ☺ **12/9** Science Fair Open House 3:50-4:30
- ☺ **12/7** OC Christmas Parade 11:00 am
- ☺ **12/6-12** PTA Holiday Gift Shop
- ☺ **12/19** Grade 3 Music Program 6:30 p.m.
- ☺ **12/20** Holiday Spirit Day
- ☺ **12/23-1/5** Christmas/Winter Break
- ☺ **1/9/14** PTA Conference Night 6:00-8:00
- ☺ **1/10** Humane Society Fund Drive begins
- ☺ **1/13** Tech Fest Entries due
- ☺ **1/20** School Closed -Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Did You Know...



- During **American Education Week** over 888 family members visited classrooms. Thank you for visiting us!
- School **starts** at **8:25** each morning and **ends** each day at **3:30**—make sure your child is here each and every day!
- **Box Tops for Education** are collected all year long. The next collection date is 2/21/14. The goal this year is \$3,500.

Please help PTA meet that goal and send those boxtops in!

- **Jump Rope for Heart** for **1st** grade will be **January 23rd** during school hours and for **2nd-4th** it will be **January 30th** after school. Watch for more information!
- **Tech Fest** packets have been sent home to those interested. It's not too late to request one. Send a note to Mrs. Nuttle.
- **January 9th** is PTA

Conference Night from 6-8 p.m. We will see you there!



The OCES Motto

I have a **Curious** Mind,
A **Caring** Heart,
and the
Courage to never give up!



Star Citizens



Congratulations to the following Star Citizens, who were caught/observed making great choices! They are:

Owen Phillips
Sasha Yonyak
Donnie Rivera-Gauntner
Jordan Hitchens
Sharleaha Dale

Change of Transportation

Anytime there is a need to make a change in your child's transportation, be it bus or pick up, **PLEASE** take the time to fill out the Change of Transportation form at home that is in your child's folder. Please do not call the office to make verbal changes unless it is an emergency!

Winter Coats

We have a limited number of new and gently used winter coats. If you would like a winter coat for your child, please send a note to Mrs. McGean including your child's name, size and teacher's name. We will do our best to meet all needs.

Curriculum Connection

The English Language Arts and Literacy Standards have clearly defined goals for each grade level. Ocean City students in Pre-Kindergarten through fourth grade are working hard to meet the expectations that are defined in each grade level so they will be well prepared for the next grade. The following provides examples of what your child will be working on in each grade level and what you can do with your child to support learning at home.

In **third grade**, children are reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a text. They are comparing the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic. Students are reading stories and poems aloud fluently and are able to distinguish between literal and nonliteral meanings of words. Parents can reinforce these skills at home by making reading a part of your child's daily routine and start a family vocabulary box or jar, where family members write down new words they discover and share them with the family.

In **fourth grade**, children are paying close attention to key features of informational books and articles, these include understanding the main idea and supporting details, being able to compare and contrast information, and explain how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points. Children are also independently conducting short research projects on different aspects of a topic, using evidence from books and the internet. Parents can reinforce these skills at home by picking one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.

This information and more can be found on the National PTA website.

Accreditation For Growth

As part of the AFG (Accreditation for Growth) Process, representatives of northern schools in Worcester County and community stakeholders worked together to develop the Worcester Northern Schools AFG Mission Statement that hangs in the front hallway of our school.

Worcester Northern Schools AFG Mission Statement

The mission of Worcester County Northern Schools, a diverse and growing community, is to provide a rigorous, sequential, and balanced curriculum for all students to become responsible lifelong learners.

This will be accomplished through instructional excellence in partnership with family and community in a safe, caring, and well-maintained environment.

We will recognize the uniqueness of each student's role as a productive citizen in an ever changing world.

ocelementary.weebly.com

The new OCES website has it all! Forms, calendars, news and information, as well as links to other valuable websites may be found here. Check it out!!

Delays in School Openings for Fog, Bad Weather, or Emergency Closings

Listen to the local radio and TV stations **or** call the Hotline at: 410-632-5399, Access #6600 **or** access the Board of Education's Website at: www.worcesterk12.com



Stand Up, Speak Up!



In December the *Stand Up, Speak Up* program is highlighting the positive attribute of "Tolerance." Tolerance is a willingness to recognize and respect the beliefs or practices of others, especially when they are different than yours

The following scenario was shared with students. Ask your child what he/she would do in this situation.

"You have a new student in your class who does not speak English. At lunch some of your classmates are making fun of the food she is eating and the clothes she is wearing.

What would YOU do?"

AFG Kid-Friendly Mission Statement

AFG for you and me-

AFG will help us see-

We're all different, that's okay-

It helps us learn and grow each day!

We set a goal to take us far-

We work really hard to be a star.

Home, school, and community-

Cooperation is the key.

AFG will help us plan-

So we can be the best we can!!!



November Students of the Month

Congratulations to the November Students of the Month. These students exhibited leadership and responsibility without being reminded. The lunch for these students was sponsored by the Ocean City-Berlin OptiMs. If you are interested in being a sponsor for the Student of the Month program, please contact Mrs. McGean at 410-632-5381.

Grade 1: Chloe Kohut, Justin Udzielak, Solomon David, Mallory Kerrigan, Holden Bunting and Chloe Paddack.

Grade 2: Abigail Melito, Josh Myrick, Mira Demissie, Kaylee Leakan, Jacob Hicks (absent), Rowan Wilkins, and Hannah Campbell (last month).

Grade 3: Kayla Brady, Sophia Krasner, Riley Moyer, Arlenni Rodriguez-Carpio, Julianna Johnston, and Anas Omar.

Grade 4: Mackayla Barrett, Molli Spicer, Madison Dang, Abigail Greenwood, Megan Wheeler and Brenner Gursky.

PTA News & Information

The Holidays are upon us, and so much is going on at OCES. As always, volunteers are always needed, so please contact Kandy Davis, (443-944-1608) or any of the PTA officers if you are interested in helping or even making a donation for the many fundraisers that go on throughout the year. Note the upcoming events:

- ◆ The **Holiday Shoppe** is open December 4th through the 11th. This is a fundraiser and a chance for students to purchase surprise gifts for loved ones at a very low cost.
- ◆ Watch for a list of your student's **Teacher's Favorite Things** for holiday gift ideas in back pack mail in early December.
- ◆ Please keep collecting the **Box Tops for Education! The next collection is February 21.** Help us meet the goal of \$3500.
- ◆ Watch for the **Five Below Fundraiser** flyer. As we get closer to the holidays, Five Below will return 10% of purchases made back to OCES/PTA.
- ◆ Help the PTA earn cash back by signing up at your favorite grocery store. A flyer was sent home mid October.

Tech Fest Projects

Please let Mrs. Nuttle know the type of project your child will be creating for Tech Fest by January 6, 2014. The final project(s) are not due until January 13, 2014, but we need to have an idea of the number of projects, in order to have a sufficient number of judges available for the County Tech Fest.

Need a Tech Fest Packet? Send in a note with your child. There's still time to get them!!

If you need assistance with a project, please contact Mrs. Nuttle or Mr. Haines at school.

Good Luck! Technology is Fun!

Accelerated Reader Update

As of December 4th the following data reflects the success of the AR Reading Program.

Number of Students Gr.1-4:
467

Book Tests Passed Successfully:
8,503

Points Earned for the AR Store:
9,150

Schoolwide Reading Comprehension:
86%

Words Read:
51,494,434

% of Books Independently Read:
67%

% of Fiction Read: **89%**

% of NonFiction Read: **11%**

MSA Testing Dates

Test	Grade	Date(s)
Reading	3 & 4	March 3,4
Math	3 & 4	March 5,6

Research indicates that students who test with their class in the regular classroom do better on tests than those who are tested at other times. Please put these dates on your calendar.

We are asking that you not plan family vacations during these testing dates.

2013 Educators Community Foundation Grants

Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) and Cedar Chapel Special School were recently awarded 2013 Education Award Grants from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

OCES was awarded a grant to support the school's first grade STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program. The grant will be used to purchase digital microscopes and iPads. "The digital devices will support hands-on inquiry-based science instruction that supports a universal design for learning," explained OCES Principal Dawn Rogers. "The devices will also help ensure that all students are immersed in unique learning experiences. In preparing students to be college and career ready, our first grade teachers hope to provide rich learning experiences that permit our students to generate ownership of their learning."

With the Community Foundation's

education grant, innovative software will be purchased by CCSS. According to CCSS Principal Belinda Gulyas, the software will provide educators with the ability to assess, monitor and scaffold reading and listening comprehension for students with moderate to significant cognitive disabilities. The Community Foundation of

the Eastern Shore recently honored schools and educators with over \$50,000 in grants through the Foundations 2013 Education Award Grants Program. The Community Foundation awards grants to schools whose programs enhance learning experience for students through creativity and innovation.

Pictured is CCSS Principal Belinda Gulyas, OCES Principal Dawn Rogers, OCES 1st grade teacher Windy Phillips and Mr. Lou Taylor, WCPS Chief Operating Officer.





Mr. Bud Church visited Mrs. Justice's 4th grade class during **American Education Week**. One of Mrs. Justice's students had written a letter inviting Mr. Church to her classroom to observe all the wonderful subjects that she is learning about at OCES.

OCES was pleased to welcome Maryland State Superintendent, Dr. Lillian Lowery, during **American Education Week**. Dr. Lowery was invited by one of Ms. Purcell's 4th grade students.

Pictured from left to right: 4th grade student, Dr. Lowery, student, Dr. Wilson, Worcester County School Superintendent, student, Dr. Lowery, Ms. Purcell and Mrs. Rogers.

2014-2015 Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

The goal of Pre-Kindergarten in the public schools is to provide learning experiences to help young children build their skills so they are more likely to do well in school. To be eligible for the Pre-Kindergarten program, children must be **four years old on or before September 1, 2014**. In addition, they also must be from families that are economically disadvantaged or homeless. All economically disadvantaged children who apply must be enrolled first; however, if there are spaces left, other children may be enrolled.

*Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2014 **must** register for Kindergarten.*
*Children who are currently attending Pre-Kindergarten at OCES **must** register for Kindergarten.*

We will begin making appointments for registration on January 15, 2014. Please call Ocean City Elementary School on January 15, 2014 at (410) 632-5370 to schedule a registration appointment.

Kindergarten registration will occur on March 19th and 20th.

Pre-Kindergarten registration takes place on April 9th & 10th.

The following documents must be brought to the registration appointment:

- **Birth Certificate (not a birth registration notice)**
- **Social Security Card**
- **Current Immunization Record**
- **Proof of Residency in the Ocean City Elementary School district (deed, lease, or utility bill that lists a service area in the OCES district)**
- **For PreK registration only: proof of income (2013 income tax return)**



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