



OCES Newsflyer

January 2014

Principal's Message



Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2014 is already here! The school year is quickly passing by. It is important for us to continue to communicate in order for parents know what is happening at OCES. We also want you to be informed about what your children are learning. As you may know, one type of communication includes our OCES Website. Some of its components include: calendars, lunch menu, newsletter, forms, links to educational websites and

apps, staff directory and much more. We are adding a new component in January. It will feature a video clip of one of our teachers demonstrating what students are learning and doing in a particular content area. We want to help parents hear and see firsthand what is taking place in the classroom. That will help their children learn and be prepared for the next school year. The foundation of a child's learning begins the minute they enter school! This is essential in order for them to become college and career ready. Tune in to our web-site, ocelementary.weebly.com, and take a

look at our curriculum. We will also offer another form of communication. **Remind 101** is a phone app that allows the school to send out reminders of events and other information. More information will follow on this communication resource.

Please know that my door is open to all parents and stakeholders as we work together to help our children succeed one day as an adult. Take time to enjoy each aspect of their childhood. Take it from a mom of two grown daughters, time goes by quickly! I am very thankful to be sharing 2014 with my OCES family. Wishing you all a wonderful

Did You Know...

- 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 first collection earned the PTA \$1,200.00 The goal this collection is \$2,300.00. Please help PTA meet the yearly goal of \$3,500.00 and send in those boxtops!
- **Jump Rope for Heart** for 1st grade will be **January 23rd** during school hours and for **2nd-4th** it will be **January 30th** 3:00-5:15 for students.
- ocelementary.weebly.com is our school's website. Check it out for great apps, information, news, etc.
- The **Accelerated Reading** program is in need of donations for the incentive store that is held twice a month. Please call Mrs. Nuttle if you are interested in

donating such items as beanie babies, certificates for mini golf, food, etc. 'Kid Friendly' items are always welcomed! Thank You!



The OCES Motto

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

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

Dates to Remember:

- ☺ **1/14** Worcester County Science Fair at WTHS 6:00
- ☺ **1/20** No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ☺ **1/21** Hit the Books Reading Program begins
- ☺ **1/23** Jump Rope for Heart-1st Grade during school hours
- ☺ **1/24** Half day for students
- ☺ **1/27** Schools closed for students
- ☺ **1/30** Jump Rope for Heart-2nd-4th Grade 3:00-5:15
- ☺ **2/13** Worcester County Tech Fest at WTHS
- ☺ **2/14** Have a Heart Spirit Day—wear red, school colors, school apparel, etc.
- ☺ **2/21** Last day to turn in BoxTops for Education



Websites



Below is the website for the Worcester County Public Library. Check out the kids/teen page for great activities. Use your library card to access many of the resources! Library cards are FREE! Get one today!

www.worcesterlibrary.org

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!

From the School Nurse

Outside recess will continue during winter months so please dress your child appropriately for the weather. As a reminder, please do not send with your child cough drops, cough medicine or any other medication to school. All medication needs to be brought in by an adult with a doctor's order for the nurse to administer at school. Thank you!

Curriculum Connection

PARCC Field Testing

This year a randomly selected group of students in grades 3 and 4 will be taking the PARCC Field Test. The new PARCC assessment, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, will replace the Maryland School Assessment for the 2014 – 2015 school year. Each school in Worcester County is participating in some type of PARCC field testing this school year. The purpose of the field test is to examine the quality of items in order that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014 – 2015 school year; pilot assessment administration procedures; and give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments. The PARCC field test will include a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and an End-of-Year Assessment (EOY). Both types of assessments will be taken online. The selected third grade students will be taking the PARCC field test in Math, while the selected fourth grade students will be taking the PARCC field test in English Language Arts (ELA). Students who participate in the PARCC field test will not have to take that content in MSA, but they will be required to take the other content for the MSA test. So if they take the ELA in PARCC, they will not take the MSA reading test but will take the MSA math test. The students participating in the PARCC field test will be taking the Performance Based Assessment during the testing window of March 24th – April 11th. Those same students will also complete the PARCC End-Of-Year Assessment during the testing window of May 5th – June 6th. A letter notifying parents of their child's selection for the PARCC field test will be sent home sometime in the upcoming weeks. If you would like more information about the PARCC assessment, please visit the website www.parcconline.org.

Music Matters

The students in Mr. Chapman's music classes have been listening to and reading about Felix Mendelssohn. Mendelssohn was an 18th century composer from Germany. We have been listening to excerpts from A Midsummer Night's Dream, a work inspired by the play by William Shakespeare. The children have been surprised to learn that the famous wedding song, used as many brides come down the aisle, was actually composed by Mendelssohn and comes from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

All students are now performing station work. During each unit, students are graded on their performance skills in keyboard and rhythm instruments. In addition, they will receive grades on written responses while listening to music, and on activity sheets that include reading about Mendelssohn and answering questions using the text.

The O.C.Stars will begin rehearsals again during the week of January 13. I was extremely proud of our many performances during the holiday season and look forward to preparing for new challenges in the spring. Thank you for your wonderful support during our traveling adventures.



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.



Stand Up, Speak Up!



In January the *Stand Up, Speak Up* anti-bullying program is highlighting the positive attribute of “respect.” Respect is treating ourselves, others and the world around us with consideration, care and dignity. We show respect when we treat others the way we want to be treated, when we accept other’s differences, and when we are patient.

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

“A boy trips and drops his lunch tray. Several students laugh. You try to help and a student from another table grabs your arm and tells you not to.

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!!!

Thank You!

The OCES Administration and office staff would like to give thanks to everyone who brought wonderful snacks, candies, treats, and homemade baked goods into the office to enjoy prior to our winter break. It was a pleasure sharing all the special treats with colleagues at OCES. Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy, successful new year. Your thoughtfulness and consideration are greatly appreciated.



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

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

December Students of the Month

Congratulations to the December Students of the Month. These students exhibited leadership and responsibility without being reminded. The lunch for these students was sponsored by Beachwood Custom Builders. 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: Hannah Richie, Mariabella Morse, Lily Olson, Berlin Corbin, Lucas Magathan, and Kazia Milewski.

Grade 2: Kaylee Herrera-Mancinas, Lauren Lynch, Katie Mitchell, Ava Barry, Grace Short, Rylee Houck, and Jacob Hicks.

Grade 3: Bennet McLendon, Brooks Kendall, Meghan Bean, Parker Savage, Claire Suttka, and Keeley Catrino.

Grade 4: Mandy Derdeyn-Vincent, Tristan Weinstein, Jessica Shoemaker, Brandon Quach, Danielle Consigli, and Cyia Quillin.

Keep up the great work!



The second graders at OCES once again participated in the “Share the Bear Program” sponsored by the Salvation Army. In the spirit of giving, the children proudly presented 120 dressed up bears to Major Tidman to be given to less fortunate children in our area.

Worcester County Science Fair

Tuesday

January 14, 2014

6:00 Projects on Display

7:00 Awards Ceremony

At the

Worcester Technical
High School

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.

Accelerated Reader Update

As of January 10th the following data reflects the success of the AR Reading Program.

Number of Students Gr. 1-4:
471

Book Tests Passed Successfully:
11,548

Points Earned for the AR Store:
12,226

Schoolwide Reading
Comprehension:
86.3%

Words Read:
67,846,913

% of Books Independently Read:
68%

% of Fiction Read: **90%**

% of NonFiction Read: **10%**

MSA

Testing Dates

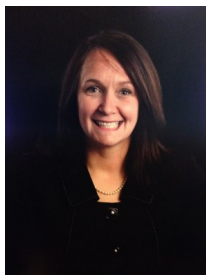
Test	Grade	Date(s)
Reading	3 & 4	March 3,4
Math	3 & 4	March 5,6

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.

OCES Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Windy Phillips

Mrs. Phillips graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Salisbury University. She earned a Masters of Education, with a concentration in curriculum, instruction, and assessment from Walden University. Mrs. Phillips started her career path at the Training Station Nursery School in 1998. She was hired to assist in developing their new 5 day pre-kindergarten program. Mrs. Phillips taught pre-k for three years. After leaving The Training Station she was hired by Somerset County Schools as a Fourth Grade Math and Science Teacher. In 2004 Mrs. Phillips transferred to Worcester County Public Schools to be closer to home. Currently, Mrs. Phillips is teaching First Grade at Ocean City Elementary. She believes her students have the ability to guide their own learning and excel beyond expectations when they are immersed in a collaborative classroom infused with technology. Mrs. Phillips strives to create a classroom culture that encourages risk taking and confidence.



Congratulations, Mrs. Phillips!

Student Safety Program



Pictured above are the First Term Student Safeties that have become a very important part of our school day. The purpose of the Student Safety Program is to promote positive leadership and encourage the good behavior of students as they transition from lunch to recess daily.

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)

Lost and Found!

PLEASE mark your child's clothing, lunch boxes/bags, and jackets with their name. Each day items are left behind and we can't find the owner. If you are missing items, check the **Lost and Found Cabinet** in the cafeteria! Things are too expensive to be lost and replaced regularly!!

Parking Concerns

Please note, the stone covered area of our parking lot is **NOT A PARKING AREA**.

That area is a designated drain field, and ***NOT*** suitable for parking.

Thank You!

Rack Room: Shoes That Fit Program

Rack Room Shoes has adopted over 400 schools in the communities they serve to provide properly fitting footwear to thousands of needy children across the US at no cost to families. OCES is pleased to participate in this program. If you would like for your child to receive a pair of athletic shoes, please send a note to Mrs. McGean. Include your child's full name, shoe size, and teacher's name.



Have you read today?

The Worcester County Board of Education does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, marital status, color, gender identity and expression, national origin, creed, religion, age, ancestry, genetic information, or physical or mental disability.