



OCES Newsflyer

October 2013

Principal's Message



Change means to *make or become different*. Change seems to be everywhere at OCES this year. A new principal, seven new teachers, a new curriculum resource teacher, new safety procedures and a new breakfast program – all in one year! These many changes, however, continue to reflect the most important OCES theme: Children come first! Our students

continue to be the driving force behind every decision we make. Even though we may not all prefer a new way of doing something, we can agree that the needs of our children are most important. As you can see, although there is much change, our focus remains the same!

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we embrace new programs and work through some of the

challenges they might present. Thank you for working with us as we help our children embrace change. Please know that, as a parent myself I recognize that doing something a different way can sometimes cause anxiety. Let's walk this walk together as we move forward, helping our children grow into well rounded, productive citizens. Thank you for your assistance and support.

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

Did You Know...

- The **PTA Scholastic Book Fair** runs from September 30th—October 4th.
- The **PTA Book Fair** is also open on PTA Conference Night from 5:00-5:50, then again after the PTA meeting until 8:30.
- School **starts** at **8:25** each morning and **ends** each day at **3:30**—make sure your child is here each and every day!
- **Volunteering** is a great way to be involved in your child's education. Return the forms with your interests. The **Volunteer Orientation** is October 16th at 9:15 a.m.
- **Library Books** are to be kept in a **Ziploc bag** in your child's backpack.
- **BoxTops for Education** are collected all year long. Send in those box tops with your child! It is really 'free' money for the PTA.
- The **Ocean City/Berlin**

Optimists donated \$1,000 to support the AR Reading program incentives. Thank You!

- **OCES** apparel will be available for purchase PTA Night, Oct. 3rd.

The New OCES Motto

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

Dates to Remember:

- ☺ **9/30-10/4** PTA Scholastic Book Fair in the Media Center
- ☺ **10/3** PTA Conference Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ☺ **10/16** Volunteer Orientation in the Faculty Meeting Room 9:15 a.m.
- ☺ **10/23 Grades K-3** Science Fair Parent Orientation from 4:00-5:00
- ☺ **10/24 Grade 4** Science Fair Parent Orientation from 4:00-5:00
- ☺ **10/24** Fall Picture **Make-up Day**
- ☺ **10/26** PTA Harvest Festival 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at OCES
- ☺ **10/28** BoxTops for Education due
- ☺ **10/31** Pumpkin Spirit Day

School Safety and Security

The new Security System is working well, and again, we thank you for abiding by the new rules, regulations and changes. As stated before, everything we do is for the safety and benefit of the children.

Thank you for your patience.

Each month, the OCES Newsflyer will be posted on our home page at: ocelementary.weebly.com (Save paper and read online!)

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!

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms have been sent home. If you, or anyone you know, needs assistance filling out this form, please contact Mrs. McGean. We are more than willing to help.

Common Core Corner

C - Common Core standards are fully implemented this school year.

O - Opportunities for teachers to emphasize the development of skills like problem solving, collaboration, and critical thinking.

M - Math skills in Common Core will give students the building blocks to understand why and how math works in the real world.

M - More complex nonfiction and fiction texts will be addressed in the English Language Arts Common Core Standards.

O - Opportunities for students to dig deeper into the core skills and concepts at each grade level.

N - New PARCC assessments will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

C - Contains critical content and skills to better prepare our children for college and careers.

O - OCES teachers, staff, and students are ready for Common Core.

R - Raises the bar for student achievement.

E - Each grade level has knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to prepare them for life after graduation.

Science Fair Dates to Remember

Wednesday, **October 23rd** from 4:00-5:00 Parent Orientation for **Grades K - 3** in the cafeteria.

Thursday, **October 24th** from 4:00-5:00 Parent Orientation for **Grade 4** in the cafeteria.

All Projects are DUE by 9:00 a.m. December 5th

Accelerated Reader

The AR program is underway and the children are reading up a storm! A letter will be coming home with information about the HomeConnect component of AR. Accessing the HomeConnect website will allow you see how your child is fairing with AR, and also receive emails each time they test on a book. Again, that will be coming home the 1st week of October!



Stand Up, Speak Up!

By Mrs. McGean



In September the *Stand Up, Speak Up* program highlighted the positive attribute of “**kindness.**” Kindness is thinking about how others feel and wanting to make someone’s life better. We are kind when we show concern for others. Synonyms for kindness are friendly, generous, sympathetic, considerate, and warm-hearted.

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

*“Two girls in your class are looking at the girl sitting next to you, whispering and giggling. You know they are making fun of her. What would **YOU** do?”*

**Power School
Parent Access logins will
be available the night of
PTA Conferences,
Thursday, October 3rd!**

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.worcester.k12.com

September Students of the Month

Congratulations to the September 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: Daniel Plumley, Lin Zheng, Ellie Rankin, Maggie Marohl, Melih Unal, and Joseph Cipollone.

Grade 2: Kalena Ethridge, Natasha Vazquez, Peter Jett, Haley Whitehead, Logan Plumley, and Jamie Consigli.

Grade 3: Ella Belle Truitt, Collin Bunting, Eveline Meza-Rodriguez, Reese Robins, Grayce Kilian, and Savannah McCabe.

Grade 4: Thomas Gjoni, Jude VanDornick, Lorelei Auker, Alexis Mumford, Hannah Short, and Hunter Bilbrough.

PTA News & Information

The school year is off to a great start, and the OCES/PTA is set to have a very busy year! The PTA is always in need of donations for our many fundraisers. Please contact Kandy Davis at 443-944-1608 if you are able to assist us, or just need additional information. Note the upcoming events:

- ◆ **Join** the PTA—only \$5.00 per family!
- ◆ **PTA Book Fair** - in the Media Center, 8:30-4:00 daily, and on PTA Conference Night, October 3rd from 5:00-5:50, then after the PTA meeting until 8:30!
- ◆ **PTA Conference Night** , Thursday, October 3rd- Meeting at 6:00 with conferences to follow.
- ◆ **Harvest Festival** - Saturday, October 26th from 11:00-2:00. Face painting, games, hayrides, food, fun, and more fun!!
- ◆ **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!** Many hands make light the work. We are always in need of help. Fill out the volunteer form, or call any of the officers to offer assistance with our projects! We would love to have you!

New Online Meal Payment System Available!!

MySchoolBucks is your online payment portal; giving you a quick and easy way to manage and add funds to your student's meal account. You can review recent purchases, along with seeing the current balance, plus receive low balance alerts, all for FREE! You can also add money to your student's account using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or debit cards for a small fee. In some schools you can pay directly from your checking account with **MySchoolBucks**.

Enrollment is easy.

1. Go to : www.myschoolbucks.com and register for a free account. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provide; click on the link included in the email to activate

your account.

2. Activate your account and begin adding your students. You will need their school name and student ID.
3. Add funds to your students' account with your Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, debit card, or electronic check.

If you have any questions, email support@myschoolbucks.com or call **1-855-832-5226**.

If you have question that are not answered on the website, you can call Scott Blackburn, Food Services Director, at 410-632-5027.

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.



Star Citizens



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

Riley Pruitt
Lauren Lynch
Layla Jenkins
Kassidy Ford
Sully Aufer

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!!

Notes From Nurse McCabe

Please contact me directly at 410-632-5373 if your child has experienced a head injury outside of school. This information will enable me to better assess your child if they come to the health room in the following days after sustaining the injury. Thank you!

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!!

Early Arrivals & School Time

If you are bringing your child to school, remember that they may **not be dropped off before 8:10**. Front doors **WILL NOT be unlocked until 8:10**. At that time, an adult will supervise them in the cafeteria. Please do not bring your child to school before 8:10.

On the other hand, **make sure your child is at school by 8:30.**

Students transported by bus or car that arrive by 8:25, are sent directly to their classrooms. This gives your child time to unpack, prepare for the day, and be ready to learn!

NEW Dismissal Procedures

In order to increase safety and efficiency, we have revised our end-of-the day procedure for parents/guardians picking up children. Our goal was to devise an orderly system that ensures that every child is picked up by an authorized adult. Information was sent home in your child's backpack. Please look in your child's homework folder for the details. We appreciate your cooperation and support as we work

Websites of Interest

Each month, watch for websites that are children and family friendly.

This month check out:

www.abcya.com - This website is organized by grade levels K-5 and contains hundreds of free activities and games. The games range from doing simple math problems to practicing typing skills. It is a great website to use to get extra practice on various elementary school topics and skills.

oc elementary.weebly.com -

Don't forget to check out the OCES Homepage to keep up to the minute on school activities/forms, etc.

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Parking Concerns

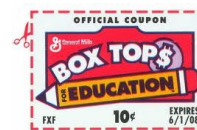
Please note, the stone covered area of our parking lot is **NOT A PARKING AREA.** That area is a designated drain field, and **NOT** suitable for parking.

Thank You!

together to ensure the

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education® is a national school earning program that has been around since 1996. Since then, schools across the country have earned over half a billion dollars from Box Tops to make needed purchases.



The OCES **goal** this year is to earn **\$3,500.00**. If each student collected at least 50 Box Tops this year, we would be close to the goal! Each Box Top is worth \$.10!!

Place a zip loc baggie on the fridge and drop the Box Top in as soon as it is cut out. When ready to send in the baggie, put a piece of paper in the baggie with your child's name, teacher's name, and the number of Box Tops in the bag. Your child may place the baggie in the Box Tops Drop Off Box in the front lobby.

The male and female student who turn in the most Box Tops will receive a gift card to Five Below for each collection. The class with the most Box Tops will receive a Dunkin' Donut party. Watch out for expired Box Tops! We don't want those or the Campbell's Soup "Labels for Education".

The **deadline** for the first collection is **Friday, October 25th!**

