



OCES Newsflyer

September 2013

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

Principal's Message



The first day of school is a day that brings about many emotions for children, parents and staff. This year's first day of school was extra special and emotions of all kinds were welling up in me.

As the new OCES Principal I felt happy, excited and a little nervous! As I watched precious little ones enter the building, I

couldn't help but think of the times I took my daughters to school on their first days. This memory impacts me as a Principal. I look at these children the way I look at my own, and I want the best for them academically, emotionally and socially. Please know how important it is for all of us at OCES to help every child succeed.

As the new Principal at OCES, I want to

introduce myself as a leader who hopes to form a strong partnership with community, parents and staff, so that we can work together to meet the needs of our children. I look forward to getting to know all of those involved in educating and nurturing our students.

I hope to see you at **Back to School Night on Thursday, September 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Dates to Remember:

- ☺ **9/12** School Picture Day
- ☺ **9/12** PTA Back to School Night 6:00-8:00
- ☺ **9/13** Back To School Spirit Day
- ☺ **9/30-10/4** PTA Scholastic Book Fair
- ☺ **10/3** PTA Conference Night 6:00-8:00
- ☺ **10/16** Volunteer Orientation in the Faculty Meeting Room
- ☺ **10/24** Fall Picture Make-up Day
- ☺ **10/31** Pumpkin Spirit Day

Did You Know...

- **Breakfast** is served daily to all children
- The **OCES Website** is: ocementary.weebly.com
- School **starts** at **8:25** each morning and **ends** each day at **3:30**—make sure your child is here each and every day!
- Beginning September 16th, parents will have Power School Parent Access (Gr. 2-4)
- **PTA Back to School**

Night, Thursday, September 12 from 6-8 p.m., is the perfect time to get to know your child's teacher and all that will go on this year!

- **Volunteering** is a great way to be involved in your child's education. Watch for more information to come!
- **Library Books** are to be kept in a **Ziploc bag** in your child's backpack.

This will keep them clean and safe when not being read!

- **BoxTops for Education** are collected all year long. Send in those box tops with your child!
- The **PTA Book Fair** is from 9/30-10/4 in the Media Center. Join us 10/3 for PTA Back to School Night while waiting to see your child's teacher.

"Say what you mean, mean what you say, but don't say it mean"

Unknown

School Safety and Security

As you have probably noticed, new **safety and security procedures** are in place for this school year. Below are listed the new procedures which must be followed by all visitors to ensure the safety of our students:

- **All exterior doors** will be locked during the school day.
- **Front doors** of the building will be locked from **8:45 AM until 3:20 PM** daily.
- **All visitors** during the school day hours will be asked to activate the electronic security system, identify themselves and their purpose, and be admitted by office personnel.
- **Any visitors** who wish to be admitted to the school and visit further than the office will be required to **provide a photo ID**. This information will be recorded electronically by a **Visitor Management System** and a **photo ID badge will be issued**. This badge **must be worn in a visible location** during your visit.
- **Before exiting** the building all visitors must **properly check-out** in the office.
- Parents picking students up from **AM Pre-Kindergarten** are asked to not arrive any earlier than **11:25 AM**. You will have to activate the security system and be buzzed into the lobby for pick up.
- Parents dropping off for **PM Pre-Kindergarten** are asked to please arrive no earlier than **12:20 PM**. Students will be greeted at the front doors by their teachers.
- Parents **picking up at the end of the day** are asked to please arrive no earlier than **3:20 PM**. We will not be admitting anyone into the lobby until the doors are unlocked at **3:20 PM**.
- A **School Security Deputy** is now on the premises during the school day to ensure safety in the building and on our grounds.

S.I.A.C. Members

SIAC stands for **School Improvement Advisory Committee**. The SIAC serves as a voice to the Board of Ed in its expression of the budgeting needs of OCES and acts as a liaison between school and the community. This year the members are: Dawn Rogers, Grace Mitchell, Wendi Eitel, Sally Ann Messick, Katherine Engle, Kathleen Smith, Kandy Davis, Joe Kendall, Bridgette Hargrove, Garet Bunting, Brett Marshall, Tammy Consigli,

Bruce Krasner, Jeanice Dolan, Joel Brous, Dave Beauchamp, Jody Purnell, and Todd Ferrante. Thank you for your commitment to OCES!

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

- **Thank you** for your patience and support as we implement these changes in order to ensure the safety and security of our school building.
- More safety information may be found at: <http://worcesterk12.com/Safety.htm>

Thank You!

Thank you to our PTA for providing a delicious luncheon for the staff on August 27th. The following businesses donated food:

Captain's Table
Hooper's Crab House
Buxy's Salty Dog
Sunset Grill
Hooter's
Chick-fil-A
&
Mione's Pizza
Thank You, PTA, for your kindness and support!

Change of Transportation

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

Custody Issues

In case of divorce, separation, etc., that include court-issued documents pertaining to the custody of a student, it is very important that the school receive copies of all custody papers. Our school counselor is responsible for notifying our staff of this information.

If you have not given the office a copy of the custody papers, we ask that you do so immediately. A new copy of the custody papers must be filed each year.

If you gave us custody papers

prior to this year, we must have an additional copy in order to assure the accuracy of our records.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. McGean at school.

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.

Delays in School Openings 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



Stand Up, Speak Up! By Mrs. McGean



As I look back on my school days, I can remember times when kids at school were bullied. You probably can, too. **Bullying is repeatedly hurting others with unkind words or actions. Bullying is something done over and over, it's on purpose and it's meant to be hurtful.** Bullying has been getting a lot of attention recently, but it's hardly a brand-new problem. What is new is society's attitude toward bullying. What used to be acceptable as "kids will be kids" has changed. Bullying can be a serious problem, with young victims being hurt and young bullies growing up to be abusive adults.

At OCES we are committed to providing and maintaining a safe, nurturing learning environment for all students. In order to do this, we are dedicated to educating our students about bullying, how to prevent it, and what to do if it

occurs. It is our responsibility to ensure that our school environment is a "bully-free" zone, and also to equip students with the tools they may need to deal with bullying in other places.

The OCES bullying prevention program, "**Stand Up, Speak Up**" teaches students specific strategies for addressing someone who is bullying them and encourages "bystanders", children who witness someone else being bullied, to speak up in defense of the targeted child.

We encourage parents to talk with their children about bullying. Help to empower your children to stand up for themselves and for others who may be bullied. While this is difficult for some children, it is an important life skill. Have your children practice saying, "Stop it!" "Cut it out!" or "Go away" in a loud powerful voice.

The more they practice the more comfortable they will feel if they need to use this strategy. Assure your children that it is always okay to tell an adult if they are hurt or feel intimidated by someone. This is not "tattling," but rather asking for help.

Each month the OCES news-flyer will feature the "Stand Up, Speak Up" word of the month and a role-playing scenario that teachers and students will discuss. We encourage parents/guardians to continue this discussion at home.

Please become a PTA Member—it is only \$5.00 per family! Be a part of a great team!

School Lunches: Pay in Advance!

Lunch is available daily from the cafeteria for those students wishing to purchase a school lunch. Parents may choose to send in a check or cash to put money on their child's lunch accounts. Purchases will be automatically deducted and children will wear a reminder sticker home when the account is low. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, no additional checks will be accepted. **Students will not be allowed to "charge" lunch. Students who do not have money for lunch will be given a serving of fruit, a serving of vegetables, and milk.**

Worcester County Schools have enrolled in an internet

based service called Café Pre-pay. It is a website where money can be put on your child's school meals account using your VISA, MasterCard, or Discover card. This is a **voluntary** program. To get started, you will first enroll at www.cafe-prepay.com You will be asked to enter your email address and password, which will be used each time you log in.

Please visit www.pay4lunch.com/faq.aspx for more information. If you have questions that are not answered on the website, we encourage you to use the "Contact" link for Café Prepay or call Food and Nutrition Services 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.

Power School Parent Access

Beginning Monday, Sept. 16, 2013 parents/guardians of students in grades 2-4 will be able to access their children's academic progress and attendance details online through a "single" log-in account. Parents/guardians may register and receive a username and password before and after Back to School Night on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013. After that day, parents/guardians may register in the OCES office. A brochure describing the procedure will be provided at registration.



Star Citizens

Congratulations to the first Star Citizens of the year at OCES. They are:

Nicolas Purnell
Joseph Buxbaum
Layla Powell
Kora Ketner
Sauna Vick
Shawn Vick



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.

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!

Parking, Drop Off, and Pick Ups!

When dropping your child off in the morning, please remember to drive forward as far as possible and follow the directions of the teachers on duty.

Also, if you are parking your car and walking your child in, you **MUST park in a designated parking spot.** The stone covered area is **NOT** for parking.

If you are picking up your child at dismissal, remember to park in the designated areas. **Do not park along the curb. Children must be picked up by a parent or designated adult. Children WILL NOT be sent out to your car. Please do not leave your car unattended.**

Remember: DO NOT PARK in the HANDICAPPED spaces unless you have a handicap sticker or tag!

Everything we do is for the **SAFETY** of the **CHILDREN** as we ask you to follow the parking guide-lines.

Thank you for making it happen!

Accelerated Reading Program

MSA 2013 Results!

Hip Hip Hooray!

OCES has done it again! The results of the spring MSA testing showed that 100% of our 3rd graders scored proficient or advanced in Reading and Math, while 99% of the 4th graders scored proficient or advanced in Reading and Math. The students worked hard all year long and the test results showed!

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!!

Accelerated Reader will be up and running for grades 1-4 beginning September 16. Thank you to the OCES/PTA for providing the funds for AR Real Time. The children have access to over 140,000 book tests! Each time Renaissance Learning adds a new test, we have immediate access.

In order to know if a book is a test book, you can access AR BookFinder. The website is: **www.arbookfind.com** Simply log in as a student or parent (no password needed) and type in the name of the book. Be sure to check that the author and title match when the books are listed. Under each title the test number is provided as well as reading level and point value. We mark books in the Media Center with the AR number and reading level to make selection a bit easier for the children. **There will no longer be a printed AR list. There is a link to arbookfind at the OCES Homepage: ocelementary.weebly.com**

Letters will be coming home soon concerning the Home-Connect component of AR. We are placing a very strong emphasis on reading nonfiction books. What a great way to learn new things together as you talk about the book with your child! Above all, **THANK YOU** for encouraging your children to read everyday!

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