Oakview South Elementary Newsletter

September, 2019

Thank you!

By Mr. Alspaugh

I just want to take a moment and thank all of our families for making this a smooth start of the year. Our students have been working very hard and have been transitioning to their new classrooms very well. Our fall PTO fundraiser has been a huge success so far because of all of your support. I believe we have easily raised more money this year than any fundraiser we have had in the last two years. A big thank you to Mrs. Ries and Mrs. Simon for your willingness to take the lead and organize it! The drop off and pick up lines have gotten better as the year progresses. I know that pick up and drop off can be stressful, but all of you have been so patient and understanding. Just remember that we never want students to cross traffic without an adult. If you are parking, please make sure to walk them across to the sidewalk. We want to keep everyone safe and your help is greatly appreciated. Also, I want to give a big thank you to all of the adults in our building. It is wonderful to work at a place where I know everyone truly cares about our kids and is willing to go the extra mile for them to have a great year.

Dates to Remember

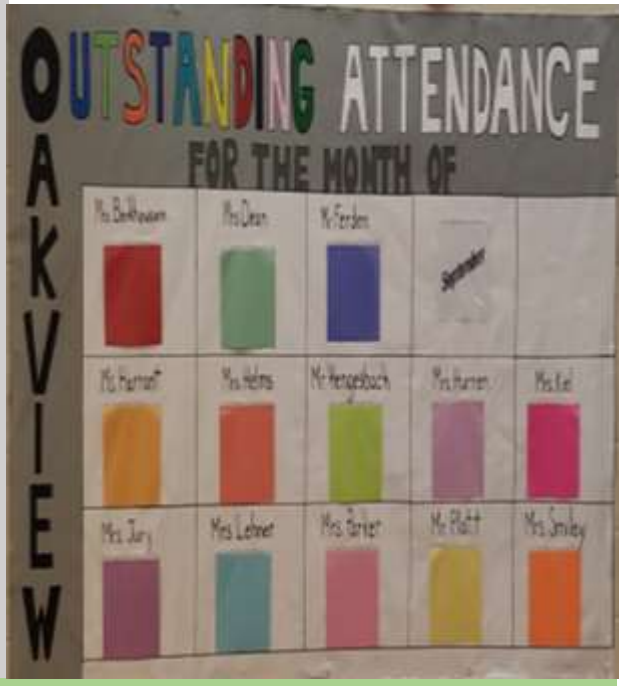
September 15	Shirt orders due
September 17	Last day for the fundraiser
October 2	Picture Day
October 4	Homecoming Parade
October 15	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 16	Parent/Teacher Conferences

Oakview Store

This year we have created an Oakview Store where you can buy Oakview apparel to show your school spirit. The design is the same on every shirt (pictured above), but you have multiple options on what type of shirt you can order. You can find our store at http://sportsstop.net/oakview-elementary/. If you would like to get your shirt before the Homecoming Parade, you will need to make the order by Sunday, September 15th at midnight. We will re-open the store after that date.

Attendance Matters

At Oakview, we feel that attendance is a key factor in your child's success at school and the research backs it up. One of our goals this year is to improve attendance and we now have a board at the front of the school dedicated to it. Each month, we will recognize students with perfect attendance for that month by having their picture displayed on the board. The great news is even if you have a bad month, you can start over the next month and still have a chance to have your picture displayed.



5th Grade

We have had a great start to the year in science. We are using Google Classroom which is a web based site that is only open to the students in my classroom. They can access our Google Classroom at home by logging into their Gmail account by using their username followed by stu.sjredwings.org for example doejon1@stu.sjredwings.org and their password. This is a great opportunity for your child to show you what they worked on in class. We use it a few times throughout the unit. We are talking about the importance of data and evidence to support our critical thinking skills. We will begin our first unit in the next few weeks on Zebra Mussels.

In social studies we are starting the year by discussing and analyzing how to think like historians. The majority of fifth grade social studies content is historical. Understanding that to study history, one should act as a detective searching for clues from the past to put together a case. We have also introduced writing like a historian, where students will not only answer a question thoughtfully, but also provide evidence to prove their answer correct. In social studies this year we will also be using Google Classroom as a platform for much of their learning. We will be starting our first unit on Monday about the United States Government. ,

In math, students have been participating in the week of inspirational math. The week of inspirational math consists of activities that get students excited about math. Students have been learning that everyone can do math, and how our brain grows when we have a growth mindset instead of a fixed mathset. Math is not about how fast you answer questions, but about having a deep understanding. We all need to believe in ourselves, and know that we all can do math! Students have been learning about patterns in math using the Fibonacci sequence and Pascal's Triangle. They also have been learning about how we all see things in different ways, and how that is evident with number visuals. In addition, students folded a square to make smaller shapes that were ½ and ¼ the area of the original square, and needed to convince a skeptic that they successfully completed each task. We will be starting unit 1 of Investigations next week, which is about multiplication and division..

We have been busy testing in ELA. We will be launching our readers workshop next week. Students will understand expectations for our daily mini lessons and will apply their new knowledge to their independent reading.

4th Grade

Fourth grade is off to a great start! So far we've been practicing our daily procedures. We have seen a lot of growth in the way students walk in the hallways and transition to a new subject in class. Fourth graders are not the youngest in the school anymore so we really put emphasis on how they can lead by setting a good example for those younger than them.
We have also spent time getting to know each other and learning how to work together as a team to solve a problem. We had so much fun "saving fred" and completing the "marshmallow challenge"!

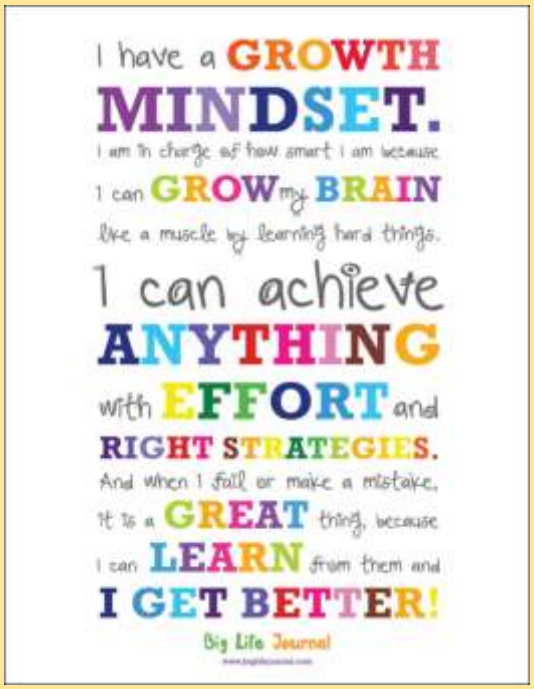
Daily homework in the form of reading logs and getting planners signed has started. It is a good idea to set up a nightly routine for getting these completed. As a reminder, 100 minutes of reading are due every Thursday (Mrs. Parker, Mrs. McCracken, Mr. Hangesbagh) or Friday (Mrs. Berkhousen). That means there needs to be a parent signature under the reading log onThursday/Friday morning when they are checked. Planners also need to be signed each night.. We will check planners every morning. Fourth grade is a great time to start allowing your child more responsibility. Please have them empty their backpacks every night and make sure their red folder and their planner are back in their backpack for school the next day. Currently, DRA testing and iReady testing are in progress. We are all so confident that the students will put forth their best effort, please encourage them anyway you can. Thank you for your help with a smooth transition into the beginning of the school year! We're going to have a great year!

Third Grade is Off to a SOARing Start!

We've been quite busy getting to know one another and have become familiar with the rules, procedures and routines at Oakview. We've learned about SOARing in all locations, too. There are expectations for all of us to Stay Safe, Offer Help, Act Responsibly and to Respect Everyone while in the classroom, the hallway, the playground and more. We can earn Behavior Bucks when we get noticed for SOARing and tickets from those go into a drawing for a spin-to-win prize from Mr. Alspaugh!

Our classroom learning communities are starting to take shape and before we know it, we'll begin the first math unit called Understanding Equal Groups. We'll learn about the Constitution in Social Studies and we'll continue to learn about the kinds of books we have in our classroom libraries. We'll think deeply about the text and write about our thinking, too. All students will be assessed to see where they are reading independently and instructionally.

Have you heard about growth mindset? We've been discussing this idea and are helping every learner understand that the brain can grow or get smarter. When students understand this idea they can do better in school because they feel that they have a role in their learning. They focus on improvement and see effort as a way to build their abilities. Failure is a natural part of the learning process and children who have a growth mindset may respond differently in challenging situations and do better in school over time.



Thanks, in advance, for your support of your child's homework routine. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.