



# Oak Tree Elementary School

The Monroe Public Schools, in collaboration with the members of the community, shall ensure that all students receive an exemplary education by well-trained, committed staff, in a safe and orderly environment.

## Principal's Newsletter October 2023

Dear Oak Tree Families,

It was such a pleasure to see so many of you at our Back to School Night on September 27th. We truly appreciate you taking the time from your hectic schedules to discover more about our instructional programs and what a typical day in your child's life in school is like. Your continued support contributes greatly to our success.

So often I hear parents ask, "How can I get my child to read more?" The successful parent employs a variety of strategies to encourage a child to read and to keep on reading outside of school. Here are some techniques that you can try at home to encourage your child to read and teach them it is a valuable and enjoyable activity:

- Set a good example - let your children see you reading each day.
- Make reading fun - set aside time for you and your child to read together. Keep reading to them even when they can read on their own. Pick longer or more difficult stories.
- Keep lots of books, magazines, and newspapers around the house.
- Visit the library often. Let them apply for their own library card.
- Purchase a subscription in his or her name to an age-appropriate magazine. This is also a terrific gift idea for others.
- Take turns reading to each other. Don't interrupt!
- Have conversations about what you have read. Ask questions about what is happening in the story or make predictions about what might

happen next. Connect characters or events to your own life or to other books you have read.

- Talk with your child about favorite authors.
- Talk about the meaning of new words and ideas.

Most importantly, enjoy the special time that reading together allows. Don't worry too much if "*Captain Underpants*" is their favorite story right now. The important thing is that they are reading. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Kindest regards,

*Patty Dinsmore*

Patricia J. Dinsmore  
Principal



**Oak Tree Social Emotional Learning Vision** - Social Emotional Learning is the foundation for human growth and development. We strive to create a safe, nurturing, equitable environment in which students, staff, and families will feel included, valued, engaged, and respected. Authentic partnerships and meaningful instruction, which foster strong connections, will empower learners to grow in their skills of communication, relationship building, collaborative problem-solving, and resiliency, where everyone reaches their highest potential.

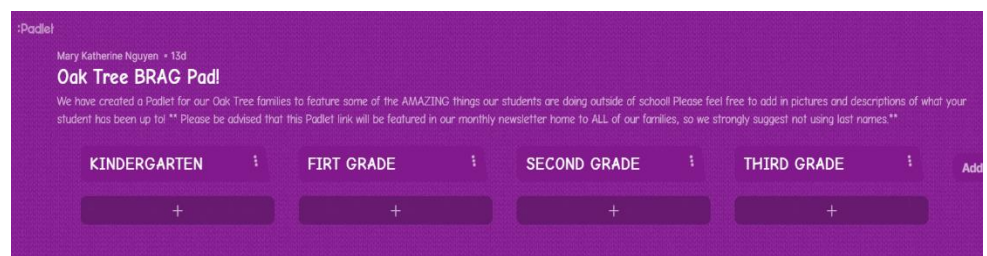
# A Word from Mrs. Nguyen

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! As we get ready to start our new school year, we wanted to introduce you to our

## Oak Tree Brag Pad!

Our Brag Pad is a Padlet given to all Oak Tree families, which encourages families to share what amazing things our students are doing OUTSIDE of school! Throughout the year, we get to see our students grow and achieve within the classroom, but we would also love to see their accomplishments and growth outside of school!

Attached you will find a screenshot of the Brag Pad (which features directions) and the hyperlink to get you to our Padlet. We cannot wait to see all the wonderful things our students are participating in!



LINK: [OAK TREE BRAG PAD](#)

## **BUILDING A HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE**

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Even as kids grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school. Families can use these strategies to help kids build a habit of good attendance.

### **Did You Know?**

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 2 days a month can make it harder for kids to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student might drop out of high school.

### **What You Can Do**

1. Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. A structured routine helps kids feel safe and secure because they know what to expect.
2. Prepare the night before. Help your child pick out an outfit for the next school day and set it out so it's ready to go when they wake up. Pack backpacks then, too.
3. Keep your child healthy. Make sure your child has the required immunizations and is practicing healthy habits to stop the spread of germs and illnesses.
4. Ease anxieties. If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning. Focus on the positives about the school day, and do what you can to ease their anxieties, like introducing your child to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
5. Develop backup plans. If something comes up and you're unable to take your child to school on time, make plans with a family member, a neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
6. Limit out-of-school time. Try to schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
7. Seek advice. If your child is sick, call your school for advice about whether they should come in or stay home.

8. Know that perfect attendance isn't the goal. There are times when your child should stay home due to illness. When this happens, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

9. Communicate with schools. Oftentimes a barrier that exists for you exists for other families in the community. Work together with the school to address systemic barriers that might be causing kids to miss more days of school than they should.



### **SCHOOL HOURS - 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

Students .....	8:55 AM - 3:24 PM
Kindergarten AM.....	8:55 AM – 11:29 AM
Kindergarten PM.....	12:50 AM – 3:24 PM

### **Four-Hour Session Hours**

Grades 1 – 3 .....	8:55 AM – 12:55 PM
Kindergarten AM.....	8:55 AM – 11:29 AM
Kindergarten PM.....	10:21 AM – 12:55 PM

### **Delayed Opening**

Grades 1 - 3.....	10:55 AM - 3:24 PM
Kindergarten AM.....	10:55 AM - 1:09 PM
Kindergarten PM.....	1:10 PM – 3:24 PM

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. MC NUTT**

Please adhere to the following guidelines when your child is ill:

### **Fever**

Children should be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Motrin. Fever free is a temperature below 100 F.

### **Vomiting and Diarrhea**

Children should have no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

Children should be able to eat and retain their meals after an episode of vomiting or diarrhea before returning to school.

### **Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)**

Children should be receiving antibiotic eye drops for 24 hours AND be free of redness, tearing and drainage of the affected eye before returning to school.

### **Strep Throat**

Children should be receiving antibiotics for 24 hours and be fever free before returning to school.

### **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**

Children should be free of any open, draining pox. All pox should be dried and scabbed. Children returning to school after chicken pox should come to the health office to be checked prior to entering the classroom.

### **Head Lice**

Children should be free of live lice and be treated with an approved shampoo prior to returning to school. All students returning to school after being treated for head lice should report to the health office prior to entering the classroom.

Keeping your child home when they are sick helps to protect the health and safety of all students and staff at Oak Tree Elementary School. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter. Please call the health office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Applying for New Jersey's Kid Friendly Programs is quick and easy. Please check out the Health Office Page on the Monroe Township District Website for information on New Jersey Family Care, Vaccines for Children Program and NJ Snap. Forms for free and reduced lunch must be completed each school year in order to qualify. Please contact the health office with questions.

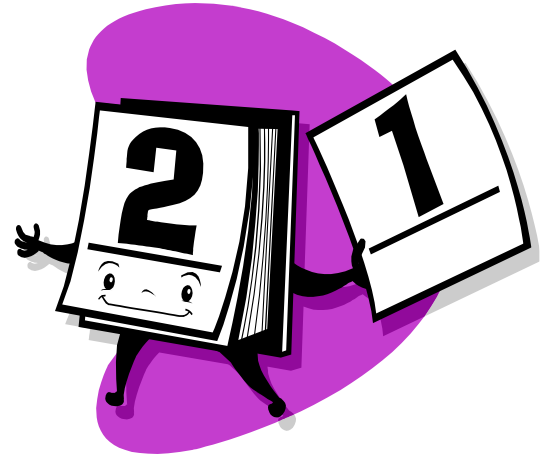
I also wanted to take a moment to remind parents of our younger students to encourage independence when using the bathroom. Please practice handwashing, closing bathroom doors, buckling and unbuckling belts and buttoning and snapping pants at home. Please make sure your children can manage the clothing that they are wearing to school. Please call the health office with any questions you may have about your child's individual needs





## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

2-6	Week of Respect
5	ESL Parent University @ 6 @ the HS
9	School Closed
12	School Store
13	Falcon Leadership Recognition Ceremony
18	Conferences/4 Hour Session
19	Conference/Evening/4 Hour Session
20	4 Hour Session
24	School Pictures
27	PTA Trunk or Treat
31	Halloween Parades



## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Our "Word of the Month" for October is "Responsibility". Responsibility can be defined in a number of ways, but to keep it simple for our young students, we define responsibility as "doing the things that need to be done and making good choices." We will be focusing on how we are responsible for our words as well as our actions. Classroom guidance lessons will be focused on being responsible with our words by learning/remembering how to use "I" messages. "I" messages are ways that we can tell each other how we feel and what we want, while still remaining respectful. Students and teachers use "I" messages often at school! Please see an example of how we teach this on the Guidance tab of Oak Tree's home page. Parents can reinforce this value at home too. Giving children awareness as to the words and actions that they choose as well as providing age-appropriate responsibilities such as cleaning up after themselves, making their beds, preparing simple snacks, and picking out their clothes can help students learn this important value. Positively reinforce your children when they "choose" to act responsibly through praise and the recognition that making the right choice always makes us feel good.

We will continue with Mindful Breathing for our Mindful Practice for October. Students are doing a wonderful job practicing this. Ask them what their favorite type of Mindful Breath is. Keep encouraging them to use this when we need it most (when we're frustrated, scared, angry, etc.). We will also be celebrating NJ's "Week of Respect" from October 2-6. Be on the lookout for a memo regarding the week's dress-up days. Please see our "Guidance" tab on Oak Tree's home page for more information on classroom guidance lessons, our "Rising Stars" school-wide positive behavior support plan, as well as other supportive services. Have a happy October!



### **FALCON LEADERSHIP AWARD**

This month three students who demonstrate respectful behavior each day at Oak Tree were selected by our teachers to win the Falcon Leadership Award. They are:

Grade 1	Emmeline Lee
Grade 2	Trishika Bommana
Grade 3	Reena Patel

Congratulations to each of them!



### **BIRTHDAYS**

Our teachers make each child feel special on their birthday. Announcements are made each morning to recognize those students. Please note that any goodie bags sent cannot contain any type of food or candy. There must be a bag for every child in the class. Thanks for your cooperation.



### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!!! Throughout the month of September, third grade students had the opportunity to run for student council class representatives. Students had to create a Google Slides presentation showcasing their skills and reasons why they should be elected. Students then presented to their classmates and had an election. Thank you to everyone who took the time to run in the election and create impressive presentations for their classmates!



The winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student council election are:

Mrs. Castellano's Class: **Dheeran Bala and Jo Prassanna Kumar**

Mrs. Ficarra and Mrs. Ellis's Class: **Rithvik Kommana and Akira Rathee**

Miss Guerrero's Class: **Shourya Malhotra and Izzy Aresta**

Mrs. Hanlon's Class: **Misha Jadawala and Rayan Jadhav**

Mrs. Luberecki and Ms. Spilken's Class: **Aayuv Reddy and Anika Gupta**

Miss Pak's Class: **Viraaj Aurora and Savannah Walsh**

Miss O'Larte and Mrs. Wernersbach's Class: **Myra Thakar and Tanvi Nitish**

Miss Santoni's Class: **Ishan Indurki and Shanaya Bahadur**

Miss Quidor's Class: **Bailey Silver and Nidhi Jukareddygari**

Mrs. Winther's Class: **Autumn Allison and Karishma Addanki**

Congratulations to all! We can't wait to get Student Council going and provide our school with opportunities to donate to great causes, help our local community, and build up our school's morale!

In the month of October, we will be having our first snack sales of the school year! Look out for the fliers of when they will take place, and what will be sold!

Looking forward to a great year ahead!

Miss Guerrero 😊

# Happy Halloween! October 31

