



OWL NEWS

March 1, 2018

March is Youth Art Month at FCPS

There will be a reception for the All-County Student Art Exhibit on Sunday, March 3rd featuring work from our very own OES Artists. Congrats to **Elizabeth Bova, Leah Frederick, Sophie Harte, Charlotte Foltyn, Megan Tu and Josue Zambrano**. The reception will be from 3-5 PM at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center. The exhibit will run from March 1-March 28. For more information go to <https://www.fcps.org/about/news/1632643/march-is-youth-art-month>

Spring Testing

Students in grades 3-5 will be taking state tests in the coming months. Please try to avoid scheduling vacation or doctor appointments during testing windows. We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable, so don't worry there will be makeups. Below are the windows. Students might not test on everyday of the window. Please contact Mrs. Hanner if you have any questions.

Testing Window	Grade	Test	Content
March 5-9	5	Maryland Integrated Science Assessment	Science
April 23- May 8	3-5	PARCC	English Language Arts and Math

Information Night for Incoming Students and Parents of Oakdale Middle School

Parents/Guardians and Students entering the 6th grade are invited to a dynamic information session.

When: Thursday, Mar 8, 2018 (snow date March 15, 2018)

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Counselor's Corner

Hello again Oakdale families and community – it's March! By the time you read this we will only have about three more months of fun to go this school year! It's a super busy but also exciting time of year – and also a time for us to be especially mindful of the importance of taking care of ourselves and those around us. In that spirit I want to share some information on something that affects many - or most of us - at some point in our lives: Trauma, and how we can best parent our children when trauma affects our families.

(From the Children's Bureau, a division of the Child Welfare Information Gateway)

Parenting a Child Who Has Experienced Trauma

Children who have experienced traumatic events need to feel safe and loved. All parents want to provide this kind of nurturing home for their children. However, when parents do not have an understanding of the effects of trauma, they may misinterpret their child's behavior and end up feeling frustrated or resentful. Their attempts to address troubling behavior may be ineffective or, in some cases, even harmful.

This factsheet [follow link below] discusses the nature of trauma, its effects on children and youth, and ways to help your child. By increasing your understanding of trauma, you can help support your child's healing, your relationship with him or her, and your family as a whole.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/child-trauma.pdf>

(*If you are unable to access this document, would like a paper copy, or would like to talk over the phone or in person, please use the contact information below to reach me.)

· As I mentioned last month, please remind your children how **IMPORTANT** it is for us to **Respect Others** and to **Respect Ourselves**, and to use positive, appropriate language. Any time a student says words that would indicate they are thinking about harming themselves or others here at OES we will do everything we can to make sure that everyone is safe. Thank you so much for all you do to support us in this vitally important area!

· Lunch groups are wrapping up for Term 2, have begun for Term 3, and groups for Term 4 will be forming in about 2-3 weeks and begin the week of April 9th. If you have any questions about our lunch groups, have a particular topic that you would like to see addressed in a lunch group, or if you would like to request that your child take part, please let me know (contact info below).

· Our local "Hope 4 Kids" weekend food program is still providing packages of food each weekend of the school year to many of our students; the food is nutritious and the kids love it! If you are new to our community and/or are interested in this program, please let me know!

o *Volunteers and monetary contributions to the program are also gratefully accepted – contact Karen Ohlrich at karenohlrich@gmail.com or by phone 435-260-1236 for more information.

· If you have ANY questions, concerns, or comments, please contact me at 240-236-3309, or via email at chuck.gill@fcps.org. *You may also check out our school website (education.fcps.org/oes/) to request help from me: click on "Parents & Students" from the black menu bar near the top of our web page, then select "School Counselor" from the drop-down menu and follow the directions from there.

"The value of our lives is not determined by what we do for ourselves. The value of our lives is determined by what we do for others."

Spirit Days Reminder

- March 16 - Hat Day
- April 27 - Go Green Day
- May 18 - OES Spirit Day
- June 1- Beach Day (no bathing suits please)

Dates to Remember:

Date	Event
Friday, March 2	Schools Closed
Monday, March 5	ELO MISA- Grade 5
Tuesday, March 6	ELO MISA - Grade 5
Wednesday, March 7	Chorus MISA - Grade 5
Thursday, March 8	ELO MISA - Grade 5

Friday, March 9	Yearbook Band Brandenburg/Kinsey ESSL Field Trip MISA- GRade 5
Monday, March 12	ELO Character Counts Luncheon-Art2 In-Line Skating Unit begins
Tuesday, March 13	ELO
Wednesday, March 14	Chorus
Thursday, March 15	Hat Day ELO Stumpfig/Richard ESSL Field Trip PTA Meeting 4:15 Science Night 6-8 PM
Friday, March 16	Yearbook Band

Character + Community + Commitment = Successful Learners
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