



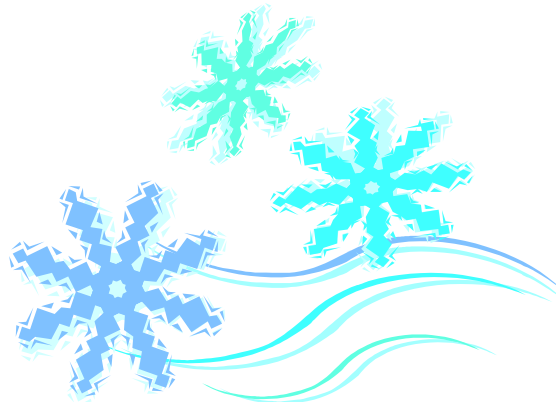
“I believe I can fly.”

Oakdale Middle School – Newsletter

December ~ January 2013/14

School Calendar: (dates and times are subject to change)

Date	Event	Time
Dec 1-12	Book Fair (during the school day)	(Evening hours during Eagle Night on the 12th)
Dec 4	Buddy the Elf & Holiday Hat Day, \$1.00	Interims distributed
Dec 11	Winter Concert	7:00pm
Dec 12	All 6 th Grade and 8 th Grade Life Skills Students Farmers Co-op Fieldtrip	
“ “	OMS Eagles Night (see details below)	5:30-7:00pm
Dec 18	Decade Day, FREE (popcorn after lunch)	
Dec 20	2 hour early release	@ 1:12pm
“ “	Gum Day, 10 wings	
Dec 23-Jan 1	School Closed for Winter Break	
Jan 8	Pajama Day, \$1.00	
Jan 10	End of Term 2	
Jan 13	No School, Teacher Work Day	
Jan 14	Term 3 begins	
Jan 20	School Closed for MLK Day	
Jan 22	Crazy Twin Day, FREE (snow cones after lunch)	
Jan 24	PBIS/PTSA Winter Wonderland Dance/Social	3:15-5:15pm
Jan 28	Report Cards Distributed	
Jan 31	Gum Day, 10 wings	



Principal's Message

Thank you to everyone for the support you have shown our students and staff- Oakdale Middle has the most amazing community support! Conferences were a great success as we worked together to support students. I want to personally thank our amazing PTSA for their continued support of our staff, and the delicious meals they provided during conference time.

There are so many exciting events that we are gearing up for, but Eagle Night, on December 12th from 5:30-7:00 is sure to be a great event. The evening will include presentations on bullying and college savings plan options. There will be an elective fair for current 6th and 7th graders. 8th grade students and parents can speak with an OHS and/or CTC representative to begin planning for the high school years. The PBIS team will have popcorn and hot chocolate ready to show you how students participate in our **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support** program. The book fair will be going on in our media center, and we have a special concert from the OHS show choir in our cafeteria. There is no set agenda for the evening, so feel free to explore. We would love to see you there!

Planning ahead- we had originally scheduled the 3rd Eagle Night to take place on February 27th, but we have changed the date to coincide with our 5th grade parent information night. The new date will now be February 20th from 5:30-7:00. What better way to welcome our future Eagles and their parents than to highlight our current successes.

Semester one will be over before we know it. This is a great time to double check your child's grades in Pinnacle. Please be sure to contact your child's teacher, counselor, or administrators if you have any questions or need assistance. Everyone has worked so hard in the past few weeks. I hope that the upcoming holiday break is relaxing and enjoyable for all!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ware

Principal

Things to Know

Eagle Night

- Join us on December 12th to celebrate our school community at our second Eagle Night! We have lots of important information to share and fun things to see and do!
 - **8th grade students and parents** can take advantage of a presentation by Ms. Melissa Watson, as she begins to explain the transition to **OHS**. Ms. Kristen Daly will be here from **CTC** to discuss all of the opportunities students have at the Career and Technology Center beginning in grade 10.
 - **Current 6th and 7th grade students and parents** can participate in an elective fair. Learn about the great offerings that are available to you *before* registration season begins! See examples of student work and chat with the teachers.
 - **College Savings Plans** - It is never too early (or too late) to begin saving! Swing by to discuss savings options with local investors.
 - **Bullying Presentation** - Janet Shipman, FCPS Counseling and Student Support Coordinator, will be here to speak with parents and students regarding bullying. Her informative presentation will help you identify the signs and give you the steps to help resolve bullying issues.
 - **Book Fair** - just in time for the holidays! The OMS Book Fair will be open during Eagle Night. This is a great time to pick up a few awesome holiday gifts!
 - **OHS Show Choir** - Come and see this dynamic group perform live in our cafeteria! This will be a show you won't want to miss!
 - **Activities & More** - Visit PBIS and pick up some hot chocolate & popcorn; make a book mark with Mrs. Hajjar, our Literacy Specialist, visit some classroom exhibits and much more!

And remember...each student that attends receives 5 WINGS for participating!

OMS visitors

- Now that we have a secure entrance, students and visitors must be buzzed in to enter the school. The entrance buzzer is located on the left entrance wall. Once you press the buzzer, please be sure to look into the camera and be ready to announce who you are and your reason for entering. If you are leaving through the front doors, please do not hold the door open for someone entering the building. All visitors must go through our new entry process. Thank you for helping to keep OMS secure.

Student Early Dismissal:

- **Parents**, if your student needs to be dismissed early, please send in early dismissal notes with your student so they can be issued a pass to leave class. We understand that last minute changes occur, please call as soon as possible so that your student can be issued a pass.
- If we can keep unscheduled student dismissals to a minimum, we can reduce the need for class interruption and reduce additional commotion in the front office which has been occurring at the end of the school day.
- Students can turn in their early dismissal notes from home to Ms. Beach, (*who sits at the desk in that side entry hall in the morning*), the front office or hand in to their first period teacher.

Buy a Great Holiday Gift!

- Visit the OMS webpage at <http://oms.sites.fcps.org/home>, click the link on the left and order a full color yearbook!! Yearbooks are \$28. Then cut out the coupon below to let your student know that a great gift is in his/her future. Visit the OMS website today and buy a gift that'll last a lifetime.

To: _____



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
This coupon is for one
2013-2014 OMS yearbook.
Delivery date June 2014

From: _____

Hurry!! Prices go up January 1!!!!

Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Nominations

- FCPS invites nominations of exceptional teachers and principals for the prestigious Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award and the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher will receive a \$3,000 prize. The Washington Post Company Educational Foundation sponsors both awards. Eligibility, nomination criteria and selection guidelines: www.fcps.org/awards. Nomination packets are due to the FCPS Communication Services Office by **Friday, January 10, 2014**. For details, please find the full news release at <http://fcps.org/news>.

School Wide Information

- To Access Specific teacher web pages, go to <http://education.fcps.org/oms/> . Hover over “Staff”, then hover over the appropriate department and click on the teachers name.

Requesting Work for Your Child

- The cold and flu season will be upon us soon. Below are a few reminders about requesting work for your child:
 - Teachers are given the courtesy of **24 hour notice** for homework requests.
 - Students who were lawfully absent from school have the responsibility to request make-up work within 2 days of their return and make necessary arrangements with each teacher.
 - Make up work will be given full credit if (1) the absence was lawful and (2) the work is turned in within the allotted time frame: *students are allowed 2 days to make up work for each day of absence.*
 - Unexcused absences may result in the denial of credit for make-up work. The work may be done for the purpose of teacher review, but teachers are not required to give credit.

Locks and Lockers

- Locks and Lockers were assigned to each student on the first day of school. Students must use ONLY the assigned locker. SHARING OF LOCKERS OR USE OF UNASSIGNED LOCKERS IS PROHIBITED. Students are responsible for the contents of their assigned locker. Students should understand that lockers offer minimal security; items of value and large amounts of money should not be brought to school. The school cannot take responsibility for valuable items left in hall or gym lockers. Students are strongly advised to keep hall and gym lockers locked at all times. Locks can be purchased at school (\$5.00).

Winter Weather

- **School Closings and Delays**
For the fastest, most reliable information, check the following:
 - **Television:** FCPS TV on Cable Channel 18 (Frederick area)
 - **Internet:** <http://www.fcps.org/>
 - **Email/Text:** Sign up for [Find OutFirst](#)
In a major emergency, FCPS will use every available means of communication to inform families.

➤ **After-School Activities**

Generally, when schools are closed for reasons of an emergency, school-sponsored after-school and evening activities are canceled or postponed.

- As students prepare for school, please make sure that they do so with recess, Physical Education classes and evacuation drills in mind. Except in cases of severe/inclement weather students will be offered the option to go outdoors for recess, so it is important that they are dressed for winter weather. During this time of year students are encouraged to wear jackets, shoes that provide proper coverage, and pants (rather than shorts), to school so they are ready for the elements.

PTSA News

- **Hospitality Committee:** The OMS PTSA Hospitality Committee hosted two conference meals for the staff at OMS on Monday, November 25th and Tuesday, November 26th. Thank you to all of those who participated and provided meals, treats, etc. for the staff at OMS – it was loved by all!!!

If you would like to join the OMS PTSA Hospitality Committee, please contact Susie Yost at sj_yost@yahoo.com and she will happily add you to the list! Our next treat will be in mid-December when we host a Cookie/Dessert Day for all staff! So, if you like to bake and would like to add some of your treats to the OMS tray, we'd love to hear from you!

- **Membership Update:** Great news, we are so close to our goal of 300 members – we only need 5 more families to join! Once we reach 300, all student PTSA members will be given free gumballs and get to chew gum at school on December 20th!! If you would like to join PTSA and/or be part of the Directory our form is available on the OMS PTSA website: <http://education.fcps.org/oms/ptsa>.

A link to the OMS PTSA Membership Directory was emailed to all PTSA members on October 24th. If you did not receive a copy or would like to make any changes, please contact Christy Thrailkill at thrailkill4@gmail.com. It's not too late to be part of the Directory, additions and updates may be made all school year.

Congratulations to our November raffle winner Gabriella McKay! She won a Dairy Queen Gift Card!

➤ **General Announcements:**

- Spirit Night at Buffalo Wild Wings was lots of fun! Thanks for coming out.
- Remember to check the school calendar on the OMS website for PTSA meeting dates and times. Also visit our bulletin board near the cafeteria for PTSA news and events.
- PTSA is partnering with the PBIS team to plan an after-school Winter Wonderland Dance on January 24th (3:15 – 5:15). We need volunteers to

help run stations (food, games, and crafts). If you would like to help, please contact Kathleen Brightman at jkbrightman@aol.com .

Congratulations to the winners of the Reflections Contest.

Visual Arts -

1st Place: Megan Chang

Literature -

1st Place: Megan Ray

2nd Place: Mariah Lawton

3rd Place: Torey Bingham

Photography -

1st place: Zoe Pierce

2nd Place: Zachary Cooper

3rd Place: Emily Coblish

The 1st place winners will advance to the Frederick County PTA Reflections Contest.



Seasons Greetings

The text "Seasons Greetings" is written in a large, bold, blue serif font. The letters have a slight shadow effect. Above the text, there are several blue snowflake icons of varying sizes scattered across the top.