



OWL NEWS

January 19, 2017

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
1/20	End of First Semester and Term 2 (Pending school closures for inclement weather.) Spirit Day - Multiples Day (Dress Like a Friend)
1/23	Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day
1/24	5th Grade Outdoor School - Brandenburg, Kinsey, Spadaro/Yoho
1/25	5th Grade Outdoor School - Stumpfig, Richard
1/26	5th Grade Outdoor School - Brandenburg, Kinsey, Spadaro/Yoho
1/27	5th Grade Outdoor School - Stumpfig, Richard
1/30	Chorus - First Rehearsal 8:00 - 8:45
2/3	PTA Movie Night
2/6	Vision and Hearing Re-Screen Chorus 8:00 - 8:45
2/9	2nd Grade Field Trip to the Weinberg Theatre
2/10	Valentine Parties
2/13	Chorus 8:00 - 8:45
2/16	Cultural Arts Program - Bach to Rock - Grades 3-4
2/17	Spirit Day - Crazy Hair Day
2/20	Schools and Offices Closed: Presidents' Day
2/21	Schools Closed for Students: Professional Development Day
2/27	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session Chorus 8:00 - 8:45 Elementary Interims Issued / Mid Term OES Bowling Invitational - 4:00 - 6:30



Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration

Congratulations to James Wilson for representing our school for the county's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration last week! James was nominated for this award because he exhibits all six pillars of exemplary character. What particularly stands out is his stance against bullying behavior, and his belief that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect. We couldn't be more proud of James for this well deserved recognition!

Bus Dismissal

At Oakdale, student safety is our number one priority and second to that is making sure every instructional minute counts! In order to increase the staff available to monitor the hundreds of students that ride the bus home from school each day, beginning on Tuesday, January 23rd, we will not begin to stage students for bus dismissal until our instructional day ends at 3:45 rather than 3:40. This will mean that a few of our early buses will likely be delayed by five minutes until they reach their bus stops. You will want to arrive at the bus stop at the regularly scheduled time until you notice a consistent drop off schedule, but it is likely that the bus will be delayed by five minutes for a few of our early buses; particularly bus #O10, #O5, and #O6. This change in practice will free up more staff available to walk with students to their dismissal zones and it will increase instructional time by five minutes a day, 25 minutes a week and approximately 110 minutes a month! Every minute we can maximize to dedicate to students is a win for the children we serve! Thank you in advance for patience as we transition to this new dismissal procedure.

Valentine's Day Parties

We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day parties on Friday, February 10. Families are encouraged to carpool due to limited parking. Overflow parking is available at the Monocacy Valley Church or Oakdale Middle School. If you park at the middle school please park in the front lots and avoid the bus lot next to the cafeteria. We appreciate your help in ensuring Oakdale Middle is able to dismiss without disruption. Please also ensure that our car rider loop is clear no later than 3:30. Party times and party planning details will be shared by your child's classroom teacher.



School Attendance

Now is the time of year that schools traditionally see a decline in our absences. We hope that we can continue to maintain exemplary levels of attendance that we have celebrated for the beginning of the school year. Below are some facts and reminders about school attendance.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor overall attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves.

- Start building this habit in preschool so students learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and in their future careers.

Help Your Child Succeed in School:

- Build the habit of good attendance early
- School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Let us know if your child is frequently complaining of stomach aches or headaches which can be a sign of anxiety. We are here to support your child and would love to help create a plan to support his/her needs.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Meet the Oakdale Middle School Principal

Students that will attend Oakdale Middle School in the fall are invited to attend a 'Meet the Principal' session here at Oakdale Elementary School:

Who: Ms. Mita Badshah, Principal, Oakdale Middle School

When: Feb 8, 2017 5:15 – 5:45 pm

Where: OES Media Center

Why: Learn about Oakdale Middle School

Get to know the principal

Ask questions about the middle school transition in a small group setting

Students and families are invited to attend.

Emergency Lunches During Inclement Weather

When schools are closed for several days because of snow, some young people in Frederick County may not have access to all the food they need. If FCPS staff can access our buildings, we will serve free, hot lunches starting on the third consecutive day schools are closed because of weather.

Anyone 18 or under can receive a lunch (no ID is required, and participants do not have to be FCPS students). Please open the following link to view a flier with locations:

<https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/frederick/upload/52/5656.pdf>

Trout in the Classroom Program

We are very excited that our Trout in the Classroom program continues this year! Trout in the Classroom is a conservation-oriented environmental education program for elementary, middle, and high school students. Through the school year, our students are raising trout from eggs to fry until they can be released into approved cold water streams and lakes. This act of raising, monitoring, and caring for young trout fosters a conservation ethic within participating students and promotes an understanding of their shared water resources. Be sure you check out our young trout as they grow and change in the tank that is on display in our front lobby! For more information about the program, please visit <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/home>. A tremendous thank you to Mr. Sahli for his leadership and enthusiasm related to this exciting experience for our students!

Cultural Arts Program

Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring our Cultural Arts Program this month for students in grades PreK-2. The Ballet Theatre of Maryland was here to perform "Alice in Wonderland" based on the classic Lewis Carroll tale with a cast of 20 dancers. Characters demonstrated how ballet movements are incorporated with characteristics of a character to develop it. Examples are the Dormouse, Cheshire Cat, Duck, and Mad Hatter. Students also experienced how narration, costumes, props, ballet and musical theatre, all come together to transform stories into a ballet.



Ballet Theatre of Maryland (BTM) is Maryland's largest, premier professional classical and contemporary ballet company. The company performs over seventy performances per season including four major performances at its home theatre Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis and tours throughout the state.

Parents of Fifth Grade Students Reminder

Please update your Find Out First account to begin receiving announcements from the school your child will attend in the fall. Important announcements concerning registration information will be sent in the near future.

Magnet Program Information Reminder

The magnet program is designed for academically gifted students in grades 3 – 5 with superior performance in both language arts and mathematics. Nomination booklets, which will be available beginning January 31, 2017, may be obtained from the school office, the FCPS Office of Advanced Academics or online at <http://www.fcps.org/advacademics>. After January 31, 2017, the Office of Advanced Academics will be accepting nominations of present second through fourth grade students for possible placement in the magnet program for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Students may be nominated for the magnet program by school staff, parents or jointly. Parents and teachers are encouraged to review information, including academic behaviors and characteristics of gifted students, that is posted at www.fcps.org/advacademics. Teacher nominations, parent nominations and a completed *Parent/Guardian Rating Form* are due in the school office by March 1, 2017, so that tests can be administered and information required to complete the nomination packet may be gathered by school staff.

A Magnet Program Overview for parents interested in nominating their child will be held on January 24, 2017, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Office (191 South East Street). Parking is available in the East All Saints Street parking deck or in the parking lot located next to the Central Office off of East All Saints Street. Accessible parking is located in the Commerce Street lot located behind the Central Office. Enter the Board Room at the front of the building. The overview will include components of the magnet program and the processes leading to placement. Please note that this meeting is designed for parents, not students. The snow date for this meeting is January 31, 2017 at the same time and location. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Advanced Academics at 301-696-6891.

Americanism Essay Contest Reminder

Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in the American Legion Gold Star Unit 191 Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest. The 3 winners in each grade level at the local level receive a small cash prize and are then submitted to compete in the District level and possibly the National level

competitions where additional prize money can be won. The essay title this year is: "How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?"

Rules and forms necessary to enter the contest are linked here: [Contest Rules](#)

All essays should be sent by mail postmarked by January 31, 2017 to: Janet Morris, 507 Acorn Ct, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 or e-mailed to: mrsmorris4s@aol.com

*** Remember the child's signature must be at the bottom of the actual essay. ***

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Janet Morris at the above e-mail or 301-829-5237.

School Spirit Dates Reminder

January 20- Multiples Day/Dress Like a Friend

February 17- Crazy Hair Day

March 17- Hat Day

April 28- Go Green Day

May 19- OES Spirit Day

June 9- Beach Day (no bathing suits please!)

Character + Community + Commitment = Successful Learners
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