



OWL NEWS

January 5, 2017

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
1/3 - 1/6	ELO
1/6	PTA Back to School Bingo and Ice Cream Social, 6:00-8:00 PM
1/9 - 1/13	ELO
1/10 and 1/11	Destination Imagination
1/11	Rubik's Cube Club
1/12	FCPS Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
1/11 and 1/12	Hearing and Vision Screenings
1/13	Cultural Arts Program, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> , grades K-2
1/16 - 1/20	ELO
1/16	Schools and Offices Closed: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance
1/17 and 1/18	Destination Imagination
1/17	Character Counts Luncheon
1/18	Rubik's Cube Club
1/20	End of First Semester and Term 2 (Pending school closures for inclement weather.)

Parents of Fifth Grade Students

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.

Jingle Contest

Our fifth grade students accepted their \$5,000 check yesterday for their winning entry from the Michael and Son jingle contest! They could not have won without your support. Thank you for voting and spreading the word about the contest!



Vanguard Teacher Program



We are so proud to announce that Kim Brandenburg was surprised this morning by central office staff to learn she was one of forty teachers in the county selected to participate in the Vanguard Teacher Program!

The Vanguard Teacher Program will focus on four areas of teaching competencies: mindset, instructional technology, teaching practices, and professional learning and networking. Participants will learn mindsets to help them shift toward new methods of teaching and learning that align with FCPS goals. They will hone their skills for using technology to transform learning experiences to result in

higher levels of achievement for students. Teaching will focus on best practices including use of digital content, small-group instruction, opportunities for student reflection, and data-driven decision making. Professional learning and networking will help teachers learn ways to foster collaboration and problem solving skills in their classrooms. Mrs. Brandenburg is very deserving of this leadership opportunity and we are excited as she begins this new professional journey as a teacher here at Oakdale Elementary!

Counselor's Corner

Some great news to warm you up on these cold days: Our Oakdale community adopted/supported 18 families this holiday season and provided over 250 wonderful gifts including clothing, toys, books, and food. On behalf of these families – thank you! Words are never really enough, but the tears in the eyes and hugs that were shared told the real story of how much your generosity is appreciated. Oakdale – you are AMAZING.

Our Hope 4 Kids weekend snacks in a backpack program is still in full swing and the offer is still open if you decide your children could benefit from some extra healthy food for weekends at home. Just call or email me (contact information below).

Classroom lessons for December completed include:

- Ways we can show respect in Kindergarten, read the story *Bootsie Barker Bites* and had a class discussion about what respectful behavior – toward others, property, and ourselves looks, sounds, and feels like.
- In 3rd grade we discussed the three main ways we communicate in person with each other – 1) Body Language (55%), 2) Tone of Voice (38%), and 3) the actual Words that we use (7%). Yes, words ARE still important, but apparently so is the way we say things with our body and tone! *Ask your third grader about this one – we had some GREAT discussions!
- In 5th grade we talked about the hobbies we have and how they could translate someday into actual jobs and/or careers! Lots of great discussion about discovering your own abilities/gifts and dreams and then developing these as we work hard in school and – soon, in a couple months! – start choosing electives for middle school. Exciting times!

Small guidance groups for third term will be starting up at the end of January. If you believe that your child might benefit from inclusion in such a group (topics based on school needs, such as school success, social skills, changing families, grief, and anger management) or if you have questions, please contact me and I'll be glad to talk with you about it. chuck.gill@fcps.org or 240-236-3309

Remember – kids spell love T-I-M-E.

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.

Hearing and Vision Screenings Reminder

Hearing and vision screenings will take place January 11 - January 12 for all students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten (if not previously screened upon entry in FCPS Pre-K), first grade and students that enrolled this year to the Maryland public school system. Maryland state law mandates this screening. Parents/guardians who have an objection to a hearing and vision screenings, based on the tenets and/or practice of their religion, must submit a request for their child to be exempt from screening. All written requests must be submitted to the health room by January 6. If your child wears glasses, please make sure he/she wears his/her glasses or contacts on screening days. If you have any questions please contact the health room at 240-236-3360.

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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