



# OWL NEWS

February 2, 2017

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
1/31-3/1	Magnet nomination packets will be received by the front office through March 1
2/2	Report Cards Issued
2/6	Vision and Hearing Re-Screen Chorus 8:00 - 8:45 AM
2/8	Meet the OMS principal for students and families, OES media center, 5:15 PM
2/9	2nd Grade Field Trip to the Weinberg Theatre
2/10	Valentine Parties - see below for times
2/13	Chorus 8:00 - 8:45 AM
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
2/22	Parent information session at TJMS, 6:00 PM
2/27	2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session Chorus 8:00 - 8:45 AM Elementary Interims Issued / Mid Term OES Bowling Invitational - 2:30-4:00 PM
3/3	PTA International Night

## Character Counts

We are so proud of our students and how they consistently demonstrate exceptional character! One of our substitutes this week shared with staff that Oakdale Elementary students are the most respectful students she has had the privilege to work with. As a way to celebrate our student body, we will now display Character Cards they receive on a bulletin board in the cafeteria. We hope you take a minute



to read the Character Cards on display the next time you join us for lunch!

### **Bowling Tournament**

On February 27th, Oakdale Elementary will host the 10th annual Oakdale Bowling Tournament. The tournament will begin at 2:30 PM and will end at 4:00 PM. The five schools involved that compete for the traveling trophy are Oakdale, New Market, Waverly, Carroll Manor and Orchard Grove. The tournament will be held in the Oakdale Elementary gymnasium and all are welcome to attend!

### **Governor Thomas Johnson Middle School Information Night**

A parent information session will be held at TJMS on February 22 at 6:00 PM for current fifth grade students that will attend TJMS in the fall. Please mark your calendars for this important event! A snow date is scheduled for February 23 at 6:00 PM.

### **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 are listed below:

PK- AM:	10:30 - 11:30
PK- PM:	2:30 - 3:30
Grade K:	2:15 - 3:15
Grade 1:	1:15 - 2:15 (Mills/Ritt)
Grade 1:	1:00 - 2:00 (Green)
Grade 2 :	2:15 - 3:15
Grade 3:	2:30 - 3:30 (Helgeson/Toms/White)
Grade 3:	11:30 - 12:30 (Crum)
Grade 4:	2:30-3:30
Grade 5:	2:30 - 3:30



### **Spring Pictures**

Lifetouch will be at OES on Tuesday, March 14th to take Spring pictures. Order forms will be sent home the first Thursday in March.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

It is that time of year for us to start thinking about spring testing! Below are assessment windows for standardized assessments that will be administered in the coming months. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments and vacation during these administration windows. We realize sometimes an absence can't be avoided and make-ups are administered when this occurs.

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) for all grade 5 students: March 13-24

PARCC for all grade 3-5 students: April 24-May 19

### **FCPS Improves Out-of-District Transfer Process**

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) is improving procedures to better serve students whose families seek to enroll them in a school that is out of the attendance area where they live. To ensure that parents, teachers, and administrators are working together to discuss and meet student needs, the new procedures require parents or guardians to re-apply annually for renewed permission to enroll a child in an out-of-district school, not just to apply when the student transitions from pre-k to

elementary, elementary to middle or middle to high school. The new process also establishes clear guidelines and timelines for submitting out-of-district transfer applications which will make the process easier to navigate for families and administrators.

To promote fairness in serving all families, those whose children receive before or after school childcare must provide annual documentation for out-of-district transfer approval. The new procedures include other changes as well. For example, FCPS staff will consider a student's compliance with school rules and regulations when determining whether a transfer is in the student's best interest. New conditional approval will allow for extenuating circumstances and add flexibility for meeting individual student needs. Penalties for fraud or misrepresentation are designed to help keep the out-of-district transfer process fair for everyone. These measures and other new procedures are intended to ensure that FCPS is best supporting every student attending an out-of-district school.

A full description of all changes, along with a FAQ about the new procedures, links to the regulations that contain the new procedures, the out-of-district transfer application form itself, and other helpful material for families is available online at: [fcps.org](http://fcps.org). The out-of-district transfer form is also available at all local public schools or at the FCPS Student Services office, 191 South East Street, Frederick, 21701. The Student Services Office will accept new requests from April 1 to May 31, 2017. **Those seeking to renew a request approved for the current school year must re-apply by Monday, May 1 and you will be notified of the decision by Thursday, June 1, 2017.**

#### **FCPS Elementary Science, Social Studies and Engineering Fair**

Frederick County's annual Elementary Science & Engineering Fair and Social Studies Fair registration is now open online for students to register:

Elementary Science <http://education.fcps.org/scienceelem/sciencefair>

Elementary Social Studies <https://sites.google.com/fcps.org/ssfair>

The fair will be held on Saturday, April 1 at Tuscarora High School. It's a great opportunity for students to learn and grow as well as see other students' projects!

We will hold our school based science and social studies fair on Thursday, March 23 from 6:00-7:30 with an evening viewing for projects at 6:00 followed by an engaging science show sponsored by our PTA! Please have your child complete the following entry form by 10 if they intend to complete a science/social studies fair project for Oakdale's event : <https://goo.gl/forms/5f5trmQHOUQ4NZC73>  
Mrs. Thompson will talk about science/social studies fair project ideas and resources during media sessions towards the end of February.

All science/social studies fair projects should be brought to school on Friday, March 17 in the AM to the media center so they can be on display for a week for classes to view projects during media lessons. Projects should go home with students concluding the evening science/social studies fair on March 23. If you are unable to attend this event please plan to pick up projects on Friday, March 24.

#### **Counselor's Corner**

As you know by now we are more than halfway through our school year – hard to believe in some ways, but then again we've accomplished so much already!

Term 2 classroom lessons are completed and I'll soon begin visiting classes again for our next round. Stay tuned for updates!

- In January in 1<sup>st</sup> grade I read the Dr. Seuss classic *Horton Hatches the Egg* and led a discussion with students about the importance of Responsibility – 1) Doing what we're supposed to do; 2) Thinking about how our actions affect others; and 3) Always trying to do our best. Students

shared ways they are responsible in their daily lives and took home a personalized handout to share with their families.

- In second grade I shared a book entitled *The Other Side of the Fence*, written by Jacqueline Woodson, and talked with students about fences and other barriers – real and Imagined – that we have in our lives that might keep us from interacting and being open to others. It was amazing how many 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were willing and able to share connections with the world around us today and especially current news stories.
- In 4<sup>th</sup> grade I presented one my favorite lessons called “Keys to Success”. As a class we defined what exactly “success” means and if it is different for each of us. We also discussed what habits are, whether there is such a thing as “good” habits, and how important our habits, personal and social skills and effort (as outlined on report cards) and goals are and how they all contribute to our success in school and beyond. Students filled out and took home to share with families their own blank copy of a report card for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> term and also answered on the back a who, what, when, and where worksheet to help them define and reach their goals for the remainder of this school year.
- 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).
- Small guidance groups for third term are starting up this week. If you believe that your child might benefit from inclusion in such a group for Term 4 (topics based on school needs, such as school success and 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.
- Nearly one out of every three Frederick County families struggle to afford basic needs such as stable housing, food, and health care despite often working multiple jobs. To help them achieve financial stability, **The Prosperity Center provides these families with free tax preparation, asset-building tools, and access to community resources.** To learn more please contact me and I’ll be happy to pass on that information.

Bad habits are hard to break – but so are good ones. Mr. Gill [chuck.gill@fcps.org](mailto:chuck.gill@fcps.org) 240-236-3309

### **World Language Day**

This annual event will take place Saturday, March 4 from 11:30 to 2:00 at Tuscarora High School. Tentatively Scheduled Activities are: displays, music, and artifacts from Cameroon, Mexican calaveras, sampling of churros and chocolate, picture booth with Puerto Rican attire, Cultural factoids about Tunisia and Haiti, German dancing and cultural information, Interactive activities with American Sign Language, Table for language learning apps, and so much more! Admission is free. We kindly ask (although not required) that you register at the link provide:

<https://sites.google.com/fcps.org/wlday/home> For further information contact

Dewayne.cash@fcps.org or 301-644-5264. All grade level students and families are welcome!

### **World Language Day Poster Contest**

From the world language FCPS office: National Foreign Language Week is March 05-11, 2017. The theme is "Find the Missing Piece. Learn a Language." Prizes: MS - 1st Prize - Samsung Smartwatch, 2nd Prize - Google home (<https://madeby.google.com/home/>) ES - Three Prizes - Windows 10 Tablet.

Guidelines: FCPS MS participants must be currently enrolled in FLEX, level I of a world language, or level II of a world language. FCPS ES participants must currently be enrolled in grade three, four, or five. One's unframed entry must be no smaller than 8.5" x 11" and no larger 11" x 14". Each person may submit only one entry. The entry must free hand. (i.e., no photography, digital software, graphic design, or means of composing other than one's hands) MS - Each entry must include the following

information on the back side of the art: student's name, world language course (FLEX, I, or II), instructor's name, name of school, and telephone number and/or e-mail address. ES - Each entry must include the following information on the back of the side of the art: student's name, name of homeroom (if done at home) OR art teacher (if done in art class), name of school, and telephone number and/or e-mail address. Poster may be done in oil, watercolor, pastels, pencil, or ink. The artistic rendition must be not copied, plagiarized, or in any way influenced by the work of another entity. Each submission must be an original interpretation of the meaning of the theme, "Find the missing piece. Learn a language." A student's entry may not duplicate/resemble the image of National Foreign Language Week (<http://www.amgnational.org/national-foreign-language-week.html>) or any other previously composed work.

### **School Spirit Dates Reminder**

#### **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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