



OWL NEWS

June 1, 2017

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
6/1	Grade 5 Field Trip, Mt. Vernon, 9:15-4:15
6/2	Schoolwide Regatta, cafeteria, 9:30 AM OHS Graduation
6/5	Field Day
6/6	Field Day Rain Date PTA Board Meeting, Media Center, 4:15 5th Grade / Staff Kickball Game 2:00 (if we don't use today as Field Day)
6/8	Rain Date for 5th Grade /Staff Kickball Game 2:00
6/9	Spirit Day- Beach Day (No bathing suits please!) Last Day of School for Students, 2 Hour Early Dismissal Flag Raising Ceremony (weather permitting), 9:20 Fifth Grade Ceremony 10:00, Celebration (following ceremony) and Clap Out 1:15
6/12	Last day for 10 month staff 4 day workweek begins
6/18	Father's Day
8/28	5 day workweek begins (office hours 8:45-4:15)
8/31	Open House, 3:00-4:00 PM Kindergarten Parent Information Session, 6:00-7:00 PM
9/28	Back to School Night for grades 1-5 and Mrs. Gibbon's PK, 6:00-7:00 PM

Congratulations

We want to congratulate each and every student for their accomplishments this year. There is so much to celebrate at Oakdale Elementary; students that persevere, supportive parents and an exemplary staff. We want to wish a special farewell to our fifth grade students that will transition to middle school and those that may not return to Oakdale in the fall. You have left Oakdale a better place because of your presence here. We wish you the best in future endeavours and we encourage you to continue developing into a person of exemplary character!

Trout Release

We would like to thank Mr. Sahli for leading our Trout Scouts this year as they implemented the Trout in the Classroom program for our school. Our school successfully raised and released 175 trout this year!

Hugh B. Nolan Track and Field

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the Hugh B. Nolan Track & Field meet at Oakdale High School on the evening of May 23. Each of these students ran in at least one event and competed with other fourth and fifth grade students from around the county. Thanks to our PE teachers and Chuck Gill for coordinating this opportunity for our students and thank you to parents for bringing them to the event!

Summer Slide

Research shows that most children lose 2-3 months of learning over the summer. To combat this learning loss, our school will be using a TenMarks summer resource for current second grade students through current fifth grade students to provide your child with access to a powerful, personalized summer math program designed to help him or her reverse summer learning loss. Your child has already been using TenMarks at school this year and an hour a week over the summer is all it takes for your child to strengthen his/her math skills and prepare for the year ahead. Please refer to a parent letter that will be sent home in Thursday folders regarding access to this resource.

It is equally important that students continue reading and writing on a regular basis to maintain literacy skills. To help support this need, we will open our media center once a week for an hour for students to check out books over the summer. Look for more information in the coming weeks regarding this opportunity!

Book Donations

“Reading is powerful. It creates compassion, moves us to action, transports us to different places, and even sometimes transforms us. Reading can change lives. Of all the goals for literacy instruction, there is none more critical than creating students who read independently. Independent reading provides practice and pleasure and a passion for books. Repeated experiences that involve true engagement with books help students develop a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.” Barbara Moss and Terrell Young 2010)

Next year we will be focusing time, resources and professional development on building strong independent reading programs in all of our classrooms. In order to achieve this goal we will need robust libraries in all of our classrooms. If you have any books at home that your child has outgrown, please consider donating them to our school to be housed in all of our classrooms. We greatly appreciate any donations in this area!

Counselor's Corner

Hello Oakdale Families and Friends – looks like we may FINALLY be getting some sunshine for the end of the school year! May is always a busy and exciting time of year, and this year - with our last school day coming on June 9th - summer vacation will be coming sooner than ever! So, for my last Counselor's Corner of the year, some celebrations and thoughts for a happy and healthy summer:

- 5th graders visited their future middle schools on May 19 – our community can be proud of the students' behavior on those visits and excited to see what great things our OES Owls are going to do in the future!
- Small groups for Term 4 just officially wrapped up today. My sincere thanks to all parents and families who supported this program.
- *If you have a concern for your child/children that you would like to see addressed early next school year, please contact me by email (contact info below) and I will get your student on my list for next year.
- Term 4 lessons are wrapping up this week. This term we covered a variety of topics....
- I visited Kindergarten classrooms in late April/early May and talked with them about Listening Skills: listening to others as well as listening to our own inner voice, with an emphasis on being

kind to ourselves! So often the way we talk to ourselves – the negative self-talk – can be worse than bullying from the **outside**.

- Last week I visited 1st grade classrooms and generated a “Career Alphabet” with each class. Some of my favorites: Elephant Trainer, Ice Cream Server/Taster, Snow Plow Driver, Umbrella Seller, and YoYo Maker! Time for a career change?
- This week we will celebrate the uniqueness of each of our 2nd graders as we tie into their science unit and celebrate the idea that in some pretty cool ways we are “Just Like the Butterflies”.
- Last week I visited 3rd grade classrooms and led them in an activity called “Learning About Work”. Not only did we discuss in depth the primary job they have (student), but also what chores they may have at home and what those chores entail, but students were also encouraged to complete the activity by talking with parents/guardians about what they do for a living and how - over the summer – students could help out even more around the house with their extra free time.
- Beginning the week of May 15 I visited 4th grade classrooms to discuss Citizenship, Random Acts of Kindness, and the possible responsibilities they can take on as 5th Grade Helpers next year.
- Finally, I also presented one of my favorite lessons to 5th graders as we talked about “Movin’ On Up” to middle school – these are exciting times!

I hope that your families have a wonderful, exciting, but also restful summer. It is a joy to work with you and your children, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

2017-2018 Staffing Update Correction

Grade/Content	Staff
Speech Language Pathologist	Ms. McCabe 1.0, Pamela Glatfelter .2 and Mrs. Zimmerman .3

Field Day Reminder

Field Day is scheduled for Monday June 5 with a rain date planned for Tuesday, June 6. Let’s hope there has been enough rain this month so that we’ll have clear skies for future events that are weather dependent! Families are reminded that students will be outdoors for field day and it will be important for you to take necessary precautions, such as applying sunblock for instance, to prepare your son/daughter to participate in this event.

Flag Raising Ceremony and Clap Out Reminder

Weather permitting, we will meet briefly around the flagpole on the last day of school (Friday, June 9) for a flag raising ceremony at 9:15 so we can start the day together as a community. The front driveway will be blocked off around the flagpole as soon as arrival concludes at 9:15 to accommodate our 600+ students, staff and guests. Please do not park vehicles in this area so we can ensure a safe and orderly ceremony.

At 1:15 the entire school will line the halls for a fifth grade clap out as we wish each of these students the best in the next ‘leg of their journey’! Parents are invited to join us for both of these exciting ways to begin and end the day together as an Oakdale family.

We are asking all fifth grade parents that are taking their child home after the clap out to meet your child in the cafeteria immediately following the clap out. At that time you will check-in with your child’s homeroom teacher and sign your son/daughter out on a sign out sheet your homeroom teacher will provide. **If you are taking home a sibling home please alert the office prior to 1:00 the name of the**

sibling(s) and their classroom teacher so they can be called down to the cafeteria after the clap-out.

You will sign out your 5th grader's siblings on the same sign out sheet.

Carpooling is highly recommended if you are joining us on June 9. Overflow parking is available at Monocacy Valley Church. You are also welcome to park at Oakdale Middle School in the front lot only (PE classes will be using the side lot for instructional purposes). Please ensure you are not blocking bus or car rider lanes at OES or OMS so we are both able to dismiss without delay. We look forward to an exciting end to the school year!

Save the Date Reminder

Open House, August 31, 3:00-4:00 PM

Kindergarten Orientation (in lieu of Back to School Night), August 31, 6:00-7:00 PM

Back to School Night for grades 1-5 and special education PK, September 28, 6:00-7:00 PM

Kindergarten Orientation is intended for **parents** of kindergarten students to provide an opportunity to hear about kindergarten curriculum, routines, expectations and initiatives. We know this is an exciting time for families but also, at times, a little scary! It is our intent to help address any concerns you may have as your child begins their school career. **Doors will remain locked until 6:00 to ensure appropriate planning time for staff; the presentation will begin at 6:10.**

Open House will be a time for us to welcome **students and families** back to school giving you the opportunity to meet your teachers, explore your classroom/school and bring school supplies. We want to ensure every student has a positive transition to the new school year! **Doors will remain locked until 3:00 to ensure appropriate planning time for staff.**

Back to School Night is intended for **parents** of students in grades 1-5 and special education PK to provide an opportunity to hear about grade level curriculum, routines, expectations and initiatives. There will be two sessions to accommodate families with children in multiple grade levels. **Doors will remain locked until 3:00 to ensure appropriate planning time for staff.** Below is a schedule for the evening:

6:00-6:10 Arrival/Welcome

6:10-6:30 Classroom Session I

6:40-7:00 Classroom Session II

Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony and Celebration Reminder

It is hard to believe that we will be sending our well wishes to our current fifth grade students soon as they will transition to middle school in the fall! We look forward to celebrating their success in the coming months and in particular on the last day of school for students. For your planning purposes we wanted to share that due to limited seating, resources and the need to minimize disruption to school operations and maintain student safety, all siblings of fifth grade students in PreK through fourth grade will need to remain in their classroom for the duration of the school day; this includes the time allocated for the fifth grade ceremony and celebration. Fifth grade parents will receive information directly from their child's classroom teacher regarding upcoming events to celebrate and honor our fifth grade students in the coming weeks.

Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration Reminder

Tell your friends and neighbors to register now for kindergarten and priority based Pre-K with Mrs. Sherman!

Character + Community + Commitment = Successful Learners
Follow OES on Twitter @OakdaleES