



# OWL NEWS

March 2, 2017

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
3/3	PTA International Night, 6:30-8:00 PM
3/4	5th Grade Field Trip to the ESSL
3/4	World Language Day, Tuscarora High School, 11:30-2:00
3/8	4th Grade Field Trip to the ESSL
3/10	Complete entry form for OES science/social studies fair <a href="https://goo.gl/forms/5f5trmQHOuQ4NZC73">https://goo.gl/forms/5f5trmQHOuQ4NZC73</a>
3/12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
3/13	2 Hour Late Arrival -NO Chorus - NO ELO <b>PreK Schedule</b> AM - 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM PM - 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM PreK and Kindergarten Registration Begins 9:30 - 3:00 daily Maryland Integrated Science Assessment for 5th grade students 3/13 - 3/24
3/14	Spring Pictures Girls on the Run, 3:45-5:00 In-Line Skating Unit Begins 3/14 - 3/27 Volunteers Needed
3/16	Extended Day PreK and Kindergarten Registration 9:30 am - 7:00 pm Girls on the Run, 3:45-5:00
3/17	Science/social studies fair projects should be set up in media center, 8:45-9:15 St. Patrick's Day Spirit Day - Crazy Hat
3/21	Character Counts Luncheon Girls on the Run, 3:45-5:00
3/23	OES science/social studies fair, 6:00-7:30 (projects go home with students by 7:30 PM) Girls on the Run, 3:45-5:00 PTA Meeting, 7:35 PM, Media Center
3/24	All remaining science/social studies fair projects go home with students
3/27	Recycling Poster Design Contest <a href="http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/PosterContest">www.frederickcountymd.gov/PosterContest</a>
3/28	Girls on the Run, 3:45-5:00

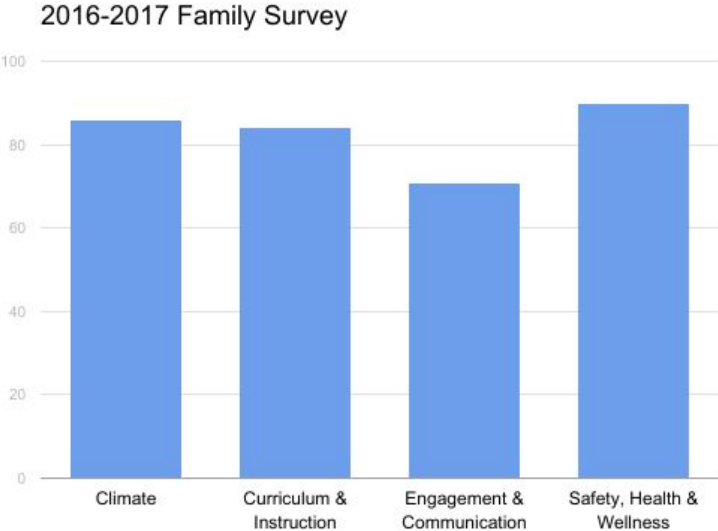
3/29	5th Grade Field Trip to OHS
3/30	Skip Wizards Show Girls on the Run, 3:45-5:00
3/31	Schools Closed

**Honors Chorus**

The FCPS Elementary Honors Chorus is a well-loved tradition that highlights the musical talents of fifth graders from every elementary school in Frederick County. Students must audition with their music teachers and approximately five percent of each school's fifth grade can participate (usually 4-5 Oakdale students). These outstanding students spend time in and out of school rehearsing challenging music that culminates in a grand performance with over 150 fifth graders at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. This year's concert will be held on **Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00 PM** and we encourage you to attend! We are so proud of **William Chen, Marie Ireland, Nicolina Stine, Cole Swinimer, and Josh Townshend** who will be representing OES at this year's Honors Chorus- congratulations!

**Perceptual Survey**

This past November we had 120 families complete our FCPS Perceptual Survey! These data points allow us to measure progress in the FCPS Strategic Plan and it also provides our school with valuable information regarding what is working well and also what we may need to improve. Our school faculty reviewed feedback from our families, students, and staff. Below are the results of our Family Survey. \*The percent favorable only includes respondents who marked one of the top two favorable choices with 60% favorability being the target (i.e., respondents who felt “somewhat” positive are not included here).



While favorability is very positive at Oakdale, our school’s leadership team and entire faculty reviewed responses to each item in the area of Engagement and Communication and identified a need to explore additional ways for parents to be informed of school events as well as different ways to be involved with their child’s education. We are excited to share that several of our PTA Board members

are now participating on our leadership team meetings and several teachers are participating in PTA meetings as a way to increase communication and foster a strong partnership between staff and our community. You should also notice more frequent Find Out First notices for upcoming school events to serve as ongoing reminders. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@OakdaleES) for another way to get a glimpse into our classrooms. We look forward to hearing more from you as we continuously strive to partner with you to provide the best learning experience and environment for our students!

### **2017-2018 PTA Executive Board Nominations**

Dedicated teachers, staff, and PARENTS help make Oakdale Elementary a great school! Join us – it's rewarding, it's important, it's even fun!

Be on the lookout for an upcoming opportunity to nominate yourself or someone else for one of the PTA Executive Board Offices for the 2017-2018 school year including:

**President** – Serve as leader and key contact for the PTA; preside at all PTA meetings (PTA/PTSA, board of directors, and Executive Committee); represent PTA at all council meetings or send alternate; ex-officio member of all committees except nominating; appoint chairpersons for special committees; coordinate the work of the officers and committees so that the PTA's objectives can be met; perform such duties as prescribed per the bylaws or assigned by the board of directors; review bank statements monthly; ensure invoices paid timely; serve as a second reviewer and signer of checks.

**Vice President** - Act as an aide to the President; perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve; assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Board; coordinate the general activities of any Special Committees created by the Executive Board; perform such duties as prescribed per the bylaws or assigned by the board of directors. Ideally, is willing to serve as President in the future.

**Vice President 2** – Act as an aide to the Vice President; perform the duties of the Vice President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve; assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Executive Board; assist with the coordination of the general activities of any Special Committees; perform such duties as prescribed per the bylaws or assigned by the board of directors. Ideally, is willing to serve as Vice President in the future.

**Secretary** - Keep the minutes of all meetings including the general membership, board of directors, and executive committees; provide the minutes for review and approval at next meeting; prepare correspondence and perform all other duties assigned by the board of directors; have a current copy of bylaws; maintain master documents; maintain a current membership list; keep the calendar of events for the PTA.

**Treasurer** - Be responsible for and have custody of all funds; keep full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures including reconciliation of bank statement each month; make disbursements as authorized by the president and board of directors in accordance with the budget adopted by the PTA; be present at all PTA events where money will be collected; assure that PTA policies and best practices are followed with regards to funds; responsible for the maintenance of such books of account and records as to conform to the requirements of Article IV, Section 13 of bylaws; prepare financial reports for each meeting and as needed; make full report before the newly elected officers officially assume their duties; have accounts examined at the close of the fiscal year and upon change of treasurer by an auditing committee (selected by the board of directors 30 day prior to new officers assuming their duties) of not less than 3 persons to satisfy that the treasurer's annual report is correct; prepare the books for an annual audit; prepare and file all necessary tax forms and submitting a copy to the Maryland PTA office within 30 days of filing; perform other duties as prescribed by PTA bylaws or the board of directors.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Johnson at [gotokj22@yahoo.com](mailto:gotokj22@yahoo.com) .

### **Counselor's Corner**

I'm a little thrown off by this month's Counselor's Corner – as I write this it's almost 70 degrees and it's still February??! I know we'll enjoy it while we can!

- Term 3 classroom lessons are underway, with lessons in Kindergarten completed and MANY coming up over the next few weeks.
- PreK and Kindergarten students visited Jobland online as we took "A Look at Our School and Community." We identified some careers that students were familiar with as well as some they discovered and identified that they *might* want to do some day (including a couple of paleontologists, some video game designers, military personnel, and fashion designers). We also did gallery walks to admire the artwork generated as part of the lesson – overall the kids seemed to have a lot of fun.

#### **Coming soon:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Bullying- what it is, who it affects, and how to deal with it**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Career Awareness- My Dream Job**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Study Skills and Organization**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Interest Inventory as part of our Career Awareness curriculum**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Cyberbullying and the Challenges of Social Media**

- Second grade is about to begin their Personal Safety Unit which will be presented over the next couple of weeks. As many of you know this Personal Safety curriculum is shared county-wide in grades PreK-3 and has been in place for more than 7 years now. I am happy to sit down with any parent or family member who has questions about this curriculum or who would like to review the materials.
- Small guidance groups for third term are about halfway completed and will be wrapping up over the next few weeks. 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. Please know that inclusion in any of my guidance groups is not just an indicator of "problems". Often I include students in groups who have expressed interest themselves or who have been identified by staff members as possible role models to other students for the skills being taught.
- Our Hope 4 Kids weekend snacks in a backpack program is still operating and will be in place through the last week of the school year. If your children could benefit from some extra healthy food for weekends at home just call or email me (contact information below).
- 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.
- Even though the OES Hootenanny is still more than a couple months away, help is here for any family that wants to attend this community-favorite event. Please contact me if you need any assistance purchasing tickets – our Oakdale family is unbelievably generous when it comes to taking care of our children and those in need. As they say, "it takes a village to raise a child," and we live in a very caring village!!!

Regarding all of the above outreach/support programs: please understand that all information shared with me when asking for any kind of assistance is strictly confidential. If you have any questions, please contact me at [chuck.gill@fcps.org](mailto:chuck.gill@fcps.org) or 240-236-3309.

### **Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration Reminder**

**FCPS kindergarten and pre-k registration begin Monday, March 13!** We strongly encourage early registration so we have time to predict accurate class size and hire adequate staff.

To enter kindergarten in the fall 2017, a child must be five on or before September 1, 2017. Those registering will need the child's:

- immunization record
- proof of birthdate
- proof of residency

### **Priority Based Pre-K Reminder**

**FCPS kindergarten and pre-k registration begin Monday, March 13!** To enter our priority based pre-kindergarten in fall 2017, a child must be four on or before September 1, 2017. Students are selected based on criteria such as eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or factors that increase a child's risk of not being successful in school. Proof of eligibility is required. For pre-k applications, provide the child's immunization record, proof of birth date and proof of residency.

If planning to have the child enter pre-k with automatic priority status based on free or reduced-price meal eligibility, also provide the following:

\*3 consecutive pay stubs from the past 6 months or

\*a W2 form showing 2015 earnings or

\*a letter from an employer on letterhead stating the applicant's family income, social services agency or foster care determination

If the child has a documented special need, please provide a copy of the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### **Special Education Inclusive Pre-Kindergarten Reminder**

We are excited to announce that next school year we will continue to provide a morning and afternoon session of special education inclusive pre-kindergarten. This program provides integrated supports for students with a variety of developmental disabilities in a small structured classroom. Students are taught communication, self-help, social, and academic skills in preparation for participation in kindergarten. Opportunities for inclusion with non-disabled peers are a priority.

**From March 13-March 30**, we will begin accepting applications for our special education inclusive PK program, which allows us to enroll 14 neuro-typical peers in our class (seven three year old students to attend in the morning, and seven four year old students in the afternoon in addition to seven students with developmental disabilities in each session). Children who enroll for this PK program must meet the following requirements:

- Age 3 by September 1, 2017 for the AM session, and age 4 by September 1, 2017 for the PM session
- No identified special needs services (ChildFind, speech or OT/PT)
- Must be transported to and from school by a parent/guardian daily
- May not already be enrolled in another FCPS PK program
- Live in the OES boundary area – out of district placements are not considered for typical peer placement in PK

**Special education inclusive Pre-K packets must be submitted by Thursday, March 30.** A lottery system will be used to select neuro-typical peers to participate in this program from complete applications that have been submitted by March 30. Families will be notified of their special education inclusive PK placements by April 28.

**School Spirit Dates Reminder**

**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  
**Follow OES on Twitter @OakdaleES**