



Oak Tree Elementary School

The Monroe Public Schools, in collaboration with the members of the community, shall ensure that all students receive an exemplary education by well-trained, committed staff, in a safe and orderly environment.

Principal's Newsletter March 2025

Dear Oak Tree Families,

You don't need a fancy lab or complex tools to turn your little ones into budding data scientists. Your home is a treasure trove of opportunities for kids to explore the fascinating world of data. These simple, home-based activities can nurture this vital skill set.

Elementary (Ages 6-11): Building Analytical Skills As children grow, they can start engaging with more complex data concepts and begin to draw conclusions from their observations. •

- **Family Favorite Survey:** Encourage your child to survey family members about their preferences (favorite colors, foods, activities) and create simple bar graphs to represent the results.
- **Plant Growth Experiment:** Measure and record the height of a plant every few days, then create a line graph to visualize its growth over time.
- **Screen Time Tracker:** Have your child log their daily screen time and create a weekly report, introducing the concept of self-monitoring through data.

The Long-Term Impact of Home-Based Data Activities Regardless of age, engaging children in data activities at home offers numerous benefits:

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyzing data helps kids question, interpret, and draw conclusions from information.
- **Math Proficiency:** Regular practice with numbers, measurements, and graphs enhances math skills.
- **Scientific Curiosity:** Data projects often spark interest in scientific methods and inquiry-based learning.

- Digital Literacy: Understanding data is crucial for navigating digital landscapes responsibly.
- Future Readiness: Data literacy is increasingly valuable in many careers, giving data-savvy kids a head start.

By integrating these age-appropriate data activities into daily life, parents can create a home environment that nurtures analytical thinking and prepares children for a data-centric future. Remember, the goal isn't to create mini data scientists, but to foster curiosity, critical thinking, and comfort with numbers that will serve children well in any future endeavor. So grab those counters, charts, and curious minds—it's time to transform your home into a data discovery zone.

March continues our commitment to our ongoing school wide literacy goals. Read Across America will be celebrated beginning the week of March 3rd through March 7th with Spirit Week Activities and guest readers. Of course, the month will end with our traditional Grade 3 March Madness Competition! Parent access to report cards will begin on March 28th as well.

It is often said that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. With all the activities planned, we are certainly demonstrating our energy and excitement and taking charge of our learning.

Kindest regards,

Patty Dinsmore

Patricia J. Dinsmore
Principal

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KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. To register for kindergarten your child must be five (5) years of age by October 31, 2025. Kindergarten registration is to be completed online; please visit the district's website www.monroe.k12.nj.us and click on New Student Registration.

If you would like to register for the district's Integrated Pre-K Program (Tuition Based), please complete the form to join the waitlist. It is also located on the district's website.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO OAK TREE SCHOOL

Our school district requires all visitors to identify themselves and state the purpose of their visit upon entering our buildings. Visitors are required to sign in at the office, show photo identification, and wear their visitor's badge in a prominent place on their person. Our staff has been instructed to question anyone who is not wearing a badge. Anyone wishing to sign out a child during school hours must be authorized to do so and must properly identify themselves with a picture ID, such as a driver's license.

REPORT CARDS

Parent access to second trimester reports cards will open on March 28th.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. MC NUTT

March is National Poison awareness month with the third week in March representing Poison Awareness Week. The theme of this year's campaign is "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons". Accidental poisonings are responsible for many emergency room visits and calls to the local Poison Control Centers. Over 50% of the calls to the poison control centers are for children younger than the age of 6. This month is a good time to check your house for any potential household item that may present a hazard to your child. Some household items that may present problems for children are:

- Batteries
- Household Cleaners including dishwashing soap, bleach, cleansers
- Medications not secured in a medication cabinet with child safety locks

- Personal Care Products such as nail polish remover, perfume, mouthwash, toothpaste, creams
- Plants
- Garage items such as antifreeze, gasoline, window cleaner, plant food
- Vitamins

It is important to call the NJ Poison Control Center Immediately if you think your child may have ingested a poisonous material. They can be reached at 1-800-222-1222 any time day or night for guidance. For further information on how to protect your family, please visit the New Jersey Poison Control Center Website at www.njpies.org.

Importance of Breakfast

Breakfast is so important for our children before they start their busy school day. Not only does it give them energy to start a new day, but breakfast is linked to many health benefits, including weight control and improved performance.

Studies show that eating a *healthy* breakfast (as opposed to the kind containing doughnuts) can help give you:

- A more nutritionally complete diet, higher in nutrients, vitamins and minerals
- Improved concentration and performance in the classroom
- More strength and endurance to engage in physical activity
- Lower cholesterol levels

Eating breakfast is important for everyone, but is especially so for children and adolescents. According to the American Dietetic Association, children who eat breakfast perform better in the classroom and on the playground, with better concentration, problem-solving skills, and eye-hand coordination. (WebMD).

Please make sure your children have something to eat before coming to school. Breakfast on the run can include: Granola bars, fruit, cereal bars, GoGurts, yogurt cups, packaged granola snacks or nuts, smoothies, dry cereal in a Ziploc bag, or peanut butter and jelly. You don't have to limit breakfast to traditional breakfast foods. Try 'thinking outside the breakfast box' with different foods for breakfast such as grilled cheese sandwiches, soup or dinner leftovers. Whatever your child chooses to eat for breakfast, please have them eat something healthy and substantial to help them have a successful day at school.

Laundry Pod Alert

Poison centers receive many calls each year about children getting into laundry detergent. Swallowing it often causes mild stomach upset, if there are any symptoms at all, but poison center experts say the new highly concentrated single-load liquid laundry detergent packets seem to be different.

Some children who have gotten the product in their mouths have had excessive vomiting, wheezing and gasping. Some get very sleepy. Some have had breathing problems serious enough to need a ventilator to help them breathe. There have also been reports of corneal abrasions (scratches to the eyes) when the detergent gets into a child's eyes.

These pods are colorful, soft and sweet smelling and many children are drawn to them for those reasons. Exposures can be as minor as touching the pod and experiencing some skin irritation

to a full blown reaction if a pod is ingested. Please keep these pods locked and out of reach of your young children.

Classroom Snacks

Please send daily snacks for your children. All classes at Oak Tree have daily snack and all students should bring a snack to school daily.

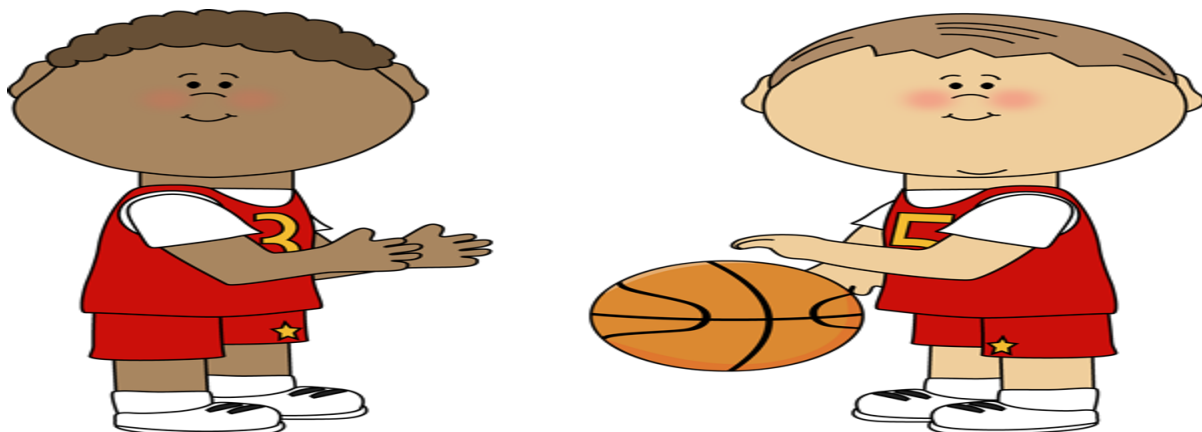
KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

We are thrilled to announce that Oak Tree raised \$16,688.77 for the American Heart Association! Our pep rally and dance party were a great way to celebrate in a heart healthy way!



Physical Education

Our students are looking forward to the annual March Madness basketball tournament. The 3rd grade tournament will be held on March 28th. The 1st and 2nd grade students are equally excited to be participating in a basketball skills challenge the week of March 24th.



COUNSELORS CORNER

The value that we will be focusing on during the month of March is **Cooperation**. For our students, we define cooperation as, “working and playing together peacefully to achieve a goal.” Students will understand that cooperation includes compromise, sharing, taking turns, doing your part, and “talking it out”. These values will be practiced during our “cooperation” guidance lessons this month. Students will learn that cooperation is essential for maintaining harmony and getting things accomplished throughout their lives. You can encourage cooperation at home too. Have your children practice taking turns and sharing with family members and friends. Praise them when they display these behaviors. Discuss how your family cooperates in every-day life such as helping each other clean up, getting ready in the morning, talking out conflicts, playing games fairly, etc. Point out to your children that when everyone cooperates, it helps things run more smoothly. We cannot wait to see how proud our students feel when they show us how well they can cooperate with one another.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Ask your children about all the wonderful activities that they may be participating in during our Read Across America celebration beginning March 3 - March 7. What a great way to celebrate our love of reading at Oak Tree!



FALCON LEADERSHIP AWARD

The following students were nominated by their grade level teachers to receive the Falcon Leadership Award in February. Each student is being recognized for demonstrating responsible and respectful behavior. We are so proud of them!!!!

February

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| K | Sirat Kaur |
| 1 | Jeshwin Rajesh |
| 2 | Nuralain Mirza |
| 3 | Rajbir Kaur |



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 3 Color Day
Grade 2 Field Trip
- 4 Slipper/Socks Day
Grade 2 Field Trip
Grade 2 Dental Visits
- 5 Silly Story/Outfit Day
- 6 Animal Day
- 7 Pajama Day
Reading Train
- 10 Falcon Leadership Recognition Ceremony
CogAT Testing
- 11 CogAT Testing
- 14 4 Hour Session/In-Service
Pep Rally
Student Council Snack Sale
- 17 One Book, One School
BOE Meeting
- 19 Book Fair
- 20 Book Fair
- 21 Oak Tree Express – Traveling the Globe
- 25 Author Visit
- 27 Makerspace Night
- 28 Report Card Access for Parents
PTA BINGO Night
Grade 3 March Madness



Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat

RIDE WITH CHARACTER



Congratulations to Bus 79 for being awarded February's Bus of the Month Award as part of our positive behavior bus incentive program, which ties directly to our Rising Stars program. Each Oak Tree student received a certificate of recognition and two star tickets. We are so proud of them!!!

Hour of Code Night at Oak Tree

The Hour of Code, an introduction to computer science, is a worldwide movement that takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. Led and organized by teachers Mrs. Dowe, Ms. Quidor, Ms. O'Larte, Ms. Guerrero, and Mrs. Anastasio, Oak Tree held an Hour of Code Night on February 6. Third grade students and their parents worked side by side, in our media center coding through a Star Wars challenge. It was an incredible evening in which participants could learn the basics in a fun and interactive way.



NEWS FROM THE READING SPECIALIST

Hip, Hip, Hooray!

In March, we celebrate Read Across America day!

But one day is too short, you'll see.

So let's celebrate every day that we read.

Books with the Grinch, Horton and Thing 1 and Thing 2.

Let's celebrate this month, there's so much we can do!

We can read Fox in Socks and laugh all night.

Green Eggs and Ham with Sam I Am is sure to delight!

So many books to choose from, what more could you need?

Let's have fun this month and find cozy spots to read!



You can find fun projects to make at home and fun games to play on the following site-
www.seussville.com

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." --Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut"

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Kappus



MTSD Enrichment Services is excited to announce the creation of an all-new summer learning opportunity for preschool students, the [MTSD Falcon's Nest Summer Academy \(FNSA\)](#)! The FNSA offers future falcons a five-week, four-hour enrichment program that extends our high school's Falcon's Nest Preschool curriculum. In addition to traditional preschool enrichment learning, FNSA students will receive instruction in the Fine Arts, STEM, and the Culinary Arts. This program is designed to serve students 3.5 - 5 years old and takes place June 30 - July 31, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (M-Th).

Season and weekly passes are now available, but to ensure instructional efficacy - seats are limited. Please [visit our official website](#) to learn more about our all-new program! You can also [email us with any questions](#).

About our Instructors & Staff | The MTSD Falcon's Nest Summer Academy is co-directed by our high school's early childhood education instructors/specialists, Mrs. Christine Scaletti and Mrs. Jodi Silberstein. Mrs. Scaletti & Mrs. Silberstein have co-directed the Falcon's Nest Preschool at the Monroe Township High School for over ten years. Our instructors offer an aligned preschool curriculum alongside our articulated early childhood education preparation program. The FNSA always has a full-time nurse and administration on-site. All our instructors at MTSD Summer are fully certified and trained. Plan your summer learning now! We hope to see you at the MTSD Falcon's Nest Summer Academy!