



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 April 2025

Dear Oak Tree Families,

Happy Spring! Hopefully many of winter's illnesses are behind us as "spring is in the air"! Remember that regular attendance in elementary school begins a positive pattern for your child's entire school career. Show your child that school comes first by trying to keep days off for family emergencies and illnesses, as well as celebrations, to a minimum. Try to schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or during breaks.

I am often asked, "How can parents support their child's learning and school?" Here are a few ideas:

- Attend conferences, parent meetings and school events regularly.
- Contact your child's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child be successful.
- Tell your child's teacher if you work with them at home or are open to more suggestions and ideas.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts.
- Play thinking games in the car or between school, errands, and activities. "What Doesn't Belong?" and "Three Favorites" help children think through their ideas and have fun at the same time.
- Read, read, read!!!

At Oak Tree School a great deal of learning also takes place outside of the classroom. Our students are looking forward to being outside for World Cup Soccer, Field Day and their grade level field trips. I hope you have a wonderful and relaxing spring break!

Kindest Regards,

Patty Dinsmore

Principal

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. MC NUTT

Tips for Staying Healthy

Hand washing and avoiding touching eyes, nose, mouth and face are the single most important ways to stay healthy. Encourage your child to visit www.scrubclub.org for some fun and interactive games and activities on hand washing and staying healthy. Hearing screenings are done annually in school in the primary grades and are then done periodically as children move through the school system. You may not realize it, but every day your children are exposed to loud noises. Over time, loud noise can affect their hearing, potentially resulting in noise-induced hearing loss. Healthy hearing contributes to children's academic performance and social development, so it's important to know about any changes in your child's ability to hear his or her teachers and peers.

A hearing screening is a quick and cost-effective way to determine if someone is experiencing a hearing problem. Using earphones to capture information for both ears, this test determines the faintest tones children can hear at varying pitches. During the pure-tone test, children are asked to respond to the sounds they hear through the earphones.



Hearing tests are quick and painless. If your child is screened and does not pass, it is important to follow up with an otolaryngologist (ENT doctor) and an audiologist. The audiologist can determine if your child has hearing loss, evaluate the level and type of any hearing loss, and recommend treatment options.

Hearing Loss is Preventable

Keep in mind that noise-induced hearing loss is preventable. To protect their hearing, encourage your children to:

Lower the volume

Move away from the noise

Wear hearing protection

Research shows that children make better health decisions when their parents and other adults actively talk to them about such issues. Talk with the children in your life about the causes and prevention of noise-induced hearing loss so that healthy hearing habits become a natural choice early on. Children also learn through observation and imitation. Set a good example: adopt healthy hearing habits yourself, and your children will follow suit.

Headphones

Many children use headphones when listening to music, playing video games or using the computer. Check out the guidelines for safe headphone use below.

- Choose headphones with a good seal. If your over-the-ear or in-the-ear headphones have a good seal, you'll be less likely to turn up the volume to drown out other sounds. But be careful! If you're moving around while listening to music with headphones or earbuds, you'll need to stay safe and hear important sounds around you, like approaching cars, trains, bicycles, and other people.
- Try to use headphones or earbuds for only one hour a day.
- If you listen to music with headphones or earbuds for 1½ hours or less per day, set your device to play at no higher than 80 percent of the maximum volume.
- If you listen to music with headphones or earbuds for more than 1½ hours per day, set your device to play at no more than 60 percent of the maximum volume.
- Give your ears a rest: take regular breaks from your headphones or earbuds.

- Don't listen with just one earbud. It's harder to hear the music and you might be tempted to turn up the volume, putting that one ear at serious risk.
 - A good rule of thumb for parents recommended by James Battey, MD is that if a parent is an arm's length away and asks their child a question, the child should be able to hear and answer the question.
- Information and references from the Noisy Planet Website which is a National Institute of Health Website encouraging parents to learn about and be mindful of their children's hearing needs now and in their future.

Reminder to Send Reusable Water Bottle

Please send your children to school with a reusable water bottle daily. We are happy to help them refill their water bottle as needed. As the weather continues to get warmer, our students get very thirsty at recess and during gym and will need more to drink.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 1	Neurodiversity Awareness Month Team Up Day!
April 2	Enviromobile Shine Like a Rainbow Day OT/AE Art Show
April 3	Enviromobile Comfort in Our Flock Day
April 4	My Superpower is Being Me Day! Super Me! Assembly
April 7-11	Mindfulness Week
April 9	School Store Falcon Leadership Recognition Ceremony
April 22	School Reopens
April 23	PJ Day – Police Unity Bike Tour
April 24	Take Your Child to Work Day
April 29	Grade 3 Field Trip
April 30	Grade 3 Field Trip



RIDE WITH CHARACTER



Congratulations to Bus 11 for being awarded March's Bus of the Month 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!!!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Our value for the month of April is "Positive Attitude". For our students, we use the Cub Scout's definition of "positive attitude" as being cheerful and setting our minds to look for and find the best in all situations. Our Mindful Word of the Month is "Mindful Thinking". During our classroom guidance lessons this month we will be focusing on how our thoughts affect our feelings. We will learn different ways to help bring about a positive attitude and look for the positives in every situation. Our students will discover that doing the "right thing" for ourselves and others can aid us in having a positive attitude and outlook on our lives. Parents can reinforce this at home by showing your children how you make an effort to find the positive aspects and lessons in situations, even during difficult times. We are eager to see how our students show us their positive attitudes which will help get us all off to a great start this spring.



ATTENDANCE AND PLANNED EXTENDED ABSENCE POLICY

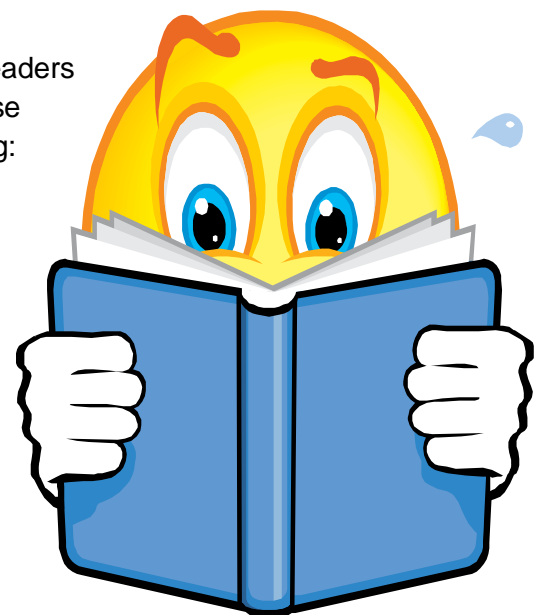
Regular attendance is a requisite for success in school. New Jersey law requires that students attend school regularly and it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child attends school. Please stress the importance of daily school attendance to your child. There are times throughout the school year when families may find it necessary to take their children out of school for an extended period of time. Our Board Policy addresses the criteria that should be followed should this occur. If you will be taking your child out of school for an extended period of time (10 days or more), kindly provide a letter from the parent/guardian to the school addressing the number of days and dates the child will be missing school.

NEWS FROM THE READING SPECIALIST

Let's spring into reading! Beginning readers start by learning how to make predictions. Practicing making predictions should occur before reading AND during reading, such as when the problem in the story has been introduced. You can ask your reader, "How do you think the problem will be solved?"

Inferring is another very important comprehension skill. This means readers must read between the lines and figure out what makes the most sense based on the clues in the text. You might ask your reader the following: What do you think the author wants you to know? What is the author implying? What do you already know that can help you to infer? Look for text evidence.

Chances are, you already know that asking your reader questions about what they are reading is important. However, make sure you are asking both "thin" and "thick" questions. Here are two examples so you can see the difference. Thin question: Who are the characters? Thick question: "Why would the character say that? Let's look more closely at page 10." Thick questions require the reader to search for a deeper understanding of the text.



Lastly, visualizing is an important tool. It is sometimes described as making a movie in your mind while reading. Most people visualize without realizing they're doing it. It is important for young readers to recognize their visualizations because it helps them check their understanding of what is happening in the text. Here are some questions to ask your reader: What are you picturing in your mind? What stands out to you in the story and makes you think more? Describe your visualization to me.

Have fun reading and talking about the wonderful books you find this month!

Happy reading,

Mrs. Kappus

FALCON LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

K Khiansh Modiyam

1 Ishaan Kapur

2 Sara Allen

3 Nimrit Singh



MAKERSPACE NIGHT

Problem solving, creative thinking, collaborating, inventing, experimenting, designing.....these are just some of the ways Oak Tree students explore the Makerspace located in our Media Center! On March 27th Grade 2 students were able to show their parents exactly how it's done at our annual Makerspace Night. These stations included: Osmos, Snap Circuits, Dash & Dots, 3Dux, Sphero and Ozobots. For one hour, parents rotated to six different stations where they were invited to play, construct, tinker and interact with our amazing technology. Our students were able to showcase how we work together to learn, collaborate and share at our Oak Tree Makerspace!

