



# 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 May 2025

Dear Oak Tree Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy, safe, and well rested from a wonderful spring break! As we enter the "home stretch" of the school year, it is a great time to show your appreciation for your child's teacher. Teacher Appreciation Week is officially May 5-9. I can attest to how hard they work each day to provide the finest education for your child. Here are some ideas to show appreciation for your child's teachers and recognize them for their hard work.

- Support a Teacher's Classroom - A great way to show appreciation for your child's teacher is to provide classroom support. An offer of much-needed supplies is always appreciated, as data show most teachers spend a good amount of their own money to provide their students with school supplies.
- Find Ways to Say Thank You - Working with your children on ways to show teacher appreciation gives them a chance to add their own personal touch. Anything handmade makes your effort extra special. Thank-you cards are always a good idea and can make for a fun craft project that sparks creativity. You might even include a "coupon" for help after school or something needed for the classroom. Another fun idea is to create a thank-you video or even choreograph a dance or skit with other parents and classmates.
- Organize With the PTA - If you're looking for a collective teacher appreciation effort, work with school PTA or Room Parents. Most parent-teacher groups regularly organize initiatives to support teachers

and school staff year round. Whether it's going in on a gift card, organizing a bake sale, or planning a teacher appreciation picnic, pooling creative resources makes lighter work for all.

- Give the Gift of Self-Care - Teachers put their students first, sometimes foregoing their own little luxuries to provide for others. Joining forces with fellow parents to chip in for a self-care gift is a great way to show appreciation for a job well done. Teachers love gift cards for salon services, specialty stores, gym memberships, and local restaurants.
- Make It Personal The most treasured gifts from students are ones that are from the heart and show the students know their teachers. Toys for teachers' pets, seeds for a home garden, and anything personalized like tote bags, desk accessories, jewelry, and travel mugs are always a hit.

May is a very busy month again at Oak Tree. We have World Cup Soccer Days, in which each class will once again represent their assigned country. Third grade students will be taking the NJSLA assessments. Field Day will take place on May 30th. Everyone is invited to our Healthy Living Night on June 5th. Classes will be going on off-site field trips and participating in a myriad of events as the school year begins to wind down. As parents, don't forget to enjoy the spring weather and take a moment for yourself as well.

Stay safe and well!

Kindest regards,

*Patty Dinsmore*

[patricia.dinsmore@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:patricia.dinsmore@monroe.k12.nj.us)



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. MC NUTT



### Additional Message from Mrs. McNutt

If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten in September, please make your summer physical appointments now, since summer appointments can fill up quickly. If you are unsure of the specifics of what your child might need to complete the kindergarten entrance requirements, please email Mrs. McNutt at [mmcnutt@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:mmcnutt@monroe.k12.nj.us).

As the warm weather approaches, it is a perfect time to be outdoors with your families and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Fun outdoor family activities can strengthen family bonds and promote lifelong heart healthy habits.

Some fun activities for your family to enjoy together may be a trip to the zoo, a family bike ride or a kayaking trip. Vacations involving activities such as rock climbing, swimming or hiking can also provide family fun as well as much needed physical activity. On your next family hike, try and find things all beginning with a certain letter of the alphabet or make up a song to sing while hiking.

You do not always have to take a vacation or even leave your backyard to enjoy some heart healthy family activities. Take everyone out to the back yard on the next sunny day and try one of the activities below. Invite your children to help set up and prepare what is needed.

- Stage a relay race.
- Play a game of volleyball over a clothesline.
- Have jump rope/jumping jacks/push-ups contests with small prizes.
- Play Frisbee.
- Fly a kite.
- Create a backyard scavenger hunt.
- For small children, blow bubbles and have the kids burst them using different body parts as they name the body parts.
- Set up an obstacle course with hopscotch, push-ups, crunches and jumping.
- Take your dog out for a family walk or run around in your back yard with your dog.
- As the sun goes down, head out to your back yard and try and Catch lightning bugs in your hands. Make sure you let them go after you catch them. The fun is in the chase.

Whatever you choose to do this spring, make sure you take time to get out and get some exercise together as a family. You will be glad you did.

### **QUICK REMINDER**

Please send your child with a refillable water bottle every day. We are happy to help them refill their water bottles here at school if needed. Also, the children have many fun outdoor activities this spring. Please be sure to apply sunscreen at home before coming to school if outdoor activities are planned. The children also do go outside to recess every day.

### **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Our value for the month of May is "Cultural Awareness". For our students we define "cultural awareness" as learning about, respecting, and appreciating the different ways that people live around the world. Our mindful practice for May is Mindful Movement. Mindful movement means paying attention to how our bodies feel as we move. Mindful movement can be doing yoga, playing sports, or walking - as we notice how these activities feel to our minds and bodies. We can use mindful movement to help us calm OR energize our bodies. We tie "Cultural Awareness" and "Mindful Movement" together through our morning announcements. Each morning students will hear about how people in other countries play sports, show respect, or spend their free time. We then practice this activity as a "mindful movement". For example, we pretend to practice slowly sipping tea as a mindful movement when we learn about how people in England take a "tea time" during the day to help them relax or recharge for their afternoon activities. We are excited to see our students continue to practice our words of the month and earn falcon tickets so that we can earn our next Celebration Day soon!



### **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 insure 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. 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.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

May	
1	School Principal Day
2	One Book, One School PJs for Plants
5-9	Teacher Appreciation Week
6	Grade 1 Field Trip
7	Grade 1 Field Trip School Nurse's Day
8	PTA Flower Shop
9	Falcon Leadership Recognition Ceremony
12	Grade 3 World Cup Soccer
13	NJ Grade 2 World Cup Soccer
14	Grade 1 World Cup Soccer School Store
15	Kindergarten World Cup Soccer
16	4 Hour/In-Service Day FALCON Pep Rally Student Council Snack Sale
19-23	NSLA Testing (Grade 3 only)
22	Mr. Ray in Kindergarten ESL Family Night
26	School Closed
27	Unified Field Day
30	Field Day



## **WORLD CUP SOCCER EVENT**

Our annual World Cup Soccer events will take place May 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. See below for details!

**Below is the scheduled date for your grade:**

**Grade 1:** May 14

**Grade 2:** May 13

**Grade 3:** May 12

**Kindergarten:** May 15

**Applegate and Rosenthal:** May 15

**Rain Date:** May 16

Please make sure your child has the following items for the day of their event:

- ✓ Oak Tree Field Day/ World Cup T-Shirt (will be provided closer to the event)
- ✓ Sunscreen (apply at home)
- ✓ Large Water Bottle

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out!

Sincerely,

Jon Boukema, Nick Ratigan



### **RIDE WITH CHARACTER**

Congratulations to Bus 9 for being awarded April'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!!!



### **APRIL FALCON LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to our winners:

Rosenthal	Sisira Karnati
Tjarks	Alex Bakirov
1	Sathvik Adari
2	Aanya Reddy Gudur
3	Khushi Gautam





## TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY



Our Oak Family has surely grown through the years! What a great day!

## PJs for Police

Thanks to all who participated!



## **NEURODIVERSITY MONTH**

April was Neurodiversity Acceptance Month! Oak Tree recognized this important event by celebrating Neurodiversity Acceptance Week. “Birds of a Feather, We Celebrate Together” was the theme. Each class read aloud The Different Ways We Communicate, a wonderful book that helps children to understand different ways someone might communicate. Our students may even recognize things they see here at Oak Tree! While we are all different, the ways we are the same matter too.



## **Library Happenings**

We have been having such a great time in the library this month! Ms. Quidor's class and I created a 3D interactive map for Monroe Day. The students worked diligently, conducting research, writing and performing a script, creating the physical map, and coding the Ozobot traveler. The most exciting part was coding the MakeyMakey in Scratch and making the controller! Please join me in congratulating these students on a job well done!







**The top 5 titles this month are:**

- 1. Cat Kid Comic Club. Collaborations**
- 2. Dog Man. Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea**
- 3. Big Nate. Out Loud**
- 4. Dog Man. Fetch 22**
- 5. Weird But True! 2: 350 Outrageous Facts**

**This month our students read 1,521 books!**

