



# Ottawa Elementary

*From the desk of Denise Phillips - Principal*

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## November 2007 Newsletter

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**Please exercise your right to vote on November 6. The Ottawa-Glandorf School District has a permanent improvement renewal levy on the ballot. At Ottawa Elementary, we benefit from the levy with our roof maintenance program, an up to date bus fleet to safely transport our children, and from an up-to-date computer lab to name just a few things.**

I am very pleased at how well the school year is going considering the disruption to so many lives due to the flood. We empathize with those who are still working on home repairs and dealing with the many paperwork issues that resulted from the flood. I know that SPPS would rather be in their own school, but they have been very appreciative of everyone's efforts here to give them a temporary school home. As needs come up for space, we are becoming very creative in creating "cubbyholes" for things. The staffs and students from both buildings are working together. We are blessed to have true community spirit in practice daily.

The newsletter contains information about several important events happening this month. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

### **GRADE CARD INFORMATION**

Grade cards will be sent home on Friday, November 2. I always try to review all grade cards and write comments as time permits. When you see my initials on a grade card (DP), it indicates I have seen the grade card even if I haven't written any comments. Your child's progress is very important to us. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher(s). Also, if your student is in grades 2-8, you can track them on Progress Book.

### **MAGAZINE SALE**

The magazine sale was low key this year due to the flood. Those who chose to sell magazines will have their prize day on November 1. The only prize that won't be awarded that day will be the Limo Lunch. We need to make arrangements with the limo company and the Bombshelter. It should take place sometime in November.

### **GRADE 3 IOWA TESTS**

The Iowa Tests will be administered to third graders during the week of November 5. The results from these tests help us determine qualifying students for Oasis (gifted program) for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Score reports will be sent home when they are released.

## **WASHINGTON DC INFORMATION**

The parent meeting for the Washington DC trip will be November 8 at 7:30 in the Ottawa Elementary gym. Kerry Wimsatt, owner of Prodigy Tours, will tell about the trip and answer any questions parents or students may have. (Students and parents are invited to this meeting.) The trip is set for April 17 – 20, 2008. The first \$100 deposit is due on November 15. Checks should be made payable to Ottawa Elementary School. Our students must qualify to go on the trip. Parents might want to see how they are doing before making a deposit.

## **RIGHT TO READ WEEK**

### **“Scare up a Good Book and Dance to the Words” – submitted by Erika Snyder**

A “harvest” theme is in place for our annual Right to Read Week celebration the week of November 12-16, 2007. Author, Constance McGeorge will visit elementary schools in Putnam County. She is best known for her “Boomer” books, “Waltz of the Scarecrows” and “Snow Riders.” The guest author’s presentation at OE will be Wednesday afternoon, November 14, at 12:30 p.m., for students in grades K-4. SPPS students will enjoy her presentation the same day at 10:00 a.m. On Thursday, November 15, Jeff Thomas, a self-published author from the Cleveland area, will share his author experiences with students in grades 5-8. Homeroom teachers and reading teachers of students in grades 5-8 each received a few copies of Mr. Thomas’s book, “Backswing” to enjoy in their classroom libraries. Teachers and students alike, look forward to Right to Read Week, as a fun and challenging week that promotes reading and allows us to meet famous authors or illustrators.

## **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent teacher conferences will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 on Monday, November 19, and from 9 to 4:30 and 5:30 to 8:00 on Tuesday, November 20. Parents will receive a letter with their conference time if they signed up at Open House. Parents who want a conference can call the school office and schedule one. This is one of two times the high school and elementaries have different schedules. We will only have school on Monday of that week. The high school will be in session on Monday and Tuesday.

## **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE POTLUCK**

It has become a tradition for the PTO to sponsor a potluck dinner during parent teacher conferences on Tuesday. Ann Baransy chaired the event the last few years and can’t remember who offered to do it this year. If you are interested in chairing the event, please call Ann at 523-3122. If you did not sign up on the volunteer sheet that came home last month, you can call the office and tell Mrs. T-K to put you on the list to call to prepare a dish.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – CLASS OF 2021**

If your child will be 5 by October 1, 2008, he/she needs to be registered for kindergarten. Registration will take place from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on November 19 & 20 in the school office. Students need the following information in order to be fully registered: Birth certificate, shot record, social security number, proof of residency (voter registration card, utility bill, lease agreement), and proof of custody, when applicable. Parents will have to have students fully registered in order to receive information for the

May, 2008 parent meeting. If you know someone who has a kindergarten-age child, please share this information with them.

### **JEDI NEWS – submitted by Mrs. Knowlton**

The new officers for this year's JEDI group are: President Ali Nash; Vice President Michelle Kaufman; Secretary Abby Trigg; and Security Megan Heidenescher. The JEDI group prepared activities for Red Ribbon Week, October 22 – 26. There was a drug free carnival for students in Grades 1-4. The Ottawa Police Department visited students in grades 5-8 during physical education classes and demonstrated the impaired vision goggles. Dress up days were held, and prizes were awarded. Members of this year's JEDI group also cleaned downtown Ottawa on September 19 after school by cleaning up flood debris on the downtown streets.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS – submitted by Nick Yungmann**

Student Council plays an important role at Ottawa Elementary. We take a day out of a weekend to make our "Cookies in a Jar" for our annual fundraiser. We get the dry ingredients, measure them, and put them in the jars with instructions. They sell for \$5 each. Two flavors are available this year: Oatmeal Chocolate Chip and Double Fudge Brownie. They make great gifts! This year we are collecting General Mills Box Tops of Education. The box tops are sent in and redeemed for cash. This money will go to our general budget for supplies. Again this year Student Council is operating the Smart Shop. Every day, we have pairs of student council members come in early to work at the Smart Shop, our school store. We sell school supplies to students between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m., Monday-Friday. The shop is located in the cafeteria. Items for sale are under \$2. Student Council is really important to our school, and I'm glad we have it.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY TASK FORCE FOR YOUTH**

A Fun night is scheduled for students in grades 7 & 8 at Miller City High School on Tuesday, November 20. Information will be sent home with students. The event is sponsored by the Putnam County Task Force for Youth.

### **COATS FOR CHILDREN**

The Putnam County Early Childhood Collaborative is collecting new or gently used coats Newborn to Youth Size 12 for distribution later this fall. They are collecting coats through November 2 (a flyer was sent home previously).

### **LET'S PLAY 10 QUESTIONS**

Scholastic Parents suggested 10 questions parents could ask their students that require more than a yes or no answer. They are: Tell me about the best part of your day. What was the hardest thing you had to do today? Did any of your classmates do anything funny? Tell me about what you read in class. Who did you play with today? What did you play? Do you think math (or any subject) is too easy or too hard and why? What's the biggest difference between this year and last year? What rules are different at school than our rules at home? Do you think they're fair? Who did you sit with at lunch? Can you tell me something you learned (or did) today?

Upon request to the principal, reasonable accommodation(s) may be made for a disabled person to participate in the activities described in this newsletter.

