



# Ottawa Elementary

From the desk of Denise Phillips - Principal

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## December 2007 Newsletter

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

It's been a challenging fall dealing with the aftermath of the flood. Many of our families are still displaced and working through red tape as they try to get homes repaired/replaced. We have seen the holiday spirit in action all fall as people from our community and surrounding areas volunteered their time to help families in need. Everyone has worked together to make the temporary blending of two schools work, and we appreciate all of the efforts that have been shown. I hope that everyone gets to spend time with family over the holiday break and enjoy the season.

### **IT'S A GIRL!**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Schmiedebusch! Maggie Clark Schmiedebusch arrived November 3, all 5 pounds 15 ounces of her! Mrs. Schmiedebusch will be on maternity leave until the end of January.

### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF DON HIBBARD**

Ottawa Elementary lost a valued volunteer November 9. Don Hibbard volunteered in our after school program the last few years. He enjoyed making a difference in the lives of young children. He listened to them read and helped them with their homework. When the students learned of his death, they shared stories about him. The same two stories kept coming up----“He always told us we are awesome” and “He had the Mr. Hibbard look if we did a problem wrong---we could see it on his face that we needed to look at the problem again.” Mr. Hibbard could have done other things with the 6 hours a week he spent here after school, but he came here and made a difference in the lives of the children he worked with. We are always in need of volunteers in our after school program (2:45 – 4:15). If you can give one or more days a week and would be interested in making a difference in the life of a child, please call the school office for details. Our condolences go to his family.

### **HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**

We have three holiday programs that are sure to put you in the holiday spirit. On Monday, December 3, students in grades 1-5 will present “Holiday Traditions Around the World.” Mrs. Metzger and her students are busy learning about holiday traditions as they prepare the program. (I'm not sure what holiday tradition I will be representing yet, but I understand I may be dressed like a pickle.) Parents who cannot attend the evening program are invited to our dress rehearsal December 3 at 12:30. Children will not be allowed in the building until 6:30 the night of the program as the teachers will not be here to supervise them yet. Please have them sit with you in the stands and do not allow *any children* on the gym floor.

On Sunday, December 9, at 2 p.m., come to the OGHS gym to hear students in grades 7-12 sing (and dance) to old and new favorites. Mr. Ellerbrock and his elves will have lots of surprises in store for us.

On Tuesday, December 11, at 7:00, our junior and senior high school bands will perform songs to further help our holiday spirit. Everyone always looks forward to the traditional playing of Sleigh Bells.

### **MID TERMS ARE COMING HOME**

Mid terms will be sent home on Friday, December 7. Parents of students in grades 2-8 may access their child's grades via Progress Book at any time. Passwords were sent home with students when book bills were paid.

### **FLOOD UPDATE**

SPPS 5<sup>th</sup> grade has moved back to their building. Mr. Manz and Mrs. Otto will share the classroom they were using (Mr. Manz's room). Students in grades 6-8 have done their part in helping make everything work by eating in the gym since school started. They have been moved back to the cafeteria and will be given a "Make your own Sundae" thank you party. The SPPS students in grades 1-4 will be here for the rest of the school year (most likely).

### **OFFICIAL HOLIDAY VACATION DAYS**

School will dismiss for the holidays at the end of the day on Thursday, December 20 and will resume at 7:55 on Wednesday, January 3, 2008.

### **STAFF DINNER**

Over the past several years, parents of OE students have cooked and hosted a dinner for staff members during parent teacher conferences. Tuesday is a long work day for us, and there isn't enough time for most staff members to go home for dinner and return. A special thank you to past "Head Cook" Ann Baransy for coming back to help Christine Smith organize the dinner this year. Thank you to our excellent cooks for providing dishes. We loved our time together as a staff. A special thank you to Kayla Smith for helping set up, serve, and clean up!

### **LIBRARY NEWS-submitted by Mrs. L. Schroeder**

In honor of the retirements of **Mr. Don Warman: L is for the Last Frontier an Alaska Alphabet** donated by Mr.& Mrs. Denny Schroeder, **Mrs. Rose Ellerbrock: Time for Kids-Presidents of the United States** donated by Mr & Mrs. Denny Schroeder, **Mrs. Marie Kuhlman: Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Boots-Gardening together with Children** donated by Mr. & Mrs. Denny Schroeder. In memory of **Scott Gomer : Field Events** donated by Mr. & Mrs. Denny Schroeder. In memory of **Margey Alger: Planting the Seed: A guide to Gardening** donated by O.E. Faculty & Staff, **DK Guide to Birds and K is for Keystone: A Pennsylvania Alphabet** donated by Mr.& Mrs. Wayne Phillips, **N is for Nutmeg :a Connecticut Alphabet** donated by Mr.& Mrs. Rich Ellerbrock, **M is for Maple Syrup: a Vermont Alphabet** donated by Mr.& Mrs. Tom Niese **See through Ancient Egypt, Life through the Ages, Cultural Atlas for Young People, Explorers who got lost** donated by Mrs. Rose Ellerbrock, **This House on Fire the story of the Blues, Jazz the Great American Art, The History of Rock and Roll** donated by Mrs. Kelly Ellerbrock, **Horseback Riding for Fun!, H is for Horse : an Equestrian Alphabet, B is for Bluegrass: A Kentucky Alphabet, Kingfisher Book of Horses and Ponies** donated by Ms. Gwen Clymer, Mrs. Lisa Maag and Pounding Hooves Members , **Century Farm** donated by Mrs. Lucy Cramer.

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