



OXFORD CENTRAL NEWSLETTER September 11, 2009

A student asked me the other day, "How was your summer?" I responded that it was great! What I did not say was how exhausting this past summer was for all of us who are in the building every day. While many followed the progress of this summer via the renovations/principal blog, there were many events going on behind the scenes that people never saw or heard about. This is my chance to once again thank the custodial staff for the long hours, seven days a week, that they put in to make sure the building was ready to go! Thanks to the secretarial staff who were displaced from their offices for weeks, dealt with countless numbers of phone calls, and yes, had to deal with a great deal of dust and noise! Finally, thanks to the rest of the administration and the school board for their diligence in overseeing the project and assisting me in making sure that we got things done on time!

The school year is off to a good start. Obviously we have made some changes to the building, which everyone can see at our Back to School nights. However, there are a few changes that are not so obvious. We have some new staff members: Mrs. Sarah Payne will be replacing Mrs. Carvajal and teaching 5th grade Language Arts and Social Studies; Mrs. Jennifer Saxton will be teaching 6th grade Language Arts and is also an In-Class Support Special Education teacher; Ms. Rose Mazzeo, who was with us last year is now teaching one of our 4th grade classes, and Ms. Jessica DeWitt has returned to teach third grade. We have some new paraprofessionals as well who are in the building every day assisting students and teachers: Mrs. Eileen Ruskan; Mrs. Susan Bellis; and Mrs. Kathy Henry.

It is also big news that we are utilizing the LPN credentials of Mrs. Kathleen Oswald, who also serves as one of our paraprofessionals. Mrs. Oswald will be assisting Mrs. Nyman in the Nurse's Office at our "busiest" times of the day.

The results of our spring NJASK testing will be here today—unless the state decides to delay them again. The individual student results will be made available to parents as soon as they are available to us. However, the early scores will allow us to have the final tool necessary to identify those students who might be eligible for our Gifted and Talented program. This year, Mrs. Saxton, who was the GATE Coordinator at Mansfield, will be administrating this program. We already have some enrichment activities lined up and look to expand the offerings for the students this year.

Well, I think I could take up the whole Friday Bulletin with the many things I would like to say, but I will save them for the next bulletin.

PLEASE REMEMBER to read the handbook and sign the acknowledgment sheet! The signature page is available in this bulletin and on-line. Ms. Dachisen and I will be following up to make sure we get a signature sheet form from every family!

Till next time....

BEAR ALERT – A bear was seen on Thursday evening at approximately 9:45 p.m. in the area of the parking lot across the street.



Welcome to Kindergarten! The kindergartners are just being introduced to Oxford Central School. They are learning to find their way around the building and to follow the routines of the day. They are learning to identify and correctly write the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet. In math, they are learning about counting, numerals, the calendar and patterns. They are off to the beginning of an exciting adventure.



Nurse Notes

Welcome back! The summer flew by quickly and another school year has begun.

I'm taking this opportunity to share some health policies. When you call into me at (908) 453-4101, ext. 2106, please state: the day, date, and time, who you are, your child's name, and homeroom teacher's name, your message, and the best time and number to call you back. If your child has a serious illness or had an accident, remember you can call in during the evening and leave an extensive message. Surveillance is most important of all contagious conditions. Exclusions are for fevers over 100 degrees F, and for any vomiting, diarrhea, severe headache, earache, excessive coughing or sneezing, and any suspected contagious disease. A child must stay at home until a fever is over – for 24 hours without the use of medication. Stay well and healthy by washing hands more often, and using the paper towel to close the faucet. Especially in public bathrooms. It is helpful to use a paper towel to cover your fingers as you exit the bathroom, avoiding direct contact with the door knob. Avoid touching your nose, eyes, or mouth unless your hands are clean. The body's first line of defense is an intact skin and mucus membrane (no cuts)! Keep cuts covered with band aids. Antiseptic hand washes – fragrance free are best and containing over 60% alcohol can be used “on the go”.

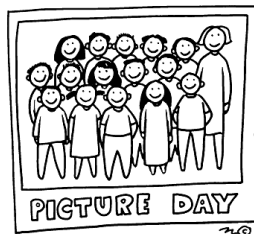
Eating healthy foods, getting 10-12 hours of sleep, exercising regularly, managing stress, and getting a flu shot are still some of the most important ways to stay healthy. If you have any questions about your health, call your personal health care provider.

Best wishes,

Nurse Nyman

Upcoming Events

Board of Ed. Meeting – September 24



Picture Day – October 6, 2009



**Pre-School
Tuesday, September 15
6:15-7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, September 15
K-4 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, September 22
5-8 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Book Fair will be open in the
Library on both nights**

Community Events

Oxford Emergency Squad

Saturday, 9/12/09 from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. will hold their 2nd annual Oxford Cardboard Boat Regatta & Flea Market at the Oxford Furnace Lake. Call Peggy at 908-552-1402 to reserve a table or space for \$20.

Saturday, October 10 – Tricky Tray & 50/50 Raffle
St. Rose Lima Parish Center, 10 Jonestown Road, Oxford, NJ
Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and drawings begin at 7:00 p.m. Must be 18 years old to enter.

Fall Fundraiser in October – Toilet Seats!!
Toilet seats are dropped off at various homes throughout the town - asking for a donation for the Oxford Emergency Squad.

Oxford Fire Department

Oxford Fire Department Annual Golf Outing will be held on October 16, 2009 at High Bridge Golf Course. \$95.00 per person. Starts at 1:00 p.m. Call with four-somes or any questions. Chelsea Calabrese 908-283-3394 or Jessica Boyd 908-328-7166.

Oxford Historical Society

Fall meeting on Thursday, October 1. Andy Drysdale will display some of the rare antique Iron Company & Town maps from the Museum. The society will introduce their research project on “Oxford Streets, Past & Present. Come for refreshments and socializing at 7:00 p.m. and for the presentation at 7:30 p.m.

OCS Kicks Off CORRECT Program

OCS students will learn about good character traits again this year. The CORRECT program is part of the school's Character Education effort. Two years ago, students, teachers and staff worked together on developing shared ideas about what makes up good character. In January, 2008, Board members were asked for their ideas about good character. From all of this, seven character traits were identified as important for student success in school and life. The seven traits were arranged into the acronym CORRECT.

CORRECT stands for

Courage
Optimism
Respect
Responsibility
Empathy
Citizenship and
Trustworthiness.

Last year, Superheroes came to a "Kick Off" assembly to teach students about the CORRECT traits, while 7th grade students put on a series of skits showing what good character looks like. This September, a "Kick Off" assembly will remind students about CORRECT traits.

September is "Courage" month, and students will be encouraged to think about how to show courage when faced with challenges. Students coming in the main entrance this month will see the "Cowardly Lion" and two of his friends greeting them with the question "Got Courage?". Teachers will hand out "Good Character" certificates to students who show the trait in their daily activities, and students can be given "Good Character" certificates for any of the traits at any time. In the following months, school activities will highlight one CORRECT trait each month.

If you visit the school, be sure to check out the Character Bulletin Board on the first floor just outside of Mrs. Esposito's first grade classroom. "Good Character" certificates will be posted there. At the end of each month, students will take their certificates home to share with their families. If your child brings home a certificate, be sure to ask what he or she did to earn a "Good Character" certificate. Conversations with parents are one of the best ways for students to learn about good character and to have lessons from school reinforced at home.

OXFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

**2009-2010 PARENT/STUDENT Handbook
Acknowledgment Form**

I confirm that my child and I have read and reviewed the Oxford Central School 2009-2010 Parent/Student Handbook. I further acknowledge that we understand and agree to abide by the policies and procedures described in this publication. I further acknowledge that we understand both student and parent rights and responsibilities as outlined in the handbook.

Student Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN