

February 16, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 22

St. Johns County Schools



Important Dates

Presidents' Day No School	Feb. 20
Kindergarten Registration, 9:00-Noon	Feb. 22
FCAT Writes	Feb 28

Wierda's Weekly Words

St. Johns County Schools

Dear Parents and Friends of Ocean Palms,

Hope you had a wonderful, chocolate filled Valentine's Day! We had a terrific day with our children and they were so sweet with their valentines, flowers, and treats for all. You have beautiful children with big hearts, and a great joy for learning!

I am excited to announce that over 58,000.00 dollars were raised two weeks ago via the community-wide guest waiter event facilitated by the EPIC Organization for Big Brothers and Sisters in St. Johns County. Our waitressing staff at Aqua Grille did an amazing job, and we are honored to have contributed in a small way to that amount for the sake of our children in this community. Thank you again to Kim Susice, Sandi Watson, Melisa Norwich, Jenny Boone and Deb Higbea, as well as all of our families who attended that night and who gave their tips to this great cause.

Our school is running smoothly and remains focused on student achievement and deep learning. Our children have tremendous reading goals, they are keeping their own data and enjoying writing within the content areas each and every day. We are currently planning our first Data and Doughnuts session to take place in May. A number of teachers will be volunteering to open their classrooms and invite parents to sit and discuss learning data with their children. You may also make an appointment with your child's teacher at any time to view their data, journals, writing portfolios and any other classroom artifacts. I have been asked to post our grade level curriculum maps on our website. We will be adding a link to our grade level websites via our main website within the next few weeks. I will let you know when you can access them. It is wonderful to have parents involved in the curriculum and instruction of our children. Thank you so much for your involvement and know that I am open to any questions or concerns that you have in any area.

A big thank you to our dynamic kindergarten team for facilitating some adorable musical theatre with and for our children. I am so impressed by the dedication of our team and the talents of our children, and it is delightful to see our little ones engaging in music, dance and drama. The arts surely have a special place at Ocean Palms!

On another note, I encourage all of you to check out our lost and found. We have many jackets etc. left behind, and I would be saddened to give away these items to charity as I know that they belong to our children. We keep our lost and found cart outside of our custodial back room as you walk toward the cafeteria. We welcome you to sign in and take a look for any items that may belong to you. I also urge you to check out our Book of the Month to read with your children. See Deb Higbea in the Main Office to take one of these beautiful books home to read, discuss, and share as a family of readers!

Speaking of reading, we were so honored to have renowned author Jon Gordon join us for our January Staff Meeting. He inspired us with energy and purpose and he left us with some copies of his new book entitled "The Seed". This charming narrative reminds us of our own journey to find meaning and happiness and is an encouragement to the reader as we encounter obstacles along life's travels. You may want to take some time to pick this book up as we approach the upcoming three day weekend. Set aside some family reading time, grab a great book and escape.

Happy President's Day!
With Enthusiasm,

Readers are Leaders

Betsy Wierda
Learning Leader

NOTICE:

Parents please be on the lookout for any suspicious activity involving a possible trespasser. The Sheriff's Department is fully aware and handling the issue. Contact SJCSO at 904-824-8304 with any information that you may have.

YEARBOOK NEWS



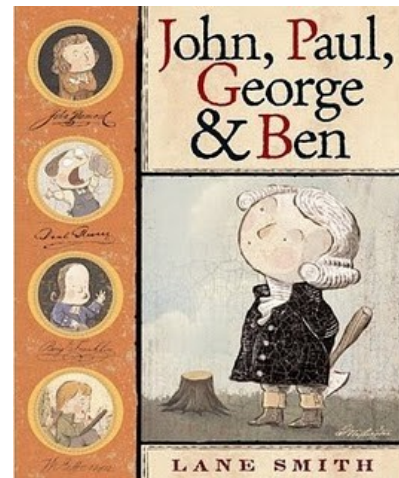
CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Please submit any candid photos that you have taken this year to Jenny Boone by **MARCH 1, 2012**. All photos must be submitted on CD.

Don't forget to order your 2011-2012 yearbooks. Books are selling fast. We have a limited supply and you don't want to miss out!

Relay for Life

Relay for Life will be held on April 21-22 at Ponte Vedra High School. The Ocean Palms PTO would like to sponsor a team. We are looking for a volunteer to be the Team Captain. If you are interested, please contact Katie Reasoner at koreasoner@yahoo.com. The PTO will cover the \$150.00 entry fee for the event.



BOOK OF THE MONTH
FEBRUARY 2012

FEBRUARY 9th OTTERS OF THE WEEK



Melissa Mucollari, 3rd grade
Hayden Perez, 1st grade

Parent Survey

PLEASE take time and complete the Needs Assessment Survey. It is available online on the Ocean Palms website at <http://www.ope-stjohns.k12.fl.us>. If needed, parents can obtain computer access in our school's media center. Just sign in at the front office and ask to take the survey.



SAC FULL OF BOOKS!



The students, teachers, and families of Ocean Palms Elementary School, along with our SAC Committee, are looking forward to the SAC Full of Books Book Drive in honor of Dr. Seuss and Read Across America! This great event is planned for the first three weeks in March. We'll be collecting gently used and/or new books to be donated. These books will be sorted for classroom libraries at OPE. Some of the books will be donated to schools in our county in need of books. The first and second grade students and teachers will take charge of this event. **We will collect books from March 5th-March 22nd. Books may be dropped off in the large bin in the parent pick-up line, and/or brought to your child's classroom and placed in the paper sacks.**

1. Paper sacks will be placed in each classroom, K-5 for daily collection.
2. Second grade students will collect the books donated from the sacks and place them in wheeled carts to be delivered to the portable storage classroom.
3. First grade students/teachers will collect books donated from the yellow bins in the parent pick-up line.
4. Books will be sorted/organized. Teachers will choose books for their classroom libraries.
5. Unchosen books will be donated to schools in our county in need of books.

Thanks for being a part of this fantastic community event! Start your spring cleaning now to help build your child's classroom library! Readers and leaders!

Ocean Palms Spirit Wear Winter Specials

Tie-dye t-shirts on sale now for only \$10.00!!! Get one of these classics before they're gone! Youth sizes and Adult Large still available (sold out in Adult Small and Medium). Hoodie sweatshirts and black women's t-shirts still available. Purchase either this month and receive a free mini-football! Order forms available in the front office or by email:

FCAT PROCTORS NEEDED

Feb. 28, April 16, 17, 18, 19, 24 & 25

Please call

Sandy Watson @ 547-3764 or Deb Higbea @ 547-3760. Thanks!

Norwich News



Shade Covering

We are so excited! All the hard work from the Fun Run is finally paying off! The shade covering has arrived and should be installed this week for our PE Classes. Thank you again to our magnificent PTO and all the participants of Fun Run!!

School Access Form

Everyone that enters our school MUST have filled out a "School Access Form". This is the new term for the old volunteer clearance form. This MUST be done to participate or volunteer in school activities such as: lunch, field trips, volunteering in the classroom, media center, proctoring... anything that takes you past the front office! Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

Kindergarten & New Student Registration 2012-2013

St. Johns County will be holding registration for students entering Kindergarteners and new students at all elementary schools. Registration for Ocean Palms will be held at our school from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please call Kerry Fodor @ 547-3767 if you have any questions.

Wednesday, February 22

Tuesday, March 20

Thursday, April 12

Required Documents:

1. Proof of age: birth certificate (child must be 5 on or before Sept. 1,

2012)

2. Proof of immunization (on a Florida immunization form HRS FORM 680)

3. School physical (must be within 12 months prior to the 1st day of school)

4. 2 proofs of residency (mortgage statement or lease agreement, and cable, electric or water bill)

5. Student social security number (optional).

6. Report Card from previous school (grades 1-5)

Melisa Norwich

Learning Leader

2nd Place Essay in the Elementary Division of the Friends of the Library Writing Contest for, "A World Without Libraries"

Emily Reeves
Ocean Palms Elementary
5th grade

A World Without Libraries

Since we have computers, I-pods, and blackberries, do we need a public library?

I say, "yes!!!" because books have more information about the past and present than any of these devices. This is simply because we wrote books first and then later began to post ideas on the internet.

For example in the early 1800's they used simply a quill and paper. They used only literature to record things. So until recently, we find that written literature we make a book and publish it. Also on unprotected websites people can write their "responses" to literature but actually, they are probably writing what they think and maybe using unuseful language. As to a book, it has been through an editor, who makes sure it is safe for children. Librarians also help decide what age a book is appropriate for.

Another example is that one third of our country's poverty families are right here in Florida. By having a library, everybody, no matter how much money they have, will get to have books to read instead of having books that they have read so many times that they could recite it for memory. Also, we all could have a better education and better grades, if for instance, we have a book report, instead of a first grader reading books under their reading level, they could just go to the library and get a book a higher level book. Some families may also not have access to a computer, an I-Pod, or a blackberry.

Now I'd like to thank all of those fantastic librarians out there that make it happen. They put together the whole library of books. They get them into the system, they help you find books that you would of never found, and they make sure everyone leaves with a new book in hand. As they say "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

KINDERGARTEN/NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION DATES

Wednesday, February 22nd
Tuesday, March 20th
Thursday, April 12th
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Students can be registered anytime during the spring and summer for the 2012-2013 school year, however parents are encouraged to register during the three above-designated dates so that schools can adequately prepare for the new school year. Additional information regarding registration and school attendance zones may be obtained from the District Student Services Office at 547-7598.

If you have any questions regarding Kindergarten registration at Ocean Palms, please call our Registrar, Kerry Fodor, at 547-3767. The 2012-2013 registration forms for Ocean Palms are now available on our website at <http://www.ope-stjohns.k12.fl.us>. **Please select the “Pre-Registration for Kindergarten” form link to ensure you select the 2012-2013 registration form.**

An attendance zone locator is available on the District website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us>.

HELP NEEDED IN MEDIA CENTER AND CAFETERIA

Ocean Palms needs your help assisting in the Media Center, especially with shelving books, and in the Cafeteria. Help is needed on a daily basis so please volunteer. If you already come in to drop off your child, to volunteer in your child's classroom, etc., why not stop in before leaving and help for a while. Any and all help is *greatly appreciated!*

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 23RD! ***YOU MUST BE A “CLEARED VOLUNTEER” TO ENTER OCEAN PALMS***

If you are not presently cleared to access Ocean Palms, please go to our website, <http://www.ope-stjohns.k12.fl.us>, and click the “Volunteer” tab to complete the form. It takes approximately two weeks to be cleared. If you are not sure whether or not you are a cleared volunteer, please call Deb Higbea at 547-3760.

{{ SAVE THE DATE }}

Dear Ocean Palms Families:

We are excited to tell you about the 3rd annual Groovin' on the Green! This adult-only social event is on Friday, April 27th, at the beautiful TPC Sawgrass. Tickets are \$50 and include food and live music. You will also have the opportunity to bid on unique silent and live auction items and test your skills on a TPC putting green. Look for your invitation in the mail in mid-March.

Our fundraising goal for this event is \$30,000 in order to put ENO interactive whiteboards in every classroom at Ocean Palms. ENOs are earth friendly interactive whiteboards which combine the simplicity and ease of a traditional white board with high-performance interactivity. Features include the ability to project the computer screen onto ENO and navigate through documents, presentations or websites from the board; make notes with a dry-erase marker or with the stylus; and, in one click, save all notes to post, print or email, or save and reload the session at a later time. Ocean Palms receives ZERO technical funds from the State, so classroom media improvements can only happen with your continued support. Please join us in supporting Ocean Palms in a fun as well as a financial way!

What can you do in addition to attending Groovin' on the Green?

Sponsor the event. Contact us for levels.

Donate/solicit an auction item(s). Suggestions include trips/getaways, restaurant gift cards, spa cards, sporting event tickets and team/player items, professional services, and unique gifts.

Join the Groovin' Committee. You don't have to sign your life away to help! Do as much or as little as you can.

Please email Lyn Gabrielsen (lynwgabriel@aol.com) to volunteer or if you have any questions. And *please* mark your calendars for the 27th of April!

Fondly, the Groovin' Committee

Lyn Gabrielsen, Chair

Carey Jordheim, Sponsor Chair

Kim Payne, Auction Chair

Katie Reasoner, PTO President