

Palms Post



Ocean Palms Elementary Newsletter

Issue 18 Vol. 20— 2018

Dear Parents,

Next week is Staff Appreciation Week. It is inspiring to work with such a talented and dedicated group of educators and staff who are child-centered. PTO has planned a smorgasbord of sweet treats to thoroughly spoil our staff and make everyone feel special and appreciated. We are so thankful to PTO and all that they do to support our positive learning environment. Thank you for your support of PTO and our staff members.

We are very proud of the service learning activities our students have done throughout the year. Students have shown their citizenship and responsibility by supporting the following projects: OPE Food Drive (August); We Care Kits for Hurricane victims (Oct.); Children's Books drive (Oct.) and Bikes Drive (Dec.) for the Webster school; Treats for Troops candy collection (Nov.); Foster Families Toy collection (Dec); Jump Rope for Heart for the American Heart Association (Jan.); the GoodWill Clothing Drive; and Pennies for Puppies (April).

We are excited about the upcoming end of the year events and look forward to acknowledging our 5th graders at the Promotion Ceremony. Parents of 5th graders, mark your calendar for Thursday, May 24th. To accommodate our growing population and have all students attend simultaneously, this year the awards ceremony will be held at Landrum Middle School. Fifth grade students will report to school in the morning, then they will be escorted to Landrum for the ceremony. Specific details will be supplied to all fifth grade families.

This has been an amazing school year for many reasons. We are very fortunate to have the support of our community, parents, and business partners. We truly appreciate all those who stand at our side supporting our school. We offer a huge thank you to PTO and the PTO board members. Board members include: Kelly Simmers, President; Jessica Sellers, Vice President; Karen Hunt, Michelle Fletcher; Stephanie Powers, Jill D'Amato, Amy Yorio, Carrie Molinari, Karen Macko, Sheila Rice, Regan Cartwright, Sonya Wells, Kristen Buttacovoli, Kim McGowan, Robbin Bray, Joanna Leivent, Susan Samko, Pamela Riley. PTO's financial contributions are considerable and their volunteer efforts un-measurable.

We would also like to thank the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation (PVPEF) for their support. PVPEF, provides learning enrichment opportunities, hosts special performances throughout the school year, sponsors the Readers Aloud program, provides Teacher Mini Grants, and holds the annual Art Works art show. This year alone, PVPEF has provided Mini Grants for a total of **\$6530.00**.

With much gratitude,
Your Ocean Palms Administrative Team

MAY

- 1st - FSA TESTING, Grade 5 Science
- 2nd - Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- 3rd - FSA TESTING, Grade 4 Math
- 3rd - Final SAC Meeting at 3:15
- 3rd - Otter Outpost for (K-2) Students
- 3rd - Jette & Salzman Play (5:00 –7:00)
- 4th - Channel Your Inner Jedi (see page 10)
- 4th - Otter Outpost for (3-5) Students
- 5th - STEM Fair at Palencia Elementary
- 7th - PTO Meeting
- 7th - 11th Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8th - District Battle of the Books
- 11th - Character Counts Celebration 9am
- 13th - Mother's Day
- 15th - EP Meetings for Rising 6th Graders
- 15th - Kindergarten Field Day
- 16th - First Grade Class Celebrations
- 16th - Fifth Grade visits Landrum
- 17th - Second Grade Water Day
- 17th - Fifth Grade to Epcot
- 18th - Third Grade Bowling Trip
- 18th - Fourth Grade Class Celebrations
- 22nd - Fifth Grade Outdoor Celebration
- 24th - Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony at Landrum Middle School
- 24th - Last Day of School / Early Dismissal

Everyday. Everyone. Everything Matters.



FRIENDLY REMINDERS



BUILDING OPENS FOR STUDENTS AT 8:00

Students may not enter the school building until 8:00 a.m., as supervision is not available before then. Only Leadership Students with morning duties (e.g. Safety Patrol, News Crew, etc.), and GEMS students on alternate Wednesdays, may enter the building at 7:55 a.m. in order to meet their teacher sponsors.

Adults must walk Leadership Students from the parking lot to enter the school building at 7:55 a.m., as no crossing guard is on duty. Parents - please do not utilize handicapped spots to temporarily park while dropping off your students. Younger siblings should stay with the parents until 8:00 a.m. to enter the building on these days.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

All transportation changes must be via written note to the teacher. Please ensure your note contains all information necessary (e.g. student's full name, teacher's name, etc.). For your convenience, a transportation change form is available on our website for your use (students walking home with a student on our pre-approved biker walker roster must utilize the separate daily pass form). If a third party is picking up your child, we only accept written notes. You must include the full name of the adult picking up your student on the note, as well as your telephone number (for verification purposes-if needed). Email transportation changes are not accepted. If you have an emergency same-day transportation change, please telephone the front office at 547-3760 before noon each day. We will be happy to assist.

The cutoff time for early pick up of your student from the front office is 2:15 p.m. (Wed. - 1:15 p.m.)

NO BUS PASSES

Transportation has advised schools cannot write any bus passes for students, including same bus different stop.

SCHOOL ACCESS/VOLUNTEER

All adults (including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) must be cleared and able to sign in at our kiosk in order to enter the school building beyond the front office. This includes parent/teacher conferences, plays, performances, class parties, etc. If you have not done so, please immediately follow the link available on our school website to complete the application.

PARKING LOT POLICY FOR ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

The main entrance gate (Lot 1) is our designated parent drop-off, pick-up, and parking area for all Kdg – 5th grade students. Parents may drop off their children in the car line from 8:00 – 8:30, during which time there are staff present to assist them. Parents may also park in this lot and walk their children into school. After 8:30, we ask that all parents walk their children in, as there is no adult supervision outside the school.

Also known as the Bus Loop, Lot 2 is designated for staff parking, bus drop off/pick-up and PreK student walk-in. Staff can park in this lot prior to 8 a.m.. Between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. and 2:15 – 3:15 p.m., this lot is dedicated to busses and pre-k students being walked-in only. Pre-K parents have four dedicated parking spots at the far east end of the lot, where they can pull in and park, in order to cross in front of the buses to bring their children to class. Other parents may park in this lot (if there are any spaces left) from 9 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

School Advisory Council




The School Advisory Council is a partnership of volunteers who work together to establish and maintain good communication among the school, parents, and community, and encourage parents and community members to participate in education. SAC members provide ideas and opinions to improve the education of students in our school. The membership includes school faculty and staff, parents, and community members. It has been a tremendous year for our School Advisory Council. The dedication and participation of all the members is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the 2017-2018 SAC Members: *Trish Shilling, Chris Arcuri, Stephanie Hamlow, Michelle Campbell, Karen Latzko, Tori Smith, Jess Weeks, Kristi Baccus, Nikki Beckham, Stephanie Cills, Jaime Eason, Karen Hunt, Justin Keatly- Fifth Third Bank (Business Partner), Jacqui Paluszek- Fifth Third Bank (Business Partner), Lucy Miller, Jared Policastro, Sheila Rice, Susan Samko, Jennifer Werba, and Amanda Bergamasco.*

OPES MASCOT AT CHARACTER CUP!

Ocean Palms is blessed to have many volunteers, and we are especially proud of our returning student leaders who consistently go above and beyond! Pictured to the right, representing Ocean Palms at the Character Cup at St. Augustine High School, is Coach Catches with "Ollie the Otter". Assisting Ollie behind the costume, was Wilson Wingate, a Landrum 6th grader student, and OPES alumni. Thanks to all our returning student leaders for all you do!



Cheer Tryouts!!!!!!

Calling All LMS/DVA Girls!!!

Clinic: Mon., Apr. 30th to Thurs., May 3rd




Time: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

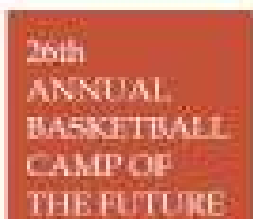
Tryouts: Fri., May 4th

Time: 3:45pm

Location: LMS

Contact: Coach Taylor Leigh Eamer for information at Taylor.Eamer@stichms.k12.fl.us



26th ANNUAL BASKETBALL CAMP OF THE FUTURE
LANDRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL. Hosted by:
 Coach Parker & Coach Bryant
 Landrum Basketball Coaches
 April 30 - May 3
 4th-5th 3-5:30
 6th-8th 2:30-5:00



26th Annual Basketball Camp of the Future

April 30 - May 3
 4th-5th 3-5:30
 6th-8th 2:30-5:00

Eligibility: All players/competitors entering 4th grade through 8th grade

Facilities: Landrum Middle School has an air conditioned gym consisting of 6 basketballs and a dividing wall that can separate the playing area into two full courts. Campers will have access to the locker rooms to change and store their personal articles.

Transportation: Responsibility of parent/guardian.

Registration: All campers must fill out the attached form and return it with \$15 camp fee. All checks should be made payable to Mary Foutou - Camp of the Future.

Camp Highlights: Campers will receive a T-shirt and will be eligible to compete for technical and team prizes during the camp in various drills, contests and games.

Purpose and Objectives: To provide each camper with quality instruction of the fundamentals of basketball through vigorous drills and games. They will be instructed of the fundamentals of rebounding, passing, dribbling, shooting and ball handling. Offense and defense skills along with sportsmanship and team play.

Campers should bring: Basketball shoes, shorts, t-shirt, towel, water bottle and any personal items that may be necessary. Please leave valuables at home.

Art Works at OPE!

Congratulations...

To the 2018 ArtWorks winners! The Community Art Show included Elementary, Middle, and High School winners from our area. The students' artwork was hand-selected by local artists and then displayed at the ArtWorks art show. The Sawgrass Marriott hosted the event. There were five artworks selected from each grade level. We are proud of all the OPE artists who participated in the show! The overall winner was **Simrun Sharma** from Mrs. Ellis' 4th grade class. The grade level winners include:

<u>Kindergarten</u> Lucy Kate B. Eva M. Reese F. Maggie H. Jake W.	<u>1st Grade</u> Ivan C. Elena N. Claudia T. Riley P. Sophia M.	<u>2nd Grade</u> Helan S. Patricia G. Hannah A. Ila C. Mia Alexa Munoz F.
<u>3rd Grade</u> Vichy C. Florence C. Lily G. Bailey B. Raelyn M.	<u>4th Grade</u> Catherine H Simrun S. Madilyn R. Anna K. Haydin F.	<u>5th Grade</u> Gracie T. Micha G. Maddy C. Bella D. Audrie R.



Marine Science Education



April 21st was Scientist Saturday for some lucky fourth grade students at Ocean Palms Elementary. The students in Ms. Barley and Ms. Byrd's class along with Ms. Gold's class had the opportunity to spend the morning at the Marine Science Center in May port. Students used microscopes to examine sand, identifying the various minerals that can be found in sand from our beaches. Students visited the wet lab and not only identified

more than a dozen living specimens in the tanks, but also got to hold starfish, hermit crabs, and more. Their visit to the museum room was just as exciting, as they got to hold whalebones and look at fossilized sharks teeth. A very special thank you to Mr. Nathan Shoemaker, the administrator of the Marine Science Center. He was happy to open up, welcome and share the wonders of the sea with OPE students.

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Goodwill Bag-it-up Prizes!

After crushing the goal of 60% participation, Goodwill representatives joined Ms. Cantwell and Mr. Strom on the Monday morning news and presented OPE with a \$1000 and brand new student computer! Together, they also drew student names out of a bucket for the 5 Grand Prizes. What a wonderful and successful event this year! Thank you to all who were able to support our drive!

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS:

- 4 Passes to the Jax Zoo: Lily P.
- Adventure Landing Quest Pass: Hudson R.
- 4 Passes to the Alligator Farm: Morgan G.
- 4 Passes to Rebounderz: Skylar K.
- 4 Passes to Disneyworld: Addi K.



We are looking forward to the SJCSO STEM Fair on Saturday, May 5 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at Palencia Elementary. We are very proud of our fifth grade students! Their projects represent the innovative and creative thinking that is fostered through project based learning and we honored to have them represent OPE.

Light Pollution	Lots of Pain, Try Some Games	Solar Colors
<p>By: Kyra M. Mrs. Lynch's class 5th Grade</p>	<p>By: Stella G. and Minaal A. Ms. Hamlow's class 5th Grade</p>	<p>By: Skyler K. Mrs. Vershaw's class 5th Grade</p>

Congratulations to this year's Jim Harbin District Winners!

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
<p>Instructional Category How to Make Chocolate Chip Cookies By: Adison N. 4th Grade</p>	<p>Animation Category Anamatio By: Keegan T. 4th Grade</p>	<p>Instructional Category How to Make Bagels By: Julia B., and Grace H. 4th Grade</p>
	<p>Comedy Category The Most Boring Camp Ever By: Hailey R., Abby F., and Megan Y. 4th Grade</p>	
	<p>Instructional Category Backbend Kickover Tutorial By: Lila J., Ava B., and Sarah M. 4th Grade</p>	

PENNIES FOR PUPPIES

By: Lauren T.

4th Grade Ambassador in Training

The theme of the Ocean Palms Scholastic Spring Book Fair was “Paws for Books” and we decided to hold a student-led fundraiser for K9s for Warriors that would go on during the book fair. We called it “Pennies for Puppies” because our goal was to only collect the change (coins) from students.



My mom introduced the idea of Pennies for Puppies. I got permission from the principal to build up a team and to raise money for K9's for Warriors. My team, Carter P. in 3rd grade, Emily S. in 4th grade, and Brianna M. in 4th grade, helped me promote the fundraiser on the school news. We also made posters.

This Wednesday there was a big check presentation at Ocean Palms to K9's for Warriors. They brought a puppy named Bristol. A family is taking care of him and training him until he is old enough to be trained by K9's for Warriors. After that, Bristol will live with a veteran.

I am proud to announce that we raised \$250.10! Ms. Reeger from K9's for Warriors said the money will be used for food, meals, dog supplies and training. 90% of the dogs are rescue dogs, and 10% are dogs donated to K9's for Warriors. Ms. Reeger also said the breeds that are preferred are golden retrievers and labs, but always large dogs.



From the kindergartener who donated 3 cents and said “I just helped the dog” to the 5th grader who gave his entire change (\$2.35), we want to thank all the students and staff at OPE who donated to and supported our project.

Principal Tiffany Cantwell has encouraged us to continue with our project. Next year, we hope to lead this program two times during the Fall and Spring Book Fairs.

If you want to donate to K9's for Warriors, their website is www.k9sforwarriors.org



Pie in the Face Reward

Ms. Rogers, Mrs. Myers and Mr. O'Keefe set lofty goals for their students in the fall. The goal was to read all the Sunshine State Young Readers Books and complete addition and subtraction using the program XtraMath. The students tracked their progress throughout the year and saw that little by little they were starting to chip away at the tall task. Avila from Mr. O'Keefe's class said, "at first I thought it was going to be really hard but when I finished it was an awesome feeling." The day came to pie Mr. O'Keefe, Ms. Rogers, Mrs. Myers and Mr. Nico. Everyone was jacked up that day! Dante said, "it was beast mode to pie Mrs. Rogers in the face." Although, the smell of whip cream lingered around it was definitely worth it for both parties!





Ocean Palms Elementary School teacher Lauren Wade stands in front of her Kids Can Code booth at the One Spark idea festival at EverBank Field, where she ultimately took home third place and a \$5,000 reward after competing in the Spark Tank competition.

Photo courtesy of Lauren
Posted Thursday, April 12, 2018
By Jon Blauvelt

When Lauren Wade called for a sub last week at Ocean Palms Elementary School (OPES), she wasn't sick or taking vacation. Instead, the teacher turned entrepreneur was competing in the One Spark idea festival, where she ultimately took home one of the top prizes.

A science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) teacher at OPES, Wade competed in the festival's Spark Tank competition at EverBank Field on Thursday, April 5, placing third out of seven contestants and receiving a \$5,000 monetary reward. The local teacher presented her Kids Can Code company — which introduces computer programming skills to kids — to a group of investors, advisors and entrepreneurs, discussing the company's business model, financial projections, market opportunity and more. The overall One Spark event allows entrepreneurs to seek feedback and interest in their business concepts.

"It was definitely nerve-racking," said Wade, who was also a finalist for the St. Johns County School District Teacher of the Year award in 2017. "[However] I have a lot of passion and confidence in what I'm doing. I believe in my product and what I'm doing for the community."

Kids Can Code, explained Wade, comprises of after-school clubs and spring and summer break camps that enable kids from around the First Coast to build computers, code robots and design video games, among other activities. In addition to receiving her reward for the initiative, Wade said she also developed relationships at One Spark with mentors in the business community who can help her further refine her business plan.

"Even if I didn't win, the connections I made are invaluable," she said.

Wade's interest in coding took off four years ago when she learned about the Hour of Code, an annual initiative organized by nonprofit organization Code.org to encourage kids to learn about computer science. She led OPES in completing the activity, and the interest level from kids, she said, skyrocketed. From there, Wade formed an after-school coding club, and the program has blossomed so greatly that just last year, she formed an LLC.

Wade's efforts are paying off in other arenas as well. Her team of students placed fifth in last year's online Wonder League Robotics Competition. This year, six of her teams have advanced to the same competition's invitational round, out of 7,000 participants.

The Kids Can Code summer camps, which enroll about 20 kids per week, kick off June 4 at the Palm Valley Community Center. Eight weeks of camp will be offered throughout the summer, said Wade, with costs starting at \$300 and varying per camp. (Some camps are more expensive because they allow kids to keep robots or laptops that they build.) Sibling discounts are available. Visit <https://www.kidscancodejax.com/> for more information.

St. Johns Virtual



The enrollment window for the St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) Full-Time Program opened on April 9th and will close on July 10th. To learn more about virtual options and apply to the program, please visit <http://www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

The SJVS Full-Time Program is a Program of Choice meaning that students must apply and meet very high standards for acceptance. SJVS offers a unique online program that provides students flexibility to learn on terms suited to their needs. A full-time virtual student is expected to complete a minimum of six courses per semester. Online students must be self-disciplined, self-motivated, responsible, and challenged by rigor. Parents and guardians must play an active role in monitoring their child's progress and make sure their child maintains a regimented schedule.

While the full-time program does allow students to establish their own weekly schedule as to what day and time they complete schoolwork, students must achieve adequate weekly progress in order to continue with SJVS as a full-time option. Adequate weekly progress is defined as 6% completion per class per week. Students who fall behind in their weekly progress will be required to complete schoolwork at the SJVS office until they reach and maintain the proper pace. Students not able to maintain the proper pace will return to their zoned school. SJVS has seen students reach extraordinary goals with teacher and family support through the full-time program. If you would like to learn more about our virtual program, please contact Michael Eisen at 547-8086 or Michael.Eisen@stjohns.k12.fl.us

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!



Students and staff are welcome to channel their inner Jedi and dress as their favorite Star Wars character on May 4th. Proper foot attire is required for school. Please leave toys at home.



Extended Day Registration is Open!

If you need before or afterschool care for the 2018-2019 school year please fill out a registration form!

You can pick one up at the front desk or on our website!

If you have any questions please call
Contact Kim at 904-547-4150

The Den Extended Day Program is a community partnership with Ocean Palms Palms Day-Care. Extended Day Program is available Monday through Friday, 8:00am-6:00pm. Space is limited. We are not responsible for any damage to property. We are not responsible for any injury to children. We are not responsible for any loss of property. We are not responsible for any damage to property. We are not responsible for any injury to children. We are not responsible for any loss of property.

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