Dear Ocean Palms Families,

This week I would like to highlight one of our student leadership teams. Our Student Ambassador Leadership Team, under the direction of Mrs. Kerry Fodor, honored our first responders on Tuesday with a special delivery of a hot and home made meal, desserts, and a video montage of Ocean Palms students expressing their gratitude to our local police officers and firefighters. While we try to avoid emergencies at school, things do happen, and when we need our first responders, they are always here for us. Over the years we have gotten to know many of them and I cannot say thank you enough for their expertise, responsiveness and service. The first image below was posted on the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office Facebook Page and the second image is a thank you letter we received this week from a Deputy who was served lunch by our leadership team. These men and women are true heroes in our community and I am proud of our students for taking time to recognize these special men and women.

Until Next Time, Be Well.

Sincerely,

Jessica Richardson—Principal

Everyone, Everyday, Everything Matters at Ocean Palms!

Calendar of Events:

- **Feb. 4:** Character Counts! Run/Walk 2017, 9:00 A.M. at Palencia Elementary
- **Feb. 6:** Principal Coffee Chat, 9:00 A.M.
- **Feb. 7:** ESE Parent Mtg: St. Augustine High School 6:00–7:30 P.M. Topic: Intercepting Test Anxiety, Preparing for the FSA
- **Feb. 8:** Interims Issued
- **Feb. 9:** STEM Fair, Grades 3, 4, 5 at 6:00 P.M.
- **Feb. 15:** Early Kindergarten Registration, 1:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.
- **Feb. 16:** Vision Screening, 5th Grade
- **Feb. 16:** SAC Meeting, 3:15 P.M.
- **Feb. 16:** STEM Fair, Grades K, 1, 2 at 6:00 pm
- **Feb. 17:** Teacher Inservice Day, Student Holiday
- **Feb. 20:** Presidents Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
- **March 6:** Class Picture Day
- **March 10:** 3rd Quarter Ends
- **March 13–17:** Spring Break, Student/Teacher Holiday
- **March 20:** Teacher Planning Day; Student Holiday
Nine students, under the direction of S.T.E.A.M. teacher, Lauren Wade, at Ocean Palms Elementary School, recently took part in an international competition called the Wonder League Robotics Competition. The students worked in teams of two or three to complete five challenges involving two robots named Dash and Dot. The challenges were listed on the website https://clubs.makewonder.com/competition where students would visit to find out the parameters for each challenge. The students began working with Mrs. Wade in October to learn how to code the robots using the Wonder coding language. They then designed solutions to each challenge by programming the robots, using their previously established knowledge. Upon completing each challenge, each team was required to submit the code they wrote, as well as a video of their code in action. Each team's code and video were then reviewed by computer science teachers and programmers that awarded points based on completion of the challenge.

One of our teams, “The Sis Squad” received a total of 245 points, landing them a spot in the top 30 for the 9-12 age bracket, and tied for number one in the state of Florida! The members of the team are second grader, Lily Gavazzi, and fifth grader, Morgan Gavazzi. They are now in the top one percent of all of the over 5,000 competition registrants! “The Sis Squad” will go on to compete for the grand prize — a $5,000 STEM grant, their own Dash robots, and finalist t-shirts.

Three additional teams were also admitted into the “Perfect Score Round” for getting scores of 235 points. The teams are “King Coders”- Adam Chaker (Landrum Middle School) and Bobby Hitchcock (5th Grader), “Team Terabyte”- Ray Barba (5th Grade) and TJ Gavazzi (5th Grade), and “World Wonders”- Lance D’Amato (3rd Grade), Lucas Cox (4th Grade), and Xander Demi (5th Grade). These teams will compete in a final challenge that will then be submitted to a team of peers. The teams will review the submissions and provide feedback and commentary regarding the solutions. Completing this challenge will enter the teams into a drawing to win 5 Dash robots and a one year premium curriculum subscription for Ocean Palms.

The final challenges must be submitted by February 24, and the international winners will be announced March 15th. These teams from Ocean Palms are well prepared and will certainly excel in the next round of competition!

Calling All Volunteers!

As you know, if your students have been at our school for past years, accountability testing (FSA, DE, and EOCs) take place over much of the spring. We are already planning ahead for these high-stakes assessments, and we need your help!

The testing days are now set. The FSA Writes for grades 4 and 5 is Feb. 28th; 3rd grade FSA Reading is March 27 and 28th; the balance of FSAs are from April 4 to April 26. DE assessments for grades K – 3 are from May 3 to May 15 and the EOCs (Art, PE, Music for grades 2 – 5) are on May 16 and 17.

During those days, in order to maintain a secure testing environment, we are unable to have parent volunteers in the classroom or visiting for lunch – EXCEPT for those who are able to help us proctor. We really need your help for proctoring! Being a proctor is easy — all you need to be able to do is sit and observe the children and test administrator of the test. You may not proctor for a grade level test that your child participates in — but all other tests are wide open. We will need a proctor for each test given — a total of 120 tests over the course of the spring! PTO members, Amy Yorio and Jill D’Amato, will create a up a Sign-Up Genius site to help you choose days and times that fit your schedule. We hope you will share a few hours with us for this important task. Thank you in advance!
It’s getting close …

Don’t forget that the STEM Family Expo evenings are quickly approaching. STEM night for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders is:

**Thursday, February 9th from 6 – 7 pm. Below is a quick synopsis of what you will be seeing:**

3rd Grade

Come watch the 3rd grade classes show off their problem solving and investigating skills with various student-led activities. Join Mrs. Bomar, Mrs. Tremblay, Ms. Harrah, Mr. Arcuri, Mrs. Sgroi, and Ms. Reid’s classes in an amusement park atmosphere, watching students experiment with the dynamics of force, energy, and motion with hand-made roller coaster projects. Mrs. Mancino and Ms. Buckner’s classes will be conducting science experiments during STEM night. Mrs. Frein’s class will be demonstrating hydroponics.

4th Grade & 5th Grade

The primary goal of our annual STEM projects is to promote student use of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to solve real world problems. These projects are designed to help students understand the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation, learn how to set up an experiment using controls and variables, recognize the need for repetition and replication, and learn how to use appropriate reference materials to support scientific understanding. Students attempt to solve real-life problems by conducting experiments in which variables must be changed and data is collected and measured utilizing math strategies. You won’t want to miss this exciting event! Let us help you solve many of life’s problems! 4th grade students will display and discuss their projects in their classrooms, while our 5th graders work will be shown in the cafeteria. Three projects from 5th grade and two projects from 4th grade will be chosen to represent Ocean Palms at the district-wide elementary STEM Expo in May.

A week later, on **Thursday, February 16th, from 6 – 7 pm**, our students in Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade will share their Science, Technology, and Math learning:

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will be showcasing a hallway full of 2D/3D Robots on display. Students will be their parent’s tour guides as they see a variety of math activities and games. They will also share some interactive science experiments. A Raz Kids tutorial will also be available for you to attend.

1st Grade

The amazing first grade team has put together several interactive STEM activities for the OPE STEM Night. We will have a “passport” theme as students circulate around the various rooms to participate in the activities. Students can visit the Raz-Kids “port” to show their parents their progress made thus far. They can also visit “ports” to explore interactive math fluency games, time, money, and measurement. Our goal is to show the parents some fun activities they can do with their children to strengthen their academic skills.

2nd Grade

Second graders will be participating in the Invention Convention as part of the K-2 STEM Night. Please plan on joining us in the cafeteria to tour the invention and research projects we have been working on and to participate in our interactive math stations. We hope to see everyone there!
Coins Count for Character Counts!

The next month of February will focus on the Pillar of Caring and one way we will show how much we care is through a school-wide community service project, Coins Count for Character Counts! We will have a change collection for the month with the goal of using the money collected to purchase items for The Webster School’s Character Counts! quarterly celebrations. Be on the lookout for more information in the next newsletter!

Ocean Palms 3rd – 5th grade students will be raising money for the American Heart Association by participating in Jump Rope for Heart. Collection envelopes were distributed in Physical Education class during the first two weeks of January. All students have been practicing short and long jump rope skills. You can ask your child to demonstrate skier, side swing, rodeo, scissors, double under and partner skills.

Donations need to be turned in to Coach Catches or Coach Razey by Feb. 14. Our actual event will take place during PE classes between Jan. 31 – Feb. 6. Students may raise money through online donations, checks made out to the American Heart Association or cash.

Last year Ocean Palms raised over $4,000 dollars. Thank you for your help in fighting heart disease.

FISHMAN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
AND GIVE KIDS A SMILE 2017

Dr. Fishman and Staff are proud to participate in their 4th Annual Give Kids A Smile Day as part of National Dental Health Month on Friday, February 24th, 2017. Families who have children with no dental insurance in need of dental care should contact our office to schedule an appointment. All care and treatment will be free as a service to those children in financial need. Please call Fishman Pediatric Dentistry at (904) 247-4097 to schedule an appointment on this special day!

100 Days Smarter

We celebrated Literacy Week with “crazy about reading” crazy hair day “curl up with a good book” and our 100th day of School!
$25 of each $50 stadium pass sold will be donated back to us!

PURCHASE YOUR DISCOUNTED PLAYERS TICKETS FROM
ENTER ORGANIZATION’S NAME HERE
TO SUPPORT US, USE CODE PVPEF

CHIPINFORYOUTH.COM
MAY 9-14, 2017
TPC SAWGRASS
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

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