Dear Families,

There has been a lot of excitement around Ocean Palms lately. From the Character Counts Run to STEM Fair, our school has been filled with students showcasing the best of who they are academically, socially and physically.

This week, our Kindergarten, First, and Second graders will showcase their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math knowledge for families on Thursday evening.

Our new Superintendent, Mr. Tim Forson, will be speaking at Landrum’s PTO Coffee Chat on Monday morning at 8:30 in the Landrum Multi-Purpose Room. Mr. Forson will give us an overview of his thoughts on the district and answer questions you may have.

On Wednesday, we will host one of four Early Kindergarten Registrations. This Registration event will take place from 1:00-5:00 pm at Ocean Palms. Please pass along the information on page 5 of the newsletter to any neighbors and friends that you know that will have incoming Kindergarten students for the 2017-2018 school year. With our growing school population, pre-planning for students is extremely helpful!

Information from Monday’s Principal’s Coffee Chat at Ocean Palms can be found on the PTO Facebook page along with information on how you can sign up to proctor for an upcoming testing day. Save the dates for upcoming Spring events are on the PTO website and can be found in the body of this newsletter.

As we approach the beginning of the spring testing season, my advice for families is to focus on balancing the importance of the assessments with the whole child experience of school. Students will spend more years in Elementary school than at any other level of their education. It should be a time of learning, growing as an individual, and making memories that will shape their futures. The tests are important and we will take them seriously, however, like with most things in life, this too needs to be kept in perspective. The ultimate goal is for our children to become well rounded individuals who are not only academically successful, but also caring contributors to society.

Finally, please take note that students do not have school on Friday, February 17th and Monday, February 20th. Make it a great week and enjoy the long weekend.

Until Next Time, Be Well.

Jessica Richardson-Principal

Everyday, Everyone, Everything Matters

Calendar of Events:

Feb. 15: Early Kindergarten Registration, 1:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.
Feb. 16: Vision Screening, 5th Grade
Feb. 16: Music Therapy Performance 9 am
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
Feb 22: Box Top Deadline
Feb. 28: FSA Writes, Grades 4 & 5 NO VOLUNTEERS (except proctors)
Mar. 3: Character Celebration 9 am
Mar. 6: Class Picture Day
Mar. 9: Pick-A-Pose Individual Photos
Mar. 10: 3rd Quarter Ends
Mar. 13–17: Spring Break, Student/Teacher Holiday
Mar. 20: Teacher Planning Day; Student Holiday
Mar. 21: Classes Resume for Students
Mar. 24: Early Kindergarten Registration, 9:00am-1:00pm
Running Otters!

A big thank you to all those students, families, and staff who turned out for the brisk and windy Character Counts 3K/6K Run this past Saturday. As with last year, we were well represented with 84 Ocean Palms runners in their Otter Run t-shirts.

And those Otters ran fast! For our two age groups, 9 and under, and 10 – 14, we had 9 students finishing in the top three spots. Congratulations in the 6K run to: Matthias Shultz and Arthur Bouquot (1st and 2nd place in Boys, 9 & under), Lauren Adams (2nd place, Girls 9 & under). For the 3K run: Edward Farmer (1st place, Boys 9 & under); Colby Green (3rd place Boys, 10 – 14); Sadie Bryant and Caroline McDonald (2nd and 3rd Girls 9 & under); Kobe Clarke (2nd Boys 10–14) and Windsor Lockhart and (2nd Girls 10 -14).

A final, special thank you to the wonderful Krista Joseph for coaching our after school running team assisted by staff members Natalie Reid and Cristine Thoresen along with many parent and Landrum Middle School student volunteers.
The February
Book of the Month

Before Winnie-the-Pooh, there was a real bear named Winnie. And she was a girl!
In 1914, Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in World War I, followed his heart and rescued a baby bear. He named her Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg, and he took the bear to war.

Character Counts!
Corner for Kids

The Pillar for February is Caring. There are many ways you can show others that you are a caring person. What are some things you could do that would help somebody who needs it? How do you feel when people show that they really care about you? Do you consider yourself a caring person? In what ways are you a caring person? A caring person:

◊ Treats people with kindness and generosity.
◊ Helps people in need.
◊ Is sensitive to people's feelings.
◊ Is never mean or hurtful.
◊ Thinks about how their actions will affect others.

Always remember: we become caring people by doing caring things!

Character Counts!
Corner for Parents

Talk with your children about the importance of doing things for other people. Remind them often that they have the power to brighten another person's day through a simple act of kindness.

◊ Participate in a community service project with your children.
◊ Try to find things that you can do together to make a difference in someone else's life.
◊ Catch your child being caring, doing something kind and generous for another person.
◊ Watch a television program together, and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted uncaring or caring towards one another.

Remember that you are a powerful role model for your child. If you are kind and helpful to other people, that is what your child will learn from you.

Highlights of the Character Counts Celebration

Pillar of Respect

On February 3rd we celebrated students who demonstrate the Character Counts! Pillar of Respect. We enjoyed listening to what their teachers wrote about their children as we celebrated with their families!

Coins Count for Character Counts!

This month, you can show that you care by helping another school. We are going to raise money to help The Webster School with their Character Counts! celebrations. For the rest of the month of February you can bring in coins (and even dollar bills) to put in your class' collection canister. (Just make sure you have your parents' permission!)

The classroom for every grade level who brings in the most money will receive a special treat. We are going to collect the canisters on Fridays to count the total amount collected school wide and let you know which class is in the lead on Monday! And there may be an additional treat for the overall leader.

Let's show The Webster School how much we care about them by making our Coins Count for Character Counts!
STEM Expo Recognitions

Thank you all for joining us as our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders showcased some of their STEM activities and projects with us last evening.

Our 4th and 5th graders did a wonderful job conducting, displaying, and explaining their STEM experiments. The following projects will go to the district STEM Fair in May:

Grade 4: **Helmet Crash Test** - Caden Cowart, Isaac Layow and Lily Brodeur.

Grade 4: **Olivia's Eggsperiment** - Olivia Baldwin.

Grade 5: **Prosthetic Hand** - Jett Turner and Matthew Garcia.

Grade 5: **Texting While Driving** - Josh Sintich.

Grade 5: **Almost Sterile Steps** - Colby Green and Aidan Sinclair.

Calling All Volunteers!

Sign up to be a Proctor on the website below:

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f49a9aa2baaf1-ocean

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.

**February 28, March 27-28, April 10-26, May 1-17**

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, have created 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!
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!

Get to know our new Superintendent!

Landrum Middle School will be hosting a coffee chat featuring Mr. Tim Forson, our new St. Johns County School District Superintendent and all area parents are invited. Mr. Forson will give an overview of his thoughts on the district and answer questions you may have. The Coffee begins at 8:30am on Monday, February 13 in the multi-purpose room at Landrum Middle School.

FISHMAN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
AND GIVE KIDS A SMILE 2017

Save the Date!
Thursday, April 6, 2017
5:30pm- 7:30pm

Spring Family Night
Brought to you by:
Ocean Palms Elementary PTO

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Welcome to Kindergarten

2017-2018 School Year!

Kindergarten Pre-Registration dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 15</td>
<td>1:00pm-5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 24</td>
<td>9:00am-1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 4</td>
<td>1:00pm-5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 15</td>
<td>9:00am-1:00pm</td>
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</tbody>
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ALL required documents must be presented at the time of registration, partial documents cannot be accepted. A physical health exam must be dated 8/11/16 or after and required Immunizations must be complete and on the FL680 Certificate. Lease or rental agreements must not expire before 8/10/17. Please stop by my office for a detailed registration packet or you may visit the registration website for more information:
http://www.scs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/

Please contact me when you are ready to register and I will be happy to schedule an appointment! Your child does not need to be present.

Mrs. Morales (904) 547-3767

Lazzara orthodontics
Give Us Your Input!

The School Advisory Council (SAC) needs your thoughts about our school! Every year, they are required to create a Needs Assessment Survey and poll our school community for feedback. This helps us know your feelings about our strengths and challenges so that we can continue to grow as a school. Your opinions matter to us! The survey opens on February 13 and will remain open through the 24th. Look for a School Messenger alert with the digital link to this survey next week!

Contact Us
Ocean Palms Elementary
355 Landrum Lane
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Office: 904-547-3760
Mrs. Richardson:
904-547-3762
Mrs. Baker:
904-547-3763
Visit our web site at:
http://www-ope.stjohns.k12.fl.us
$25 OF EACH $50 STADIUM PASS SOLD WILL BE DONATED BACK TO US!

PURCHASE YOUR DISCOUNTED PLAYERS TICKETS FROM
Ocean Palms Elementary School PTO

TO SUPPORT US, USE CODE OCEANPALMS

CHIPINFORYOUTH.COM

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

*Net proceeds exclude taxes and ticket shipping or processing fees. 50% of net proceeds from each ticket will be donated by PGA TOUR to the youth sports organization and the balance will be donated by PGA TOUR to The First Tee. PGA TOUR, INC. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES REGISTRATION NUMBER CH10173, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 486 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICABLE CHARITY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING (800) 435-7352 TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. FOR OUTSIDE THE STATE OF FLORIDA, CALL (888) 448-2221. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY PGA TOUR. THE TICKET PURCHASE IS NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION BY THE CONSUMER.