



Mrs. Lynne Palmer
Principal

Oliver Beach News
January 2019



Mrs. Jennifer Pilarski
Assistant Principal



Principal's News



We hope everyone enjoyed a refreshing holiday and found time to relax with friends and family. The month of January marks the starts of a new year in which we will continue to focus our efforts on what's best for our students. The end of the second quarter is Friday, January 25 which will be here before you know it. Students still have time to work hard and bring up any grades or complete any missing work.

Remember, the best homework for students is for them to read or be read to aloud. Research shows that reading with your children shows them the importance of communication and motivates them to become readers. It also provides a context to discuss issues and learn what is your child's mind. It is never too early to start reading with your children. Start reading to your child by the age of 6 months.

On a safety note, we are happy that most of our children arrive to school on time, but we have some students arriving way too early for school. There are no teachers on duty until 8:30. Until then, all students are unsupervised outside. Please do not send your child to school too early. Arrival time is 8:30 and that provides enough time for students to unpack and get to class.

Notes from the nurse



Welcome the New Year! We are in the middle of flu season and we're working hard to keep our learners healthy and ready to learn. Here are this month's health suite notes:

- Excellent **hand washing** habits are the most important tool in fighting illness. In December, students enjoyed a fun glo-germ hand washing lesson. All OBES students are now experts in thorough hand washing technique 😊
- Please remember that your child needs to be **fever free for 24 hours**, without medication, before returning to school after any illness.
- With more time spent in the gym during cold days, **supportive footwear**, such as **sneakers**, is essential to keep growing bones and muscles protected and supported. As kids grow by leaps and bounds, please check if your child's shoes still fit appropriately, have enough traction left on soles, and have intact shoelaces that stay tied and secured throughout the day. You can also send in sneakers to keep in the student's locker to be ready for gym and recess every day.
- If you haven't done so yet, please remember to send in your student's **Physical and Dental forms** as soon as possible. BCPS requires every student to have an up-to-date health file.

Thank you for your support in keeping our kids healthy, happy & ready to learn,

Eva Merryman, MSN, RN, CPN
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The Counselor Corner



Happy New Year! I hope that 2019 has begun well for you and your family! We hope your child is excited to begin a new year and ready to learn new things.



Every two weeks at OBES we look closely at a virtue. In the month of January we will be defining and looking for opportunities to demonstrate the virtues of orderliness, peacefulness, and courage. More information will be sent home throughout the month about each of these virtues. Students will continue to be recognized with Principal Wall awards for other virtues we have focused on as well as these “new” virtues.



For the month of January, the essential question for all the counseling lessons is, “What virtues and attributes help me demonstrate my character?”

- In kindergarten and first grade, students will listen to a story and identify specific behaviors they can demonstrate as they actively listen in school. We refer to this as “whole body listening”.

- In second grade the students will listen to a story about personal space and identify the ways they can respect others’ personal space and identify when they are being a “personal space invader”.
- In third grade the students will listen to a story and identify one way they can make a difference this year and write about someone who has made a difference in their life.
- In fourth grade students will identify steps to deal with gossip and rumors.
- In fifth grade students will reflect on how they are building their reputation and how they could change their reputation.



This year our school has recognized each month the grade levels with the best attendance. Our attendance goal at OBES is 96 %. The winning grade level receives the golden flipflop to hang in their classroom for a month. In September third grade had the best attendance percentage. In October first grade was our school winner and November’s winner was second grade. Fifth grade was our school winner for the month of December having an attendance rate of 98.1%.

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you as a parent can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, and have a better chance of graduating from high school. Students who attend school regularly typically feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships,

perform better in school, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school. These qualities set your child up for a strong future.

However, when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused— it can have a negative impact. Students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically. These absences can affect kids as early as kindergarten. Your child’s success in school is deeply important to us all! We are all here to support your child to reach their potential anyway that we can.



This month I will continue to hold “Lunch Bunch” times for many students. It is a pleasure to have a chance to eat lunch with the students in small groups and get to know them better!

I wish you a wonderful 2019!

Sheryl Stewart - School Counselor
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Charitable Acts Club



Thank you so much for your generosity!!! Thank you for all of the mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats you sent in for our mitten tree. Some of these items went directly to some of the families in our own community and the remainder of the mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats were donated to the Family Crisis Center in Dundalk as well as

distributed to homeless families in the local area. Thank you for making such a difference in so many lives!!!!

Stay tuned to see if you are able to help with any other future projects sponsored by the Charitable Works Club.



PE News

I would like to give a huge shout-out to Mrs. Brace for doing such a wonderful job substituting during my absence. I would also like to thank the students, parents and staff for the great amount of support. Baby is healthy and happy. What an awesome school community to be a part of.

OK, back to business: Big kudos to the 5th grade students for their participation in the ballroom dance program as well as their group performance which was well received by the parents and staff. Ms. Abby (our instructor) gave our students the ultimate compliment by saying she wished she could "teach here everyday".

Lastly, the "dreaded" Fitness Gram testing will be going in full swing this month and next. Please be sure to dress accordingly on PE days 4th and 5th graders! Tip: Practicing your push-ups, and curl-ups at home a little each night can make a huge difference on the fitness assessment.

Winners of the Basketball Champion Tournament:

- Grade 3 – Karst: Sal G
Abby W
Wood: Mason N
Sophie A
- Grade 4 – Kregel: Andre S
Gabby C
Colegrove: Kaleb W

Jordan N
 Grade 5 – Hall: David G
 Zoey B

Congratulations!!

Regards,
 -Mr. Telesky

Library News

	<p>Kindergarten has finished their Fantastic Fiction Unit in library. Students learned how to retell stories by recalling the main events in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Students also learned how to make inferences about the characters and begin to make text to self-connections about the characters and events. During the month of January, kindergarteners will become familiar with the role of an author and about different writing styles. We will focus on Eric Carle, Melanie Watt, Grace Lin, Mo Willems, Matt de la Pena, and Kevin Henkes! Consider checking out books by these authors from our Baltimore County Public Library or at OBES’s library.</p>
	<p>First grade has finished their Making Connections Unit. Students learned how making text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections can help us learn more information, engage with the text, and relate to the characters. We will begin our next unit on visualization, which focuses on the strategy of visualization. Students will learn how to make movies in their mind as they read. This will help students pay close attention to the details within the texts they are reading as well as to make reading more engaging.</p>

	<p>Did you know that you can access Destiny, our library search engine. Students can read and check out e-books, make collections to house “Wish List” books, and more! Second grade scholars learned all about our Destiny system. In our next unit, Reading is Lit!, students will read a variety of award-winning and nominated books in an effort to explore what makes great books “great”. We will focus on the following comprehension skills: reading illustrations, sequencing & retelling, citing evidence, using voice, and determining cause and effect! Please consider checking out Newbery Medal and Maryland Black-Eyed Susan books at OBES library or at a Baltimore County Public School Library. When you read at home, consider discussing what characteristics the author or illustrator included to make the book humorous, suspenseful, or other emotions.</p>
	<p>Third graders finished their second unit, “Unique You” which allowed students to study the concept of “identity”. Students learned how character traits (both positive and negative) can form the foundation of identity. Students will begin their unit on poetry conventions. Students will analyze poetry in order to identify common conventions and how these conventions help readers better comprehend given poems. Our focus this unit will be on rhythm, rhyme, similes, metaphors, alliteration, onomatopoeia’s, adjectives, and adverbs. Please consider sharing your favorite poem</p>

	<p>with your child. As you read, consider having students practice visualizing what the poem is about, describing the movie that takes place in their mind as it is read You can also discuss the shape, style, or rhythm of the poems. Two poets to consider are: Jack Prelutsky and Shel Silverstein. Both writers write in a humorous and engaging style. Students often find their poems engaging to read.</p>
	<p>Fourth grade finished their third unit in library called “Healthy Media Consumers”. Students learned how they can manage their online habits and remain safe when using the Internet and online media. Students also learned how to use effective reading strategies to assist them in reading, analyzing, and synthesizing online informational texts.</p> <p>During the month of January, students will collaborate and plan a service project which addresses a community problem to affect change. Stay tuned for what we come up with!</p>
	<p>Our fifth grade crew has been reading Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, and Schneider Award winning books. We have been focusing on understanding what makes us enjoy good literature. Within this unit we analyzed stories from different perspective. We also looked at how the setting, characters body language, facial expressions, actions of the character, and story details can give us clues about the author’s intended tone or meaning behind his/her words. We</p>

	<p>learned that the theme of the books is often THE Message of the story.</p> <p>Over the next few weeks, we will move into our next unit called, “US Government and Us”. We will research the three branches of the United States government in order to find information about the characters of American Representative Democracy. During this unit, students will learn how government affects their daily lives. Students will become experts in one branch of government in order to collaboratively research how each branch of the federal government has its own unique power and structure. Students will analyze historical primary source documents from the National Archives website in order to understand the United States Government’s system of checks and balances. Finally, students will create a current event involving a branch of the U.S Government in the news and create a news report or article explaining how it affects them, the community, and the world.</p>
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Art Room News

Happy 2019. With the new year comes the art club. We will be gathering together again to create works of art to beautify the hallways of our school. Please watch for flyers that will be coming home shortly with dates and times. I will also be offering some after school time to fourth and fifth graders who are interested in learning how to draw more realistically using graphite.

PreK News

Pre-K has learned a lot of new skills so far this year. The students are identifying the number of syllables in a word and the beginning sound. In this unit we are discussing what we have in our community and community workers. We are so grateful for the neighborhood where the students live and the teachers work.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten will begin their fourth ELA unit this month called Around the Neighborhood. Students are working on writing sentences using capitalization and punctuation. Students are working hard in their Measuring and Counting unit. This month we will be working on solving story problems. We will begin our first Science unit called Weather Wonders.

First Grade News

First grade is continuing to expand their phonics skills by focusing on long vowel patterns next. Students are working hard applying their phonics skills and sight words to help them grow as readers and writers. Don't forget to keep practicing sight words, reading, and writing, at home!! In math we are finishing up our unit on addition and subtraction story problems and next we will be working on collecting, analyzing, and representing data. We are wrapping up our social studies unit on basic geography concepts including continents, oceans, physical and man-made features, and how to read a map using a map key and cardinal directions. We can't wait to start our first Science unit next!!

Second Grade News

Second Grade has just started working on Unit 04: Data Analysis in Math. In this new unit, students will engage in all of the phases

of data analysis as they pose questions, collect and sort information, and make representations of data as a way of sharing their findings with others. Students will work with Venn diagrams, line plots, and read/interpret a variety of representations of numerical and categorical data. In Science, Second Grade recently began the Whack-a-Wall unit. Over the course of the Whack-a-Wall unit, students will use their understanding of different kinds of matter in order to plan, create, build, and test a wall. In Reading, second grade is almost finished Unit 3: Unique. Our next unit in Reading is Unit 4: Live and Learn. During Unit 4, students will read a variety of informational texts related to the big idea, Live and Learn.

Third Grade News

Happy New Year! The third grade continues to work on Multiplication and Division in math. Please keep practicing your math facts at home. We are talking about Inventions and Innovations in our third ELA unit. Students will be researching an invention and writing a report about their findings. Keep reading at home each night. We will be starting our Safe Racer unit soon and will need recycled items like soda bottles, cardboard, rocks, glass beads, cotton balls and packing peanuts. Our first field trip will be on January 18th. We are going to the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Please make sure to check your students folder for important information.

Fourth Grade News

In 4th grade ELA, we are finishing our author study of Kate DiCamillo by creating a PowerPoint that represents how Kate's life and experiences influenced her writing. We will be starting Unit 3 where students will learn about the power of information through the development of an infographic related to a social issue. Later, students will

develop an opinion about a topic and “take a stand” in order to express their opinion.

4th grade has the opportunity to participate in the “Six Flags Read to Succeed Club” where students are asked to “read for fun” for a total of 6 hours. When this goal is reached, students will receive a free ticket to a Six Flags theme park!

In math we continue learning various strategies for division in unit 3. Please continue to help your child practice their multiplication facts. Understanding multiplication helps in understanding division.

Fifth Grade News

Happy New Year! 5th grade is starting the new year with a new ELA unit! We are exploring how fiction and historical facts come together in a novel study. Students in each group will read at least one of the following titles: *Phoebe the Spy* by: Judith Berry Griffin, *The Secret Soldier* by: Ann McGovern, *Toliver's Secret* by: Esther Wood Brady, or *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by: Avi.

Upcoming Dates



- 10 – Team BCPS Day – Wear Blue
- 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday
Schools and Offices Closed
- 25 – Second Marking Period Ends
School Closes 3 Hours Early
12:15 for Oliver Beach Elementary
- 30 – PTA Urban Air Family Night
6:00-8:00 pm



- 1 – Winter Ball 6:30-8:00 pm
- 7 – Report Cards Distributed
- 18 – Presidents Day –
Schools and Offices Closed

