

SOARING SEAGULL NEWS

OLIVER BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2019

Lynne Palmer, Principal
Amy Daniller, Assistant Principal

Thought for the Month: *“The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting the first one.”*
~ Mark Twain

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December	11	6:30 – Winter Concert
	14	PTA Breakfast with Santa
	20	Christmas Holiday/Winter Break Begins at End of School Day
January	2	Welcome Back!
	14	6:30 – PTA Meeting
	17	PTA Winter Ball
	20	School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	24	12:15 – School Closes – 2 nd Marking Period Ends

Greetings From Mrs. Palmer

We want to thank everyone for making American Education Week such a successful and positive experience. It was an exhilarating week for all of us and we appreciate your participation.

We want to thank the PTA for organizing the book fair, holiday shop and our wonderful assembly about reptiles. I also want to publicly acknowledge the efforts of our faculty and staff for their persistence and hard work every day. Our teachers are the best, and without them, Oliver Beach would not enjoy its special place in our educational community. Oliver Beach is a very special place- thanks to our parents, students and staff. As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded each and every day of how fortunate we truly are.

On behalf of our entire staff, we would like to wish everyone a very safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Notes From the Nurse

Happy Winter! With the colder temperature, we've seen an increase in cold weather complaints. Please remind your child to practice **good hand washing** to keep away germs and illnesses. Another great preventative measure is the use of **saline nose spray** or drops to keep nasal mucous membranes healthy. This prevents nosebleeds during the dry winter months and keeps your first layer of defense against viruses intact. The most frequent complaint in the health suite this month has been dry lips. Please send your child with a personal lip balm or **chap stick** to use as needed.

Lastly, we have concluded our **annual Vision & Hearing Screening**. Pass-letters have been sent home in your child's folder in their backpack. If your child failed one or both screenings, a letter was mailed home directly. Please seek care with your doctor promptly and return the completed Hearing & Vision screening letter to school, signed by your doctor.

Thank you for your support to keep our kids healthy, happy, and ready to learn,

Eva Merryman, MSN, RN, CPN
School Nurse
410-344-1341
emerryman@bcps.org



The Counselor Corner

During the month of December, your child's class will be participating in a counseling core curriculum lesson on personal safety and decision-making. The lessons are based on Baltimore County Public Schools' Personal Safety Program K-5: Making Healthy Decisions curriculum. This program includes age appropriate information on body safety and neglect and abuse prevention strategies and highlights the importance of telling a trusted adult about uncomfortable situations. Our county's goal is to help children be better able to handle the issues of personal safety should they arise. I will also be teaching a classroom lesson about determination – this month's virtue.

Charitable Club – Canned Food Drive

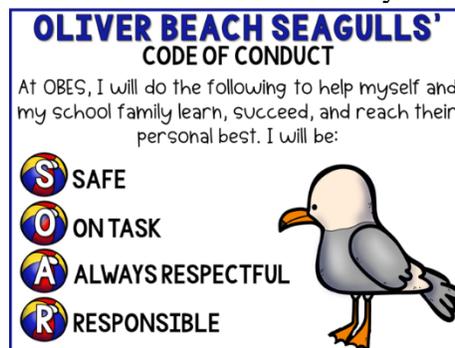
The Charitable Club is thrilled to announce that OBES surpassed their goal this year. We enjoyed a special school-wide pajama day the day before Thanksgiving. Thank you for giving so generously! The food items were taken to the Bowleys Chase Community Food Pantry. This was such a wonderful way for you to give back to so many here in our community!!! Thank you so very much for making such a difference in so many lives!

The Charitable Club has set up a beautiful mitten tree in the front lobby. We will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to donate to local children in order to keep hands and heads

warm this upcoming winter. Some of these items will be donated to the Family Crisis Center. Thanks in advance!! 😊

This is the second year that OBES has participated in PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). PBIS is a systems approach which enhances our school to educate all children by developing research-based, school wide, and classroom discipline systems. The process focuses on teaching and supporting positive behavior for all students. The PBIS framework includes positive rewards and supports for all students. Our school believes in teaching and rewarding students' positive behavior. At OBES we reward students for their positive behavior in several ways. One way was our primary and intermediate level awards assemblies that were just held on Monday, December 2nd. We acknowledged many students' successes. In addition, teachers recognize students' positive behavior when they are demonstrating a virtue by awarding a Principal Wall Award. When a student receives a Principal Wall Award they go to the office, speak with Mrs. Palmer, sign her wall, and receive a pencil. The next morning each Principal Wall winner is on the morning news. Their award is read aloud. Also, monthly students spend their DOJO points as they shop at our SOAR store.

School-wide our students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct all the time, everywhere. Our school every morning recites our Code of Conduct every morning.



It is such an exciting time to be a student at OBES!

If you have any concerns or questions, please call me at school 410-887-5943 or email me at sstewart5@bcps.org. I am here to help support your child to make this their best school year ever!

Sheryl Stewart

PTA News

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA by joining the PTA. Thanks also to everyone who has participated in our school's fundraisers. On Tuesday, December 10th, the school enjoyed a fantastic school wide assembly by Reptiles Alive. It was wonderful seeing the reptiles and hearing all the information about them. Thank you, PTA, for paying for this high-quality assembly to share with our school!!

Physical Education News

The *Ballroom Dance Program* for fifth graders will run January 27 – 31. On January 31 at 2:15 p.m., family/friends are invited to visit and participate in the dance program. This will be a *fancy dress day* for the fifth graders.

-Mr. Telesky

News From the Library

Curriculum:

Kindergarten: Students in kindergarten have learned how to locate books within our library and how to be good readers. Students identified the beginning, middle, and end of a story, sequenced story events, made predictions based upon illustrations, and made inferences using the text, illustrations, and prior knowledge. Our unit focused on stories of varying cultural viewpoints and backgrounds.

First Grade: Students in first grade engaged in a tangram unit to enhance first grade students' concepts of making new shapes by exploring tangrams. We learned about the origin of tangrams, the shapes that make up tangrams, and drafted a story about our own tangram animal. Students were also introduced to the visualization strategy with the purpose of understanding that good readers create mental images in their minds when reading to help them better understand a story. As you read books at home, encourage your child to share the images they see in their mind as they read.

Second Grade: Second grade scholars learned how to use Destiny, our online catalog to search by topic, author, or keyword. Students also explored the eBook collection within Destiny. Students are currently reading award-winning and nominated books in order 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.

Third Grade: Our third graders studied the concept of "identity" and learned how character traits (both positive and negative) form the foundation of identity. Students explored how their accomplishments, goals, interests, and talents can enhance their concept of their own unique identities through the creation of a "Unique You" profile. Scholars also learned about common elements of poetry. Students read an array of poetry and used conventions to understand the poet's tone. We looked at rhyme, figurative language (similes, metaphors, and onomatopoeia), and imagery/visualization (adjectives, adverbs).

Fourth Grade: Students are analyzing elements of great books by looking closely at characters and settings in award winning books. Students also learned how to use effective reading strategies to assist them in reading, analyzing, and synthesizing online informational texts. We engaged in both print and eBook "book tastings" to learn about the variety of books we have within our own OBES collection.

Fifth Grade: Students were introduced to the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, and Schneider Award and learned what makes us enjoy good literature. Students applied reading skills such as character point of view, finding the tone of a story, and writing a theme statement as they read. At the end of this unit, students will be using Wixie or Microsoft PowerPoint to create a book trailer for an award-winning books within our library.

Music News

During the month of December, all grades will be focusing on music from, “The Nutcracker.” Students will learn about the composer, Peter Tchaikovsky, and listen to his music with the intention of identifying patterns in the music. After identifying the patterns, also known as the FORM, students will respond to the music by dancing and moving to show the different patterns played by various instruments. We will also read the fairytale of “The Nutcracker” and watch short videos of several of the dances from the ballet!

Our annual WINTER CONCERT is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th. **All 4th and 5th grade students** will perform at this concert.

A letter regarding dress requirements was previously sent home. If any clarification is needed, please contact Mrs. Michael via email:

amichael2@bcps.org

- 5th grade students should arrive at 6:00 P.M. and meet Mrs. Michael in the library for a vocal warm-up.
 - 5th grade band and orchestra students will then meet Ms. G in the music room with their instruments at 6:15 P.M.
- 4th grade students should arrive at 6:15 P.M. and meet Mrs. Michael in the library for their vocal warm-up.

THE PERFORMANCE WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 6:30 P.M.

Prekindergarten News

Pre-k is doing an amazing job learning new sight words and letter sounds. This month we are reading different versions of the Gingerbread story and winter books. In math we are learning to identify the numbers 1-10 and how to add two numbers together.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has been working hard in Open Court. We have learned the sounds for the letters: short a, d, h, l, m, n, p, s, and t. In Reading, we will listen to and read a variety of literary and informational texts (interactive read-alouds, literature big books, and decodable texts) in order to learn about the people and places in our neighborhood. In Math, we are gaining a deeper understanding of numbers and number relationships as we engage in activities in which we count, combine, and compare amounts. Also, we are beginning to learn about addition and subtraction situations through story problem contexts.

News from Grade 1

First grade has been doing amazing things!! We are continuing to grow as readers and writers, applying new spelling patterns to sounds such as th, ch, sh, and r-controlled vowels!! We are

working hard to apply these skills in our reading small groups as well. We are continuing to explore nonfiction texts to learn new information about communities and maps. We have learned all about the important components of maps and created our own version of Oliver Beach. Google Earth is a great tool to explore at home to continue this learning. In math we are exploring and applying different strategies to help us solve addition and subtraction problems. Keep working on Dreambox at home and keep reading!!

News from Grade 2

We continue to strengthen our classroom family bond by having daily class meetings. The students love sharing their thoughts, ideas, experiences, and advice.

In math we concluded our unit on geometry and have returned to computation. The focus in this unit is on story problems that involve addition, subtraction, and missing parts. We are working on demonstrating knowledge of, and use of, a variety of strategies to solve story problems.

In language arts we are reading multiple texts from a variety of genres in order to describe ways things, places, people, and animals are unique.

In science we continue to investigate the best materials to use to engineer a strong wall.

We look forward to ending 2019 with lots of fun and new learning!

Mrs. Helm

Congrats to our 2nd graders for having the highest attendance rate in November! We are the winners of the Golden Flipflops! Our students have been working hard to solve story problems with unknown starts, unknown changes, and missing sums/differences in math- all while trying to find an efficient strategy to help them solve the problems (no more drawing circles!). They are also helping to write original story problems for us to use in math each day. In Reading, we continue to read about unique places, people, and things. Recently we read about a family that celebrates 2 kinds of New Years. This week, we start learning about the elements of Porquoi Tales as we will be writing our own original Porquois. Speaking of writing- students have been learning to write opinions and to use RACE when responding to questions (Restate, Answer, CUPS, and Evidence). Our field trip to the MD Science Center will be on the 13th and our class parties will be on the afternoon of the 20th. Looking forward to a wonderful holiday break!

Mrs. Kregel

News from Grade 3

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News from Grade 4

In 4th grade ELA, we are finishing up the Unit 2 Kate DiCamillo Author Study. Students are revisiting and adding to their research on the life of Kate DiCamillo, after reading a number of her novels, in order to determine how her life influenced her writing. They will create a scrapbook that reflects these influences as the culminating activity for this unit. Up next is Unit 3, called Taking a Stand.

In math we are starting Unit 3, Division Unit and learning various ways to divide whole numbers.

4th grade will be visiting the National Aquarium on January 7th which is related to the Science Turtle Trouble unit.

News from Grade 5

The fifth grade is working hard in math on their division unit. We are learning several strategies to help us divide and to prepare us for dividing decimals. In Science, we have finished our Bioblitz unit and will start our next Social Studies unit on the Revolution.

In ELA 5th grade is working on researching hidden figures of the American Revolution and their contributions during the war.

