



Orem Elementary

PTA Newsletter March 2010

CALENDAR

March

- Mar 1 Storytelling Assembly
12:30-1:15
- Mar 2 PTA Meeting 9:30 am Rm 206
- Mar 5 No School
Teacher Development
- Ma 11 Moms & Muffins
7:30-8:00 am or 6-6:30 pm
- Mar 22 Family Skate Night
5:30-8:30 pm
- Mar 26 Spirit Day
- Mar 29 After School Programs
Assembly 12:15-1 pm
- Mar 30 After School Programs
Parent Showcase 6-7 pm

April

- Apr 5-9 No School Spring Break
- Apr 13 PTA Meeting 9:30 am Rm 206
- Apr 16 Maturation Program
5th & 6th Grade



**Newsletter sponsored by the
Orem Elementary PTA.**

OES Newsletter also found at:
<http://orem.alpinedistrict.org/>

Also check out the PTA blog at:
oremelementary.blogspot.com

Orem Elementary School
450 W. 400 S. Orem UT 84058
801-227-8727

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

February was a fabulous month at Orem Elementary. I appreciate the parents who attended our professional development day as each grade level team gave incredible presentations focused on student learning. OES teachers continually work hard to give our children the best education. We also are thankful for our PTA for arranging Dads and Doughnuts and our room mothers who planned fabulous Valentine's parties. We had almost 200 students participate in the storytelling festival at OES. Each student did an incredible job! Way to go!!! Our incredible parent volunteers help us to have these awesome activities at OES. Thanks!

Thanks for being a partner with the school by keeping in contact with your child's teacher and attending Parent Conferences. My hope is that we can continue this strong partnership as we set goals and improve student learning over the next few months.

Our School Community Council (SCC) has purchased 30 student licenses for Imagine Learning. This amazing program helps students who are struggling with reading. Imagine Learning lessons are between 20-30 min (depending on age), four days a week in the computer lab. Imagine Learning also benefits our ELL (English Language Learners), whose licenses are paid for by the state. Yeah! We also want to thank our SCC for helping OES students become the best!

Keep up the good work and see you at the rink!

Sincerely,

Rachelle Bolingbroke, Principal



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

After school programs are up and running again. Please be on time to get your kids at 4:30 on the East side of the school and remind them that they are not to enter the rest of the school after their class starts.

Our Chorus class will be performing the "America the Beautiful" at the Utah Flash game on March 26th. Come cheer for our OES Singers. The performance assembly will be March 29th at 12:15 in the gym where the students will perform for the school. Then Tuesday March 30th will be the Parent Showcase from 6:00-7:00 in the Gym. This is open to family and friends and the kids will perform and display what they have been doing.

HOME READING

Prizes will be handed out to everyone who brings back a signed home reading book on Thursday, March 11.

-Michele Herber-Morris

MOMS AND MUFFINS

Moms and Muffins is coming up on Thursday, March 11th at 7:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. Please bring your mom, grandma, aunt, neighbor or dad!! Don't forget to bring some of your favorite books to read while you enjoy some muffins. Hope to see you there!

PTA GETS THE WORD OUT!

The PTA in cooperation with Alpine School District and the Deseret News have decided to get the word out!

How is this amazing news going to affect YOU? By having the current events at Orem Elementary literally at your fingertips.

Orem Elementary is now part of a program encouraged by our region's PTA and sponsored by Deseret News' new "city pages".

How it works: Deseret News is now following Orem Elementary Tweets on Twitter. You can follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/oespta>) for event updates or for a bigger picture of what's happening in our town, you can follow at:

<http://www.deseretnews.com/city/186/Orem.html>.

But the fun doesn't stop there.

The PTA has also encouraged us to keep up our blog

(oremelementarypta.blogspot.com),

Facebook fan page

(<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orem-Elementary-PTA/360173289166?ref=ts>) and our website

(websthetics.com/oes_index.htm).

So whether you are a Tweeter, Facebooker, Blog follower or an old fashioned web site junkie, we are there for you!

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Parents and Friends,

It's hard to believe that it is already March and we only have a few more months of school left. February has come and gone and we had some fun events take place. We had our Dads and Donuts on the 18th and had record attendance. We ordered 49 dozen donuts and served them in the morning and at night. We ran out right at the end and had a few disappointed families. If you did not get a donut please e-mail me at toni.carlson@gmail.com and I will make sure you get some coupons for some donuts. It was great to see all of the Dads reading and enjoying the time with their children. I had one Dad come up to me and say that Dads and Donuts is their family's favorite PTA activity of the whole year. Thanks for coming and a special thanks to Amy Chariton who planned and organized it.

We had a special Story Telling Assembly and the kids worked hard to get their stories ready. Kylie S. and Macy M. have been chosen to represent our school in the Timpanogos Story Telling Festival. Thank You Carolyn Blossil for setting all of this up for us. Good luck to all who participate.

Mark your Calendars... March will have some fun activities as well. Moms and Muffins will be held March 11th at 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please come and bring some books to read and enjoy a muffin with your child. You can read to your child or have them read to you. We also have another family skate night at Classic Skate in Orem from 5:30 until 8:30. Admission is free and open for the whole family.

I just had to turn in a report to the state PTA of all the volunteer hours at our school. I am amazed at all the parents and volunteers that spend their time at our school helping in so many ways. We have a lot of people that work behind the scenes volunteering their time with little or no recognition. I want to thank everyone that has helped in any way make our school better. Our teachers do such a fabulous job with the time and resources that they have. I just wanted to thank those that help behind the scenes as well. A good example is the home reading program. We have many people that make that program work who come in and switch out books every day. We have a great community of parents and friends of OES. Everyone working together helps make our school great. So thank you again for all you do.

We are still looking for people that would like to help in the PTA next year. Please contact me if you are interested. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 in room 206. Come join us if you are interested. We will be starting the plans for the end of the school year, things like field day and 6th grade graduation and would love more helpers. Have a great March.

-Toni Carlson. PTA President

toni.carlson@gmail.com

801-222-0916



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is underway. If you have any neighbors that will have a kindergartner next year, please encourage them to register their child soon.



FAMILY ACCESS SITE

Alpine School District is pleased to announce the implementation of Family Access by **Skyward**, Inc. Family Access is a secure internet-based website that will allow you to easily keep track of your student's attendance and grades. **Orem Elementary** is now up and running. Skyward log in and passwords were given out at Parent-Teacher conferences. See your child's teacher if you have not received this. Please log in soon and become familiar with the site. If you experience any problems, please let the OES office know right away. Thanks!

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL WINNERS



We had nearly 200 students participate in the storytelling festival at Orem Elementary! Thank you to all the students that participated. We have outstanding storytellers at our school. Thank you for your preparation and the fun stories that you shared. The finalists that shared their stories in our assembly March 1st were: Kylie S., Mia M., Jenna H., Morgan W., Mabel W., Emily W., Macy M. and Sam B. The two finalists that were selected to represent Orem elementary at the district level are Kylie S., lower grades and Macy M., upper grades.

**PTA Thanks Our AWESOME
Volunteers!**

We had such a great response to last month's requests for PTA volunteers. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Please be expecting a follow-up call as the school year nears the end and as we start planning for next year.

If you meant to contact us and just didn't get a chance to, no worries, there are still plenty of opportunities left to help out at Orem Elementary. Please contact Toni Carlson (801-222-0916 / toni.carlson@gmail.com) or Cathy Ambrose (801-802-9492 / oeskids@gmail.com).

Again, our volunteers are crucial to the success at Orem Elementary - especially during these hard times of budget cuts and belt tightening. The PTA's programs are really vital in providing those extra programs that help our kids.

Cathy Ambrose
PTA President Elect

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT ESTABLISHING NEW POLICIES FOR SOCIAL NETWORKING

The proposed addition would read: "District employees shall avoid social networking sites and electronic communications that invite, encourage or establish a student relationship outside a professional scope of employment."

The board is expected to adopt the policy in two weeks, Bromley said. Once that happens, the district will begin "hitting hard" on educating all staff, from janitors and lunch ladies to teachers and principals, that if they have "friended" students on their personal Facebook page, those students must be removed.

"We need to make sure people know this is against policy" once it is adopted, Bromley said. "This is not saying teachers can never text. It is a great way to communicate and needs to fall under the scope of professional employment."

The district has already received some criticism on local talk radio from residents who seem to misunderstand the policy, Bromley said. The district is not attempting to control whether or not a teacher has a personal Facebook page, nor is it forbidding teachers from using Facebook to communicate to students. Any such social media interaction between teachers and students, however, may not be personal and must focus on the teacher's professional duties.

Article reprinted from the Daily Herald on January 14, 2010
http://heraldextra.com/news/local/education/precollegiate/article_6a8991d7-a176-5577-a428-993735770442.html

PTA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There are several bills in the current legislative session that will impact your family and public education. You can search and track the 37 bills analyzed by Utah PTA at this valuable link:

<http://www.utahpta.org/bills/2010/>

Topics that are addressed include:

- Requiring a more accurate reporting of class sizes and pupil/teacher ratios ("Class size" has never been defined in Utah.)
SB0056(1)
- Making it illegal to use a phone while driving
SB0113
- Defining how contraception and STD s should be taught in health classes (Currently many health teachers are afraid to teach these at all because current law requires that they don't "promote or encourage" contraception.)
HB 0127
- Increasing the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products to reduce use and to help fund the Gold Medal Schools program (OES has been one.)
HB0196, SB0040
- Placing restrictions on electronic cigarettes, and banning nicotine products that look like candy
HB0071 S3 and HB0088
- Increased penalties for violent crimes committed in the presence of children, and several other measures that protect children in the judicial system. HB0062, HB0133, HB0162 S1

Some bills that PTA officially opposes are

- HB0113 Elimination of the requirement to use a booster seat within 4 miles of home or where the speed limit is 45 mph or less
- HB-323(1) Allows up to \$3 million to be used from the Trustlands Fund by the Utah Attorney General to litigate a risky attempt to claim federal lands by eminent domain

(This is approximately the amount that 100 elementary schools could currently use to fund specific needs at their schools.)

- SB0147 Takes away the PTA position on the committee that advises how the Land Grant Trust Fund is invested – a committee that Utah PTA fought hard to create in order to maximize our Trustland returns
- SB140 Allows juveniles to be held in jail with adults under certain conditions.

Please contact your legislators to voice your opinions. Find out who they are here: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/GIS/findDistrict.jsp> Being informed and involved helps keep our democracy alive and healthy.

Ada Wilson, OES PTA Legislative Issues

SCC MID-YEAR REPORT

Our School Community Council has been very actively working to make Orem Elementary the best elementary school it can possibly be. Our long-range focus has been to put in place systemic procedures that will identify struggling students while there is still time to intervene so that high academic achievement is a "doable" goal for each child. Our immediate goal is to put in place a **quick-response school-wide intervention plan** for students who do not understand concepts taught. We plan to have this system in place by next fall. We are very encouraged by the progress each grade level PLC (professional learning community) has made in creating standards, aligning their curriculum, and creating common assessments. This is time consuming work and we appreciate our faculty's commitment to their profession and our students.

The OES SCC has also---

- Begun the work of creating mission, values, vision, and goals statements for our SCC;
- Held our first Spanish Parent Night;
- Funded 30 licenses of Imagine Learning, interactive tutorial software that helps improve reading and English skills;
- Funded a best practices research visit to Westside Elementary in Springville, Utah;
- Submitted the Final Report on the 2008-09 school year;
- Supported a training on intervention by Garrick Peterson at Lakeridge Junior High;
- Issued the annual Stakeholders' Report;
- Funded attendance to a "Response to Intervention" conference as part of our Profession Development Plan.

The Council is currently working on a faculty survey, ways to fund the faculty time investment needed to meet our goals, and continued work on creating a 5-year School Improvement Plan.

Council meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month in Room 206 at 11:15 am. They are open to the public --- we invite any interested patrons to attend. Minutes of each meeting are available in the office.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rachelle Bolingbroke (principal), Suzanne Gale (parent) Teresa Gorriti (guardian), Lisa Haynie (special ed PLC), Angela Seegmiller (parent-secretary), Tim Stay (parent), Sandi West (2nd grade PLC. vice-chair), Teresa Whitehead (5th grade PLC), Ada Wilson (parent-chair)

--Ada Wilson, School Community Chair

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY

Parents, the OES School Community Council is looking for parents or guardians who would be interested in serving for the next two years, Fall 2010 to Spring 2012. **Two parent positions are up for election.** This is an exciting opportunity for reliable individuals who are committed to excellence and continuous improvement of our schools. You must have a student attending OES during at least the first year of your term.

The SCC is a council made up of four faculty members and five parent members. The Council meets monthly at the school, this year, on the third Tuesday at 11:15 am. This is subject to change. Council duties are:

- To review student achievement data and determine critical needs;
- To develop a School Improvement Plan;
- To develop a School LAND Trust Plan, which outlines how Trustland funds are spent in implementing the School Improvement Plan (This year –about \$27,000);
- To assist in developing the school Professional Development Plan;
- To assist in developing the Reading Achievement Plan;
- To annually review a Child Access Routing Plan (safe routes);
- To advise the school administration on local school issues;
- To provide opportunities for voicing concerns of both faculty and parents.

In addition to these duties, the Council hears reports of progress on the School Improvement Plan from faculty and issues the annual Stakeholders' Report. Please see our mid-year report in this newsletter.

Those interested in applying should turn in the form below in the front office at the school by Monday,

March 29. All candidates will be listed in the April Newsletter. The election date(s) will be announced at that time.

I would like to be a candidate for a parent/guardian position on the Orem Elementary School Community Council. (Fall 2010 to Spring 2012)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

GRADE LEVEL(S) OF MY CHILD(REN) ATTENDING OREM ELEMENTARY

EXPLAIN YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING AND ANY QUALIFICATIONS:

This form is due Monday, March 29, 2010. Return to front office.



Parenting With Love and Logic

Love and Logic is back! Make plans now to attend this outstanding parenting class. Love and Logic has been adopted by Alpine School District and is being used by many parents and teachers.

Professional Instruction

Verlene West will be the class facilitator. Verlene is a former school counselor in ASD and taught Love and Logic there for 6 years. She is the mother of five and grandmother of five. She believes that Love and Logic includes a lot of useful and easily implemented ideas to help parents and children be happier and more successful. Contact her to reserve your place in the class.

Parents... Relax!

Are you -- tired of worrying about your kids? Find out how to get them to start worrying about you!

Are you -- tired of nagging and yelling at your kids? Find out how to calm down and start having fun with them again!

Sponsored by:



Parenting with Love and Logic is a way of raising kids that teaches them to think for themselves, to become responsible and to be prepared for the real world

Class Schedule

5 week series:

Wednesday, March 3
Wednesday, March 10
Wednesday, March 17
Wednesday, March 24
Wednesday, March 31

Time: 7:00 -9:00 pm

Location: Utah Valley HBA
1443 W. 800 N., Ste. 101, Orem

Price: \$45/person or couple*
\$30 UVHBA Members*

**Includes Parent Handbook*

Verlene West, Facilitator

P 801-785-7001

C 801-708-1337

E billverlenewest@hotmail.com