



Draco's Digest

Your W. R. Odell Elementary PTA Newsletter

November/December 2011

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A special thank you goes out to all of the teachers, staff and families that sent in items and volunteered to help make the fall festival fun and a huge success.

THANK YOU!

Because of your past support, the PTA has just provided funds to the school to purchase 2 Smart Boards and 2 DVD players, and we hope to be able to fund more purchases before the end of the year.

There will be no Draco's Digest in December. We hope you have a great holiday season and we'll be back in January!

Message from the Principal

Dear Odell Families,

It's hard to believe we have made it through the first quarter of the school year. I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful time of year.

Our school's Report Card will be available in November and I will be sending home a copy. A link to the school Report Card will also be accessible from Odell's main web page upon release. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Providing quality educational experiences for your child is our top priority and as a school body, we continually strive for excellence. Your support in making this happen is greatly appreciated.

For the Children,
Dr. Marsh

Curriculum News

Dragon Time

On Oct 4th, we began Dragon Time! Dragon Time is our intervention/enrichment block from 8:30-9:00 Tuesday-Thursday (reading) and Friday (math). During this time, students are grouped according to academic need and engage in activities that will help increase success. If you are interested in volunteering please contact your child's teacher.

New Common Core State Standards

In 2012, North Carolina will be adopting the Common Core Standards for many subject areas. This is an attempt to create some national standards within the United States and move away from state-specific standards. Currently, over 40 states have adopted the Common Core Standards.

One of the primary differences in the new Common Core standards is a shift in priority from a skills based curriculum to a problem solving and conceptual understanding based curriculum. For more information please visit the Common Core website at <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Cabarrus County has implemented K-2 Common Core math this year to get a jump start on the new standards. K-2 math report cards reflect the new Common Core standards.

How can I help my child succeed at school?

- Share your ideas about the importance of education with your child.
- Help your child set education goals, both short term and long term.
- Talk to your child about what they are learning at school.
- Communicate with your child's teacher.
- Help your child get organized to do homework.
- Have a place to keep all communications from school.
- Make rules about homework.
- Do a community service project together.

Skate Night

Date: Tuesday, November 1st

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Place: Frye's Roller Rink Skating,
2800 Poplar Tent Rd

Cost: \$3

Theme: Red, White & Blue

Its time for another fun Odell night at Frye's Roller Rink. Remember, a portion of your admission fee goes directly to Odell Elementary.



Incentives

Help Our Students as You Shop!

These companies offer cash and products to our school to benefit all the students! For full details and extra collection sheets, please visit www.odellpta.org.

Link cards and shop!

- Harris Teeter VIP Cards
- Food Lion's MVP Cards
- Target Red Cards

Clip and send in to school!

- BoxTop\$ For Education
- Campbell's Labels For Education
- Tyson Project A+



Donate Discards!

Bring in your used **ink cartridges** and help earn cash for W.R. Odell plus reduce waste!

Please email question to:
incentives@odellpta.org.

Thank you for supporting our school through these incentive programs. Every little bit goes a long way!



Hospitality Lunch

November 18th



Hospitality lunches are a nice way to show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate their dedication to our children! The next lunch will be a Thanksgiving feast on November 18th. The PTA will provide the turkey, but we need donations of side dishes, casseroles and desserts (pies, cakes, cookies). If you can help with food or serving, please email hospitality@odellpta.org.



Invest In Your Child



We are extending the Invest in your Child campaign through November 30 and have decided to place the names of all those that make contributions of \$20 or more into a drawing for a wonderful prize. Details will be announced in early November, so be sure to listen to the ConnectEd's and look for information to come home. Last year we sold \$30,000 in coupon books and cookie dough and the school received \$13,000 as their profit. This year 100% of what you send in goes to benefit the children at Odell and to date we have only collected \$4,321. If every family contributes a minimum of \$20 we can meet our goal. If you have any questions, please feel free to email president@odellpta.org.

PTA 2011/12 BUDGET FUNDRAISING EFFORTS PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING FOR OUR SCHOOL!

- Classroom Support: \$15,500.00
- Technology - Smart Boards/DVD Players: \$10,500.00
- Teachers Hospitality: \$3,300.00
- Special Requests (Smart Bulbs, Toner, DVD's etc): \$5,400.00
- Teacher Copy Paper: \$2,500.00
- Assistant Principal Resources: \$1,500.00
- Brain Pop: \$1,475.00
- BookFlix: \$1,500.00
- 5th Grade Graduation Gift to School: \$400.00
- Safety Patrol: \$200.00
- Talent Show: \$200.00
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation: \$800.00
- Honor Roll/Achievement Awards and Supplies: \$2,000.00
- Dare Program: \$350.00
- Family Fun Nights: \$500.00
- Reading Night: \$150.00
- PTA Insurance/Taxes: \$650.00
- Newsletter: \$1,000.00
- Website: \$250.00
- PTA Board Copy Paper/Supplies: \$550.00

Our goal is to place orders for at least 2 more Smart Boards by the end of the year. This will only be possible if the Invest in Your Child Fundraiser is successful.

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Congratulations Mrs. Sands CCS Hilbish Ford October Teacher of the Month!



Mrs. Sands has been named the Cabarrus County Schools Hilbish Ford October Teacher of the month. As an involved community partner, Hilbish Ford is reaching out to the Cabarrus County school systems to sponsor a recognition award for an outstanding teacher and each month will donate \$250 to a deserving teacher in the Cabarrus County Schools. Congratulations again Mrs. Sands!

Classroom Spotlight: Odell Chorus



Did you know that Odell Elementary School has the longest running chorus program in the county? For approximately 20 years, Mrs. Friday has been leading 4th and 5th grade students in their vocal stylings while helping them to learn about commitment and dedication.

The idea for the program came about when Mrs. Friday realized that she had a long block of open time on her schedule. She said there seemed to be an interest in organizing a school chorus, so she asked the principal if he would consider it. He agreed but only if the students had completed their classroom assignments. That first year 90 students signed up. Now because of the interest in the program auditions are held and this year over 130 students signed up to audition.

The first two weeks of music class are dedicated to learning the audition song in order to give all students the opportunity to practice prior to the audition. Once the chorus is set for the year, students practice twice a week in the morning before school. Mrs. Friday shared that 'Glee' has created a renewed interest in chorus however there are some students who rethink their participation when they learn that chorus is just singing.

But for those students who do make the commitment to be in the program, this has served as a stepping stone for a future in music. Mrs. Friday has had students return to tell her that they have gone on to participate in both middle and high school chorus or band. She has even had students tell her that when they didn't make the Odell Chorus, they worked even harder and were selected for chorus at their current school.

It's that type of dedication and commitment that many learn from participating in an activity of this nature. Mrs. Friday is one of the many teachers at Odell helping to build that foundation for our students.

*From the
Front
Office*

It's never too early to make plans for early dismissals. Winter will be here before you know it, along with unpredictable weather. Here are important facts to know:

- Dismissal information will be carried on Channel 21, other local TV stations and the Cabarrus County Schools website. You may not get a ConnectEd phone call.
- Due to the 3 tier bus schedule, school closings may occur before conditions become serious.
- If Cabarrus County Schools dismiss at 10 a.m., the actual dismissal time for high school is 10 a.m., elementary dismissal is 11 a.m. and middle school dismissal is 12 noon.
- Please do not make last minute changes to your child's transportation. It is very difficult to get a message to students or call students to the office during dismissal procedures.
- If you plan to sign your child out early, please bring your ID with you.
- Do not park in our bus lot or leave your car unattended in the car pool line.
- Check with your daycare provider for their policies for early school closings.
- Please do not call the school for dismissal information. We need to keep our phone lines open to communicate with the transportation department.

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Skate Night 6:30pm-8:30pm	2	3	4	5
6	7 Report Cards	8 No School Teacher Work Day	9	10 School Pictures	11 No School Veterans Day Holiday	12
13	14 Book Fair Week (runs through 11/18)	15 Family Reading Night	16	17 Papa John's Night	18 Teacher Hospitality Spirit Day	19
20	21	22	23 No school	24 No school Happy Thanksgiving	25 No school	26
27	28	29 Family Reading Night	30			

Upcoming December Dates

Check the Calendar on the Odell PTA Website for updates to the December Calendar

- 6th: Skate Night 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 13th: Family Reading Night
- 16th: Spirit Day
- 22nd: Teacher Workday

*Winter Break is from
December 23rd through January 2nd.*



From the Editor

Thank you for reading the new Odell newsletter published by the PTA. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. This issue is a November and December combination, so the next newsletter will come home in early January. Please email newsletter@odellpta.org with any questions.

Important Reminders for Parents

Stay Connected:

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your request to president@odellpta.org. Your email address will be kept private and will only be used for school/PTA communications. Also, be sure to like Odell PTA on Facebook.

Educational Opportunity Forms:

These forms must be filled out and approved prior to planned absences. Full details and forms are available in the office.

Name Tags:

All visitors must sign in at the office and get a name tag. Please wear your name tag on your shirt where it is easily seen.

Peanut Free Zones:

Students love their parents visiting for lunch. During your visit, please leave the "Peanut Free Zone" table empty for those students who require it.

Lost and Found:

The lost and found pile grows rapidly as the weather gets colder. Don't forget to check there for missing items.