



Draco's Digest

Your W. R. Odell Elementary PTA Newsletter

October 2011

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Invest In Your Child

The deadline to submit your contribution for Invest in Your Child is October 28th! Remember this is our only fundraiser this fall. For more information or to submit your tax-deductible contribution visit:
www.odellpta.org

Principal's Update

Dear Odell families:

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway into the first quarter of the school year. I am so impressed with how Odell students have adjusted to the new school year. In an effort to keep you informed of what is taking place instructionally at Odell, I will be frequently referring to our school as a Professional Learning Community (PLC). The three big ideas associated with a PLC are student learning, collaboration, and results. Weekly grade level PLC meetings will be critical as Odell teachers address four essential questions in planning their instruction: (1)What is it we want our students to learn?; (2) How will we know when they have learned it?; (3)What will we do when students experience difficulty in learning?;and (4) How will we enrich and extend the learning of students who are proficient? These four essential questions will guide our grade level collaborative teams in creating on-going assessments, in collecting and analyzing data, and in planning interventions, remediation, and enrichment.

Even though we have done well academically as a school, we need to continue focusing on improving student achievement by focusing on student learning rather than teaching. I have challenged the staff to "Soar to Greater Heights of Student Achievement" for 2011-2012.Our School Improvement Plan for 2011-2012, our School Report Card, and a letter from me on the State of Our School will soon be available (around November 1, 2011) and posted on our school website. I will also be posting a power point I created for staff that summarizes our EOG performance 3-5 and K-2 performance for reading and math for the 2010-2011 school year. You can find this information in the power point labeled Professional Learning Communities Summit Report.

In closing, I sincerely appreciate your support in making our school a learning organization with a shared vision of providing quality instruction for all of our students. Please feel free to contact me, Mr. Helf (API), or Mrs. Moore (AP) if we can be of help to you or your child this school year. I hope you enjoy this crisp, cool weather as we move into fall.

For the Children,
Dr. Lynn Marsh

Join us **October 7th** from **5:00pm until 9:00pm** for a fun fall night. For **\$15** you can ride the rides and play the games as much as you'd like (4 and under are free with paying sibling). There will be pony rides, a rock climbing wall, inflatables, dunking booth, teacher pie in the face, games, a cake walk and guessing jars. We'll also have craft and business vendors, a bake sale and raffles for amazing baskets filled with goodies. Food and Dragon Wear will be on sale as well. The event is **rain or shine** (note: if the event is moved inside, comparable rides will be substituted).

Hospitality Lunches

Date: November 18th

Hospitality Lunches are one way we show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication to our children. A huge thank you goes out to all the people who helped make the September lunch a scrumptious success! If you can help with food or serving, please email hospitality@odellpta.org.



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!



K-2nd Fall Harvest Dance

Date: October 28th

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Place: In Odell's Cafeteria

Cost: \$7.50 each

Calling all K-2nd graders and their parents! It's time to celebrate Fall at our Harvest Dance. Come join us for a howling good time with great music, food, and a few surprises as you dress in your favorite costume!! Your \$7.50 ticket includes admission, pizza and surprise goodies. The ticket order form and full details will be sent home shortly. Please note, this dance is just for K-2nd graders and their parents. The 3rd-5th grade dance will be in the spring.

Please consider helping make this fun for everyone by volunteering. If you can help just 30 minutes during the dance, email volunteer@odellpta.org



Skate Night

Date: Tuesday, October 4th

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

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

Cost: \$3

Theme: Spooky, Cooky Night

Its time for another fun Odell night at Frye's Roller Rink. This month our theme is "Spooky, Cooky Night", so dress in your orange and black to show your spooky spirit. A portion of your admission fee goes directly to Odell Elementary. What a fun weekday break!



Odell Spirit Day

Date: Friday, October 7th

We've got spirit, yes we do; we've got spirit, how 'bout you? Wear your spirit wear or green and white to show your school spirit!

McTeacher Night at McDonald's

Date: October 20th

Time: 5:00-8:00 pm

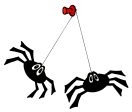
Place: 12051 Renaissance Dr. (Hwy. 73 and Poplar Tent intersection)

Come out and see Odell's staff take over McDonald's. They'll be taking food orders, making French fries, making soft drinks and ice cream. Come & see your teachers 'work' some place other than Odell. A portion of the sales made that evening will go directly to our school. This could be one of the easiest fundraisers we do this year. To make this night a success, we need to get as many school supporters out to the Golden Arches for dinner as we can so tell your neighbors! Bring your family and friends to support our school!

Get Your Dragon On!



Dragon Wear, including t-shirts, car magnets and other goodies, will be available at school events, such as Fall Festival. Additional order forms are available at www.odellpta.org. Please email dragonwear@odellpta.org with any questions.



Classroom Spotlight The Spooky Side of Science



The science program at Odell Elementary School is the only one of its kind in Cabarrus County and our students certainly benefit from Mrs. Johnsen's hard work and creativity in preparing her lessons. Because her science lessons are taught in their own room, Mrs. Johnsen is able to incorporate hands-on activities that backup what is being taught in the classrooms.

For instance, this October when students attend their science class, there will be a spooky theme to it. While students will continue their core curriculum, Mrs. Johnsen has developed grade level lesson plans to capture the essence of Halloween. Kindergarteners will create a cave to explore the animal life inside while first graders will learn about the similarities between the skeleton of bats and humans. The second grade students will experience the size and movement of the tarantula which is nothing like the third graders history lesson behind kudzu and the science of how meat eating plants work. Not to be left out of the excitement, the fourth grade students will learn Egyptian behavior and create an apple mummy while the fifth graders will have a lesson in the science behind Frankenstein and get a close look at the human brain.

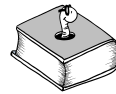
It's hard to believe there is this much science connected to Halloween but thanks to Mrs. Johnsen's upcoming lessons things are going to get spooky.

Teachers, students, staff and parents are all encouraged to submit ideas for Classroom Spotlight to newsletter@odellpta.org.



Family Reading Night

Upcoming Dates: October 11th and 25th



Family Reading Nights are a chance to share a special book at home. From time to time the PTA will host Family Reading Nights where everyone can come together to listen to favorite books of teachers and other guests. Special thanks goes to Susan Webster, Cabarrus Literacy Coordinator and the new Family Literacy Coordinator, who participated in our Family Reading Night on September 27th.



Box Tops, Labels and Rewards....Oh My!



Did you know that for the 2010-2011 school year our school earned **\$3,358** from the Box Tops for Education program alone? In addition, Odell earns points for Labels For Education that are used to purchase supplies and equipment for use in our school. Harris Teeter and Food Lion also donated over **\$1,200** to our school last year, due to our participation in their Together in Education program and Classroom Rewards program.

Every little bit helps, so make sure your VIC card and MVP card are linked to Odell and keep clipping those box tops and labels! Make sure to mark your child's name and teacher's name on your submission, because there is a monthly reward for the top contributor! At the end of the school year, the classroom who has contributed the most box tops and labels will receive a special party to thank them!

From the Front Office

We are off to a great start this year! Here are a few reminders and answers to frequently asked questions.

- Please remember the school day ends at 3:00. The last few minutes of school are very important as we wrap up the day. Therefore, the time between 2:40 and 3:00 is protected. Please do not plan to sign students out in the office during this time.
- Please be prepared to show ID when signing out students.
- All changes in transportation require a note or a phone call to the office.
- Please call the office by 2:00 pm with transportation changes. Do not leave a voice mail concerning changes in transportation.
- Students are not allowed to ride other bus routes.
- Food from fast food restaurants in the original wrapping is not permitted in the cafeteria. If a parent brings fast food for a child, county guidelines state that the fast food must be packaged in plain wrappers and drinks poured into a thermos or plain cup.

Important Dates

October 21st Early Dismissal:

Odell Elementary students will be dismissed at 11:45. We will follow all normal transportation plans.

October 24th and 25th: There will be no school on these days. Enjoy your holiday!



October 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Skate Night 6:30pm-8:30pm	5	6	7 Spirit Day Fall Festival 5-9pm	8
9	10	11 Family Reading Night	12	13 Technology Night 6:30pm-7:30pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 McDonald's Night 5-8pm	21 Early Dismissal 11:45am	22
23	24 Teacher Workday	25 Teacher Workday Family Reading Nt.	26	27	28 K-2 Dance 6:30pm-8:30pm	29
30	31					

Upcoming November Dates

- 1st: Skate Night
- 8th: Teacher Work Day
- 11th: Holiday-No School
- 15th: General PTA Meeting
Family Reading Night
- 17th: Papa John's Night
- 18th: Teacher Hospitality
- 23rd-25th: No School



Volunteering

The school year always seems to start with too many papers to fill out and things to do. It can be tempting to set aside those things that are not "required".

Now that we are into the swing of the new school year, how about reconsidering helping with PTA events and programs? We have great plans this year, but we cannot make them happen without your help.

There are several opportunities, so please feel free to contact the volunteer coordinator directly at: volunteercoordinator@odellpta.org to find out how you can help. We appreciate the time and talents of all our parent volunteers!

PTA Membership Update

Thank you to all the Odell families and teachers who have joined the PTA! A strong PTA benefits all our students. Please consider joining today.

Copies of the membership form are available at www.odellpta.org. If you have any questions please contact our membership coordinator at: membership@odellpta.org.

From September 14th through October 14th, the class with the most PTA membership will receive a pizza party while the class with 100% membership will receive a free recess period.



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. If you have questions or suggestions, please email: newsletter@odellpta.org.