



## OPES UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 5** All 4K Students Attend OPES  
**Sept. 8** Curriculum Night – K5, 1st & 2nd grades  
 6 pm Kindergarten, 6:30 pm 1st Grade, 7 pm 2nd Grade  
**Sept. 9** Curriculum Night – 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades  
 6 pm 3rd Grade, 6:30 pm 4th Grade, 7 pm 5th Grade  
**FREE Health Screenings 4 - 7 pm**  
 Ballentine Elementary School  
 See article on page 2 for details  
**Sept. 10** Early Release Day 11:40 am  
**Sept. 16** Curriculum Night – 4 YR CD 6 pm  
**Sept. 25** PTO Meeting – Every Parent & Caregiver of  
 OPES Student(s) are automatically members of the PTO! We hope to see you there!

## Dear Families,

What a great start we've had to the new school year. Thanks for sharing your child with us. We pledge to work cooperatively to foster your child's growth and development.

The school day begins promptly at 7:50 am. All students should be in their classrooms at that time so we can begin the important tasks of teaching and learning. Students who are on-time are ready for the routine so necessary for learning.

You may have noticed the historic American flags in Pioneer Place. Each flag has a place in our nation's story. During Friday morning meetings this year, we'll share the history of the flags with the students. You are invited to join us any Friday morning at 8 am in Pioneer Place.

One of the new instructional changes being implemented this year is the addition of time in the related arts schedule for physical education. In response to a new state law, students will receive 100 minutes of physical education each week.

Thanks to the PTO, an additional recess area has been prepared. Although not quite ready for student use for the beginning of school, the area behind the cafeteria will effectively double the available playing area. A concrete pad will be painted for hopscotch and four-square by Girl Scout Troop 9135. Please bear with us while the play surface is finished and the grass roots have time to grow.

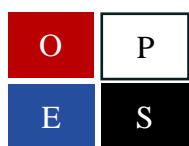
Our first early release day is September 10 at 11:40 am. Please check our website, [www.lex5.k12.sc.us/oakpointe.cfm](http://www.lex5.k12.sc.us/oakpointe.cfm) for news, dates, and awards. Also, please send us your email address if we don't already have it. We send the Pony Express Newsletter via email.

Sincerely,  
**Jim Stephens, Principal**

## Auditions for the Elementary District Honor Choir! Saturday, September 13

**Dutch Fork Middle School 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Auditions are open to all 4th and 5th graders in the District 5 Elementary Schools. Please see your music teacher at your school for more information or call Elise Helms at Irmo Elementary, 732-8275.



**Oak Pointe Elementary**  
 1 River Bottom Road,  
 Irmo, SC 29063  
 Tel: 803 476 4100  
 Fax: 803 476 4120  
<http://www.lex5.k12.sc.us/OakPointe.cfm>

## Dear Parents,

On September 8th - 26th, students in grades 2-5 will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine their instructional level. Students will be tested in the areas of Reading, Math, and Language. The comparison from Fall to Spring measures academic growth throughout the school year. Results from one year to the next in the areas of Reading and Math are also generated. MAP tests are taken on a computer.

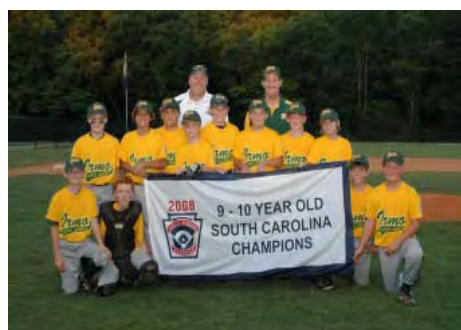
MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next three weeks, your child will spend a total of about three hours completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades 2-5 take the tests in August and March. Following each testing period, you receive a report showing your child's growth. Teachers use this information to improve instruction.

Partnering to help all children learn, parents and teachers have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children. Your child has been adequately prepared for this test, therefore no additional studying is required. All that is required is a positive attitude and a willingness to do one's best.

For more information on resources for parents, access the Document Library at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) and download the online **Parent Toolkit** from the web site.

Sincerely,  
**Melanie Cohen, Assistant Principal**



## Irmo Little League Minors All Star Team Wins State Tournament – Represents SC in the Tournament of State Champions

Congratulations to the 9-10 year old **2008 Irmo Little League Minors All Star team** for winning the state tournament held July 15 in Laurens, SC. With this win, the team moved forward representing the state of SC at the 4th annual **Tournament of State Champions** held in Ceredo-Kenova, WV, August 1-6. The tournament was held at Legendary Mitch Stadium, one of the finest youth baseball facilities in the nation. SC joined 9 other state champions from TN, NC, AL, GA, IN, VA, FL, KY, and WV. The Irmo Little League team went 3-2 in the tournament and the SC team **finished 3rd out of 10 states**, falling in the semi-finals to a tough GA team that eventually won it all!

**It was a great showing by our local boys!**

## NEEDED:

### Aquariums for classrooms and Science Lab

We are in need of aquariums, lids, filters etc. of any size. We are not picky. Several grade levels do animal units and we are running out of space. If you have old fish or reptile aquariums lying around or know someone who does we will gladly take them off of your hands. Contact **Jennifer Hydrick at [jhydrick@lex5.k12.sc.us](mailto:jhydrick@lex5.k12.sc.us) or call me at 476-4160.**

## DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL ELEMENTARY NIGHT

Friday, September 12th at 7:30pm

Dutch Fork Athletic Dept. is inviting our students and staff to join them for a night of fun. Each student will be given a ticket for free admission to the game. This ticket is for the elementary student only, not parents. **General admission is \$6.00.**

Please wear your OPES red, white and/or blue! Each child will put their ticket in a box that has our name on it and these will be counted. The largest percentage of the school's student body will win the **Spirit Award Plaque** for the year. Two minutes before the half, schools participating will be invited down on the field-scoreboard end. Our students will be on the 50 yard line! **GO SILVER FOXES and OPES!**

## Help raise money for OPES by donating used printer cartridges and cell phones

Did you know that the plastic in each printer cartridge takes more than 1,000 years to decompose, or that 1.5 million cartridges go to landfills each month? Oak Pointe is participating in the Green School Project, a program that reduces this incredible waste and earns money for our school. **We are collecting all makes and models of used printer, fax, and toner cartridges, as well as cell phones.** Please send these items in with your child or drop them in the office and we will get them to the appropriate place. Questions? **Please contact Ms. Hydrick by dialing 749-7700 or via email to [JHydrick@lex5.k12.sc.us](mailto:JHydrick@lex5.k12.sc.us)**

## Procedures for School Delays or Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

In the event that school is delayed or closed due to inclement weather, the district will use a variety of resources to notify parents or guardians. Decisions will be made no later than 6 a.m.

Parents will receive a phone call through the automated calling system shortly after a decision is made. For this reason, parents should make sure the school has current phone numbers and contact information. In addition, information will also be posted on the district's web site and the web sites of all schools. An email will be sent to parents who signed up to receive Emergency Dismissal Notice emails via the district web site (<http://www.lex5.k12.sc.us/emailSignup.cfm>). Local television and radio stations, as well as local newspapers, will also be notified.

The Dial Five Information Line, which was used in years past, is no longer active. It has been replaced by the automated calling system. Parents should no longer call that line for information.

## WANTED: SPONSORS

### for Grade Level Classrooms and Related Arts Classrooms

The OPES PTO is seeking sponsorships for our grade level and related arts classrooms. Sponsorships are \$100 per classroom & can be sponsored by a business, parents, grandparents – join with your fellow parents & sponsor your student's classroom! Sponsorships are tax-deductible. A certificate will be posted outside the classroom door throughout the school year. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please see your child's homeroom parent.

## SCHOOL HEALTH ROOM OPERATIONS

The Health Room is operated daily under the supervision of a registered nurse. The school nurse is responsible for maintaining a health record on all students. The Health Room is designed to be an emergency station to care for minor illnesses or injuries that occur at school. Injuries or health concerns that occur outside of school should be treated at home or by your health care provider. The school nurse cannot diagnose or prescribe treatment. This is the responsibility of your family physician or health care provider. There are times when a student should remain at home for his/her own welfare and for the protection of others. Please see DHEC's "School Exclusion List" for students who are in 1st through 12th grade and DHEC's "Childcare Exclusion List" for students who are in K3, K4, K5, or who are medically fragile. These exclusion lists are distributed at the beginning of each school year and may also be located through the district's web site. If a student develops a communicable disease, the parent should notify the school nurse. This will allow the nurse to alert the teachers to observe other students for symptoms or to notify appropriate persons if needed. Parents should also notify the school nurse of any special health needs. In the event that a student becomes ill or injured and needs to go home, the persons listed on the health card will be contacted and expected to come for the child immediately. For this reason the school should be kept up-to-date on any changes in phone numbers of those persons to be contacted in an emergency.

### Medications

Medications to be taken during school hours must be brought to school and delivered to the school nurse or designated adult in the **ORIGINAL** container with all labels intact. All medications must be accompanied by parental permission. Prescription medications also need written authorization from the prescribing physician or health care provider.

Over-the-counter medications will be given according to the appropriate age/weight as directed on the bottle. Additional dosages require physician authorization. Herbals, food supplements, alternative medicinal products, and other items that do not have FDA approval also require a written order from a prescribing health care provider. Because of the relationship of Reye's syndrome to aspirin, products containing aspirin or salicylates will not be administered at school without a written prescription from a health care provider. Permission forms for both over-the-counter medications and prescription medications are available at your child's school, through the district's web site, and at several physician offices in the area. A record of all medications administered at school will be kept on each student. Only those students who have met all of the requirements to self medicate will be allowed to keep medications on their person. All other medications will kept at school and must be picked up by a responsible adult when the medication is discontinued, expired, or at the end of the school year. Medications are not sent home with students. At the time a prescription is filled, ask your pharmacist to prepare a separate bottle labeled for school use. If medication is needed on a field trip, the parent/guardian is responsible for providing this medication in the original pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled container with only the dosage(s) needed for the trip. The nurse cannot repackage any medications. For prescription medications, consult with your pharmacist about providing a labeled container with proper dosage for field trips.



Be sure to collect your Box Tops for Education and turn them into your child's teacher!

## FREE Health and Developmental Screening

Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 4 - 7 pm at Ballentine Elementary School 1040 Bickley Rd., Irmo

Offered by the Office of Parenting Services of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

This FREE Health & Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten) for Health (vision, hearing, speech), children ages 2 months - 5 years (not yet in kindergarten) for Development (social/emotional; fine motor-hand-eye coordination; gross motor-movement; and language). FREE dinner once your child's screening is complete. **Please call to register: 476-8238**