



OPES UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 25** PTO General Meeting
(Dinner at 6 pm, PTO meeting at 6:45 pm)
Every Parent & Caregiver of OPES Student(s) are automatically members of the PTO! We hope to see you there!
- Sept. 29** Interim Reports Issued for 3-5 grades
- Sept. 30** School Health Screenings
- Oct. 7** Welcome Reception for Superintendent
Dr. Herbert Berg (5:30-6:30 p.m. Dutch Fork Middle School)
- Oct. 9** Early Release at 11:40 a.m.
- Oct. 10** NO CLASSES (Prof. Development Day for Faculty)

Car Rider Do's and Don'ts from the Principal

In the Morning...

Pull your car all the way up

Reason: A gap in the line means fewer cars can unload, wasting everyone's time. A full driveway typically enables 20 cars to unload.

Instruct your child to be ready to unload when your car comes to a stop

Reason: This allows the line to move quicker and teaches your child organization skills. For safety, students should unload on the sidewalk (right-hand side of the car).

Try coming 5 minutes earlier and consider carpooling

Reason: Adult supervision begins at 7:20 AM. The line begins to back up around 7:40 AM. Avoid the rush, enjoy the time with your child to catch up on his/her life, and allow your child to start the day relaxed and ready without the anxious feeling that comes with being rushed. Children are tardy at 7:55 AM. They then have to go through the office, sign in, and get a tardy pass before going to class. If a child comes to class 5 minutes late each day, he/she will have lost 900 minutes or 15 hours of instruction a year. That's got to be worth a couple of hundred SAT points. Did someone say college scholarship? Carpooling puts fewer cars in the driveway and reduces your fuel bill.

Park your car in a legal space if you need to come in to the school

Reason: If you don't, you're creating a traffic hazard and you're placing your convenience ahead of someone else's safety.

Never let your child out in the parking lot unaccompanied by an adult

Reason: Although Oak Pointe's children are some of the brightest, most responsible kids I've ever been around, that's not a safe practice.

In the Afternoon...

Stay in your car when in the driveway

Reason: Unoccupied cars block the movement of the line. Blocking the car rider line will not make you popular with the neighbors.

Instruct your child to come to the car rider line immediately after dismissal

Reason: When your child is in the right place at the right time, good things happen.

If your child doesn't come to your car when called, park in a legal parking space in the parking lot in front of the school.

Reason: Blocking the movement of the line wastes everyone's time...not to mention gas at \$4 a gallon.

Instruct your child to listen for his/her number and move in the right direction for loading

Reason: Number recognition is an important math skill. It also moves the line quicker. Along with the number, I announce directions on where the car will stop.

Thanks for all you do to make the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal a safe and productive time for everyone. I appreciate your patience and attention to the safety of our children.

PTO GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 25 6 p.m. Dinner

Bring Our Community Into The School

We will gather in the OPES cafeteria at 6 p.m. for dinner. The PTO General Meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. and be followed immediately (7 p.m. approximately) with performances from various community based activities such as dance, karate, gymnastics, gyms, etc. These activities will be held at stations around the school and performances will repeat every 15 minutes, and you will be able to walk around and see different groups and what they have to offer your child. We hope to see you there!

OPES Top Reading School in No Book Left Unread

We had 173 schools (representing 54 districts) participate in this year's No Book Left Unread. There were 8003 student readers!

The total number of pages read by all participants was 15,927,224!

The top readers across the state read 1,248,892 pages!

The top faculty/staff readers across the state read 1,572,617 pages!

For schools with an enrollment of 750 or less, the top reading schools are:

Oak Pointe Elementary (Lexington-Richland 5) - 288,167 pages

Buford Middle School (Lancaster County) - 1,366,534 pages (This was the highest total of any participating school!)

Liberty High School (Pickens County) - 182,801 pages

For schools with an enrollment of 751 or above, the top reading schools are:

Midway Elementary School (Anderson 5) - 288,604 pages

McCants Middle School (Anderson 5) - 511,858 pages

Wando High School (Charleston County) - 1,038,052 pages

Our Student Reader Leaders are:

Mariah J. (Oak Pointe Elementary, Lexington-Richland 5) - 28,503 pages

Jeremy F. (Wren Middle School, Anderson 1) - 36,460 pages

Brad W. (Liberty High School, Pickens County) - 50,484 pages

Our Faculty/Staff Reader Leaders are:

Kathi Wood (Hunter St. Elementary, York 1) - 31,240

Sandy Steely (Southwood Middle School, Anderson 5) - 29,848

Christopher Simpson (Carolina Forest High School, Horry County) - 52,856

The library media specialists with the highest percentage of students participating are:

Melinda Butler (Midway Elementary, Anderson 5) - 38%

Kathleen Durant (Furman Middle, Sumter 2) - 72%

Lisa Hallman (Buford Middle, Lancaster) - 72%

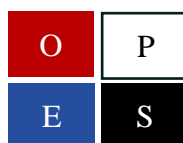
Donna Whitlock (Wando High, Charleston) - 17%

CONGRATULATIONS! to these 2008 Reader Leaders and to everyone who participated in our 2008 summer reading program.

A special thanks to our corporate sponsors, The Reading Warehouse and Follett Library Resources.

New Phone and Fax Numbers

Please note that our contact number have changed, and be sure to update in your records. Thank you!



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>

COUNSELORS CORNER

Character Word for the month of September is:

Responsibility

Responsibility: *Moral, Legal or Mental Accountability*

"We work hard to do our best even when it is difficult."

September Service Project: We have a responsibility to our community

10 Ways to Raise More Responsible Children

By Mark Brandenburg

1. Start them with tasks when they're young. Young kids have a strong desire to help out, even as young as age 2. They can do a lot more than you think, if you're patient and creative.
2. Don't use rewards with your kids. If you want your kids to develop an intrinsic sense of responsibility, they need to learn the "big picture" value of the things they do. They won't learn that if they're focused on what they're going to "get."
3. Use natural consequences when they make mistakes. If they keep losing their baseball glove somewhere, let them deal with the consequences. Maybe they have to ask to borrow one for the game. Maybe they have to buy a new one if it's lost. If you rescue them every time they mess up, they'll never learn responsibility.
4. Let them know when you see them being responsible. Specifically point out what you like about their behavior. This will make it more likely to continue to happen.
5. Talk often about responsibility with your kids. Make responsibility a family value, and let them know it's important.
6. Model responsible behavior for your kids. This is where they'll learn it from. Take care of your stuff. Try to be on time.
7. Give them an allowance early in their life. Let them make their own money decisions from an early age. They'll learn their lessons in a hurry.
8. Have a strong, unflinching belief that your kids are responsible. They'll pick up on this belief and they'll tend to rise to the level of expectation.
9. Train them to be responsible. Use role play and talk to them about exactly what kind of behavior you expect from them. It's hard for kids to be responsible at times when they don't know what it looks like.
10. Get some help and support for your parenting.

It's hard to know sometimes whether you're being too controlling or too permissive as a parent. Talk to other parents, read books, join parent support groups -- whatever will help you feel like you're not alone.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

WE need you to MENTOR Please contact Katie Walters if you are interested in volunteering 30 min. per week to spend with a child who needs you.

The Career Fair will be held in November again this year. Please contact Katie Walters if you are willing to help or volunteer your time.

We will also need monitors for COGAT testing the second week of November. Please contact Katie Walters if you would be willing to monitor in a 2nd or 4th grade classroom.



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

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.

Aquariums for classrooms & Science Lab Needed

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 or call me at 476-4160.

Meet Superintendent Dr. Herbert Berg

Parents, the community, teachers, staff and students are invited to join the Board of Trustees as we welcome Dr. Herbert Berg as superintendent of Lexington-Richland Five. A reception will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7 at Dutch Fork Middle School.

Dear Oak Pointe Families,

Congratulations to all who participated in the No Book Left Unread Summer Reading Program. We were notified last Friday that Oak Pointe won the elementary school division for schools in SC under 750 students with 288,167 pages read. Oak Pointe student, Mariah J., read the most pages by a student in the state with 28,503. Congratulations to everyone, but especially to Mrs. Bardin who believed in us and encouraged us. She told us we could win if we all tried.

The first PTO meeting is Thursday, September 25. The meeting begins at 6:45 PM. We will have organizations from the community demonstrating their activities. This Community Night is designed to make you aware of the many opportunities to get your family/children involved. We'll have dance studios, karate studios, gymnastics, the sports programs at Seven Oaks Park and the YMCA and other to highlight ways your children can get involved. Please come out to see what our community has to offer our children.

Thank you for supporting the PTO. The parent involvement of this group makes our school a better place. Research shows time and again that schools with involved parents are more successful than schools without parent involvement.

Parents of students in grades 3-5, please mark your calendar for September 29. Interim Reports are scheduled to be sent home on that day. Also, please note that October 9 is an early release day. Parent/teacher conferences may be scheduled for the afternoon of October 9 and the morning of October 10.

Sincerely,

James E. Stephens, Principal

Publishing is up and running at Oak Pointe!

Please join the publishing committee for a fun and rewarding experience. We will meet each Wednesday (9 am -12 Noon) in the yellow workroom beginning next Wednesday, October 1st. Any amount of time you can contribute is greatly appreciated. There is no experience necessary - we will train you as needed. Please contact us with any questions you may have. Linda Wiggs (407-4244 or lpwiggs@aol.com) or Kerri Stansbury (407-6935 or kerristansbury@hotmail.com)

Pajama Night @ Barnes & Noble - Friday, Dec 5 - time to be announced

If you are interested in being a "Celebrity Reader" (dressed in your PJs), please contact Jackie Steinmeyer 719-2292 or email jbldmom@aol.com.

SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENINGS SEPTEMBER 30TH

On Thursday, Sept. 30, all Kindergarteners, 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders will be screened for vision / hearing. Students who are new to the school district in 2nd and 4th grade will be screened as well. These school screenings are not meant to replace a more comprehensive examination available by a physician or health care provider. If your child does not meet the district guidelines for passing a screening test you will be notified by the school nurse and asked to have your child evaluated by a physician or health care provider. If you do not receive notification from the school nurse and you have concerns about his/her hearing and vision, it is important that you follow up with a health care provider for a complete evaluation.

Some symptoms that may indicate a possible vision problem include:

- Red, sore, or itching eyes
- Undue sensitivity to light
- Jerky eye movements, one eye turning in or out
- Squinting, eye rubbing, or excessive blinking
- Blurred or double vision
- Avoidance of near work
- Headaches, dizziness, or nausea after reading
- Head tilting, closing or blocking one eye when reading
- Omits, inserts, or rereads letters/words
- Letter or word reversals after first grade
- Difficulty copying from the board
- Poor spacing in writing
- Book held too close or too far away from the eyes
- Constant loss of place in a sentence or on a page

If your child wears glasses / hearing aids, please make sure he or she has them on at screening. If you have additional questions concerning school screening, please contact Linh Truong, RN, School Health Nurse.

PTO General Meeting Thursday, September 25 at 6:45 p.m. in the Cafeteria! Hope to see you there!