

DRAGON TALES

OLNEY ELEMENTARY PTA NEWSLETTER

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Mark the Dates!

Aug 25	Welcoming for New Olney ES Families, Media Center, 7 PM
Aug 26	Open House, 9 AM
Aug 29	First day of 2011-2012 School Year
Sep 5	NO SCHOOL — Labor Day
Sep 8	Charleston Wrap Fundraiser starts
Sep 8	Back-to-School Night, 7 PM
Sep 9	Back-to-School Picnic, 6 PM
Sep 22	End of Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
Sep 27	Picture Day

From the PTA President:

Happy August, OES Families!

Although I love lazy summer afternoons and letting the kids stay up late with no worries that they'll be cranky in the morning, I can't wait to get back to school this year. This is going to be a fantastic year! My Executive Board and I are very excited to be working with our new principal, Mrs. Carla Glawe. Her energy, creativity and passion are contagious and we're working on implementing a number of amazing new ideas. Before I list a few, I want to take the time to assure everyone that none of these new ideas will take anything away from the traditions and fun-filled activities that OES PTA families have experienced in years past. We still intend to host a full docket of Family Nights, Cultural Arts Assemblies, Restaurant Nights and Staff Appreciation events. We will continue to donate both \$500 per grade towards subsidizing our children's Field Trips and up to \$100 in Teacher Reimbursements for classroom supplies purchased with their own money. We will still make donations to Instrument Repair, Technology, Reading Enrichment, and Safety Patrols. The new traditions that we're very excited to start this year include the following:

- **Staff Lounge Sponsorship** - Sponsor the Staff Lounge for a week at a time, starting each Monday morning. Any interested families can sign up to have a week in which they can decorate, stock, or otherwise spruce up the staff lounge however they see fit. Be creative!!
- **Separation of Room Parent and Carnival Parent** - At Back-to-School Night, parents can sign up to be Room Captain and/OR Carnival Parent. This could be very interesting for those who would have liked to host the Halloween and Valentines Parties, but could not commit to Carnival...or vice versa. Please consider helping in one of these vital roles.
- **Monetary Donations per Team (Kindergarten Team, 1st Grade Team, etc)** - This one is very exciting! In meeting with individual teachers over the summer, we've created "Wish Lists" of items that the county can not provide to teachers. We will be able to see immediate purchases for our children this year. Items may include new Learning Centers, Listening Centers, Math Supplies, High Interest Books for reading groups, etc. This is the culmination of all of our PTA MEMBERSHIP fees & donations, Charleston Wrap purchases, Scholastic Book Fair proceeds, Carnival Tickets, Art to Remember[®] magnets and other dollars spent in the name of our PTA. With this in consideration, every family should feel confident that their hard earned \$25 to join the PTA does a ton of real good for our children. I believe 100% membership is an achievable goal in 2011, don't you?

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SUMMER 2011

Joining The PTA...Builds A Better School Experience...Builds a Better Future

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future” — John F. Kennedy

It is hard to believe that the beginning of the school year is just around the corner. We are fortunate that Olney Elementary School (OES) is a great school for our children, which is certainly due in part to the very active support of OES parents. While not everyone can volunteer in the classrooms, we hope everyone will support the school by joining the PTA. **Your PTA membership directly benefits your child’s school experience by funding enriching experiences and helping the teachers obtain additional classroom items they need:**

- All the extra-educational experiences, the assemblies, school celebrations and student community-building activities are funded by your PTA membership dues and fundraisers.
- Our teachers were delighted when the PTA President asked them for their Wish Lists over the summer. Wish List items were often simple, but important items like “a poster maker, remnant & color block rugs, listening centers with headsets, the computer program Oregon Trail for 5th grade computers, and math learning aids (e.g., pattern blocks, dice, dominoes.)”
- The OES Student Directory is a great resource compiled entirely by the PTA and made available for free only to PTA members.

School budgets are tight, as are many home budgets, so while we are not increasing membership fees for membership, **WE ARE COUNTING ON INCREASED PARTICIPATION TO HELP RAISE THE NEEDED FUNDS.** While a registration form will go out when school begins, we have it posted on our PTA website. Go to www.olneyespta.org/membership-2011-2012/ and at the bottom of the page you can click and download a copy today. Online registration will be available using PayPal soon.

Your membership does make a difference!

Please feel free to e-mail me at dunn.painted@mindspring.com if you have any questions, suggestions or comments.

Thanks for your support,

Linda Dunn, 2011/2012 PTA Membership Chair

Welcome New Families

Attention New Families to OES: WELCOME NIGHT IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 7:00 PM IN THE MEDIA CENTER. This is a great opportunity for families new to Olney Elementary to become familiar with the school. Along with receiving important information about the school, families will get a tour of the school given by middle school students who were former OES students. Please bring your child(ren)! After all, they are the ones who need to know their way around! Cookies and juice will be served after the tour in the Cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

Please note: This is not a meeting for kindergarten families since they have their own meeting and tour, however any kindergarten families wishing to attend are more than welcome!

Dragon Tales is Email ONLY!

Dragon Tales (DT) is a primarily an electronic only newsletter! DT is posted on the Olney ES PTA website each week on Thursdays . To receive the notice with the link to each week’s new edition of DT, send an email from the address to which you want DT sent to dragon_tales@verizon.net with “Electronic DT” in the subject line. Please include your child(ren)’s name so that so that we can keep our database up to date.

Since DT is distributed via our website, parents without internet access can request a hard copy to be sent home with their child. DT includes valuable information on both PTA and school functions and we want parents to be able to use this valuable tool. This Summer edition of Dragon Tales will be the **ONLY** hard copy of Dragon Tales parents will receive automatically this school year. If parents cannot receive it electronically they should send a note to their child’s teacher to request a hard copy which will then be sent home in your child's backpack. Those currently receiving DT electronically will continue to get the full color and information just as they did last year.



Parents:

School supply lists by grade level can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/olneyes/classroom/supplies.aspx>

OLNEY ELEMENTARY
PARKING PROCEDURES

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Safety

To ensure the safety of our children and increase the efficiency of traffic flow, please be aware of the following safety procedures:

1. Only buses are permitted in the front semi-circle during arrival and dismissal time. **DO NOT PARK IN THE BUS LANES.**
2. **SLOW DOWN!!!**
3. Student drop-off and pick-up is in the lower lot ONLY.
4. Enter the parking lot ONLY through the entrance (the **one closer to the school.**) **DON'T enter through the exit** (playground end). This is hazardous to our student patrols and to the cars going in the correct direction. **The "Do Not Enter" sign is for everyone!**
5. Please pull into the parking lot and proceed toward the end of the lot facing the playground.
6. Orange cones frame the area for drop off. Students should get out of the car on the passenger side, walk to the sidewalk and then walk to the awning by the side gym doors. Cars can then continue to drive out of the parking lot.
7. Please do not stop or block others in the parking lot area. It is important to continue to drive forward to the section where the orange cones are placed BEFORE stopping for drop-off.
8. If you need to get out of the car or want to escort your child(ren), please park in a parking space.
9. Park BETWEEN the lines! Yes, your large SUV or **minivan has room, so don't frustrate others by parking over or on the line and taking two spots in a lot where parking is tight.**
10. For afternoon pick-up, you MUST be in a parking space to wait for your child. **DO NOT** stop in the middle of the parking lot to pick up your child.
11. Students are allowed to enter the building at 9:05 AM and car riders are dismissed at 3:28 PM
12. To pick up kindergarten walkers and car riders in the afternoon, please park, enter the school by the gym doors, and go to the school cafeteria to meet your child.

Thank you for your cooperation regarding this important safety matter.

Bus Labeling: Help Needed on the 1st Day of School

Volunteers are needed on the first day of school to help our youngest students as they get off the bus. Volunteers will pin color-coded tags on our youngest students to correspond to the bus color which helps the children get on the right bus after school. Help is needed from 8:50 AM until 9:30 AM on Mon. and Tue. 8/29 and 8/30. If you are available to help or need further details, please contact Dorothea Fuller, Vice-Principal of OES.

LUNCH

We encourage you to label your child's lunch box/bag with their name and grade. This will help the Lunch Assistants locate any misplaced lunches and prevent tears during the first week of school.



In order to help parents make paying for lunch and keeping the school lunch account up-to-date, Olney ES participates with MyLunchMoney.com. Just go to the website and set-up your account with your child (ren)'s names and you can keep track of the balance and what they are purchasing at school for lunch. It will even send you an email when the balance is low!

When sending checks to the cafeteria for your child's lunch or snack account, please write you child's name and the account/pin number in the memo section. We are looking forward to seeing your children's smiling faces.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

Looking for a **FUN** way to be involved in your child's classroom? Have a little extra time on your hands? Why not be a **ROOM CAPTAIN?!** A room captain is responsible for planning and executing the three (3) parties in your child's classroom throughout the year: Halloween, Valentine's Day and End-of-Year. It's a fun way to get to know your child's teacher and friends, and it's a great way to be involved in the school. If you are interested, please email **Ruth Lyon** at ruthlyon44@msn.com. **Summer is not too early to sign up!**



NEW THIS
YEAR

Sponsor the Staff Lounge... Make Your Teachers Smile!

The Staff Appreciation Committee would like to bring something new to OES this year. We would like to request that interested families sign up "sponsor" the Staff Lounge for a week at a time this year. The school year begins with Week One on Aug 29th and ends with Week 39 on June 4th. It would be the Sponsoring Family's choice as to what they'd like to do that week...ideas include setting out a fruit basket or munchies, a nice note or a poster or a card, soaps for the sink, a new plant, ANYTHING the family wants. Be creative!! It could be as simple as a bowl of M&Ms and a homemade card! Please sign up by Emailing Andrea Rudolph (at rud-polph_family@verizon.net). Thanks for considering and sign up soon to get a week that works best for you!

Have Something for Dragon Tales?

Dragon Tales is the PTA sponsored school newspaper. We use it to communicate upcoming events and information on OES school policy. If you would like to include a message in Dragon Tales, *the due date is each Wednesday by 2 PM via email to dragon_tales@verizon.net*. Since very little input came through hardcopy last year, this year the DT mailbox will be checked every other month. If you have something that is only hardcopy, email dragon_tales@verizon.net by 8 AM so that it can be picked up. **No EXCEPTIONS!** When submitting information, please indicate a date on which the submission should be pulled. Have any questions? Contact Judy Casey at dragon_tales@verizon.net or (301) 570-6301.

Please note: DT is only for PTA and school sponsored activities and there is no advertising.

Coming on September 8:
Charleston Wrap Sale
Get ready for this important
school fundraiser.
We hope to make it a
banner year!
Stay tuned for details.....

Annual Back-to-School Picnic



This year's first Family Night will be the Back-to-School Picnic scheduled for Fri., Sept. 9. Come and join the families of Olney Elementary School for an evening of fun. This is a great opportunity to meet your children's friends and their families. The picnic will run from 6 to 8 PM on the school playground. Don't forget to bring a blanket or lawn chair and pack your favorite meal. Questions? Please contact Vicky Aceto at drsku@verizon.net.

It's never too early to start thinking about your volunteer plans for the school year. If you are interested in being on the yearbook committee, please contact Lori Clarke at clarke230@verizon.net or 301-260-8259.



Dragon Artists Wanted:

Attention 5th Graders

This year, there will be something for you as 5th graders to do for the school directory. There will be a dragon drawing contest where the winner's dragon will be on the front cover of the directory. Think about what you might want to draw over the summer. Mrs. Henderson has the details and will get you started during art class in the beginning of the year.

Have Fun!!

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Additional Notables:

- You may notice some big efforts on behalf of Grounds Beautification...great work to all involved! The Grounds Committee can always use more volunteers.
- Although the National PTA Level dues have increased, our OES Membership rates have not changed. We will not be passing these national increases on to OES Families.
- We are working to get our OES SpiritWear ready to sell online this year at our www.olneyespta.org website! Keep an eye out for our NOVEMBER SpiritWear Sale, to include all your holiday gift needs: short and long-sleeve T's, hoodies, pajama and sweat pants, magnets, reusable shopping bags and frisbees.

If you have any ideas throughout the year, please email me at olneypta@gmail.com. If you have compliments, please share liberally and with enthusiasm. If you have concerns or constructive criticism, please contact me in a timely manner so I can be sure that we continue making improvements each and every day. Thanks all and see you soon!!

Tanya Proffitt, Olney PTA President

Attention 4th graders! Dragon Tales Jr. needs YOU!!!

The Olney Elementary school newspaper, Dragon Tales Jr., needs a new 4th grade Editor for the upcoming school year! Do you enjoy writing, being creative, and working with computers? Then consider joining our staff, as we have fun each month producing the beautiful Dragon Tales Jr. newspaper that you see in your backpack. Look for information to come home the first week of school, about how to apply for the position.

If you have questions before that, you can contact Johna Enders, Parent Coordinator for Dragon Tales Jr. at dragontaleskids@gmail.com.

Would you like to join the STAFF APPRECIATION Committee? Additional help is needed to run events throughout the year. Please contact Andrea Rudolph at rudolph_family@verizon.net for more details...this is a very gratifying volunteer work!! Thanks for considering.

2011-12 PTA Officers and Committee Heads

Officers

President	Tanya Proffitt	571-278-5291	tanyaproffitt@yahoo.com
First VP	Kirsten Verdi	301-774-7486	kikiverdi@yahoo.com
Second VP	Kelly Stahley	301-260-0557	stahleyj@aol.com
Treasurer	Susan Wilhelm	301-570-4727	slwilhelm@verizon.net
Secretary	Donna Henderson	951-225-5800	drdonnahenderson@gmail.com
MCCPTA	OPEN		
NAACP	Paulene Foster-Whitmore	240-277-2557	pfosterw@yahoo.com

Program Committees

Cultural Arts	Nancy Shapiro	301-260-9560	nancys Shapiro1@gmail.com
	Julie Ayres	301-890-1247	ayres.julie@gmail.com
Family Nights	Vicky Aceto	301-570-2163	drsku@verizon.net

Publicity

Directory	Judy Casey		judycasey@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor	Judy Casey		dragon_tales@verizon.net
Dragon Tales Jr.	Johna Enders	301-260-0202	dragontaleskids@gmail.com
ListServ Coordinator	Tanya Proffitt	301-570-5314	tanyaproffitt@yahoo.com
Georgia Ave Sign Messages	Mary Nowotny	301-924-2158	mary.nowotny@erols.com
Web Master	Elissa Golan	301-774-2596	elissagolan@yahoo.com

Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator	Nicole Connell	301-774-3505	nbconnell@verizon.net
Field Days	Michael Heller	301-260-2845	hellershouse@verizon.net
Fifth Grade Memories	OPEN		
GM Boxtops	Samia Zolnerowich	301-570-5931	themdzs@verizon.net
Grocery Programs	Mary Nowotny	301-924-2158	mary.nowotny@erols.com
Grounds	Albert Avila	240-401-0109	aavila@nida.nih.gov
K-Orientation	Renee Comstock	301-774-1182	reneecomstock1@gmail.com
	Anna Rosenberg	301-570-4636	stuanna3@verizon.net
Media Center	OPEN		
Room Parents	Ruth Lyon	301-570-7156	ruthlyon44@msn.com
Science Fair	Dorrie Pilot	301-774-5453	dempt@aol.com
	Joy Patil	301-570-3112	joypatil@hotmail.com
Staff Appreciation	Andrea Rudolph	301-260-1055	rudolph_family@verizon.net
Welcoming	Ruth Lyon	301-570-7156	ruthlyon44@msn.com

Ways and Means

Art to Remember [®]	OPEN		
Carnival	Mindy Wanat	301-460-3719	wanatmindy@yahoo.com
Charleston Wrap Fundraiser	Laura Stephens	240-345-5400	lauras@verizon.net
Membership Chair	Linda Dunn	301-260-0383	dunn.painted@mindspring.com
Restaurant Night Fundraiser	Anmarie Gaalaas	301-922-8448	agaalaas@cthellmuth.com
Scholastic Book Fair	Tanya Proffitt	301-570-5314	tanyaproffitt@yahoo.com
Spirit Clothing	Samia Zolnerowich	301-570-5931	themdzs@verizon.net
Yard Sale	Vicky Aceto	301-570-2163	drsku@verizon.net
Yearbook	Lori Clarke	301-260-8259	clarke230@verizon.net

School Clubs' Contact Information

Chess Club	Jen Rader	301-570-3878	jenrader@hotmail.com
F.L.E.S.	Mary Phillips	301-774-5331	mary.tl.phillips@gmail.com
Hands On Science (HOS)	Laura Odwazny	301-774-0219	laura.odwazny@hhs.gov