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Oakbrook Newsletter

www.oakbrookpta.org

Jan. 2012

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!

We hope your vacation was peaceful and fruitful. We will be stepping right in with some professional development, some work with our benchmark scores, and a solid time of pushing forward into the next semester. While there will be review, this is a rich teaching time for new material with new data to inform our teaching. We look forward to an airborne leap into the new year. As always, we are grateful for the work you do to make sure that your student is engaged in being ready for school and in finding school important in the ways only your family can.

We will continue to concentrate on the level of questioning we ask our students to ensure more critical thinking and decision making for the future with his/her community. Questions you might ask your student to increase critical thinking may be "What would you do?" "Why do you think that character behaved that way?" "What might be a different ending?" "How is this story like the last one you read?" It will cause deeper comprehension and is curriculum wide—it could work with a TV show or movie you watch together. Want more ideas? We have different levels of questions ready to give you if you are interested. We call it "the levels in Bloom's" or formally Bloom's Taxonomy. Benjamin Bloom is credited with the original work in levels of critical thinking and questioning, and he has been adapted into the "New Bloom's" in case you hear that terminology from us or from your student. We are teaming that with discussion skills and teaching them how to discuss deeper and explain clearly so their academic vocabulary and thinking process are practiced and on the "tip of their tongue". These are the skills we believe will help them the most in the life. Welcome to the future!

Our Single Plan for Student Achievement was approved in December, and I have copies for you if you are interested. It shows how and where we are choosing to spend money in conjunction with our School Site Council and English Language Advisory Council.

Again, Happy New Year, and may it be your family's best ever, especially academically. ☺

Picking Students up Early

Please remember to pick up your students during hours when they are **NOT** at lunch. Teachers cannot be disturbed during their lunch time for students to retrieve back packs, etc. from the classroom. If your student has an appointment, you may pick them up before lunch or instruct them in the morning to wait in the office for you when they are dismissed for lunch.

PTA President's Message

Happy New Year! With the New Year comes the excitement of the 2nd Annual Pig Races. On Friday, January 20th, students who sold 20 items or more in the catalog fundraiser will be competing for \$50.00 and the Winning Pig. Never fear, they are mechanical pigs and the kids love them! Students who will race are as follows: Kyle Sandner, Danielle Young, Trinity Roach, Cylus Gabriel, Amanda Tidwell, Kylie Carvalho, Zach Carvalho, Makenna Reese, Gurleen Kaur, Xavien Aguigui, Te'a Haro, Kaya Haro, Brandon Rangel, Kiara Joachim, Elizabeth Davidson, Skyler Boylen and Angelina Amaral

Students who sold 40 items in the Catalog and/or Sweets Sale Fundraisers will be walking the red carpet to the event, straight from their Limo Lunch! The Limo Lunch kids are as follows:

Hannah Bettencourt, Charlie Young, Andrew Ammerman, Akhilesh Charitra, Colby Giroux and Rylie Donbrowski

We appreciate the hard work and determination of all Oakbrook Families who participate in the Fundraisers! You help make education fun!

Sincerely,
Lynne M. Reese
PTA President

Friday January 20th

Limo Lunch: Participants will be going to Lunch at Straw Hat Pizza from 11:15 – 12:45. They will return to a red carpet welcome. Permission slips to come home shortly.

2nd Annual Pig Races

MP Room 12:45 – 1:30. Permission Slips for participants will be coming home soon as well as a video release for all student's.

Tuesday January 24th

Straw Hat Pizza Dine & Donate: Who wants to see Ms. Turner serve pizza? I do! Come to Straw Hat Pizza from 5:00-9:00 for Oakbrook's Dine & Donate. 15% of sales go back to Oakbrook. Ms. Turner and various teachers will be attending - this event is sure to be a lot of fun. Kitchen Tours will be available for kids (or parents) interested in the operations of a pizza parlor!

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION WEEK
OF JANUARY 23RD IN LIBRARY.**