



Ormondale Press

A monthly newsletter to connect with our community.

Be Respectful! Be Responsible! Be Safe! Be Kind!

Dear Families,

November was a busy month at Ormondale. We hosted the First Grade Young Inventors Expo, a celebration culminating their Project Based Learning experience. The MUR was filled with excited first grade learners sharing their projects with family, friends and each other. The projects were all creative and developed to help solve a problem either at school, home or in the community. Hats off to our fantastic first grade teaching team, without their guidance this event would not have been such a success. A special thanks to our Science teacher, Jeanne Rusch, who generously allowed first graders to raid the STEM Lab/Maker Space when they couldn't find materials for their inventions in their classrooms or at home.

Another big event was the Kindergarten Friendship Feast. To see our youngest learners singing and sharing their group made soup was very heartwarming. Our first grade students also had Friendsgiving Feasts during the week leading up to our short break. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who assisted with these events.

The Turkey Trot was a success despite the rain. It was fun for me to cheer on our students as they ran the course in the rain. They seemed to be having a great time even being soaking wet and in some cases, muddy! And, the adults who ran in the race - WOW! Impressive showings by all. Thank you to the PTO and especially Lacey Wismer for putting together this fun community event.

There is a lot of learning going on here at Ormondale as is evidenced when I visit classrooms every day. I am constantly impressed with the high level of instruction and the thoughtful way that our students problem solve and work together. Currently, the third grade students are working on their non-fiction reading and writing while learning about the Ohlone. I had the pleasure of hearing their guest speaker who was fascinating. Our kindergarteners are learning to read with different voices and it is something! Come by the office to see some beautiful Art in Action pieces that Mrs. Woolfe's class did, the second grade nature art and to read Mrs. Castillo's class' writing. And, take a look at the lively campaign posters our second graders have posted outside of Ms. Grech and Mrs. Bouman's classrooms for their election for Favorite Candy Bar. Even the principal found it necessary to get into the act!

I wish you all a wonderful month filled with holiday fun and treasured time with family and friends. Before we know it, it will be 2017!

Cheers,
Ms. Hovland

Calendar Reminders

*This month our Life Skill is **GRATITUDE**
December's Super Food is **KIWI***

12/5 - 12/9 Abilities Awareness Week

Tuesday, 12/6 Grade 3 Field Trip (Fast, Woolfe)
to San Mateo County History Museum

Wednesday, 12/7 Wildlife Associates Assembly
10:35 - 11:35 in the MUR

School Board Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Annex at Corte Madera

Thursday, 12/8 Grade 3 Field Trip (Lebsack, Rickert)
to San Mateo County History Museum

Wednesday, 12/14 Winter Concert
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the MUR

Thursday, 12/15 Grade 2 Field Trip
to see The Elves and The Shoemaker

Week of 12/19-21 Student Council Mini Spirit Week
For all grades, details to follow.

Wednesday, 12/21 First Grade Snowman Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 in the MUR

Thursday, 12/22 - Sunday, 1/8/17 - Winter Break

Monday, 1/9/17 - School Resumes

Music Time - Winter Concert Time!

We hope that you will all remember to join us for the Annual Ormondale Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 8:30 AM in the MUR. Once again, under the direction of our wonderful Music teacher, Mr. White, the students of Ormondale will entertain us and get us in the holiday spirit singing traditional favorites, and a few new songs. Remember that parking can be challenging, so please leave plenty of time to find parking. (We can not block Shawnee Pass with cars we need room for a bus to get through). The second grade students and their teachers will once again be selling seasonal greenery as part of their gardening theme. The MUR will be decorated with winter art as well as our very special unity chain. This promises to be a very special event.



News from Spanish Class

Ormondale's Spanish class is looking for volunteers!! We are preparing for a school-wide event on March 31 - "Viajando en español". Each classroom will represent a Spanish speaking country. Students will have passports and will travel around the Spanish speaking countries where they will learn a bit about the culture of each country, make a craft or play a game and taste some food.

Each grade level already has a lead parent to help teachers organize this event but ideally we would love to have at least two volunteers per classroom. If you would like to help please contact Senora Covotta at scovotta@pvdsd.net or one of the lead parents:

Kindergarten - Lauri Madeiros
1st Grade - Caroline Diarte Edwards
2nd Grade - Pilar Frank
3rd Grade - Sarah Dorahy

Gracias!
Senora Covotta

Counselor's Corner

Hello Ormondale Families!

Over the past month, Ormondale students have been learning all about empathy and what it means to truly put yourself in someone else's shoes and heart. With the holiday season upon us, we will be shifting our SEL (Social Emotional Learning) focus to **gratitude** and **unity**. During the week of December 5-9, Ormondale will be celebrating **Ability Awareness Week**. Our theme will be, "**When We Stand Together, No One Stands Alone**" with a special school wide focus on unity. Each classroom will learn how we can celebrate our differences and how our unique qualities are what makes each and every one of us special.

Have a wonderful month!

Warmly,
Tamryn Miller
School Counselor



Principal's Book of the Month

As we prepare for our annual Science Fair/Invention Convention in January, the theme of the Book of the Month for December is **CURIOSITY**. Each class received their wrapped up book "present" from Ms. Hovland on December 1. They have learned that curiosity is having a desire to investigate and learn. Teachers explained that a person who is curious about a subject is interested in learning more about that subject to find out the WHY. Curious people inquire, or ask questions until they can figure out how to solve a problem.

This month, I selected the book, Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty. I especially liked this book because of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focus - very much in line with our focus in the the PVSD. Ada Twist is one curious little miss! Andrea Beaty has also written two other books that you might be interested in looking at: Iggly Peck, Architect and Rosie Revere, Engineer.

Ms. Hovland

Ormondale Library

How can I get my child to read?

A question asked by a lot of parents! One of our roles as parents is to model behavior for our children.

If you read a lot and reading is important to you, then chances are that at some point reading will also be important in your child's life. It may not be today or tomorrow but modeling how you value reading builds a foundation for your child's life - long relationship to reading.

What can you do now? Read to your children! Talk to them about what you are reading. And most importantly, read what they are reading. Read together, or reserve a quiet time at home for them to read. Ask them questions about what they read: Who are the characters? What is the setting, the plot? What did they like or dislike, why? Would they change the ending?

Will Schwalbe, best selling author of a new book called "Books for Living", eloquently sums up how important it is to have these conversations about reading with your child:, "I used to say that the greatest gift you could ever give anyone is a book. But, I don't say that anymore because I no longer think that is true. I now say that a book is the second greatest gift. I've come to believe that the greatest gift you can give anyone is to take the time to talk with someone about a book you've shared."

Connect with your child through books!
Ms. Suzy