



Ormondale School
A Distinguished School

Ormondale Press

A monthly newsletter to connect with our community.

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

Dear Families,

This afternoon, we had our first all school “rehearsal” sing-along for “Alice in Wonderland”. As I sat in the MUR and listened to your children singing (some at the top of their lungs and with great expression) I could not help but think how lucky we are to be in a school that has a dedicated music teacher for TK-3 children. And to be in a district that has a Foundation to support our efforts to bring such an endeavor to our school community. The musical is coming along nicely, Mr. White seems quite excited about it and the “cast of thousands” looks and sounds to be in pretty good voice. I am really looking forward to seeing the end result on May 24!

It seems appropriate that after the success of last weekend’s FANfare that I acknowledge the PVSF for the grants that our staff has received (in addition to the grant for “Alice in Wonderland”) this year to run some fantastic programs for our students. We are grateful for the support of the Foundation for the following:

Lunchtime STEM - Ms. Rusch and Mrs. Askey wrote a grant to help fund the purchase of some more really cool things for our lunchtime “makers” to use to take things apart, put things together, build, experiment, code and design.

3rd Grade Weather Stations - Our 3rd grade teachers wrote a grant to purchase weather stations for each of their classrooms as they begin to implement the Next Generation Science Standards.

Principal’s Book of the Month - Last spring, Mr. Keegan submitted a grant to purchase books to gift to each class each month. I have continued this program and hope to receive funding for next year as well.

2nd Grade Superfoods - The 2nd grade team has a grant to fund their efforts to teach nutrition through the Superfood Units of study they do each month.

In the past the Foundation helped to fund the **Imagination Playground** - those big blue blocks that the kids love playing with in the MUR at lunchtime. They have also funded **teacher professional development for Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop**, which has become a very important curricular movement in grades K-5. This list is by no means exhaustive but these are just some of the things that our children benefit from every day. So, thank you to each of you who donate to the PVSF and who attended the FANfare last weekend. We are looking forward to starting to put together our Engage Space!

Calendar Reminders

*This month our Life Skill is **EFFORT**
May’s Super Food is **BLACKBERRIES***

Monday, May 1 - Friday, May 12 - Third Grade State Testing 8:30-10:15 a.m.

Monday, May 1 - Emerson is Principal for the Day!
Monday Morning Meeting: 8:15 a.m. Blacktop, Ms. Wong’s class leads our school song

Monday, May 8 - Monday Morning Meeting: 8:15 a.m.
Blacktop, Ms. Woolfe’s class leads our school song

Wednesday, May 10- Garden Party for Mrs. Castillo and Mrs. Clark’s classes: 8:15-9:15 a.m.

School Board Study Session: 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the District Office Annex at Corte Madera

Friday, May 12 - Garden Party for Mrs Martinez’s class: 8:15-9:15 a.m.

Grade 2 Tea at 2:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Garden

Sunday, May 14 - Happy Mother’s Day!

Monday, May 15 - Monday, Morning Meeting: 8:15 a.m.
Mrs. Martinez’s Kindergarten and their Grade 2 Buddy Classes lead school song

NYTC Testing for Grade 1

Tuesday, May 16 - NYTC Testing for Grade 2

Wednesday, May 17 - School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Annex at Corte Madera

Thursday, May 18 - NYTC Testing for Grades TK and K
3rd Grade Visit to Corte Madera 7:30 a.m. for Cocoa Breakfast
3rd Grade Parent Orientation at Corte Madera - 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 19 - NYTC Testing for Grade 3
First Grade Field Trip to the SF Zoo
Second Grade PBL - Farmers Market - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 22 - Monday Morning Meeting: 8:15 a.m.
Mrs. Castillo & Mrs. Clark’s Kindergartens and their Grade 2 Buddies lead school song

Tuesday, May 23 - School Site Council Meeting: 2:15 p.m.

Our newsletter is short this month but we have a lot going on. Be sure to check out our calendar of events. I hope to see many of you at some of the wonderful things we have coming up.

Looking forward to May flowers!

Fondly,
Ms. Hovland

Ormondale School is a 2016 Honor Roll School!

Congratulations are in order for our staff, students and our parent community. Ormondale School was selected by the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) as a 2016 Honor Roll recipient!

The California Honor Roll is part of a national effort known for its extensive and rigorous analysis of student achievement in public schools. Our school stood above other schools in the state because of our success in getting students to grade level achievement and beyond.

This year, the Honor Roll includes 1,866 public K-8 and high schools that are recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student academic achievement. We did not apply for this award - they found us - and it is a great honor to have been chosen. We will be featured on the Honor Roll website and a banner has been designed for us to hang proudly at Ormondale.

Staffing Changes for 2017-2018

It doesn't seem possible that we are already planning for the end of the school year but we will be heading into summer vacation in just about six short weeks! As we end this year, we are already deep into planning for next year. The Ormondale Staff and I want to share some staffing changes that will be in place in August when you return to school.

Retirement - We want to congratulate **Ms. Jan Avila** on her retirement. "Mrs. A" as the kids call her is our Reading Recovery teacher. She will be retiring from the PVSD at the end of the school year after working here for 26 years. We wish her all the best. She will be missed.

Clapping Out - As we "clap out" our 3rd grade students on the last day of school we will also be "clapping out" one of their teachers. **Mrs. Jenny Lebsack** will be moving up to Corte Madera next year where she will join the CMS 4th grade team. While our team is sad to have her leave us, the CMS team is excited to have her join them. She will be a nice familiar face for our soon to be 4th graders when they

Wednesday, May 24 - School Musical: 8:30-10:00 a.m. with a repeat performance from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 25 - Grade 2 Field Trip to Stanford (Grech/Wong)

Friday, May 26 - Grade 3 PBL Pioneer Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday

NYTC Testing

During the third week of the month of May, teachers will conduct their year-end benchmark reading assessments. This information will be reported to parents on the final progress report of the school year. The benchmark testing is done individually so teachers will have a substitute teacher on the day that their grade level is scheduled to test and they will test each of their students individually. Teachers compare student scores from beginning, middle and end of the year to determine student grade level competency at mastering the standards for their grade level. They also share this information with the receiving teacher so that curriculum plans can be made for the coming year. Teachers find the information that they get from these reading assessments to be quite valuable and look forward to spending this one on one time with each of their students.

Third Grade CAASPP Testing

Third grade students will be taking the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System tests during the weeks of May 1-5 and May 8-12. Our students will be taking the Smarter Balanced tests for English Language Arts and Math. You can expect your child to spend between 3-5 hours of testing over the two-week window. Testing will begin each day at 8:30 and end just prior to recess at around 10:00. We ask that you not schedule any morning appointments for your child during this time.

Portola Valley Girls Leadership Workshop

Girls Leadership offers a series of courses for girls and their parents to build emotional intelligence. In the upcoming workshops, parent-daughter pairs will learn about identifying healthy relationships, finding their voices, and communicating effectively. Girls also develop resilient responses to conflict, drama, challenges, and mistakes. The program is interactive, fun and enlightening and it's also a great opportunity to gain insight and spend time with your daughter in a new and different way.

make the move to Corte Madera in August.

Welcome to Ormondale - As we say goodbye to Mrs. Lebsack we welcome long time Corte Madera teacher **Mr. William Frederick** to Ormondale. He will be joining our 3rd grade team.

Transitional Kindergarten - Early on when I started at Ormondale, our Kindergarten team asked me when we might be able to have a separate class for our TK students. This has been on their wish list for some time and their wish will come true in the fall. As of now we have enough TK students to have a separate class. **Mrs. Sherry Andrighetto** is excited to be teaching this new class.

A Familiar Face in a New Place - As Mrs. A leaves our Reading Recovery program her room will not be empty for long as **Mr. Adam Ahlbach** takes over the duties of K-1 Reading Specialist. Mr. Ahlbach earned a reading credential in the early years of his career and is excited to use it outside of a traditional classroom. Don't worry, he has promised to continue as our Garden Guru working with the grade 2 team to ensure that our garden continues to grow.

Multi-Age Classroom - We will be having a 2nd/3rd grade multi-age (combination) class next year. **Mrs. Suzanne Fast** will be taking on this assignment and is looking forward to continuing to collaborate with her third grade colleagues while working with the 2nd grade team - although she is worried that what she refers to as her "black thumb" may wreck havoc on our beautiful garden!

We congratulate our colleagues as they take on these new roles.

K/1: Tools for Sunny and Cloudy Days with Friends
Mondays May 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2017, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Woodland School

- Week 1: Friendship Toolbox
- Week 2: Sharing Feelings and Body Language
- Week 3: Mistakes, We All Make 'Em
- Week 4: Courageous Relationships

Register online at <https://girlsleadership.org>

Mark Your Calendars!

The all school musical "Alice in Wonderland" is coming to a Multi-Use-Room near you....

Wednesday, May 24 at 8:30 a.m. with a second performance at 6:00 p.m. The White Rabbit says, "Don't be late for this important date".....

