

Rainbow Review

A Newsletter for Parents, Teachers, and Students of
Orchard Ridge Elementary School

Barbara Dorn
Principal

5602 Russett Road
Madison, WI 53711
204-2320

Safe Arrival: 204-2329

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
orchardridgemadison.com/ORE.htm

From the Principal

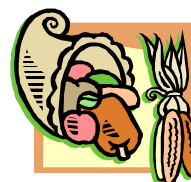
Dear Families,

More great things are happening at ORE due to the efforts of staff, students and families! Our playground continues to look better and better thanks to the PTO and many volunteers. New wood chips were purchased and dispersed under the various playground structures to increase the safety of play. The Fall Sock Hop was once again well organized and well attended by many of our families. The kids are noticing all of the work that you do to continue to make school an important part of their lives. We show what we truly value by the amount of time and energy we give!

We will be starting something new called B.L.A.S.T. (Belonging, Learning and Sharing Together) The idea is to build community school-wide at ORE by having small groups of students from a variety of grade levels meet together with a staff member. We are very excited to start this. We will kick off the event by handing out our

new "BE THE 1" t-shirts to be worn at an assembly to celebrate our community before breaking up into our small groups. This will happen on Nov. 22nd.

This year we would like to involve families in our school improvement planning process. We currently have three major goals. The first is creating, maintaining and refining a School-wide Positive Behavior Support System. The second is a focus on consistent standards based instruction using best practices in literacy and math and our last goal involves building our collaborative capacity as a school staff to meet the needs of all of our students and families. We will share each of these goals with families at different PTO meetings throughout the year allowing you to understand our work as a staff and provide help in creating next steps.



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Thank you to all of you that worked with your child to adjust arrival and departure times. Remember you are always welcome to stay with your child to enjoy the playground after school just as you are always welcome inside. We continue to need volunteers to help out during the lunch hour from 12:15-1:00. If you are interested in helping inside or out, please give us a call.

Conferences were held on November 17th. If you have not met with your child's teacher, please call to schedule a conference. We want to work with you to make this a great year of learning for your child. The Family Luncheon originally scheduled for November 18th will be rescheduled for some time in February or March along with the traditional Music Program. We will let you know the dates well in advance so that you can adjust your schedules to attend. They will both be wonderful

opportunities to spend time together as an ORE community.

Many people will be celebrating their own family holidays over the next month or so. As a public school, it is our responsibility to acknowledge that we all have unique family traditions and celebrations to be treasured. In this spirit, we may talk about the variety of celebrations that occur during this season of the year without emphasizing one over the other. However, we know this can be a stressful time for families and children. As a staff, we will keep things at ORE as routine, consistent and structured as always.

Thank you for continuing to work with and support our efforts to create a school where everyone is welcomed, connected, engaged and successful,

Barb Dorn
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222-3516 New Home Phone
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2005-2006 Student Directory

The ORE 2005-2006 Student Directory is completed! If you have not received your copy, please contact the School Office. Thank you to Lisa Veldran for compiling the student information with the assistance of Mary Willadsen (School Secretary) and Diane Harrington and Karen Northey for copying, collating and assembling the directory. Family requests to withhold student directory information were due in the office in mid-October. To honor those request, some student names, addresses and phone numbers were purposely omitted from this directory. Please be aware of this fact when searching for student information or when using these directory lists for class counts.



Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the directory. However, **if you are aware of an inaccuracy or addition, please call Mary Willadsen at 204-2320 and the change will be printed in the Rainbow Review.**

Lisa Veldran, School Directory Coordinator

News from the ORE PTO

The ORE PTO has been very busy these past few weeks. You may have noticed some changes and activities at Orchard Ridge as the result of the work of dedicated parent volunteers and teachers.

First, outside each classroom, you may have noticed a folder that Diane Harrington attached to the wall. This is for you or your child to drop off marked milk caps, Campbell's labels, box tops, etc. Each of these items is collected and redeemed for funds for ORE.

Second, through her devoted efforts, Lisa Veldran has given ORE PTO and ORE some wonderful financial opportunities. The fall fundraiser, which Lisa coordinated, earned about \$5500 for PTO to spend on items, events, and necessities for Orchard Ridge. This just may have been the best return on a fall fundraiser among all of the Madison schools this year. Additionally, at the November meeting, the ORE PTO passed a motion to set up a sub-committee and a separate financial account for the Individual School Endowment Initiative. This is

the endowment described in the October Rainbow Review. The endowment should be a continuing and reliable source of funds for special projects at ORE.

Last, a continuing fundraiser is the Scrip program that is coordinated by Michele Hughes. For those of us who use Scrip, it seems so easy: we mark the items, write a check, and receive Scrip certificates or cards. For Michelle and her group of volunteers, it is painstaking work to meet all requirements, keep detailed records, and get the Scrip delivered. The next time you see Michele or one of the many other parents who help make this project work, thank them for this handy and very practical way to support ORE.

While PTO may not always be on your mind, it is always at work for ORE. The "Be the 1" t-shirts that will be given to all ORE students, faculty, and staff at the school assembly on 11/22, the new wood chips on the playground, the Sock Hop last Friday evening, and the Student Directory that we all received came about because of ORE's Parent/Teacher Organization.



Scrip News from Michele Hughes, Scrip Coordinator

Thanks for another great scrip month for November, earning **\$661.00!**
We had 44 orders, including 4 new families. Thanks so much!

At the last PTO meeting, we discussed the possibility of reaching out to the Orchard Ridge Community to increase our scrip donations to our school. We are looking for a volunteer who would be interested in coordinating this effort. It would likely entail only 2-3 hours a month, and can be worked on in flexible hours in the evenings. I can help you with any questions you have to get started. If you are interested please call Michele Hughes at 271-5324 or e-mail michelehughes@tds.net.

**Our next order is our last order before the holidays.
It will be sent out on December 2nd and will be due December 6th.**



All Fourth and Fifth Grade students had the opportunity to participate in the YWCA's *Week Without Violence* Poster & Essay Contest.

Each year the YWCA encourages students throughout Madison to think about the ways in which they can help stop violence in their homes, schools, communities, and lives. We had a wonderful turnout this year- 59 ORE students participated in this contest.

Congratulations to this year's *Week Without Violence* Poster & Essay Contest Award Winners!

Essay Winners

1st Place: Annie Rosebear-Ace
2nd Place: Alessandra Gaglio
3rd Place: Monika Hetzler

Poster Winners

1st Place: Franki Fedele
2nd Place: Rakan Soubra
3rd Place: Jennifer Mc Ghee



Adopt-A-Book

Adopt-A-Book brought in **\$1,147!**

Thanks to Scott Peters, Mary Kleppe, Debra Brunette, Val Jackson, Lisa Stec, Jean Marie Sharp and Lori Henry (who always does a great job coordinating volunteers for this event, as well as for the Book Fair in the spring).

Mark you calendars now for **JANUARY 2006 FAMILY FUN EVENTS!**

Family Fun Night Reading Event

Thursday, January 12, 2006

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. ORE All-Purpose Room

- ◆ Book Swap
- ◆ Special Guest Reader: Art Rainwater, MMSD School Superintendent
- ◆ Author Readers: Pamela Schuster -Ostwinkle and The Galligan Family
- ◆ Families will be making their own books to take home and write their own family story!

Family Fun Night Arts and Crafts Event

Thursday, January 26, 2006

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. ORE All-Purpose Room

- ◆ Families come and join the fun in creating arts and crafts – bookmarks, puppets, bracelets and other fun stuff!

2005 ORE Fundraiser

We should all be very proud of our students and their families! 100 ORE students raised approximately \$5,500 for Orchard Ridge Elementary School! Watch for a future Rainbow Review that will provide information on what the ORE PTO Board will be doing with the funds raised this year. The following is a list of students who participated in the fundraiser (if you do not see your name here please give Lisa Veldran a call at 271-0722 and I'll make sure you're in the next edition of the Rainbow Review):

Jamila Afifi
 Cailin Ahnen
 Taylor Alt-Nachreiner
 Arifa Azimulla
 Asif Azimulla
 Gloria Badillo
 Jared Baldwin
 Natalie Barrett
 Lonie Bjornstad
 Daniella Bosben
 Josephine Bratt
 Emma Brunette
 Julian Cagnazzo
 Faith Colvard-
 Donaldson
 Wyatt Cook Silvern
 Madeline Cook Silvern
 Ra Quan Cunnigan
 Christina De Mars
 Logan De Mars
 Alanna Dominguez
 Daniel Driscoll, Jr.
 Emily Dsida
 Christopher Dsida
 Riley Fisher
 Rachel Fisher
 Jeremy Gartland
 Leigh Gregory
 Tai Gregory
 Annika Harley
 Benjamin Harrington
 Cameron Heath
 Ryan Henry

Rebecca Holmquest
 Carsyn Hutchinson
 Amina Idris
 Dakota Jensen
 Jaclyn Jensen
 Anna Jenson
 Rose Johnson
 Griffen Karr
 Jacob Kennedy
 Adam Kleisch
 Samuel Kleppe
 Trevor Klinger
 Rachel Kornetsky
 Will Larson
 Alexander Larson
 Jackson Lemberger
 Megan Lemberger
 Nicholas Lund
 Henry Maysack
 Jennifer Mc Ghee
 Christopher McCarthy
 Claire McCarthy
 Joseph McCormick
 Chaz McGee
 Eliza McPike
 Sophie Micinski
 Allman Moen
 Elizabeth Nelson
 Madeleine Nelson
 Samantha Nelson
 Haely Northey
 Grace Olson
 Carissa Panke

Danielle Patrick
 Matthew Peters
 Christina Plunkett
 Dayja Reynolds
 Dejuan Reynolds, Jr
 Sedona Rhodes
 Paolo Saavedra
 Alexander Sahli
 Jeeda Soubra
 Rakan Soubra
 Morgan Spatola
 Allison Statz
 Melissa Stec
 Rebecca Stone
 Kevin Stone
 Zachary Thomas
 Gabriel Trejo-Tellez
 Oscar Trejo-Tellez
 Anna Troia
 Nicholas Ulisky
 Luis Valdes-Jasso
 Veronica Valdes-Jasso
 Max Veldran
 Lily Veldran
 Emily Vermeulen
 Brett Weigel
 Alex Weigel
 Thomas Wilke II
 Trudye Winfield
 Mai Yang

2006 MMSD Recognition Awards Ceremony to be held on April 10, 2006

This prestigious recognition is presented annually to outstanding citizens and personnel serving the schools and children of Madison.

Your hard-working colleagues and volunteers deserve recognition now. Nominate that special teacher, principal, MMSD employee or citizen volunteer for a

Distinguished Service and Joe Thomas Community Service Student Award

Nomination Deadline: **Monday January 30, 2006.**

This year's ceremony will be held on Monday April 10, 2006 at La Follette High School.

For information and nomination forms, go to www.mmsd.org (see "Hot Topics") or call 663-1964.



Thanks for the new Wood Chips!

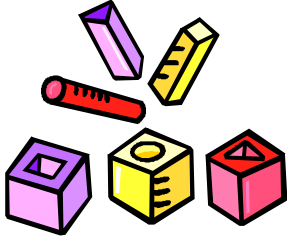


A special **Thank you** to Matt Silvern for coordinating the acquisition and spreading of the new wood chips on the ORE playground. The ORE PTO paid for the material (*thanks PTO!*). Matt and a small yet mighty team of Gretchen Olson, Rick Thomas and Karen Northey worked hard 2 long mornings spreading the wood chips under the play equipment. We appreciate your efforts as this is essential to the safety and well-being of our children.

Thanks Matt, Gretchen, Rick and Karen from all of us at ORE!!

ORE LEGO LEAGUE SHARKS at F.I.R.S.T. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

By Luis Reynaldo, team coach



ORE's Lego League team, the Sharks, participated in the F.I.R.S.T. (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League regional tournament at Glacier Creek Middle School in Cross Plains on November 12. This year's theme "Ocean Odyssey" celebrated and explored human's interaction with the oceans. This tournament culminated an eight-week period in which the team researched invasive species, and built, designed and tested a robot. The team built and programmed the robot, named Bruce, to perform several tasks: retrieve an artificial reef, release a dolphin from a holding pen into the ocean, and clean up a cargo shipping accident.

The tournament day included three interview sessions in the morning. Each session assessed the team's knowledge of their research project, their knowledge of the robot, and their ability to work as a team. The Sharks did a wonderful job in their oral presentation of their research project which focused on invasive species in the Great Lakes. They also capably demonstrated their knowledge of how Bruce, their Robot, was built and programmed and worked. Finally they showed themselves to be "gracious professionals" demonstrating the highest virtues espoused by the F.I.R.S.T. and of Orchard Ridge's motto RESPECT.

The afternoon activities highlighted the robot competition. Each team had three rounds of robot competition. While the Sharks did not score the highest overall points, they dramatically improved their performance with each attempt.

It was an exciting day. We had a lot of fun and it was an experience to compete, observe and learn from the nineteen other teams from southern Wisconsin. Some teams, like us, were in our rookie year. Others had several years of competition in their blood. Some teams were young like us while others were in the Seventh and Eighth grade! Along with the experience gained, we took home many ideas that we can implement next year.

I and the assistant coaches, **Martha Howell** and **Matt Silvern**, are proud of the Sharks and what they have accomplished. They represented Orchard Ridge proudly.

The team:

Madeline Cook-Silvern
Wyatt Cook-Silvern
Chris Dsida
James Holmquest

Emmett Jackson
Sam Kleppe
Isaac Reynaldo
Nick Ulisky