



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,

It was great to see families and staff at the Winter Sock Hop. Thank you to the PTO for giving your time and resources to put this together for our kids. Everyone stayed safe and danced the night away. The ORE Carnival will be on Saturday, **March 4th** from 12:00-3:00. We would love to see you. There is fun for the whole family!

Thursday, February 9th was an exciting morning at ORE! Folks from the District Media Production Department were here helping us create a Welcoming Video/DVD for new families. In an effort to build a stronger community at ORE, a group of staff have been working all year at creating a system for welcoming new students and families. The video/DVD titled, "Be The One at Orchard Ridge" will take viewers on a tour of our school while introducing our High 5 Expectations and how to BE THE 1 at ORE. A group of 4th and 5th graders provided the student voices.

Please help us in reviewing the High 5 Expectations with your child/children:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be There, Be Ready
- Hands and Feet to Self
- Follow Directions

It is important to talk about what each one looks like and sounds like at school in the classroom, hallways, AP room, LMC and on the playground.

Kindergarten registration is on **March 6th** from 1:00-6:00 PM. Please plan on attending if you will have a child that will be 5 or before September 1st, 2006. Spread the word to friends and neighbors that may not have kids currently at ORE. Things needed at registration include a birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residency. At registration, you will be asked to sign your child up to be screened sometime in April. We are currently working to put together a "Visitation Day" for kids and families in May.

Continued on next page...

Principal's letter continued from previous page...

By the time the March Rainbow Review reaches you, Spring Break will have already passed as it takes place earlier this year from **March 13th-March 17th** with school starting again on March 20th. Please encourage your child to spend time reading, listening to and sharing books over break while taking some time to just be a kid☺

Please contact the school if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Strong communication with families is extremely important as we continue to work on building relationships, engagement and learning for all students, staff and families at ORE. Thank you for challenging our thinking, supporting our efforts and sending us your wonderful children each day!

Barb Dorn
204-2323 School, 222-3516 Home
bdorn@madison.k12.wi.us

MSCR To Hold Summer Preview Fair

Looking for ideas to keep your children busy this summer?

MSCR will hold its annual Summer Preview Fairs on Wednesday, March 15th at LaFollette High School, 702 Pflaum Road, and on Thursday March 16th at Memorial High School, 201 South Gammon Road. The fairs take place from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. each night and are FREE of charge. Come and talk with over 45 organizations that offer summer activities for children grades K - 12. Get summer schedules for programs featuring camps, art classes, sports lessons and much more! Please call 204-3000 for more information.

Sharon Neylon, Outreach Manager
Madison School-Community Recreation
3802 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705
Ph: 608.204.3036, Fax: 608.204.0557
e-mail: sneylon@madison.k12.wi.us



MADISON SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RECREATION

ORE PTO Spring Carnival

Saturday March 4

12:00pm — 3:00pm



Food, fun, games, raffles and more! Please save those "special" items for the Mystery Gift Booth. Remember, items can be gently used books, videos, toys, games, stuffed animals, (almost anything)...

More information about the Carnival will be sent home as the March 4th date approaches.

Parents: Each classroom is assigned a game to run during the carnival. Please sign up to work a 30-minute shift at the booth assigned to your child's class. Sign-up sheets are posted outside each classroom. Or contact your child's teacher. **Thank you for your help!**

-Ann O'Rourke, Carnival Chair

From the PTO:

We Want To Hear from You!

After two months of no PTO meetings, the Feb. 7th meeting was a long one. PTO President Leota Dye submitted her resignation, due to personal and work obligations. Diane Harrington will step into that role from co-vice-president, and Karen Northey will remain vice-president. Diane and Karen will be co-presidents as planned for 2006-07 – but we still need two co-vice-presidents for next year.

We're planning a strong PTO meeting for Tuesday, March 7th (a week early, due to spring break). We'll be voting on amended bylaws that will allow for online voting in some instances and on a proposed Tile Mosaic Project that would help beautify the interior walls of ORE. The Tile Project (please see article on page 5) will be discussed starting at 7 p.m.; the regular meeting begins at 6 p.m. If you are a parent or staff member at ORE, **YOU have a vote!** Please come to the meeting in the teachers' lounge (next to the principal's office) and make sure your questions are answered and your input is heard. Need childcare at the school that night? Call Diane Harrington at 271-7603 or e-mail her at DianeBH@sbcglobal.net.

Some other amazingly helpful parent volunteers will be stepping aside or

lightening their loads soon, and we really would love other ORE parents to volunteer to help out. If you'd like to lend a hand, call Diane at 271-7603.

- **Ice Cream Social.** Chair Leslie Gruendel moved so we need to fill this position. Can you help coordinate the event in September? (We'll help you!)
- **Yearbook Committee.** Chair Lee Vermeulen will pass the baton after three years of hard work. He's writing a "playbook" for the next person.
- **Volunteer Coordinator.** We've worn out Lori Henry, who's done an amazing job of lining up chairs for every event and helping those chairs find volunteers. Can you shadow Lori for the rest of this year to see how she handles the job, with the plan of taking over (or being a co-coordinator with her) in 2006-07?

These and other open positions are noted in detail on page 4. We're planning to alert parents to other PTO openings and volunteer needs via the PTO e-mail listserv. If you're not already on that e-mail list, please drop a line to Mike Stone, our e-mail administrator - w.Michael.stone@pobox.com - and he'll be sure to add your name. It's an easy way to keep on top of all of ORE's activities.

Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday March 7

6:00 Regular Meeting
7:00 Discussion on Tile Project

Everyone is welcome
and encouraged to attend!

From MMSD: Asbestos Management Plans are available for schools at the administrative office of each building and at Building Services, 4711 Pflaum Rd. Asbestos activities planned for 2005-2006 include periodic surveillance of each building that contains asbestos containing building material and operations and maintenance activities to assure these materials remain in good condition.

Help Wanted!

Your PTO needs you. If you have a few hours to lend a hand, we need....

Financial Expertise. A parent with a CPA or strong accounting background who can do an audit of our well-kept PTO books. It's been a couple of years since we've done an audit and would like to be sure everything is above board. Contact Co-Treasurers Matt or Kelly Cook-Silvern at 278-4512 or matt-silvern@sbcglobal.net.

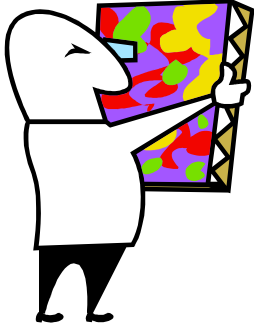
Yearbook Coordinator. Lee Vermeulen will step down after this year. This year's meetings are over, but Lee is happy to walk another parent through what's involved as the yearbook gets wrapped up. He's putting together a handbook of how the job has been done to make next year easier for you. What all is involved? While some past yearbook production experience is valuable, there are no specific requirements for this position. A few tasks need to be completed early in the school year (working with teachers and staff to have photos taken, etc.). Most of the time commitment is in January, February and March. During that time the coordinator runs the Yearbook Club (allowing students to participate in the production process), works with staff on yearbook sales, and works with the publisher on production deadlines. The biggest time commitment is completing the actual page layouts. While Yearbook Club members help create some pages, class portrait pages must be done by an adult (to make sure names correspond with photos). Total time commitment is approximately 60 hours, with most of those hours spent on Yearbook Club and layout activities. Contact Lee at lc.vermeulen@hosp.wisc.edu or 848-6108, or Diane Harrington at DianeBH@sbcglobal.net or 271-7603.

Volunteer Coordinator. Lori Henry will be stepping aside after this year, but we may be able to coerce her into sticking around if someone will serve as co-volunteer coordinator. This job involves ensuring we have chairpeople to run each event throughout the year, helping them track down volunteers if necessary, and coming to PTO board meetings to keep everyone apprised. The PTO has sign-up sheets for parents at school registration, which is a HUGE help in getting parent volunteers on board for each event and lightens the workload for the volunteer coordinator and the event chairpeople. If the job is done by one person, it involves about 2 to 10 hours per month (closer to 2 to 4 most months, and that includes a 2-hour PTO meeting the second Tuesday of each month). Contact Lori Henry at Lori.Henry@UWMF.WISC.EDU or 277-9713.

Ice Cream Social Chairperson. It's a big event, but it only happens once a year in September. Leslie Gruendel, our past chair, has moved. For details and approximate time involved, contact Lori Henry at Lori.Henry@UWMF.WISC.EDU or 277-9713.

Co-Vice Presidents. We like to have two people share this job. They are then able to share the job of PTO President the following year. The biggest task: Picking up anything the co-presidents are having trouble tackling themselves. It's usually making a couple phone calls, running off copies of PTO meeting reminders for parents, coming to the monthly PTO meeting, and showing up at most of the events (you're there anyway, right?!) to support the school. It involves about 2 to 10 hours a month, usually just 2 to 4 hours a month. Contact Karen Northey at Karen@timing.fr or 204-0658.

Give us your opinion!



At the last PTO Meeting Feb. 7th, our principal Barb Dorn brought forth an interior aesthetic improvement project being devised by art teacher Kate Olsen.

This mosaic tile project would be tackled by all students and staff (and any interested parents/families and outside invited guests). Each student would get to design two different 6-by-6-inch tiles, and they would be assembled with bits and pieces of student's, family's, and staff's memorabilia (broken favorite plates, toys, etc.) into a finished mosaic (about 300 square feet) to be displayed somewhere within the public spaces of the ORE building. The estimated cost, including \$3,204 for Ms. Olsen's installation (half her usual fee), is \$5,641.22.

The PTO responded favorably to the idea but brought forth several questions and concerns. Among them:

- Would the project be a one-time thing, or would future groups of students be able to add to it?
- Are there ways to lower the cost?
- Would the PTO prefer a different use of its funds, as this would amount to about one-third of the existing budget?
- Would the PTO prefer a different and/or less expensive interior aesthetic improvement project, i.e., a mural, etc.?
- Does our budget, assuming anticipated expenses for the year,

really have this amount of money available?

- What limitations will the school district have in terms of installation of such a project?
- Are the reasons for hurrying into this project this year (Ms. Olsen's part-time schedule currently allows extra time to offer to this project, and she may not be part-time next year; the people donating tiles and supplies at cost may not be able to do so next year; etc.) crucial enough to move forward now, or can the project wait until next year when there would be more time to complete it?
- Should the PTO consider a fundraiser specifically for raising money for this project?

The PTO decided to table the discussion until the March 7th meeting. You are invited to attend next month's PTO meeting on March 7th to learn more about this project. We will commence discussion on the topic at 7:00 pm.

Or please feel free to leave your comments about this or any other PTO topic at the ORE office. You can also send an e-mail to DianeBH@sbcglobal.net, or contact Diane Harrington @ 271-7603 or Karen Northey @ 204-0658.

Scrip Dates to Remember

| <u>Sent Home</u> | <u>Orders Due</u> | <u>Pick-up</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| March 24 th | March 28 th | April 5 th |
| April 28 th | May 2 nd | May 10 th |
| May 26 th | May 30 th | June 7 th |

Make Your Voice Heard!



All ORE parents and staff are official members of the ORE Parent Teacher Organization, and each of you has a vote in all the PTO's matters. In accordance with our bylaws, we are publishing recommended amendments to the bylaws for your perusal. The PTO will vote on these amended bylaws at our regular, in-person meeting on March 7th from 6 to 8 p.m. Please plan to attend to express your support or objections.

In summary, the alterations (included below in the rewritten version of the bylaws) will allow for e-mail voting for all parents for occasional issues (as long as it does not involve a financial issue more than \$200; those votes must be conducted at an in-person meeting), to allow publishing of some public information on the website instead of in the Rainbow Review (only over the summer), and establishing a formal subcommittee with a separate financial account for the ISEI endowment – a foundation that will provide funding for various projects at ORE.

By-Laws of The Orchard Ridge Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization

Amended by-laws dated MARCH 7, 2006

Preamble

This revision of the by-laws reflects the original 1987 by-laws with revisions and amendments from various meetings of the ORE PTO and the Board of the PTO. It is therefore evolutionary not revolutionary, and as always remains open to comment and revision, according to the rules contained within.

Article I - Name

1. The name of the organization is The Orchard Ridge Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization. The name will be abbreviated to ORE PTO elsewhere in these by-laws.

Article II - Purpose and Objectives

1. To encourage a closer and more effective relationship between children, parents, school, staff and community.
2. To assist and support the school in its educational functions by providing equipment and services for the benefit of our children/students that are not readily available from the Madison Metropolitan School District or other sources.
3. To seek a forum and a mechanism through which parents and teachers may seek to affect school function and policy.
4. To raise money to support the activities undertaken by ORE PTO in support of its objectives.

Article III - Policies

1. The ORE PTO is non-commercial, non-sectarian and politically non-partisan. No one may represent the organization, its officers or its members in support of or in opposition to any commercial enterprise, religious group or political party without a majority vote of the ORE PTO Board, However, the ORE PTO may acknowledge donations of goods and services whatever the source.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

2. The ORE PTO does not and will not seek to dictate the administrative activities or policies of the school. This does not, however, preclude the organization from reviewing, discussing or attempting to influence those activities or policies.
3. The ORE PTO may cooperate or interact with other organizations and agencies involved in the well being of the children/students.
4. No moneys may be used or reimbursed for any purpose unless authorized by the ORE PTO at an in-person monthly meeting or through the annual budgeting process or through the strict online voting method. No moneys may be used for non-school or non-ORE PTO purposes. All expenditures must be properly accounted for in timely fashion. (See Article VII.)

Article IV - Membership

All parents and guardians whose children attend Orchard Ridge Elementary School and its staff are members of ORE PTO.

Article V - Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors will be the principle operating body directing the activities of the organization. The Board will consist of the President(s), Vice President(s), Secretary, Treasurer (s), Volunteer Coordinator(s), Teacher(s), Principal, Fund Raising Chair(s), Web Site Administrator and Room Parent Coordinator(s). All Board members volunteer to serve a one-year term per position. This term may be renewed by majority vote of the Board.
2. The terms of Board Members will begin at the beginning of each school year. In the March issue of the ***Rainbow Review***, applications for the Board for the next year will be solicited. Members will be voted on by the current Board from the volunteer pool. The current Board will make every effort to publish the names of the new Board by the end of May (in the ***Rainbow Review*** and the ORE PTO website) or no later than August 31 of the current year (on the ORE PTO website).
3. Decisions of the Board will be ratified by vote at a scheduled ORE PTO general meeting in which each member present of the ORE PTO has one vote, simply majority rules, and the presence of five (5) members constituting a quorum. Alternatively, decisions – excepting financial decisions involving more than \$200 - can be ratified via the ORE PTO e-mail listserv with the approval of a majority of responding members, including at least five (5) nominated/ appointed parent Board members PLUS one (1) teacher AND the principal. If these seven (7) board members do not concur with the majority of the responding members, the issue must be held over for the next general, in-person PTO meeting. All online votes require a minimum of three (3) business days before tallying for as wide a response as possible.
4. The President(s) of the Board shall be promoted from the prior year's Vice President(s) and will serve for one (1) year. Every effort should be made to select two people to serve as Co-Vice-Presidents. Past Presidents should be available for advice for one (1) year after their term has ended, to help ensure continuity of the ORE PTO.
5. Any vacancy on the Board will be filled by the Board by soliciting additional volunteers from members of the ORE PTO.

Article VI - Officers and their Duties

1. The President(s) shall preside at all meetings of the ORE PTO and of the Board and will be ex-officio members of all committees. The President(s) will appoint special committees and will perform other duties usually pertaining to the office. The President(s) shall provide a brief synopsis of each Board and general meeting for publication in the next ***Rainbow Review*** and periodically include budget and financial information.
2. The Vice-President(s) shall aid the President(s) and shall perform the duties of that office in absence of the President(s).

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

3. The Secretary will keep a correct record of all general meetings of the ORE PTO and the Board, and have custody of all records pertaining to the ORE PTO, except those of the Treasurer, conduct the correspondence of the ORE PTO and will send out all materials for upcoming meetings. Also, the Secretary shall ensure copies of the by-laws, the minutes of all meetings and budgets be kept in the ORE PTO filing cabinet for the purpose of historical continuity.
4. The Web Site Administrator is responsible for keeping the ORE website current and correct, according to the guidelines set by the ORE PTO, the ORE Staff and MMSD. The website is associated with the Orchard Ridge Community Club and communication between the groups should be maintained with respect to this website.
5. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys of the ORE PTO, keep accurate records of all receipts and expenditures, and shall pay those funds as prescribed by the budget or other expenditure as approved by general meetings of the ORE PTO. Any reimbursement request that exceeds the approved budget amount must first be referred to and approved by the Treasurer and President(s) if the variance is less than \$50 or by the next business meeting of the ORE PTO if greater than \$50 over the approved amount.

Article VII - Financial Guidelines

1. Fundraising will be organized each year with a specific dollar goal sufficient to cover all budgeted expenditures. A budget will be drawn up by the Board from the operating expense requests of the committees of the ORE PTO. The requests for the following year shall be submitted with the Board by May 15 and a preliminary budget be available for comment by committee chairs and members of ORE PTO by May 30. The Final Budget shall be approved by the first business meeting of the ORE PTO in the following school year.
2. Major or capital expenditures defined as expenditures greater than \$200 and are not operating expenses of a committee, are to be requested from the available funds after operating expenses are allocated in the budget process. These funds are to be requested with full financial details and explanation of need to a business meeting of the ORE PTO and can be approved by a simple majority vote. Alternatively, financial decisions involving less than \$200 can be ratified via the ORE PTO e-mail listserv with the approval of the majority of the responding members, including at least five (5) nominated/appointed parent Board members PLUS one (1) teacher AND the principal. If these seven (7) people do not concur with the majority of the responding members, the issue must be held over for the next general, in-person PTO meeting. All online votes require a minimum of three (3) business days before tallying for as wide a response as possible.
3. No moneys of the ORE PTO may be used for any purpose that does not support Article II of these by-laws.
4. Normally all accounts are paid monthly. The Treasurer can require up to seven (7) days notice for the urgent release of funds and drawing of a check.
5. Book Fair and Adopt-A-Book money will be kept in an account held by the ORE school secretary.
6. All accounts and financial records should be available for audit by an ORE PTO business meeting appointed auditor. Only one audit per year can be requested. The auditor could be a parent volunteer with a financial background.

Article VIII - Committees

1. Committees are the primary tools of the ORE PTO to perform its functions for the benefit of the children. These committees are established and appointed by the Board or the officers as necessary and will be responsible to the Board. A committee can be formed for a single event or for an on going activity.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

2. Committee Chairs will be selected in the spring of each year through a volunteer survey. Committee Members will be recruited through spring and fall volunteer surveys.
3. Each Committee Chair may make a budget request and proposal for the next year's activity by May 15.
4. A final report in writing will be submitted at the conclusion of the committee's work or at the last ORE PTO general meeting of the school year.
5. An Individual School Endowment Initiative Committee will be needed each year to plan for and monitor the ISEI endowment, reviewing and submitting grants to the fund. This Committee will report to the PTO to avoid overlap in the improvement efforts of the PTO and the Endowment Committee, and the Committee will have a separate financial account. This committee shall be comprised of a PTO Board representative, the principal, teacher(s), parents, and as ISEI point person.

Article IX - Parliamentary Authority

1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, revised, will govern the ORE PTO in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws.

Article X - Amendments

1. These by-laws may be amended at the regular meeting of the ORE PTO by a two-thirds vote of the members present and, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to all members present at least one month prior to the meeting. Publication in the ***Rainbow Review*** will constitute adequate notice.
2. A committee may be appointed to review and replace these by-laws only by a two-thirds majority vote at a regular general meeting of the ORE PTO.
3. After approval by the ORE PTO general meeting one amended copy will be sent to all officers, to the school and published in the ***Rainbow Review***.
4. A dated copy of these by-laws will be in the hands of each officer of the ORE PTO and in the school records. A master copy signed by all members present at approving ORE PTO general meeting will be held in the ORE PTO file cabinet.

Article XI - Dissolution

1. Upon dissolution or liquidation of the ORE PTO, all assets will be distributed to any legitimate successor organization (e.g., other "Parent-Teacher" organization to which the ORE PTO member might be expected to move to if the Orchard Ridge Elementary School were closed) or to the Madison Metropolitan School District if none can be identified. In the case of the school population being split up after Orchard Ridge Elementary School dissolution, the funds and assets shall be divided proportionally according to percentage of former ORE students attending the new schools.
2. In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the ORE PTO neither money held nor property owned by the ORE PTO will be distributed to any private individual.

These by-laws, consisting of five pages with eleven articles are signed by all present at the Orchard Ridge Elementary School Parents and Teachers Organization General Meeting on March 7, 2006.

The Best and Worst of “No Child Left Behind”

by Superintendent Art Rainwater February, 2006

One of the most significant occurrences in public education during my Superintendency has been the “No Child Left Behind Act” (NCLB) which was passed with the intention of changing and improving public education. The act is significant because it is the first time the federal government has inserted itself into determining the quality of K-12 education at the local level. NCLB captures both the best and worst of current educational thought.

The recognition of the importance in understanding our children’s learning needs through good academic assessment has been a major positive change. Educators have the best chance for success when we are using academic performance data about each individual child to inform instruction.

The use of student data to examine and then increase the performance of groups of children who are disproportionately not achieving proficiency has created much needed debate. This is particularly true regarding the performance of children of color and those who live in poverty.

Unfortunately, NCLB uses this very positive educational advance to create a punitive climate for change. Schools will not succeed because of the NCLB strategy of applying sanctions; schools will succeed when:

- the need for change is understood based on clear and convincing data,
- well planned staff development provides teachers with “best practice” skills and
- progress is monitored for improvement.

NCLB takes a punitive approach by identifying schools that are not making adequate yearly progress (AYP) and applying increasing levels of sanctions. There has now been substantial discussion that illustrates the almost mathematical

certainty that under the current system of identifying AYP schools, all of our nation’s schools will eventually be on the AYP list.

The positive approach of using student data to inform instruction is negated by the certainty of ultimately being unsuccessful. If there is no hope for final success, it is difficult to undertake the journey.

Also, we have learned that by conducting appropriate and valid educational research we can develop successful teaching strategies. This has been a positive change, bringing together the university researcher and the classroom teacher. This marriage of what has been two very separate parts of the educational universe holds great promise for the success of our children.

The current federal law takes a negative step by funding through grants the use of pre-selected teaching models based on a very narrow range of available research. This prescriptive approach discourages the kind of continuous improvement in educational thought and practice that has brought us so far in understanding the learning process.

It is clear that current research in a variety of fields will change our understanding of the learning process. Without the ability to react by creating new and different models of teaching based on this research we will be condemned to continually implementing outdated and questionably successful approaches.

Educators across the country understand the need for and have accepted the challenge of educating all of our children to high levels of performance. What’s needed for progress is not sanctions but continued research, increasingly better teaching methods and the encouragement and support of our communities as we strive to get better.