



Rainbow Review

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The Newsletter of
Orchard Ridge Elementary School

April 2006



From our Principal

Dear Families,
Orchard Ridge continues to be a very busy place as we plan for end of the year activities and prepare for next year. Staff will work hard to keep things as consistent as possible during these last weeks of school. The warm weather can make it difficult for students to focus on learning so keeping routines in place for as long as possible really helps things run more smoothly.

As reported in the minutes of the last PTO meeting, ORE will be closed this summer for construction along with Toki. We will be getting new ceilings, lights and some electrical upgrades. As we prepare for this as a staff, we will do our best to not interrupt the learning process for students. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

We have created our class configurations for next year based on the information we received from the district. Our plan includes three Kindergarten sections, two 1st Grades, two 2nd Grades, two 3rd Grades and four 4/5 classrooms. There may be changes to our configuration over the summer and early in the new school year as students register. Please fill out the Parent Input Form that went home earlier this

week and return it to your child's teacher or the office.

I would like to share some information with you on a change that will occur at ORE next year in regards to the Title 1 funding that we receive. The poverty rate at ORE is currently at 42% which allows us to changes how we use our Title 1 funds to support all students at ORE next year. Title 1 provides federal dollars to help supplement educational opportunities for children who live in high poverty areas. There are two types of programs: Targeted Assistance and Schoolwide.

A Targeted Assistance program is one in which individual students are targeted to receive Title 1 services. The Title 1 teacher(s) are responsible for providing extra services to the identified children. ORE currently operates a Targeted Assistance Program. A Title 1 school is eligible to become a schoolwide program when the poverty level, (determined by free and reduced lunch counts, AFDC, census or Medicaid) is at or above 40%. A schoolwide program is based on the knowledge that interventions will be more successful when they are implemented "schoolwide." A schoolwide program has more flexibility in the use of Title 1 funds and in the delivery of services. Staff

paid with Title 1 funds are free to work with all students in the building, for there are no students identified as "Title 1." The school works together to develop its curriculum and instruction to raise the achievement of all students.

* We are very excited about this change and look forward to working with you to continue to improve what we do at ORE for all students and families during the 2006-07 school year.

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Become a Parent Mentor Next Year!

There's nothing more frustrating than coming to a new place and not feeling welcome or having questions about what goes on. To make new, incoming ORE parents feel like they have an instant friend -- and to give them someone to touch base with next school year -- we'd like to start a program of Parent Mentors. We'll assign some mentors during Kindergarten Round-Up on May 22, and we'll assign others (for parents of older, new-to-ORE kids) during August's registration. A PTO representative will let you know who's been assigned to you then.

We don't anticipate a ton of contact throughout the year, but it'd be nice for incoming parents to feel they have someone special they can turn to if they wish.

Thanks so much, everyone, for helping to make ORE such a great community of families!



**CUT OFF AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER
OR DROP IN THE PTO MAILBOX IN THE OFFICE**

YES! I'd like to be a Parent Mentor to an incoming ORE parent.

YES! I'd be happy to be a mentor to more than one parent.

NAME: _____

YOUR CHILD'S NAME: _____

YOUR CHILD'S 2006-07 GRADE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

From the PTO

The school year is winding down, but the PTO is gearing up already for next year. We've set our calendar of events for next year, starting with a **PTO meeting on September 12 and the ice cream social on September 15.**

At our April 11th PTO meeting, we discussed next year's PTO budget, which will be finalized at the May 9th meeting. Every single parent and teacher is a member of the ORE PTO (no dues necessary, no need to sign up!) – so if you have any suggestions for how PTO money should be spent, talk to any of the PTO board members, contact Co-President Diane Harrington (DianeBH@sbcglobal.net or 271-7603), or drop a note in the PTO mailbox in the ORE office before May's meeting.

If you have any suggestions at all for the PTO, or are interested in volunteering for anything or joining a committee, call Diane or drop a note in the PTO mailbox. We look forward to working with you!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

As always, we're thrilled when any parents help out. This month, a hearty thanks to:

- Miranda McClenaghan for offering to be a Co-Vice President of the PTO for 2006-07.
- Val Jackson, for the amazing job she does each month on the Rainbow Review.
- Diane Harrington, Mike Stone, Syrus Soltani and Matt Silvern for planting grass seed in bare spots near the playground and making other landscape improvements.
- Gwen Stone, Ann O'Rourke, Kathy Statz and Sally Erck for starting a

Playground Committee to create a master plan for future improvements.

- Karen Northey, Lisa Veldran, Gretchen Olson and Miranda McClenaghan for forming a Fundraising Committee to look at possible fundraisers (and No-Fundraiser Fundraisers!) for 06-07.
- Diane Barrett for agreeing to be Co-Volunteer Coordinator next year.
- Pam White-Northey for graciously auditing the PTO books.
- Meredith Trahan for planning next year's Ice Cream Social.
- Val Jackson and Lori Henry for setting up next year's Book Fair.
- Gretchen Olson for planning 2007's Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon.
- Tara Romney for collecting Milk Caps and Cub Food receipts this year, Val Jackson for collecting Box Tops, and Elsy DeMars for collecting Campbell's labels. Thanks, too, to Amy Lemberger for taking over the Box Tops, Cub Foods and Milk Cap collections for 2006-07.
- Troy and Sara Guglielmina for being the parent liaisons for the Tile Mosaic Project, and Kathy Statz, Sierdje den Dass and Pam White-Northey for volunteering to photograph the project's installation.
- Lou Reynaldo for gearing up for next year's Lego League (for the whole school this time!).
- Kevi Storer-Disrud, Amy Zwaska, Maryam Soltani and Gwen Stone for becoming next year's Yearbook Committee.

Scrip News and Views

We are winding up our scrip year with just two more ordering months ahead. Our next two order due dates are Tuesdays May 2nd and May 30th. May 30th is our stock up month where we order for the rest of the summer. Last month, we earned \$447. Our total for this year is \$3,505! Wouldn't it be awesome if we could make \$5,000 in scrip this year?

Thanks again to the many parents who supported our Have a Heart campaign. Parents donated \$380.00 and we used \$142.00 of our scrip funds to purchase six DVD/VCR combination players for a total cost of \$552.00. What a difference we can all make by pitching in!

Anchor Bank Supports Opera for the Young in a Big Way!

We would like to pass on the great news that Anchor Bank, through its corporate office and local branch on Whitney Way, donated the entire \$695 cost of this year's Opera for the Young performance. Bryan Summ, the local branch manager, was instrumental in making the large donation happen. The Opera will be performing "The Barber of Seville" for all of our ORE kids on April 28th.

A tip of the hat to Anchor Bank for partnering with ORE to increase funds for cultural enrichment.

ORE PTO Family Fun Night: Arts and Crafts Event

(Rescheduled event from January 26, 2006)

Thursday, May 11, 2006
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Orchard Ridge Elementary All-Purpose Room

Families come and join the fun by creating a variety of crafts - bookmarks, puppets, bracelets and pinecone bird feeders. For more information contact Lisa Veldran, 271-0722. Hope to see you there!

It's Just Around the Corner!

Excitement is building for our upcoming Teacher Appreciation festivities during the first week in May! It's not too late to donate an item for our staff door prize bags. Or, let us do the shopping, and we will buy a gift or two in your name. Please contact Michele Hughes at 271-5324 if you would like to make a donation.

* **Next PTO Meeting** *
* **Tuesday May 9** *
* **6:00 to 8:00 pm** *
* **In the Teacher's Lounge.** *
* **We would love to see you there!** *

Orchard Ridge Elementary School Endowment Fund

The need for funding in every school is greater than ever before. Each year, teachers spend their own money to provide things for their students and there are many creative programs that are not developed nor implemented due to lack of funding; these range from innovative science projects to replacement musical instruments. The funds generated by the ORE Endowment Fund will allow our school to have funding for our specific needs. It will also give our school a vehicle for both requesting major contributions and managing them; we have not had this vehicle in the past.

Background information: The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools developed the Individual School Endowment Initiative, which is unique in the country. This initiative is designed to build an endowment fund for each of the 47 schools in the district. Through

the generosity of John Taylor and the Clay-Price Fund, each school has been offered a challenge grant of \$5,000. Schools need to raise \$5,000 toward the establishment of an endowment fund in order to earn the \$5,000 match and establish their \$10,000 Individual School Endowment Fund. As of January 2006, 39 schools have met the match and established endowment funds.

Update: **The Orchard Ridge Elementary Individual School Endowment Fund was established in December 2005.**

Through the generosity of ORE teachers and staff and the ORE PTO we were able to raise the \$5,000 to earn the \$5,000 match! The interest earned from the \$10,000 will be used to support creative and innovative initiatives and special projects that are not supported through the regular school budget. We will also be looking at ways to raise additional

funds for the ORE Endowment Fund. The more money we have in our fund the more interest money there will be for our teachers to utilize.

The ORE Grants Committee is currently comprised of: Lisa Veldran, Gretchen McPike, Matt Silvern (PTO Representative), Virginia Koberstein (2nd grade teacher), Oliver Perry (retired ORE teacher) and Principal Barb Dorn. This committee will supervise the disbursement of the funds that are available through an annual grant process starting in September 2007.

Note: Look for an opportunity at the end of the year to recognize your child's teacher, that special staff person, graduating 5th grader or an outstanding parent volunteer and benefit the ORE Endowment Fund all at the same time!

Scrip Dates:

Sent Home

April 28th

May 26th

Orders Due

May 2nd

May 30th

Pick-up

May 10th

June 7th



An Invitation for Interested Parents: Do you want to be a College for Kids Facilitator?

4 Week Course, June 12-July 7, 2006

This graduate level seminar provides qualified community members with the opportunity to work with talented and gifted elementary students who have enrolled in **College for Kids**. As a teacher-facilitator, you will have the opportunity to try out new ideas with a group of 10-12 students, work with University faculty and academic staff, and use the entire University campus as a classroom without grades or specific curriculum to follow. The first 25 participants enrolling in this graduate level seminar will receive 3 credits and a fee for service. Teacher facilitators that are enrolled in *CFK* are given a student spot for their 5th grade son or daughter, or their school can send an additional two students to *College for Kids*. **For more information, contact the College for Kids office at (608) 262-4650.**

Opera for the Young April 28th

Performing "The Barber of Seville"



All children at ORE will attend this fantastic performance. Thank you Anchor Bank for your support in bringing this great opportunity to our school!

Book Drive

**Junior Girl Scout Troop #590
Sponsoring a Book Drive to Benefit
Allied Drive Safe Haven Program on
Friday, May 19, 2006**

"At a giveaway of donated used books last summer, the kids were "enthralled" to each take home two books...The kids didn't seem to have access to a ton of books at home," Schneider said, "They're very hungry for more opportunities to get their hands on things." - excerpt from The Capital Times article "Hungry to Read, But There's No Library, Not Even Bookmobile Comes To Allied Drive" 3/10/06

Junior Girl Scout Troop #590 will be sponsoring a book drive on Friday, May 19 immediately following the end of school that day.

The Girl Scouts will be located **on the ORE playground** and will collect donated books. The Allied Drive Safe Haven staff is particularly interested in picture books and beginning-to-read books, but will gladly accept any and all contributions.

Junior Girl Scout Troop #590

Madeline Cook-Silvern

Jaclyn Jensen

Rachel Kornetsky

Christina Plunkett

Anna Jensen

Lily Veldran

Emily Vermeulen

Madeline Vogel

Lisa Veldran, Troop Leader, 271-0722



Madison's 2006—2007 School Year Calendar

September 2006

- 1 Preparation and in-service day for ALL members of the teaching staff
- 4 Schools closed for Labor Day
- 5 SCHOOLS OPEN - Elementary Only -- Early Release @ 1:00 or 1:45 p.m.
Beginning of 1st Quarter & 1st Semester
- 6 Elementary Only - Early Release for Elementary Only @ 1:00 or 1:45 p.m.
- 26 Staff Development, No School

October

26-27 Schools closed for WEAC Convention

November

- 8 End of 1st Quarter (44 days)
- 9 Middle & High Schools Staff Development - Early Release - La Follette @ 12:45 p.m., other High Schools @ 12:30 p.m. & Middle Schools @ 11:40 a.m. with Spring Harbor & Wright @ 11:30 a.m.
Beginning of 2nd Quarter
- 16 Parent/Teacher Conferences, Elem/Middle: No School High Schools: Early Release @ 12:30 p.m.
- 17 Parent/Teacher Conferences – Middle & High Schools – Closed – except La Follette
- 23-24 Schools closed for Thanksgiving

December

25 – Jan. 5 Schools closed for Winter Break

January 2007

- 8 Schools Reopen
- 15 Schools closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 26 K-12 Schools - Early Release – Grade Reporting - Elementary @ 10:45 or 11:30 a.m., High Schools @ 12:30 p.m., & Middle Schools @ 11:40 a.m., with Spring Harbor & Wright @ 11:30 a.m.
End of 2nd Quarter (44 days) & 1st Semester (88 days)
- 29 Beginning of 3rd Quarter & 2nd Semester

February

- 6 K-12 Staff Development – Early Release - Elementary @ 10:45 or 11:30 a.m., High Schools @ 12:30 p.m., & Middle Schools @ 11:40 a.m., with Spring Harbor & Wright @ 11:30 a.m.
- 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences – Middle Schools Closed -- La Follette – Early Release
- 23 Schools closed for SWEIO Convention

March

- 5 District-wide Kindergarten registration day for 2007-2008 school year
- 19 Middle & High Schools Staff Development – Early Release - High Schools @ 12:30 p.m., & Middle Schools @ 11:40 a.m., with Spring Harbor & Wright @ 11:30 a.m.
- 30 End of 3rd Quarter (44 days) K-5 Early Release for Grade Reporting 10:45 or 11:30 a.m.

April

- 2-9 Schools closed for SPRING BREAK
- 10 Schools Reopen
- 30 K-12 Staff Development, Regular Monday Release - Elementary @ 1:00 or 1:45 p.m., High Schools @ 12:30 p.m., & Middle Schools @ 11:40 a.m., with Spring Harbor & Wright @ 11:30 a.m.

May

28 Schools closed for observance of Memorial Day

June

- 15 Last day of school – Morning Early Release
End of 4th Quarter (48 days) & 2nd Semester (92 days)



MSCR SUMMER PROGRAMS

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS 2006

Outdoor Day Camps – for children entering 2nd – 5th grade. Includes crafts, cookouts, campfires, hiking, fishing, beach swimming, field trips and more. One-week sessions run June 19 – August 18, 8 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday. \$95 per session. For an additional fee busing is provided. Camps take place at Lake Farm Park, 3101 Lake Farm Rd, and Marshall Park, 2101 Allen Blvd. Call 204-3021.

Super Center Arts Camp – for children entering 1st – 5th grade. Camp has an arts emphasis, including 2 and 3 dimensional visual arts, creative drama and music. One-week sessions with special themes. Camps run June 19 - August 25, 8 – 4 pm with extended day option available for additional cost. \$128 per session. Takes place at Hoyt Building, and Kennedy and Muir Elementary Schools. Call 204-3021.

Kids Kamp – for children entering grades 1 – 5, Camp features arts, games, dramatic play, movies, water activities, nature and field trips. Weekly sessions run June 19 - August 25, Monday – Friday, 9 – 4 pm with an extended day option. \$100 per session. Takes place at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Call 245-3669.

Soccer Day Camps - one week sessions, June 19 - August 25 for ages 3 - grade 8. The camps are at a variety of locations. Cost ranges from \$25-\$98. Please call 204-4581.

Arts & Enrichment – ballet, tap for boys, dance combo, drawing, knitting, weaving and a variety of pottery classes and workshops. Please call 204-3021.

Adventure – includes kayak day camps, canoe lessons, airplane rides, rock climbing, horseback riding, sailing and windsurfing. Please call 204-3025.

Sports – tennis lessons at a variety of locations, youth t-ball for children entering grades K-1, coach pitch for children entering 2-3, fast pitch for girls entering 4-5 grades, cheerleading camps and wrestling camps. Call 204-3026.

Swimming – youth lessons at LaFollette, Memorial and West High Schools and Lapham Elementary. ***New this year*** – MSCR offers lessons at the new Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Swimming Pool. Lessons also available at the Goodman Aquatic Center, Verona. Call 204-3025.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center – classes include mixed media art, pottery, basketball clinic, pee wee sports club and volleyball camp.

MSCR offers many recreation programs for all ages at affordable prices. Many programs have online registration. Please visit EZ-REG at www.mschr.org. Please call 204-3000 or stop by MSCR at 3802 Regent Street for more information.

The continuous improvement of teaching

by Superintendent Art Rainwater

SEE DICK RUN. SEE JANE RUN. SEE SPOT RUN. These are the first sentences that were used to teach most of my generation to read. This approach worked for me and many others. But, it didn't work for everyone.

The stakes were much lower then. There were good family-supporting jobs for people with minimal reading ability, and for high school dropouts with a strong work ethic. Those days are long gone.

If today's children are to be successful as adults they must have good reading and math skills. They must be technology savvy, critical thinkers and problem solvers. When I graduated from college those skills got you the best jobs. Today, these skills are necessary to get any job.

K-12 education is now challenged to meet these new demands for high levels of education for everyone - not just some. We are all learning how to make this a reality. New educational research, from neuroscience to sociology, continues to better define how children learn. The academic researcher and the classroom teacher

collaborating together to apply the research to teaching individual children has moved us forward toward providing appropriate education for every child.

However, we are only at the beginning of the changes that will occur in our understanding of how children learn. The partnership between basic research and practice will continue to improve our teaching and children's learning.

The ever-changing and improving landscape of education places the heaviest burden on the classroom teacher. The changes that affect children can only be made at the classroom level. "Run, Spot, run" was easy. But, because every child in a teacher's class is different the teacher can't teach in only one way if our goal is that they all learn.

The teacher must continually determine where each student is in his or her learning and why he or she is there, and then use a variety of teaching methods to enable that student to be successful.

While teachers are using this complex approach to ensuring that everyone is

learning, they are also being asked to continually revise what they are doing and change their practice. Just as professional firefighters, doctors, lawyers, nurses, and accountants are learning new ways to improve in their profession, teachers are learning new ways of practicing the profession of teaching.

It is easy to write about these changes. It is much more difficult and demanding to be the teacher who is charged with continually changing the fundamental way instruction is delivered. Children arrive at school each day to learn and can't be placed on hold while the teacher changes his/her approach. The changes have to occur while the student is engaging in daily learning.

Despite these challenges, the MMSD is blessed with outstanding teachers who are willing to stay on this moving train of educational change. They study, develop new methodologies, share with each other and keep the needs of children foremost. Through their commitment to all children, they are the people who are ensuring the future for the next generation of citizens.

Changes to Special Education Law – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Special education law gives students with disabilities the right to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. The law was first passed in 1975 and has been modified several times. The most recent version is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004. The questions and answers below will explain some of the continuing practices in the law and how these were changed in 2004. The changes are in bold print.

How does a student become eligible to receive special education services?

If a student is having difficulty in school, the school staff try a variety of strategies to help the student achieve. If these strategies are not successful, the school or parents may request a special education evaluation. Parents are a very important part of the evaluation process to determine if their child has a disability and needs special education. Before a student can receive special education services, the parent must agree in writing.

If a student begins to receive special education services, does this mean the student will always receive special education services?

Reevaluations are completed to reestablish a student's need for special education. Reevaluations typically happen every three years. **Under IDEA 2004, the school district and parent may agree that a reevaluation is not necessary if there is already evidence available that supports the student's continuing need for special education.**

Requests from a parent or a staff member to conduct a reevaluation more than once a year must be approved by a special education coordinator.

How are special education services decided for a student with a disability?

Each year, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is created for the student. The IEP is a legal document that describes the student's strengths, needs and goals for the upcoming year. The IEP is created by a team that includes at a minimum the parent, a

special education teacher and regular education teacher. **Under IDEA 2004, the regular education teacher may be excused from an IEP team meeting under certain circumstances. However, the parent must agree in writing that the regular education teacher does not need to attend.**

Can changes be made to an IEP more than once a year?

An IEP can be changed throughout the year to meet the needs of the student. In some situations, an IEP can be changed only if the IEP team meets to discuss and develop the changes. **Under IDEA 2004, an existing IEP can be changed without convening an IEP team meeting in limited situations. Parents must agree to change the IEP without a meeting and must receive copies of the changes to the IEP.**

How does the IEP help students prepare for life after high school?

When students turn 14 years of age, the IEP team

Continued on next page...

Changes to Special Ed Law *continued from previous page...*

with input from the student, begins to plan for the student's life after high school such as going to college, seeking a job or joining the military. The student's individualized program is based on his/her strengths, interests and preferences.

Under IDEA 2004, the importance of preparing students for life after high school has been emphasized and expanded.

For students who are 16 years of age or older, each year the IEP team must assess a student's needs related to training, education, employment and where appropriate, independent living. This "transition assessment" helps the student and his or her

family develop and gradually refine goals for what the student would like to achieve after high school.

For students in their last year of school, the IEP team must now develop a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, with recommendations to assist in meeting the student's post high school goals.

Will there be changes in the future for special education?

Next summer or fall, the federal government is expected to issue rules and regulations that will clarify the provisions of IDEA 2004. Based on these rules and regulations, the Madison school district will update

its procedures and forms. The MMSD Department of Educational Services will provide information on revisions to special education procedures to staff and parents when finalized.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) provides information on the IDEA 2004 at its website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/idea.html>
- Written questions, suggestions or comments can be directed to Jack Jorgensen, Executive Director, Department of Educational Services, via email to: mamitchell@madison.k

Mark Your Calendar!

Friday April 28	Opera for the Young: "The Barber of Seville"
May 1- May 5	Teacher Appreciation Week
Tuesday May 2	Scrip Orders Due
Tuesday May 9	PTO Meeting, 6:00 to 8:00
Thursday May 11	Family Fun Night: Arts and Crafts Event, 6:30 - 7:30
Friday May 12	Girl Scout Book Drive, after school on the playground

