

ORCA K-8 SCHOOL



Principal Tonie

September 15, 2017

WE ALL BELONG!

EVENTS

NEWS

UPDATES

Hello Orca Community,

Each morning as I greet the students, I am reminded of a quote by Karen Hegeman, “Schools are like a jigsaw puzzle”. Each edged piece of the puzzle interlocks with two others to form the puzzle’s framework, giving structure, boundary and support to the puzzle as a whole. Each piece has a unique design and cut that ensures just the right place to fit within the puzzle. Every morning, staff members form the edge pieces that interlock to create a safe environment and give support not only to each other, but to insure the well-being of the Orca community as a whole. Daily, their objective for every student is to provide the “right space” to fit safely and securely. The staff members are strength and stability, and like, the edge pieces, they do not stand alone, but are securely connect in this responsibility; there are also others who support and assist, ensuring that every student has a place.”

As the principal, I visit classrooms to observe teaching and students learning in the classrooms. I know the instructional skills of every teacher, because I have the opportunity to observe various aspects of their teaching regularly. I honestly could not tell you who the very best teacher in the school is, because teaching is made of hundreds of subskills and no one person is the best in all of them. What I can say definitively is that every staff member is skilled in what they are doing.

In order to reach greatness, we cannot stand-alone. WE must stand together in our efforts to strive for greatness, to unite in educating all of our children. We must build a foundation of trust, commitment, dependence and ultimately independence for our students. Our goal is to make learning so exciting that students will experience the joy of discovering new ideas and building new skills, thereby developing a love of learning that will create lifelong learners. We are deeply committed to providing a place, an environment and the tools in which this can happen.

Tonie



Donte Felder, Head Teacher

Positive energy and good vibes continue to flow through the halls of Orca.

I am happy and excited to see the vision and values alive and well in the classroom. This week we continued to explore one of our main pillars and values of making sure everyone feels they "belong" to the Orca community. We are teaching students, staff and parents to use words of encouragement and display acts of kindness that model the sort of citizenship that contributes to creating a cohesive and caring community.

This fall I am setting up tours/observational walks for parents, teachers, and students to assess whether we are meeting these standards and it could be an ideal way to check in with our school culture to make it healthy, vibrant, and loving.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Best,

Donte



Ian Reid, Safety News

It's great to be back at Orca K-8 for another exciting school year. Summer was a blast, but it's time to get back to work. Let this be your best year ever. May happiness be a part of everything you do. Be the best learner and the best person you can be. With that in mind, welcome back to Orca K-8. And for all you new students, welcome to Orca K-8 where smiles abound and kindness is always close by. As always, we want to make sure that everyone is safe and secure here at Orca K-8. This would be a good time to review some safety concerns. **Please do not park in the Bus Loading Zone or the circle driveway.** Any vehicles parked in those areas will be asked to leave. The circle driveway is for busses, taxis, and emergency vehicles only. Unfortunately, we have already had some parents park in the middle of the street on 46th and pick up their children. This is unsafe, so please find a safe place to pick up your children. Also please don't park in the NO PARKING ZONE in the front of the school or in the crosswalks. Anything we can do to keep your child safe is our #1 goal.

It's great to see everybody. Let's have an awesome and safe year. Together!

News from Krista Marceron, Parent Volunteer Coordinator

Next **Tuesday, September 16th, 5-7pm is the BBQ** and I need your help. We have a small but mighty crew so far but I could really use folks to help with set up and grilling. Please encourage others to volunteer. **Contact Krista: krispicmar@gmail.com**

Also remember to return your District Information and PTSA Packets that went home with your child(ren).



Let's make every Friday an Orca Sprit Day! Wear your Orca t-shirts or the Orca colors!

Don't have a t-shirt? No problem! T-shirts will be sold at the Back to School BBQ for **\$15.00** each. Youth & Adult sizes are available.

Curriculum Night, Thursday, October 12, 2017

The evening will begin in the cafeteria. *Details will be communicated next week.*

What J Sallay says about Why You Should Attend Curriculum Night:

See firsthand what students will be learning, how they'll be learning and what is expected of them. Get a glimpse of the timetable, routine and curriculum breakdown of what will be covered throughout the year. This will also include highlights, field trips, and other topics students will look forward to and most importantly, the expectations for the grade.

Get familiar with your child's learning environment. Presentations tend to be in the classroom that your child will learn in throughout the year. This is an opportunity to sit in their seat, literally! Get a feel for their learning environment.

Start one-on-one dialogue with the teacher. Although not the time to have an individual teacher-parent conference (*be sure to sign up for a conference*), you can discuss certain important tidbits of information with the teacher and vice versa. It's a time to connect and get a sense of one another and begin the relationship.

Learn about the teacher's communication strategy. Teachers will explain how they plan to interact with students and parents throughout the year, whether by letters, emails, agendas, or blogs. It's also an opportunity to give your e-mail to the teacher if there is a class list.

Be informed on school policies. Use this time to get information on classroom expectations & routines as well as school rules & expectations (if not sure). You can also touch base with the Principal and Head Teacher.

Find out how to get involved and volunteer. If you're interested in volunteering, use this evening as a chance to learn how to become involved in your child's school ... Ask about the PTSA and get involved in your child's school even in a small way. Contact parent volunteer coordinator, Krista Marceron.

Send your child a message that you care ... and the teacher is working with you. This may be the most important reason to attend. You'll show your child that you are interested in their experiences as a student and in what they are learning. (i.e., you're both on the same page).

September 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
 <p>Back to School BBQ</p>			<p>Tuesday September 15th 5-7pm Orca T-shirts for Sale! \$15</p>		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			<p>First Day of School</p>			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<p>Early Dismissal 2:10pm</p>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<p>BLT MEETING</p>	<p>All School Bar-B-Q 5-7pm</p>	<p>Early Dismissal 2:10pm</p>			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			<p>Early Dismissal 2:10pm</p>			