

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS OCTOBER 2001

PRINCIPAL'S INFORMATION

I apologize for the fact that this newsletter will be late getting to your homes. Our computer staff, Paul Evans, James Jones, and Pete Vraspir, have been battling the NIMBA virus which attacked our computers at the same time as we expected to be completing this newsletter. The virus has disrupted email, printing, and other network services as well as interfered with creating and saving documents on individual computers.

Our computer staff had already been repairing problems with our email server program before the virus attacked, so if you have tried to email staff members within the last few weeks, you may not have gotten a reply due to email and virus problems. Hopefully, all will be back up and working soon. Fortunately, we are a school and our business is people not technology focused. We can operate quite successfully with a very low level of technology and have been relearning how we used to communicate in the time before email which works but is not quite as efficient. For your reference, our email addresses are 1st initial and then last name as one word @orcas.k12.wa.us For example mine is: bkline@orcas.k12.wa.us

As Nancy Wrightsman reports in the Counselor Section, October and November are months with lots of testing to help students make decisions about their post high school plans. Students will have the opportunity to take the PLAN, the PSAT, the SAT, the ACT, and the ASVAB depending on their interests and grade level. If you have questions about any of these tests, you may want to call and discuss these with her.

This is the time that many seniors should be thinking of their post high school plans. A quick and unofficial survey of seniors finds that only a few of them have taken serious steps to make their goals a reality. Seniors and juniors and their parents are invited to the Post Secondary Night on October 9th that Nancy Wrightsman describes in the Counselor Section. Parents may want to attend that evening and may also want to make an appointment to discuss options. Nancy has prepared junior and senior calendar of planning events to help parents and students stay on track with post high school planning.

SAFETY CONCERN

If you drive your student to school, please drive into the high school parking lot to drop him/her off. There is a turnaround drive in that parking lot that enables parents to drop their student off right in front of the middle and high school buildings. Dropping students off at the stop sign in front of the elementary is not safe because they have to cross the street in the midst of morning traffic. Not only are a number of parents trying to maneuver at that time, but also there are new high school drivers who are trying to thread their way through the parents and students to get to their high school classes on time. If we can, at least, move middle and high school students into the parking lot for drop off, we can eliminate some of the congestion while providing a safe drop off for our students.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As we begin to play traditional and non-traditional rivals at games both at middle and at high school, please reinforce with your students that one of our main goals in our sports program is teaching good sportsmanship. Whether parents and students are fans or players, we ask that all people who are present demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during and after a game. That means that fans and players are polite and pleasant to all fans and players whether we win or loose the game. When all adults help to reinforce these expectations at every game, students are more likely to understand and practice good sportsmanship.

SNOW SPORT CLUB SWAP MEET

Snow Sport Club is hosting a gear and clothing swap meet in the high school commons on Wednesday,

October 24th at 6:30PM. Come and participate in an exchange of clothes and snow gear. Questions? Call Victoria Parker at 376-2996 or 4985.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Come to the high school commons on Wednesday, October 10th at 7PM to hear about semester or yearlong foreign exchange opportunities. The American Field Service (AFS) Student exchange program will be described by its county representative and interviewer, Krispi Straude. She will discuss and answer questions about how to apply, participating countries, times of departure and scholarship information. Questions? Ask Victoria Parker at 376-2996 or 4985.

PHOTO RETAKES

School photographers will be here on October 25th for any students who were not able to have their photo taken in September. Also, any student who ordered photos but did not like the photo, may have another photo taken on October 25th.

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS FOR APPLIED PHYSICS

If you have scrap steel that you would like to donate to the Applied Physics class, please call Dennis McKinney at 376-2287. Also, the class is looking for "reasonable" welding projects. Thanks - Dennis McKinney

OIEF DIRECTORY COMING TO YOUR HOMES AGAIN!

OIEF will again "construct" a directory of all students and their parents names, phones and addresses. If parents do NOT wish to be included, please call the school office(376-2287) as soon as possible so that we do not include your family's information.

THANK YOU

Thank you Mandy Nigretto, Shelley Curtis and Dave Zoeller for helping with a Lice Check in the Middle School.

Key Club Begins Third Year at OHS

An enthusiastic group of new members has joined Key Club with an interest in serving the community and school. **Key Club International** is a service organization for high school students under the sponsorship and support of our local Kiwanis Club. This marks the start of the third year of **Orcas Island High School's Chapter of Key Club**. Last year our 38 members participated in over 36 service projects (some of them in affiliation with 20 other community groups) and heard from 15 guest speakers at weekly meetings.

One of our members, **Mallory Dimich**, attended the International Key Club Convention in Washington D.C. in July, with the generous support and sponsorship of our local **Kiwanis Club, Key Club**, and the **Chamber of Commerce**.

Eighteen club members have signed up for the **Teen Tutoring** program. The program, now entering its third year, is sponsored by the **Family Resource Center**. Key Club members have been involved from the beginning, with several of our charter members signed up to participate for the third consecutive year. Teen Tutors volunteer two lunch periods a week to work with elementary students. Key Club members have also signed up to do volunteer babysitting during parenting classes sponsored by the **Orcas Island Prevention Partnership**. These two projects reflect **Key Club International's Major Emphasis Theme: "Our Children, Our Future."**

Representing students on the **Library Redesign Committee**, Key Club members **Marriah Vinson, Katie Wrightsman, Travis Anderson, Elizabeth Nelson, Kathleen Kline**, and **Courtney Breslauer** met last week with new librarian Terry Hopkins to provide input and suggestions for the school library upgrade.

Membership in Key Club is open to all students with an interest in serving their school and community. Members are expected to contribute 52 hours per year in service. Annual dues are \$10. Following the Oct. 2nd meeting at 12:30, meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 12:50 in room 609. New members are welcome.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

We are excited to be in the library at this moment in time! The OIEF is making it possible for us to improve the facility, the technology, and the collection! We are looking at replacing the windows, having a spanking new paint job, possibly replacing the carpeting, purchasing some comfortable new furniture, and adding computers and some exciting new technology. In addition, we will be adding extensively to the collection of books, K-12, to reflect student interests, curriculum, and quality literature. Wow! We want our library to be a comfortable and inviting place where kids can read, reflect, study, and conduct research.

If you'd like to be involved, we are delighted! We need volunteers to help with processing books, reading to young children, and aiding in the multitude of tasks which enter our day. We also need folks who would like to donate needed items and contribute works of art (both two-dimensional and three-dimensional). We want our library facility to reflect our beautiful island and our wonderful kids.

Specifically, we need: a wooden rocking chair (John Kennedy style), lamps in good working condition, a wooden sign we could hang outside the library reading "Orcas School Library", cushions, and a special wooden structure for reading in the primary area. (Friday Harbor Elementary has a whale, where kids can sit and read. Perhaps we could have a ????)

Please come in to see us. We are excited about doing the best job possible for our kids. The library is open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and we'll be there!

Terry Hopkins
Julia Swanland

Parent Class Meetings - Making Connections With Other Parents

At the request of parents, parent class meetings will be offered this fall. Sponsored by Orcas Island Prevention Partnership and the Orcas Island School District, these meetings provide a time for parents to connect and talk about the joys and challenges of parenting teens. Parents identify a broad range of topics they are interested in and share lots of great parenting ideas that they find helpful for their families. Some of the topics discussed last year were social cliques, rudeness and language, friendships, talking on the phone, privacy, supporting tolerance and openness to differences, class parties, chaperoning, driving, preparing for senior year, overnight slumber parties, the Internet, and media.

Parents reported that they felt more comfortable talking with other parents about a range of issues because of connecting at the parent class meetings. Also, parents felt better about picking up the phone and checking on their student's social plans at another child's home.

The middle school years are now recognized as a danger zone for first drug and alcohol experimentation, and peers are highly influential at this stage of development. Parents do play a very important role in

preventing drug and alcohol experimentation. They can talk with their children about the physical and emotional risks of drugs and alcohol, maintain clear and consistent family rules, and provide close parental supervision. Knowing that parents are going to be home when your child visits and that they support your key rules is important.

Parents are encouraged to personally invite a new parent or someone they know who was unable to attend last year so that parent networking can expand. The meetings are:

7th Grade Class Meeting - Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 PM - Lynn Perry's Classroom

8th Grade Class Meeting – November 6th – Kathi Anderson's classroom

9th, 10th, and 11th grade – November 13th.

For more information, contact Orcas Island Prevention Partnership at 376-5259.

Congratulations for Washington State Award

The Orcas High School Viking Voice and Shanda Smith, a junior at Orcas High School and co-editor of the Viking Voice, have received the Washington State Exemplary Substance Abuse Prevention Media Award. Shanda developed and wrote three informative articles under her Health Column on addiction, body image for males, and tobacco. The two page special on Tobacco was very thorough and effective with great graphics, information on health effects, the challenges of "kicking the habit," and the problems with secondhand smoke inhalation. Shanda will be presented this award by WA Lt. Governor Brad Owen at the WA State Prevention Summit, October 25.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NOTICE

The Orcas Island School District's **DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION** serves people with disabilities from birth to age 21.

If you suspect your or your child may have a disability, please call the District Office at 376-2284.

