

 *December / January* 

Newsletter



News from Orcas Island School District



Dates

December 1st – 3rd
December 4th

Elementary Parent Conferences (No school K-6)
Surplus Sale from 10 – 1

December 4th
December 4th
December 7th – 9th
December 9th
December 14th
December 14th
December 16th
December 17th
Dec 18 – Jan 2nd
December 23rd
January 3rd
January 6th

OASIS Commencement at 2PM
Deer Harbor Santa Ship at 10:00am.
PTSA/Library Book Fair
MS/HS Concert Thursday at 6:30PM
Math Curriculum Meeting
Moodle Training
Elementary Winter Concert at 6:30PM
High School Holiday Luncheon
Winter Break
School Board Meeting at 5:30PM
Return to School
Senior Parent Meeting

January 7 th	Staff Holiday Party
January 14 th	Temperance and Good Citizen Day
January 17 th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 21 st	PTSA Movie Night
January 28 th	End of 1 st Semester
January 27 th	School Board Meeting at 5:30PM



Superintendent / Principal

Information

The members of the Orcas Island Board of Directors and I are working on plans to make required repairs to the school buildings. We have just received notice of a \$460,000 energy grant award to repair/replace the HVAC and plumbing in the elementary school. This grant requires us to commit to matching grants that would bring the total funds to \$1,700,000 to assure replacement/repair of the HVAC and plumbing in the elementary school.

These funds will not complete all of the required work on the elementary school which includes new roofing and flooring as well as repairs to the brick and concrete on the outside of the building. However, this grant and matching funds would provide immediately required improvements to air, water and heat in the building. To match the grant, we will be looking at various possibilities including local grant and donations, state and other loan programs, and voted and non voted bonds or levies. For more information on planning for the district see Board Retreat article below.

The December holidays are fast approaching and when we return in January there will be only a few weeks before the end of the 2nd quarter/1st semester on January 22nd.

Many of the seniors who are planning to attend a four year college have completed and sent in their applications or will do so within the next few weeks. Many of those heading for two year schools have decided on which school and which program or are seriously shopping for a school and program that interests them. The Navigation 101 software

includes an excellent school search engine as well as information about financial aide and scholarships. These tools should help students and parents make informed decisions about post high school possibilities.

If you are the parent of a senior, remember that you will need to complete the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) form by the end of January or as close to that as possible. If you have questions, or need help, please call our counselor, Nancy Wrightsman.

All students, no matter their grade will be leaving high school faster than we may think. Starting early to collect information and to think about post high school options, usually makes the required decisions a bit easier when the time comes.

If you have the opportunity, you might consider a visit to the campus of a two or four year college or a technical school over the holidays. Even a drive through or past the University of Washington or Western Washington University or Whatcom or Skagit or whatever school you are around, can remind students of what options exist and get them thinking about a future past high school. Call and/or come talk if you need/want some further direction. Time passes swiftly and sooner then seems possible, your student will be a senior.

Enjoy the holiday and the time that you have with your student(s).

**All of us wish you and your families a happy
and safe holiday season.**



Surplus Sale

On Saturday, December 4th from 10am to 1pm, all are invited to come to the school cafeteria and purchase various items that the district has declared surplus. These include some textbooks and technology, including computers, that are past their usefulness to the district.



Portable Classrooms Coming to Campus

Within the next few months, you will see two portable classrooms set up on school property. The two classrooms will most likely be placed behind the old gym where there is flat space and easy access to power and to the buildings. Students using these classrooms are expected to come out of classrooms in the 1980's buildings which include the middle school, library, cafeteria, music room, and shop. As you know, the 1980's buildings are both expensive and difficult to heat and maintain. In addition, they do not meet the current standards for earthquake safety. Classrooms that we vacate will be used for storage.

We were not actually shopping for portable classrooms, but took advantage of the offer of free classrooms from our Plant Maintenance Consortium which works out of Washington State University. The Renton School District is also a member of the consortium and had two classrooms free to a member school who would take them away.



Board Retreat

The Orcas Island Board of Directors held a retreat on Tuesday, November 16th in the school library. Topics covered in the retreat included OASIS, particularly OASIS K-8, district curriculum, technology and maintenance and facilities planning. The discussions in each topic area were interesting and the outcome was a set of district goals that will be further discussed and adopted at the November board meeting.

Under facilities planning, we talked about working with staff, parents and community members to create a Comprehensive Facilities Plan. This plan would guide facilities work

over the next few years. We discussed working on the plan through a series of community meetings which would begin in the new year.



Navigation 101

Navigation 101 is the advisory program that we have been using at the high school. One component of the program is student led conferences and we are finishing up the senior student led conferences in early December. Parents have been very positive about these opportunities to listen and interact with their student about planning for high school completion and their plans for after high school. For our next step, we are planning to do student led conferences with juniors in March and/or April.

All students have begun working on their online lessons in Navigation 101. This is new software and they have not yet developed parent logons and passwords. However, if your student is willing to share his/her logon and password with you, you can go in and see the lessons and the beginnings of his/her portfolio.

The site is found at: <http://www.nav101.com/login> And it will soon be a link on the school web site.



Plan and Psat

In October the 10th graders took the PLAN test and the 11th graders took the PSAT test. The PLAN is the pre-ACT test and the PSAT is the pre-SAT test which are the two tests that are used as a part of four year college requirements. The school offers these tests to 10th and 11th graders as a part of our guidance program to help students gather information to help them to make a good post high school choice.

The results of these tests are expected at school soon and will be given to students in their Navigation 101 advisory classes. Juniors will enter their PSAT scores into their portfolios online at the Navigation 101 site: <http://www.nav101.com/login> .

You should expect to see these results coming home before the holiday break. If you do not get a copy from your student, you are welcome to call the school office to ask for another copy. If you would like to have some assistance in understanding these test scores, please call to make an appointment with our school counselor, Nancy Wrightsman.



Digital Learning Department

Many of you were using the Digital Learning Commons as parent and student resource for the last several years. The Digital Learning Commons has moved to OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) and is now called the Digital Learning Department. You will find a link to their new site at our school website: www.orcasislandschools.org

Parents and students can find many valuable resources including Net Trekker, Grolier Encyclopedia, SIRS and Facts on File. These are all excellent research and information tools for parents and students.

Net Trekker: netTrekker d.i. helps you surf the Web more effectively. Each web resource has been reviewed and rated by teachers and librarians. You can access K-12 websites that feature lesson plans, learning activities, downloadable software, and more. netTrekker d.i. also supports differentiated instruction with standards-based online resources, organized by readability level.

Students can search netTrekker for relevant and safe websites on a number of subjects.

Grolier Online: Grolier features online encyclopedias for K-12. You can access resources for teaching the news, search for articles by Lexile Level, and browse lesson plans that feature Grolier materials and are aligned to Washington state standards.

Students can use Grolier to find concise factual information and to gain general background knowledge. Click on the Resources tab above for quick links to additional tools for teachers.

SIRS: SIRS databases link to primary sources, such as newspaper and magazine articles, for K-8 and 9-12. You can also access resources that are aligned to Washington state standards and ranked by Lexile Level.

Students can safely do research and gain a balanced view of controversial issues for papers and debates. SIRS includes tools to help students get started on research and to bring projects to completion.

Facts on File: Facts on File news digests summarize major news from 1940 to the present. You can also access a variety of materials to support your teaching.

Students can safely research contemporary news, issues, and events as well as science in the news.



Check Out the Student Announcements Online

If you would like to read about what is happening at school, you are invited to read the Student Announcements which are posted online at the district web site, www.orcaslandschools.org You will find the Student Announcements for each week posted.

These announcements contain information about activities for each week, reminders of scholarship opportunities, some due dates, birthdays, special time schedules, etc. These are the same announcements that are read to the students at first period each Monday and posted in the commons area and in classrooms each week. These are more about high school than middle school but many middle school parents enjoy the information as well.



High School Holiday Luncheon

Another wonderful High School Holiday Luncheon is once again being planned at Orcas Island High School. On December 17th at about 1PM high school students will gather together as a community to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

High School ASB officers plan the event and will purchase turkeys and vegetarian lasagna as main dishes. Each class is assigned a category of food to bring: usually salads, desserts, breads or potatoes. If a student forgets or does not have the assigned dish to bring, anything that can be eaten is welcome. Teachers will serve the food as the classes move down the tables in the downstairs hallway. Teachers are always careful to save dishes for the last classes to come through which are the sophomores and freshmen. Somehow, there is always enough for everyone to eat and everyone seems to have a great time.



High School Classes for 2ND Semester

If you have not already done so, it is time to check high school students' schedules for 2nd semester which begins on January 31st. A number of students have already been in to move around a class or to recheck their five year plans and be sure that they are taking the correct classes to meet their goals for graduation and beyond. In advisory classes, students have been working on their plans and goals and have done some credit checks.

You can check student schedules online at the Skyward site which is found at the school web site www.orcaslandschools.org You can also call the school office and request that a copy be sent home or students can come by the office to request a copy of the schedule. If you

have questions or want some help working on the schedule, please call the office to speak with our counselor, Nancy Wrightsman, or with our principal, Barbara Kline.



Please Drop Students Off Safely

The mornings can be very hectic for everyone. For high school drivers, the mornings can be especially scary when they arrive at school at the last minute and then have to weave through students who are hurrying across the street.

For the safety of all of our students, please drop your middle and high school students off in front of the high school/middle school buildings in the parking lot. This allows you to stop by the sidewalk in front of the middle school and 8th grade classrooms and the high school building. It is then an easy and safe walk for students to join their middle and high school classes and it removes some of the congestion from the front of the library and elementary buildings.



Counseling Information

It's time for seniors to get serious about those college applications. This year most schools are expecting students to apply electronically. Go to each school's web site to find their application. The Common College Application, which is accepted by a large number of independent institutions through out the US, can be accessed at commonapp.org. This application can be filled-out online and then copied for multiple schools. Application deadlines are coming up. Private school deadlines are often in January or even earlier. After the Christmas holiday, OHS does not resume until January 4th; therefore, all applications must be in the counseling office the week of December 13th so we can process and mail transcripts to meet those early deadlines. Students planning on attending Washington State institutions need to remember the January and/or February deadlines. |

have encouraged students applying to the U of W or WWU to do so before the Christmas holidays since both schools fill quotas early, and the UW's deadline is December 15th. The priority deadline for the University of Washington is even earlier! Please contact me if you have questions or need help.

The FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, worksheets will be in the counseling office soon. This form must be submitted online in order for a student to be considered for federal, state or institutional financial aid. Remember that you need 2010 tax information to complete this form. The earliest submission date is January 1st. To apply online both parent and student must get PINs ahead of time at www.pin.ed.gov. It is a good idea to get these PINs early and avoid the inevitable rush in January. Remember to keep these PINs because you will use them every year when resubmitting your FAFSA form. Federal aid is limited so be sure to submit your form as soon after January 1st as possible. File online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You may estimate your taxes if you expect delays getting W2s. Most colleges require FAFSAs to be submitted by February 1-15 for a student to be considered for any aid or scholarships. Questions always arise concerning these forms and financial aid in general. Please call me if you have questions.

The next SAT to be given at OHS will be Saturday, January 22nd. The registration deadline for this test is December 23rd. Juniors who will be taking SAT IIs in May or want a retake opportunity in May should take this test. Remember SAT IIs are only needed for those attending out-of-state or private schools. Juniors should take the SAT I sometime this school year. If they take the test at least once as a junior, then they have the opportunity to retake the test as a senior. Study materials are available in the counseling office or at www.collegeboard.com for those who would like to prep for the test.

Speaking of tests, the school received scores for the PLAN assessment that sophomores took in October. This test not only assesses a student's academic aptitudes, but also his/her vocational interest areas. These test results and explanatory booklets were given to sophomores, who took the test, during their Navigation 101 advisory on November 29th. Please ask your student for his/her results. Juniors are anxious about their PSAT results. As yet, they have not arrived, but they should be here by early December. These scores will, hopefully, be given to juniors before the holiday break.

National Honor Society forms are due December 13th. The faculty committee that evaluates student criteria for NHS will be meeting during December to select new members. Students

will be notified of acceptance at the NHS Induction Ceremony to be held in late January or early February.

Finally, January 28th marks the end of the first semester. Please encourage your student to make the most of the time remaining in the semester!



ORCAS SECONDARY SCHOOL
Nov. 2010

HIGH HONOR ROLL
3.50 TO 4.00 GPA

7TH GRADE

Jo Gudgell
Wylie Kau
Dana Sabine
Anthony Kaskurs
Julianna Rose
Kahana Pietsch
Holden Griskey-Watson
Gwydion Marreth
Emily Nichols
Bethany Meenach
Claire Bishop-Martin
Lily Ater
Kara Veldman
Halle Thompson

8TH GRADE

Taj Howe
Arianna Dean
Hannah Brunner-Gaydos
Hailey Crowe
William Coe
Keenan O'Brien
Kilee Rogers
Kyle Zbornik
Mikaela Hansen
Melanie Flint
Madeline White

9TH GRADE

Brigid Ehrmantraut
Emily Jackson
Aidan Anderson
Chris Babcock
Jack Russillo
Bailey Johnson
Sebastian Paige

10TH GRADE

Max Blackadar
Ana Ledgerwood
Zach Wolford
Lana Bronn
Morgan Sabine
Langworthy
Ruby Adrian

11TH GRADE

Sofie Thixton
Christopher Ghazel
Kathryn Tidwell
Huxley Smart
Claire O'Neill
Ashley Klein

12TH GRADE

Halley McCormick
Alex Zderic
Makenna Thomas
Serena Sanders
Michael
Iris Parker-Pavitt

Freeda Crowe
Jules Mann
Tika Zbornik
Annie Ryder
Jessica Gudgell
Aidan McCormick
Addie Newcombe
Kirsten Fowler
Liana Bense
Staci Lindgren
Nile Reed

Macklin Blackburn
Elijah Jones
Susanne Mietzner
Keenan Phalan

Ariel Leckband
Jacqlynn Zier
April Hofmann
Makala Forster
Connor O'Neill
Piper Hayworth

HONOR ROLL
3.25 TO 3.49GPA

7TH GRADE

Zach Waage
Jasmin Otto
Lilly Miller
Claire Orser
Michael Harlow
Simone Hansen
Cedar Pavitt

8TH GRADE

Jay Zier
Braeden Smith
Nate Lawson
Angel Kaltenbach
Felicia Gossett
Erin Ledgerwood

9TH GRADE

Alena Janssen
Matthew Bowen
Shelbi Rogers
Caleb Dean
Eric Eagan
Zachary Kostechko

10th GRADE

Garett Pietsch
Soren Sweet
Josh Bronn
Cameron Schuh

11TH GRADE

Robin Gropp

12TH GRADE

Kailley Grantham
Jacob Hansen
Jessica Edwards
Annalies Schuh
Tom Granger
Haley Paulson



Farm to Cafeteria Celebrity Chefs

Two of our favorite Celebrity Chefs are featured again this school year...Christina Orchid from Red Rabbit Farm on December 16 and Charles Dalton of The Kitchen on January 20. You can bet they will be featuring wonderful winter weather comfort menus to please all who come. Mark your calendar!



Student Chef Competition Coming in February!

Start looking for that perfect recipe your student can enter into the Second Annual Student Chef Competition which has been moved up to February 2011. Last year's winners are already gearing up to defend their titles and expect it won't be easy. Competition details and rules will be distributed in the news media and on the Farm to Cafeteria web site at www.orcasilandf2c.org in December.



Elementary Conferences

The Elementary School will have 1st trimester conferences on December 1, 2 and 3. We will not have class on these days. Students are invited to join their parents at their conferences this year. We look forward to meeting with all of you and discussing the progress your students have made this trimester. Please watch for conference invitations coming home with your student(s) in the next few weeks.



From the Library:

Goodbye 2010 and hello 2011! The library will provide a cozy place for your students to spend this winter. We'll have new books and lots of student art on display. Come by and check us out!

Winter in the library starts out with the annual Scholastic bookfair the second week of December. Please come and support the PTSA. This is a fun and generous event that provides books for our library and classrooms.

This time of year, many students have had books checked out too long. Please remember the rules of borrowing books from our library:

Books may be checked out for 2 weeks and may be renewed if you'd like them longer. Just bring the book into the library for renewal.

Number of books that may be checked out:

Kindergarten: One book at a time

1st - 3rd: Up to 3 books at a time

4th - 6th: Up to 5 books at a time

7th and up: Up to 10 books at a time.

Remember your students are responsible for the books they borrow from the library so take care of them and understand that if a book is damaged or lost, the family is responsible for the replacement of those books.

We are delighted to have a number of new volunteers doing great work for the library this year. Thank you! If you are interested in helping out in our library, please contact Maria Doss.

If you have any questions or concerns about the library, please call us at 376-1565 or email

Mrs Doss at mdoss@orcas.k12.wa.us.

See you at the library!

Maria Doss

Orcas School Librarian

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

— Marcus Tullius Cicero



Snow Sports Club

Plenty of seats are still available on the Snow Bus for the Club's six trips to the Mount Baker Ski Area starting Saturday, January 8th. All the forms needed to join the Club can be obtained at the High School office. No previous ski/snowboard experience is required as there are ski/snowboard rentals and lessons available at a discounted price for the six trips. Final deadline for the completed forms and fees will be Friday, December 17th.

For those students who wish to walk-on for one or more trips, the Club welcomes your participation on a first come, first served basis on the day of each trip. Forms and information for walk-on riders will be available at the High School office in January following the Christmas break.

The Club's annual trip to the Mountaineers Lodge during the Presidents Day weekend in February is on! This will be a three-day trip February 19-21 at the beginning of the Mid-Winter Break for High School students only and is limited to 25 people including the adult chaperones. Information regarding the trip can be obtained at the High School office. Contact Savvy Sanders for additional information or to sign up for the trip.

For those members needing to wax their bases and sharpen their edges, the club will hold a hot wax and edge tuning work party before or during the Christmas Break. We will have a quick lunch meeting during the week following the Thanksgiving break to determine the date and time.

For additional information or questions, please contact Savvy Sanders at 376-4103, 472-1360 or savvy@rockisland.com. The Club can also be found on facebook at The Snow Bus. Happy Holidays!



Notes from the Ptsa

A big thank you to all the parent volunteers who continue to make Friday night rollerskating such a great success – we couldn't do it without you! The last two sessions for the year will be on December 3rd and 10th. After that we will take a short break for the month of January. Regular sessions of rollerskating will start back up again in February.

Our next free movie night will take place on January 21st at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. As always, we'll provide popcorn for the kids (and parents too!) Remember that all school rules and regulations apply to events that take place on campus, and that this is an unsupervised event – in other words, if you wouldn't leave your children home alone, then please plan on staying with them through the movie.

Finally, the Scholastic book fair is coming right up. This is a fantastic opportunity to find high quality, low cost books and support the school at the same time! The fair will be open in the school library from Tuesday, December 7th through Thursday, December 9th from 10 am to 4 pm. On Wednesday evening, the whole family is invited to come have cookies with Santa! The doors for this special event will open at 6 pm.



Ptsa Rollerskating Update

We're off to another great year of skating! An important reminder–please supervise your children!! We've had a few young ones run across the floor without skates, nearly causing collisions with skaters. Please ensure the safety of your child and others by making sure all non-skaters walk around the outside of the gym floor when moving around.

We'll be skating Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Dec. 10th will be our "Holiday Theme" skate. Wear your holiday sweaters, reindeer antlers, etc. and win a prize!

After the 10th, we'll be taking an extended holiday break. Skating is scheduled to resume Fri. January 28th. Questions?—contact Barb Skotte at 376-3930 or bskotte@yahoo.com.



Family Ski Bus Ready to Roll

Want to spend some time on Mt. Baker—for skiing, boarding, or just as a family? Join the Family Ski Bus! We ride a luxurious Bellair Charters bus and go up 3 times during the Winter (Jan. 22, Jan. 29 and Feb. 12—make up day March 5). On our bus, kids must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. There are steeply discounted lesson and rental plans for participants. Factoring in the cost of the bus, lift tickets, pizza dinner in Anacortes, etc. plan on \$100 per participant per day. More information is on the attached info sheet. Payment and forms are due no later than Dec. 15th at Roann's desk in the elementary school (and are available at her desk as well!)

Please contact Barb Skotte at 376-3930 or bskotte@yahoo.com for further information, or if you have questions.



Interested in learning to ski or snowboard? Want to enjoy a few beautiful days on the Mountain? Looking for more ways to spend time as a family? Then join us on

THE FAMILY SKI BUS!

The bus is filling up, so please call Barb Skotte, 376-3930 to reserve your seats!

Trips are scheduled for January 22, 29, and February 12

(Alternate date- Mar 5)

Transportation:

Walk on the red eye, return on the 8 PM

Cost is \$100 per seat for all 3 trips.

(Bus is chartered through Bellair Charters, and costs \$1230 per trip. We also pay a tip to the driver and the ferry pass for the sag wagon. Total charge= \$1350 per week divided by 40 seats = \$33 per seat. \$100 total for the season. Cost of ferry is included in bus fee.)

Ski and Snowboard lessons:

\$38.00 for 3 lessons

Lessons run from 11-1 PM

Rentals:

\$68.00 for skiing (total for all 3 trips)

\$81.00 for snowboarding (total for all 3 trips)

Helmets are rented separately. It is HIGHLY recommended that you purchase a helmet before the trip.

Additional costs:

Daily lift tickets (we only pay for half-day tickets)

Under 6 years old and 5th Graders are FREE!

Child half-day ticket is: \$31.00

Adult half-day (16 and older): \$41.50

Senior half-day (60 and older) \$38.00

Dinner approx. \$5-8 each

A good ball park cost estimate is \$100 per participant per week. Seats are reserved with a \$50 deposit. Once you sign up for a seat, you commit to all 3 trips. If you are unable to come on one of the trips, you can try to sell your seat, but this is your responsibility. Full payment is DUE BY DEC. 15.

All students must be accompanied by an adult. Parents/guardians do not have to ski in order to come along, but they will need to have a plan for their child between 1:00 and 3:45 when we leave the mountain. All students K- 8th grade are welcome to sign up!



From the Elementary School
Counselor and Readiness to
Learn Program

The Holiday Season is a time for celebration, special moments with family and friends, anticipation, and also stress and worry. It can feel like there is too much to do and not enough time or money. What's important can be lost. Articles on parenting, good parenting books, and classes can help inspire us and support wise and positive parenting.

SIMPLICITY PARENTING: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier, and More Secure Kids by Kim John Payne with Lisa M. Ross is a wonderful parenting book that reminds parents of the most important gifts they can give their children. Below is an edited review of this book by Sandi Burt, our former elementary school counselor and a private counselor/licensed clinical social worker in our community, who offered this to be shared in our school newsletter.

I wish that every family with very young children and Elementary School age children would read Simplicity Parenting, because the earlier families instill Kim John Payne's principles, the easier it is and the deeper the benefits. "In every aspect of our lives, no matter how trivial, we are confronted with a dizzying array of things (stuff) and choices.

Whichever came first – too many choices or too much stuff – the end result of both is not happiness.”

Simplicity Parenting suggests: “We are building our families on the four pillars of ‘too much’: too much stuff; too many choices; too much information; and too fast” “If, as a society, we are embracing speed, it is partially because we are swimming in anxiety.” Payne encourages consideration of the “long haul,” the big picture: a reverence for childhood. “When we act out of reverence, instead of fear, our motivation is stronger, our inspiration boundless.”

Payne outlines four “layers” of simplifying:

- ** Reclaiming family dreams
- ** Recognizing & addressing overload
- ** Reducing stuff (toys, books, clothing choices) In particular, a smaller, more manageable quantity of toys invites deeper play and engagement”
- ** Creating rhythm and predictability (“small islands of calm in the flow of time” – morning, meals, after-school-snack, bedtime & other pauses in the day – balancing busy & calm time. These pauses establish a sense of security as well as establishing a foundation for cooperation & connection in the family)

“To have moments of calm – creative or restful – is a form of deep sustenance for human beings of all ages. Relationships are often built in these pauses, in the incidental moments, when nothing much is going on.” Payne describes the antidote to “too much stuff” as elements of healthy play: experience (rather than ‘things’), nature, social interaction, movement, art, and music.

Simplicity Parenting Challenge: Applying it NOW

With holidays approaching, children are beginning to make their gift wishes known. Given the current economic crunch, how about this year we make the holidays reflect the kind of family TIME we’d like to have? Gifts this year can reflect experiences rather than “stuff.” Tickets to plays, concerts, and sporting events create special family time together. But many experiences families can share cost nothing. Many families hand-make “gift certificates” or “coupon books” for anything from “I’ll Cook you a Thai Meal of Your Choice” to “Three Foot Massages” to “A walk Together up Turtleback Mountain.” The possibilities are endless: Writing a book together, fixing that old chair together, making a photo collage or album together, creating a snow sculpture

The Readiness to Learn (RTL) Program works to promote the wellbeing of and success for children in school and to support their families. Please feel free to drop by Moriah

Armstrong's elementary school office, call 376-1590, or e-mail me (marmstrong@orcas.k12.wa.us) if I can be of assistance to you in finding important resources or helping your child.

Watch for notices in the February Newsletter and flyers home with your child about Active Parenting Now in 3 - week series of parenting classes sponsored by the Orcas RTL Program. If you are interested, you can leave your name and number with Moriah and she'll make sure you get a reminder when the class is ready to start up.



Ways to Celebrate the Season of Giving

Involve children in gift selection for family and friends. Playful wishing for others can be fun. ("I wish I could give daddy a ...") So can role-playing ("Now I'm Grandma. I wish for...")

Help children make personalized gifts - a special poem, a drawing, a collage of pictures - for family and friends.

Prepare a special song or a mini-play that children can perform for family and friends.

Invite a lonely neighbor over for a meal or for a special holiday outing. Involve your children in the planning and the visit.

Prepare a basket of your favorite family foods. Let your children help decide what to include. Together, deliver the basket to a local food bank.

Let your children choose books, magazines, toys, etc. to give to a toy drive. Get a name from the "Giving Tree" at Island Market.

Spend an evening selecting some of your belongings...clothes, toys, etc. to give away (Salvation Army, Goodwill, etc.) Take time to talk about the things, make sure you are thinking of the receiver and make sure you are giving things you would like to receive.

Celebrate the holidays of people from other countries. Visit the library together and find books to give you ideas.

Plan and prepare an ethnic meal together.

Share your holiday with the neighborhood birds and animals. Make feeders or an edible garland for an outside area.

Ask your children what holiday activities are most important to them. Repeat these from year to year. Well-defined family traditions give children comfort and security and add a magic touch to holiday celebrations.

***OF COURSE GIVE THE GIFT OF READING BY SELECTING BOOKS AS GIFTS..."A BOOK IS A PRESENT THAT IS OPENED OVER AND OVER AGAIN."**



What is presentation poetry?

At the end of October the 5th graders in Ms. Storey's class studied marine invertebrates living in the waters around Indian Island. The students used their research to write reports about Sea Cucumbers, Peanut Worms, Red Octopus and Blood Stars. In groups they wrote poems about the invertebrates emphasizing details that were a bit eerie. The students had a great time creating a stage setting, costumes and lighting. Parents and all of the elementary grades were invited to the classroom to enjoy the show. The performance ended with the 5th graders singing "An Octopus' Garden" by the Beatles.



Beware If a Blood Star Is Near

By: William Lewis, Joanne Mietzner, Quinn Kissel and Alexis Pence
Marilyn Storey's 5th grade class
October, 2010

Come little creatures and my warning take to heart
This invertebrate away from, you should dart.
In the freezing sea waters at Indian Island's low tide
There you will find the Echinoderm, Blood Star secretly hide.
Beware if a Blood Star is near.

Their predators are Sea Gulls and they need to watch out
With sharp piercing beaks and screeches all about.
Other animals think they are a tasty treat.
Seals and Oyster Catchers think they can't be beat.
Beware if a Blood Star is near.

Creatures of the sea, beware of this horrifying boneless beast
For it may very likely have you for its king sized feast
The thin long arms for you will reach
It's too late now to get back on the beach
Beware if a Blood Star is near.

Guess what! It can make its body go inside out.
It will scare you so bad it will make you cry and shout.
Its arms will wrap around and strangle you.
Its stomach acids will melt you into goo
Beware if a Blood Star is near.

Into its body as food you will disappear.
Listen to my warning; you need to be full of fear.
The beast's appetite is for big and juicy shrimp.
It makes the toughest animals look like a wimp.
Beware if a Blood Star is near.

The scary monster lives in a dark and eerie cave.
If you go in its lair you may find your own grave.
The Blood Star's self defense will freak you out.
Its rough spiky thin red arms will make you pout.

Beware if a Blood Star is near.

She's On Her Way

By: Monica Connell, Yusuf Duni, Liam Griskey-Watson,
Joie Zier and Payton Boehem
Ms. Storey's 5th Grade Class
October 2010

Clumsily flopping across the dark chasms of the ocean floor,
Slowly approaching her dark shadowy seashell door.
She's getting closer; she's on her way.

The Peanut Worm finally squeezes and gets inside,
She must stay there because she has to hide.
She's hungry, she needs her prey.

The Black Oystercatcher tries to sneak up "SNAP!" and attack,
But he has trouble because of the hooks he finds on her back.
She's getting closer; She's on her way.

The worm has a long proboscis tan and brown nose,
On this there are dangerous tentacles organized in rows.
She's finally found her prey.

She usually is an expert at catching small snails,
She's such a good hunter she rarely fails.
She's done she's back on her way.

In and around the gravel beds she really blends,
For her camouflage skills I give her a ten.
She blends away, as bright as day.

She's on her way home now its getting dark,
She passes through the shadowy arch.
She's getting closer she's on her way.

She silently swiftly kills ten snails for dinner,
She hunted so many she feels like a winner.
She's found her prey.

If you do find head lice in your household, DON'T PANIC! Head lice can be treated with a shampoo specifically labeled for head lice; such shampoos are available at Ray's Pharmacy as well as on the mainland. Follow the directions for use, then carefully comb the hair to remove lice eggs (nits).

If you have questions, please contact the school nurse, Iris Graville, at 376-1592 or igraville@orcas.k12.wa.us. Working together, we can avoid head lice outbreaks and manage them if they do occur.



Not Too Late for Influenza *Immunization*

Approximately 60 students and 15 staff received flu shots at the clinic the health department provided here at the school early in November. If you or your child(ren) didn't receive the vaccine then, it's not too late. Influenza vaccine is available by appointment with your regular doctor or at Health Department (378-4474).

This year's influenza vaccine covers three different strains of the flu, including H1N1. Children under 9 years of age who are being vaccinated for the first or second time need 2 doses of vaccine; if your child is in that category, be sure to schedule an appointment for the second dose.

And, as always, to prevent influenza and a multitude of other illnesses, WASH YOUR HANDS!



News from the Funhouse

The Funhouse has officially introduced "Activity Hour" to the After School program. From 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday, the computers and video games get turned off and kids choose from one of several different activities to participate in.

Activities include (but are not limited to): Homework Club, Art & Science 'Connections', or activities with a teen staff, like capture the flag, board games, or other structured play.

Time and time again it has been proven that having constructive after school hours are a key component to keeping kids on track for success. Successful programs like the one at The Funhouse have been shown to improve school attendance, engagement in learning, improved test scores, and keep kids safe and healthy.

The Funhouse is hoping that providing more structure will attract more kids to the after school program.

It's never too early to start thinking about science projects!! The Funhouse 10th Annual Science Fair will be March 26th.



Mariachi Huenachi at Orcas Center

Friday, January 28, 7:30 pm

\$15, \$11 (Orcas Center members), \$7 (students)

Mariachi Huenachi is a national award winning Wenatchee high school band that has played at Seattle Seahawks and Mariners games and shared the stage with the Grammy Award winning Los Tigros del Norte. The group returns following a fun, lively and sold-out show at Orcas Center in 2009!



Orcas has Talent is Coming!!

The much awaited, must see, most popular community show of the year just got better! "Orcas Has Talent" will replace Orcas Idol in February '11 by introducing a new, improved show that brings the variety show format back to center stage. Do you have the TALENT to win the hearts and votes of Orcas and win the grand prize of \$200?

Singers, musicians, dancers, comedians, jugglers and whatever other kinds of talented contestants, high school age through adults, are invited to try out at the Audition show, January 22nd, 7:30 pm at the Grange. Three esteemed judges will award the top 10 talented acts their "Golden Ticket" - their pass to compete for the grand prize in the Orcas Center stage finale show February 5th, starting at 6:30pm.

Orcas Has Talent, Jr. will also replace the former Idol, Junior competition. Open for youth in grades 5-8, it will be held January 22nd at 2 pm at the Grange. Encouraging judges select the top Junior talent and the winner will again perform at the Center Stage finale show. New this coming year, if they choose, the Junior winner can also go up against the 10 finalists for the overall winner!

Signups for both Grange shows will be at the Funhouse on January 6th between 3:00-6:00pm. All contestants must register by January 6th. This will be the time to ask questions, pick out music if needed, make arrangements for your "specialty act", etc. More details are at www.orcasprevention.org or phone Marta Nielson, at 376-4768 if you need to make alternative arrangements.

Catch all the fun from the very beginning as the excitement and anticipation grow! This year we are adding some new attractions as well - a preshow "light dinner" for purchase from 5:00 - 6:00 pm. Arrive early, enjoy some delicious foods and receive a "first call" for general admission seating with the purchase of a meal. Yummy munchies will also be for sale during intermission. Plan to purchase your tickets for an "Entertainment Raffle" on sale January 1st. Prizes for movies, shows, music and more will be offered and more details will be forthcoming.

This show remains the one major fund raising event for Orcas Island Prevention Partnership – a community coalition of concerned individuals and 13 organizations, groups and agencies that focus on prevention work here on Orcas. The production of Orcas Idol, and now Orcas Has Talent, is truly a community effort involving over 100 volunteers. The community's support is essential for the show to go on. Tickets are available as follows:

Shows at the Grange: January 22nd tickets sold at the door.

Orcas Has Talent, Junior 2 pm -4 pm \$5.00/seat (doors open at 1:30)

Orcas Has Talent – Audition: 7:30 pm at the Grange - \$10.00 Doors open at 7:00 pm.

Orcas Has Talent – @ the Orcas Center - finale – February 5th, 6:30pm

Patrons of the Arts – (formerly “Idolizer”) advance tickets, with reserved seating of your choice and “front of the line” service (no waiting) will be on sale beginning December 8th through January 21st. \$50.00/adult and \$35.00 youth (ages 12 and under). Download a form at www.orcasprevention.org or email mnielson@orcas.k12.wa.us to request a form.

Center Stage finale show – general admission tickets – on sale at the Grange Audition shows and Darvill’s Books – January 22nd. Adults - \$25.00; Youth - \$15.00 (ages 12 and under)

Center Stage finale show – Madronna Room – see the action on big screen live feed - \$10.00 per seat.



Special Education

The Orcas Island School District's Department of Special Education serves people with disabilities from birth to age 21. If you suspect that you or your child may have a disability, please call the District Office at 376-2284.



Teacher Qualifications

Parents are welcome to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student(s) classroom teacher(s). This information is available through Sharron Mierau at the district office, 376-2284.

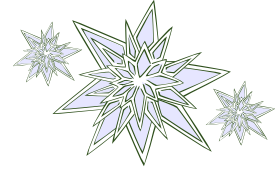
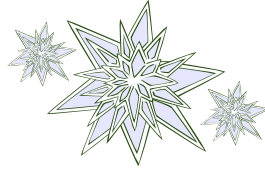
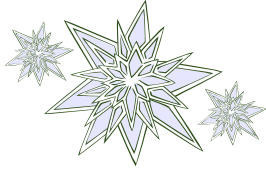


Annual School Report Card

The Annual School Report Card describing the progress of each school and the Orcas Island School District toward meeting requirements for highly qualified staff and student progress toward state and national goals can be found at:

<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2008-09>

This link takes you to the summary for the state. You can find Orcas Island School District on the pull down list and then individual school information. If you do not have Internet access, the Annual Report Card information is also available at the District Office.



Special Procedures for Snowy Days

When/if we are faced with snowy/icy road conditions, our school bus routes will become abbreviated. At those times buses will only travel on the main roads.

This means they **will not stop** at:

Buckhorn Road
Killebrew Lake Road
Dolphin Bay Road
Obstruction Pass
Spring Point (across the bridge)
Enchanted Forest Road
West Beach

In the event that conditions should warrant the closure or delayed starting of school, that information will be broadcast on the following radio and television stations.

Closures and delays phone line is 376-1596

This phone message is updated first.

TV

KOMO Channel 4
KIRO Channel 7
KCPQ Fox Channel 13

RADIO

KGMI 790 (AM) Bellingham
KAFE 104.1 (FM) Bellingham

ONLINE

www.cancellations.com

or

orcasislandschools.org

