



Oak Park School

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Principal

Jamie Lowicz

Assistant Principal

Maureen Bassett

Assistant Principal

Nicole Meo

Principal's Secretary

Joanne Berry

The Panther Press

For the Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff & Community
of Oak Park School - Sarasota County, Florida

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Oak Park Panther Press quarterly newsletter! This updated format is intended to provide you with pertinent information regarding your student's education and wellbeing, in addition to important dates, team highlights, and school/district wide events.

We hope you enjoy the look, the layout, and the information contained within as we strive to provide families and community partners with timely and relevant communication involving our school community.

ROARing With Pride,
Jamie Lowicz
Principal





Teacher Spotlight

Leadership Team

Principal

Jamie Lowicz

Assistant Principals

Maureen Bassett

Nicole Meo

Principal's Secretary

Joanne Berry

SRO

Deputy Reynolds

BCBA

Mark Marsh

BCBA

Gloria DeCoursey

Guidance Counselor

Denise McNair

School Psychologist

Robert Lees

School Social Worker

Monica Perry

ESE Liaison

Stacey Holmes

ESE Liaison

Peter Febinger

Testing Coordinator/Master Scheduler

Serenity Ruscoe

ESE Teacher

Heather Regan

Music Teacher

Shane Swezey

Team Leaders

DAT

Brian Rauh

Spectrum

Joe Craycraft

Action

Krysta Quattlebaum

Elementary and Middle School Transition

Stefanie Peters

High School and Extended Transition

Maria Gradin

Specialists

Robyn Sadlo

Oak Park's Shane Swezey is Sarasota County's Teacher of the Year!



Martin Luther King Jr. once stated, "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

What inspires me as an educator? It is knowing that as a teacher I am able to do good works for my neighbors—the students and staff that are right in front of me each day. It is knowing that I am given a unique role to model and share love, patience, faithfulness, kindness, and joy with each person that enters my classroom. It is knowing that many students with special needs are often forgotten and voiceless, but that music gives them a space where they can have their own voice. It is knowing that each student with special needs, no matter the disability or challenge, has inherent worth and value that can be supported and heralded through opportunities for success in the music classroom. Teaching is a profession that is often overlooked and marginalized, rarely garnering much recognition or applause. But I have been called to be a teacher and I will teach with all my heart, not for worldly appreciation but so that one day the hosts of heaven and earth will say "Here lived a great teacher who did his job well."



Oak Park Intramurals

Oak Park's first intramural sport is underway! Our Oak Park swimmers are learning water safety skills, basic swimming strokes and pool games with Coaches DeCiantis and Holloway. We will be offering cheerleading with Coach Holliday as our next intramural which will begin after spring break. More information will be coming home in the following weeks.



Did you know that Oak Park School has a DREAM TEAM? These young women are making a positive difference for our world with their beautiful art. They share their heartfelt creativity to make cards, posters and placemats for our school and local community. Pictured are Kira Endriss, Jessica Flak, Dejan Endriss and Samantha Lozada holding butterfly cards for a fellow Oak Park student who is recovering in the hospital. They are also creating brightly colored placemats for an upcoming breakfast to celebrate our wonderful school volunteers. Our students also used their design and lettering skills for greeting cards that were sent to local nursing homes during the holidays.

Clinic Corner

Did you know that March is National Nutrition Month? That means it's the perfect time to review some helpful hints for eating healthy:

- Try a bite! Believe it or not, it can take 7 to 10 tries before you like a new food. So, when a new food is offered, try just a bite or two every time.
- Eat fruit! Fresh is always best but, if you're going to eat canned fruit, then buy the kind that says In Its Own Juice on the label and not in light syrup.
- Get Cookin'! Choose baked, stir-fried or steamed foods instead of fried foods.
- Go for Greens! Add chopped spinach or other leafy greens to soups or stews.
- Make the Switch! Swap in water for soda and low-fat milk for whole milk.
- Gather the Fam! Kids who eat regularly with family members eat more fruits and veggies, and keep a healthier weight, than kids who don't.



Eating healthy doesn't mean eliminating all the foods you love! Just eat lots of the yummy healthy foods and indulge (verb: to allow oneself to enjoy a particular pleasure) only occasionally.

If you have questions about how to eat a balanced diet, ask us in the clinic!

Important Dates

3/15/19-3/22/19- Spring Break
3/28/19- ESE Agency Fair
4/16/19- Oak Park Sensory Make and Take with Panther Prowl Basket Preview
4/26/19- Panther Prowl
5/10/19- Oak Park Prom
5/17/19- Graduation
5/24/19- Last day of school for students

Test Taking Tips

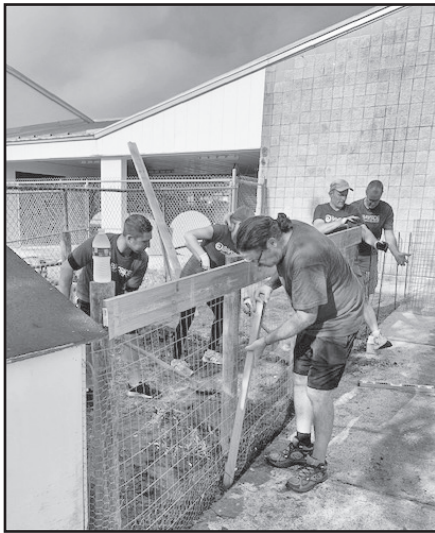
Testing season is here! Below are some great test taking tips to help our students do their best!

- ☐ Have a positive attitude
- ☐ Get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast
- ☐ Visualize yourself being successful
- ☐ Read all the directions and questions carefully
- ☐ Look at all the choices before you answer a question
- ☐ Eliminate the answers you know are wrong
- ☐ If you don't know an answer skip it and come back to it at the end
- ☐ Review your answer choices when you are finished
- ☐ Take deep breaths throughout the test to relax
- ☐ Relax and do your best



Community Partner Spotlight

This month's community partner is Bayside Community Church. Volunteers provided lumber, fencing and roofing materials to build a run for the six chickens being raised and cared for by Mr. Boesenberg's agricultural classes. Thanks to all that participated to make this much needed addition happen!

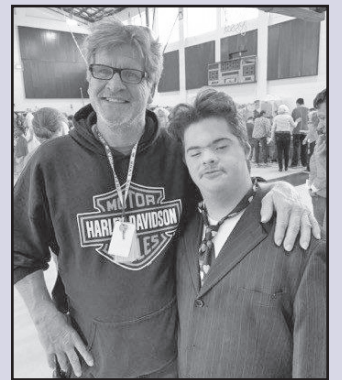


Sweetheart Dance

The PBIS Team hosted a dance as the third quarter school-wide event. Music and entertainment was provided by DJ ShaNé who kept the gym rocking! Students and parents enjoyed dancing



to favorites including The Train and the Electric Slide. Incredible prizes donated by long-time Oak Park supporters Virginia and Carol Miller were raffled throughout the event. Volunteers from Sarasota Baptist Church and Extended Transition students manned the cookie decorating station and provided yummy treats to all dance goers. A special thank you to Carol Newtown and Joe Craycraft for assisting students in baking the thirty-seven dozen sugar cookies needed for the dance.





Sensory Make And Take Night

Mark your calendars and join the Oak Park Leadership Team for the 1st Annual Sensory Make and Take Night on April 16th from 5:00-7:00pm in the cafeteria. During this event, parents and students will have the opportunity to create a variety of sensory items specific to their students' individual needs. The PTSO will provide dinner and dessert in the cafeteria and will be on hand in the media center to preview this year's amazing Panther Prowl Baskets. Be on the lookout for the flyer below!

Oak Park School
Sensory
Make and Take Night

In conjunction with the Panther Prowl Basket Preview

JOIN US FOR
AN EVENING OF CREATIVITY & WONDER

Dinner and dessert compliments of the Oak Park PTSO!

16th APRIL Hosted by the Oak Park Leadership Team
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Cafeteria

Yes! We will be there!

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Number of Guests: _____

Pinterest.com

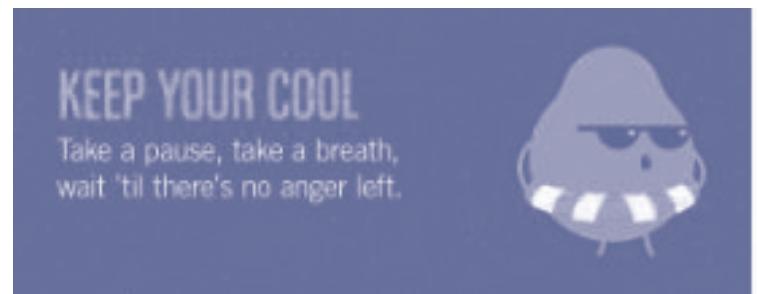
#BecauseItMatters

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS)

As a part of our school-wide PBIS initiative, we bring you the Civility Squad! You may have had the opportunity to see our Squad Wall in the front office! The Civility Squad is a team of animated characters that promote the 10 Keys to Civility, which are guiding principles and simple behaviors to improve the way we interact with one another. This district-wide initiative has the goal of promoting kindness and civility in schools and communities. Each month the district will introduce a different character trait such as "Stay Positive", "Respect Others", or "Say Thank You". **March's character trait is "Keep Your Cool".**

PBIS Committee Members include Shane Swezey (Chair), Jamie Lowicz, Maureen Bassett, Nicole Meo, Mark Marsh, Gloria DeCourcey, Denise McNair, Becky Ferreira, Heather Regan, Kathy Baldwin, Robert Lees and Jayson Rawley.



Baltimore Orioles Game

For the third consecutive year, students were treated to a Baltimore Orioles Spring Training game courtesy of the Orioles management team. The Baltimore Orioles partner with Oak Park and other Sarasota County Schools to educate students in the areas of health and fitness. The Bird selected Kaylin Daniels to help cheer on the team in a game versus the Tampa Bay Rays.





Sarasota County District Schools

Oak Park School

7285 Proctor Road
Sarasota, FL 34241

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Permit# 2346



OAK PARK SCHOOL PTSO



PRIZE DRAWING - Purchase YOUR Tickets Today!

Donations will fund Classroom Grants, School-wide Activities and Assemblies, Angel Tree, Staff Appreciation, and PBIS Initiatives! Need not be present to win!

Donate/Purchase with PAYPAL: sarasotacountyschools.net/schools/oakpark

Cash or Checks Payable
to Oak Park School PTSO

Blue Ticket prizes valued up to \$50!
\$1 each or 12 for \$10!

Red Ticket prizes valued at \$51 & higher!
\$5 each. Purchase \$20 & get 5 Blue Tickets
FREE!

PosterMyWall.com

Name: _____
Student: _____
Teacher: _____
#Blue Tickets _____
#Red Tickets _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____



You're Invited!



SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS AGENCY FAIR 2019

AUDIENCE:

Families of Students with Disabilities

WHEN: Thursday, March 28, 2019

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Suncoast Technical College, Atrium

4748 S. Beneva Road

Sarasota, FL 34231



Please attend the **2019 Sarasota County Agency Fair** and learn about the many agencies and organizations providing resources, support and assistance for students with disabilities!

Please note: The Agency Fair also offers *breakout sessions* on specific information identified as topics of interest for families and students. A great chance to learn together!