

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 27, 2023



EVENTS 11/27-12/10 (SCHOOL EVENTS, PTA EVENTS, HOLIDAYS)

11/27-12/3 (B-WEEK)

12/4-12/10 (A-WEEK)

<p>Homeroom: Empathy</p> <p>27 Girls' Basketball Game @ Viewpoint 3:00-4:30</p> <p>27 Boys' Basketball Game vs. American Fork 3:00-4:30</p> <p>27 PG Council Reflections Awards Night 7:00 PM</p> <p>28 ASD Board Meeting 6:00 @ District Office</p> <p>29 Ballroom Concert 7:00 in the Auditorium 7 PM</p> <p>30 German Classes to Christkindmart 10:00-1:45</p> <p>30 Girls' Basketball Game vs. Vista Heights 3:00-4:30</p> <p>30 Boys' Basketball Game @ Lehi Jr. 3:00-4:30</p> <p>1 District Honor Band</p> <p>1 District Ballroom Social 4:00-5:30</p> <p>2 District Honor Band</p>	<p>Homeroom: Collaboration</p> <p>4 Girls' Basketball Game @ American Fork 3:00-4:30</p> <p>4 Boys' Basketball Game vs. Timberline 3:00-4:30</p> <p>6 Battle of the Books Kick Off in Library at 1:15</p> <p>7 Girls' Basketball Game vs. Timberline 3:00-4:30</p> <p>7 Boys' Basketball Game @ Viewpoint 3:00-4:30</p> <p>7 Choir Christmas Concert 6:00 in the Auditorium</p> <p>7 Choir Christmas Concert 7:00 in the Auditorium</p> <p>8 9th Grade Christmas Night Dance 7:00-8:30</p>
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



With the holiday season in full swing, it is the perfect time to express gratitude for this incredible Oak Canyon community. Our teachers and staff go above and beyond every day to help our students experience success and find joy in learning. Our parents and patrons are involved and supportive of both staff and students. Our students are brave and resilient and are working to become the best versions of themselves. We are very fortunate; and we are also very aware that there are many (staff, parents, students) that have hard things going on in their lives. This week our topic in Homeroom is empathy. Another timely topic and reminder to look outside of

ourselves and our individual experiences to notice and connect with others around us. Oftentimes I describe this as extending grace to all. We might not know exactly what someone is experiencing or going through at any given time, but we can extend patience, kindness, and good will to everyone and expect that the same will be extended back to us in return. The indicator this week that goes along with this concept/topic is *"We bring our best effort and contribute to the group."* We have an opportunity as a school community again this year to band together in support of Oak Canyon students/families in need this holiday season. It's not a competition, not a requirement, just an opportunity to make donations of any amount to the school that can be used to ensure that

we can take care of our own. (More information about this service opportunity is found below.) When we come together in an endeavor such as this, there is no predicting the amount of good we can do to help those around us. This donation drive will begin on Friday, December 1st and end on Friday, December 15th. We hope all students will be able to participate in some way. In addition, if you or someone you know of at Oak Canyon are in need of help this holiday season, please let us know. I'm excited to see what happens! Thanks for all you do to make Oak Canyon great!

Mrs. Ross

NEW INFORMATION

FROM THE OAK CANYON PTSA

OCJH REFLECTIONS AWARDS NIGHT

On Monday, November 27, at 7 PM, students from Oak Canyon who received an Award of Excellence for their Reflections entry will be recognized by the Pleasant Grove Cluster PTA at a Reflections Honors Night. This event will be held in the Oak Canyon Auditorium. Winners from elementary and secondary schools in the PG Cluster will also be recognized at this event. Way to go, Eagles!



OCJH FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

From Mr. Bearden: Another successful food drive is in the books with the most items donated per student by Yeznia DeLaCruz's homeroom, who donated 1420 items or 49 per student! The total reported by the whole school was 5705 items. We were able to fill our school food pantry and help another school to do the same. Thank you Oak Canyon for helping to feed a lot of hungry folks this holiday season!

FACULTY HOLIDAY SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

In years past, there has been a Penny Wars service project in December the proceeds of which were used to purchase gift cards for Oak Canyon students in need during the holiday season. That said, we are mindful of the current financial situations of many of our patrons and literally do not want to nickel and dime them right before Christmas. Last year, we engaged in a faculty service project where we could make donations to benefit students in need at Christmas. We ended up extending the opportunity to participate in this service project to Oak Canyon students and families. If you are inclined to make a donation, you can visit My School Fees and select "Holiday Donation" and enter an amount of your choosing. Mrs. Hoyal can also assist you in the Finance Office. Donations will be accepted December 1st-15th. Thank you for any contribution you are able to make to this cause!

FROM THE LIBRARY

--Battle of the Books: Do You Like to Read? Do You Want to Win Prizes and Meet People? Join a school Battle of the Books team! Sign-ups begin this week. You can join as a team, by yourself, or with a friend and be assigned a team. We meet monthly with mock battles, activities, and prizes from now until April. Then students compete in a school-level knowledge bowl-type competition. Sign up in the library and come to a kick-off meeting on December 6th after school.

SAVE THE DATE--9TH GRADE CHRISTMAS NIGHT DANCE 12/8

Our first 9th grade night dance of the year will be held on Friday, December 8th in the Commons Area. There will be a \$5 fee to attend and refreshments of hot chocolate and donuts will be provided. Our theme is "Polar Express" so the dress is casual--students should wear school appropriate pajamas. Please note that this dance is only for 9th graders that attend Oak Canyon. Students will need to bring their student identification cards with them to get into the dance. Please let the office know if you have any questions!

STUDENT PICTURES FOR THE YEARBOOK!

The yearbook team is looking for some good talent! Make sure you add your first and last name(s) to each photo, your grade, and an optional caption! Get creative! If your talent is hard to show with a photo, try to find a way to represent it. Send anything from your art, playing a sport, coding, cooking, fixing a Rubix cube, playing an instrument, the options are endless! If you want a chance to be put in the yearbook and showcase something unique, send a picture of showing your talent to mredford@alpinedistrict.org. We are excited to see what hidden gifts you have!

CALLING ALL OCJH ASPIRING STUDENT WRITERS!

If you are a student that loves to write, this announcement is for you! This year's Teen Author Boot Camp is coming up on March 23, 2024 at the Utah Valley Convention Center. You can spend a day learning from a lineup of publishers and authors including Christopher Paolini, Jessica Day George, Kathryn Purdie, and Sara B. Larson. If this opportunity interests you, please see Ms. Lister (C-124) before December 15.

DRAW LIKE A DISNEY ARTIST!

Do you like to sketch, but lack confidence in your abilities? Maybe you don't know the best techniques or feel like your art isn't meeting your expectations. Maybe you just want to level-up your artwork. Learn the methods and skills you need through art lessons taught by a Disney artist. Receive guided practice, engaging assignments, personalized feedback, and live lessons. Head to SharpenedStylus.com to learn more and sign up for a free introductory course.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



REMINDERS

REMINDER CONCERNING 7TH GRADE STUDENT VACCINATIONS

- We need an updated immunization record from your doctor's office or the health department in order to meet the state's vaccine requirement for junior high.
- If your student had an exemption previously, it is required to be renewed now that your student is in Junior High, please be sure to include the TDAP vaccine and Meningococcal with your exemptions. The exemption can be completed online at immunize.utah.gov.
- Please email or drop off your certificate to the school directly.
- Any students not up to date by Friday, November 2nd will be placed on a 30 day conditional enrollment and after that period of time, if the records are not updated, he/she will be excluded from school. Please expect to receive a certified letter and/or email from our school nurse.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to our school nurse at janderson2@alpinedistrict.org.

NEW STUDENT TARDY PROCEDURE

Starting at the beginning of last school year, we made a change from a 5 minute passing period between classes to a 7 minute passing period. There are many reasons for doing this: more time for students to connect with their friends, time for both teachers and students to recharge for their next class, more time for students to get from class to class, more time for teachers and students to use the facilities in between classes, etc. We have a warning bell that rings 2 minutes before the 7 minutes is up to alert students that they should be on their way to class. Sadly most students are waiting until that 2 minute bell to start making their way to class and end up tardy. In fact, we have more tardies with a 7 minute passing period than we had with a 5 minute passing period. We are still committed to the reasons we made the adjustment in the first place, so the following adjustments/procedures are now in effect:

- The warning bell will ring 3 minutes before the 7 minute passing period is over instead of 2 minutes before.
- When a student has accumulated 5 tardies in a term, they will be called down to talk with an admin.
- When a student has accumulated 10 tardies in a term, they will have lunch detention for 1 day.
- When a student has accumulated 15 tardies in a term, they will have lunch detention for 2 days.
- When a student has accumulated 20 tardies in a term, they will have lunch detention for 3 days the admin will schedule a meeting with the student and their parents.

It is always an option to switch back to a 5 minute passing period, but we would like to attempt this procedure first. Please help your student to internalize the importance of being to class on time!

CCRS FOR CURRENT 8TH GRADERS

Current OCJH 8th graders have the opportunity to meet with their counselor starting on Tuesday, October 24 for their CCR meetings. CCR stands for Career and College Readiness, and that is what counselors will be discussing with students and their parents. Parents can select a time to meet with their 8th grader's counselor on the Oak Canyon website.

ASD RISE NOMINATIONS

Do you know a teacher or school employee who is Remarkable, Inspiring, Selfless, and/or Encouraging? Nominations are now open for the [2023-2024 ASD RISE Award](#). Nominees will be recognized at their school, highlighted on our website, and a few each month will be selected for Board Recognition during a Board meeting at the District Office.

UTAH JAZZ/INSTRUCTURE NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for the Utah Jazz MVE (Most Valuable Educator) Award. If there is an #ASD educator who has had an impact on your student, please nominate them [HERE](#). Each honored educator will be a guest of Instructure at a game and will receive a personalized Jazz jersey. In addition, they will receive a \$1,000 classroom grant and a surprise classroom visit or organized assembly involving the Jazz Bear mascot and personnel from the Utah Jazz and Instructure. We have AMAZING teachers!!