



Orchard Valley Middle School

Panther Paws

Spring 2009 Update to the Families of Orchard Valley Students

From the Desk of Stephan Buono, Principal

Band News

Congratulations to the following students who received the honor of being accepted into the **Olympic Conference Honors Band** for the **2008/2009** school year: Cali Leone, Brandi Staffieri, Kyle Leonard, Joe Marino, Jon Ratcliffe, Marquan Roberts and Alex Teschner. *They performed at the WTHS CBAC on February 3 along with students from 15 other middle schools.*

Congratulations to the following students for being accepted into the **2008/2009 All South Jersey Honors Band**. Students were chosen based on a vigorous audition. Students are scheduled to perform their concert on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at Rowan University. Those students are Kyle Leonard and Joe Marino.

Orchestra

Solo & Ensemble Festival - This year OVMS string students are participating in the 24th Solo & Ensemble Festival hosted by our township. 6th and 7th grades perform on March 4, 2009 at Bunker Hill Middle School and 8th grade performs with high school students at the high school on February 26, 2009. District string students spend months preparing ensemble music to perform for a clinician, who critiques them, and other students. The festival is run in an open, master class setting so that the performers and the audience can listen to and learn from the

clinician's comments. As students prepare for this festival, they develop skills in the areas of cooperation, discipline, responsibility, leadership and musicality.

Recital – Orchestra students will perform the solos and ensembles they have been preparing at Orchard Valley on March 10, 2009. This will give parents and family an opportunity to hear what the students have been working on. Students can be seen and heard playing in a small group. The recital starts at 6:30 p.m. and should last about an hour.

2008 New Jersey School Report Card



Check it out!!

The 2008 New Jersey School Report Card is now available on the District website WTPS.org. Under District Information there is a link to the School Report Card and then a link to each school's specific report card or use the following link: <http://wtps.org/district info/school reportcards.html>

Copies are available in the OVMS main office and at the Central Administration building located at 206 E. Holly Avenue, Sewell, NJ.

Student Drop-Off



IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE TO PARENTS:

If you choose to drop-off or pick-up your child from OVMS, please adhere to the following:

- **Turn slowly into OVMS from Pitman-Downer Road, making sure you are aware of the student walkers who are crossing**
- **Follow the directions of the crossing guards**
- **Drive slowly**
- **Stay in one lane, pull up as far as possible along the curbside. Students should only leave and enter vehicles that are parked by the curb through passengers side doors.**

OVMS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY NIGHT

On January 29, 2009, Orchard Valley students participated in the Annual district Technology Night held at the high school. The following OVMS students were recognized for their accomplishments:

8th Grade C.O. 2 Dragster Competition – 1st place went to Anthony Pacifico, 3rd place to Marquan Roberts

6th grade Structural Challenge Bridge Competition – 1st place went to Kayla Bride, 6th place to Alley Strickon, Chelsea Pinaro and Meghan O’Neill

Thank you to all who came out and supported Orchard Valley and the Technology Education Program.

MATH COUNTS NEWS

On Saturday, February 7, 2009, our OVMS MATH COUNTS team participated in the regional competition at Rowan University. The goal of MATH COUNTS, a national organization sponsored by the Society of Professional Engineers, is to create an interest and excitement about math for middle school students. The OVMS team competed against students from 22 other middle schools from southern New Jersey in a variety of events. Students worked both with and without the use of calculators using critical reading and thinking skills in such areas as geometry, probability, logical reasoning, algebra and data analysis.

Our OVMS team had been preparing for the competition since October. Team members are: Brenden Finn, Casey Wang, Nicole Rynkiewicz, Meghan O’Neill, Julie Ling, Mike Vinci and Monique Gigliotti. Casey Wang was recognized with the highest individual score for our school. All team members did a great job and are to be commended for their dedication to MATH COUNTS and to their school.



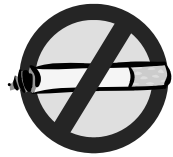
Geography Bee

So long Alex Trebek!!!! OVMS had its own glamorous celebrities decked out in their finery for this years annual National Geographic Geo Bee which was held Jeopardy style on January 6th in the school's cafetorium. A bee was held for each grade level and those winners were:

- Grade 6 – Kayla Bride
- Grade 7 – Genavieve Esposito
- Grade 8 – Nadine White

A championship round was later held and Miss Esposito emerged as the 2009 school winner. To advance from the school Bee to the state Bee, Genna took the written qualifying test. Results from that are not in as of this printing. Best of luck to Genna, and congratulations to all who participated in this year's event.

REBEL 2



During October, REBEL 2 members sold pink rubber bracelets to raise awareness about the risks of smoking and breast cancer here at OVMS. The students were able to send a check of \$202.00 to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

REBEL 2, under the direction of advisor Mrs. Nancy Mazgajewski, has approximately 40 members.

KNIT WITS



Throughout the winter months, 6th – 8th grade Knit Wit members have been keeping their fingers busy knitting scarves and hats for a homeless shelter for families in Glassboro, NJ. Many of these students joined the group not knowing how to knit, learned quickly, and began to help those less fortunate than themselves. A commercial note from Mrs. Mazgajewski, the big Knit Wit, “any unwanted yarn donations will be put to good use by the OVMS Knit Wits.”

ABSENTEE BALLOTS



School Board elections and voting on the 2009-2010 school budget are scheduled for *April 21, 2009 from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM at WTHS 9-10 Gymnasium*. Please make every effort to vote. If you won't be in the area that day then you can obtain an absentee ballot by visiting the WTPS web page. Whether you vote in person at the high school or you vote by absentee ballot; the important thing is that you **VOTE**.



NURSE'S PAGE

Spring is here, and unfortunately the ticks are hatching. It's time to protect yourself from ticks and Lyme Disease. OVMS and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services thank you in advance for your help in keeping our at risk children informed about this public health problem. Tick-borne diseases are a growing concern in our state. The best way to avoid tick-infested diseases is to avoid tick-infested areas, including woodland, wooded edges, and landscaped areas with dense ground cover, leaf litter, or shrubs. If this is not possible, take the following precautions when entering likely tick habitats.

- Wear light-colored clothing, making it easier to see ticks.
- Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.
- Use repellants. Personal repellants which contain DEET can be used on skin and clothing, while repellants containing permethrin should only be used on clothing. **Be certain to read label directions carefully.**

For more information go to: http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/f_lyme.htm

Another nuisance is exposure to poison ivy, oak, or sumac. These are the most common causes of skin irritation. It is estimated that about half the people in the United States are allergic to urushiol, an oily substance found in the leaves, stems, flowers, roots and berries of these three related plants in the sumac family. For those people, contact with the plants need not even be direct for an allergic reaction to take place.

- Poison ivy: the most widespread of the three plants, is a woody vine or trailing shrub that grows in woods, fields, vacant lots and in backyards. It has reddish stems that bears three shiny green leaves from spring through summer.
- Poison oak: It also has three shiny leaves. There are two kinds; the eastern poison oak is a low shrub and the pacific poison oak. They are shaped like oak leaves.
- Poison sumac: grows as a bush or small tree in the swampy areas of the eastern U.S. Each of its stems bears two opposing rows of leaflets with a single leaflet at the tip.

No matter which of the three plants is the culprit, the result is the same for the susceptible child who comes into contact- though sometimes after a delay of up to 10 days- the exposed skin will become reddened, swollen, and blistered. These symptoms will usually be accompanied by intense itching and burning. The blisters burst, leaving weeping sores that soon crust over.

Teach your child the cautionary jingle, "leaflets three, let it be." Call the doctor if:

1. There is any swelling around the eyes, mouth, nose or genitals. 2. The itching is severe and does not respond to home remedies. 3. They exhibit indications of secondary infection, including increased inflammation, fever, or swollen lymph nodes.

Contrary to popular belief, the fluid from these blisters will not spread the inflammation to others or to other parts of the body. Only the offending plant's oil can spread the inflammation, and for that reason it is essential that you remove the oil from your child's skin, clothing and shoes as soon as possible after exposure. You can use soap and water to remove the oil from the skin. After washing, rub affected area with rubbing alcohol, and then rinse with water. Apply calamine lotion to relieve itching.

I hope this information is helpful to you and your family. If you have any further questions, please call me at 582-5353 ext.5631.





NetSmartz Workshop



www.NetSmartz.org

A Program of



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

NetSmartz Workshop at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

699 Prince Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3175

Telephone 703.274.3900 Facsimile 703.549.3055

www.NetSmartz.org

Help Your Children Be Safer Online

When a teenager met a man online, he seemed to be the sympathetic friend she needed. He convinced her to run away with him twice. Now the man is in jail, and though the teenager realizes she is lucky to be alive, she is haunted by the idea that this man will know where to find her when he gets out.¹

Parents and community leaders can learn simple precautions to help children be safer online. The **Washington Township Middle Schools** and **Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office** are hosting an

Internet Safety Night **Chestnut Ridge Middle School** **Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 7:00 PM.**

In one year, one in four children had an unwanted exposure to pictures of naked people or people having sex. Approximately one in five received a sexual solicitation or approach. One in 17 was threatened or harassed. One in 33 received an aggressive sexual solicitation (from someone who asked to meet them somewhere; called them on the telephone; sent them regular mail, money, or gifts). And 70 percent of these sexual solicitations occurred at home.²

Online predators use many methods to get to children. He or she may quickly initiate an in-person meeting or spend months "grooming" the child towards a sexual relationship. Sexual predators may use material goods, such as compact discs and games, to coerce children to meet them in person. Predators may even send children bus tickets or money to cover the cost of travel or travel to meet children.³ Parents and children need to be aware of the possible dangers on the Internet.

There have been reports to the **Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office** of cyber bullying, screen name hijacking (assuming the screen name of another), online harassment and terroristic threats by students.

Do You Know As Much about the Internet as Your Child?

Come and learn about Instant Messaging (IM), Blogs, MySpace, Live Journals, Role Plays, Chat Rooms and more.

Do you know how to read Chat Lingo?

A/S/L, PAW, F2F, KOL, DIKU, H&K, NP, PM, WTGP, LTR

If not, you need to be at this presentation.

¹For more information about "Amy's Choice," please visit www.NetSmartz.org/TEENS.

²David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and Janis Wolak. *Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth*. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2000, page ix.

³*Internet Safety*. Atlanta, Georgia: Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 2001, page 13.



Rally at the Valley

The Rally at the Valley is scheduled for May 27, 2009, during periods 7, 8 and 9! The rally, which is sponsored by our PTO, is a special outdoor event for any student who meets the criteria outlined below. The special extravaganza is our way of showing appreciation to the students who have worked really hard this school year! Students must submit their Rally Passport to guidance prior to May 1, 2009.

New Rally Criteria

ACADEMICS

Students must earn Principal's List and/or Honor Roll for 2 out of the first 3 marking periods.

OR

ROAR for two marking periods ~ Students must increase their overall grades by at least 10 points each marking period.

Deadline: 3rd Marking Period End / April 8, 2009

SERVICE

Students must earn and log 10 hours of school and/or community service on their Rally Passport.

Passports can be found in the guidance office. See a staff member for service suggestions. The Rally Passport is to be submitted to your grade level counselor by:

Deadline: May 1, 2009

INVOLVEMENT

Students must be involved in at least one school OR outside activity. Students must have their advisor/coach/teacher verify on their Rally Passport.

Deadline: May 1, 2009

CHARACTER

Students must maintain less than 10 discipline points up until the day prior to the Rally.

1 Detention = 1 point

1 Saturday School = 3 points

1 Suspension = 4 points

*Students nominated for **Student of the Month** must meet the Service, Involvement and Character requirements.*



Challenging You to **Be** the Change



We are very excited about bringing the award winning program, "Challenge Day" to OVMS on March 19. Challenge Day will include approximately 30 staff members and 100 students from seventh and eighth grade. Donations are still being accepted to help fund this program.

Challenge Day's vision is that every child lives in a world where they feel safe, loved, and celebrated. If you want more information about Challenge Day visit challengeday.org. We are very excited to bring this program to WTPS and hope to do this annually.

Thank you in advance for being part of the "**Be the Change**" Team!

SOCIAL STUDIES STUDENTS WRITE TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

In Mr. Janeczko's seventh grade social studies classes, the students wrote persuasive letters to President Obama about his plan to increase volunteerism in the United States; including middle school children. Some students agreed with the President, while others expressed why they thought it is not a good idea. A part of the President's plan is to increase the membership

of the Peace Corps. The week the students wrote the letter was Peace Corps Week and also had a visit from Frank Adams, the father of seventh grader Elena Adams. Mr. Adams spent two years in the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer. He shared his experiences with the students.

Panther Parade of Stars



This year's Panther Parade of Stars is going to be held on Friday, May 1, 2009. It's time to get your act together and make this our best talent show ever!!!!

OVMS Night At:



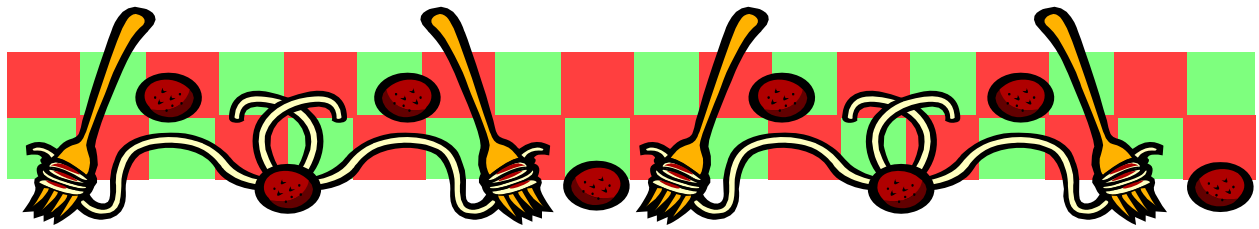
Date: Tuesday, March 24

Time: 6-9 PM

Surprise Guest Scoopers!!!

Come out and celebrate the first week of spring by enjoying an ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery. A portion of all proceeds will benefit the 6th grade class council at OVMS.





Meatball Madness Fundraiser and Service Project

Over the last several years, a select group of OVMS students, in conjunction with Washington Township's Changing Our World Project, have conducted a rather unique fundraiser titled "March Meatball Madness". This year, in an effort to give back to our school for its overwhelming support of the various projects run by the Changing Our World Project, we are accepting orders from parents of Orchard Valley Middle School students. The profit from sales emanating from OVMS will be donated back to the school and assist in providing extra funds for various student programs such as Challenge Day 2010 and 2009 end-of-year student activities.

The price of the meatballs is \$10.00 for a bag of twenty. They will be made on Saturday, April 4th and can be picked up that same day between 10am and 2pm at our side door by the cafeteria. This is an excellent bargain and at the same time produces some financial assistance for the school to allow the many "extras" we try to provide for our students. All order forms can be returned to your son/daughter's homeroom teacher. Checks should be made out to the "*Changing Our World Project*". Questions – please call Kim Kalber at ext. 5713 or email kkalber@wtps.org.

NJ ASK TESTING AT OVMS



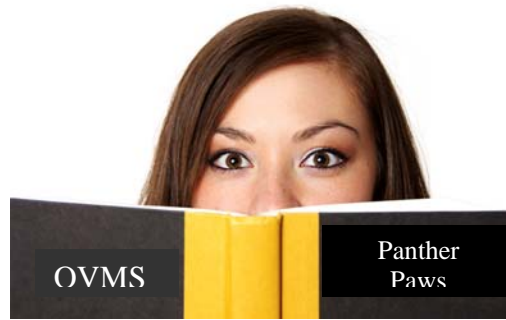
On April 28, April 29, April 30 and May 1, 7th and 8th grade students from across the State will be taking NJ ASK state assessment test in the areas of Language Arts and Math. Our 8th grade students will be tested in the area of Science as well. Makeup dates for this testing will be May 4 through May 7, 2009. Our 6th grade students will be tested in the areas of Language Arts and Math on May 11, May 12, May 13 and May 14, 2009. Makeup dates for this testing will be May 18 through May 22, 2009. The tests are designed to measure our students' mastery of the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Orchard Valley Middle School will be offering four Saturday Test Preparation sessions for grades 6, 7 and 8 to assist students to prepare for the upcoming test. The Saturday Test Preparation session will be offered on Saturday, March 28, April 4, April, 18 and April 25, 2009 from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm. Letters have recently been mailed home inviting all students to join us for the program.



It is a good practice for students to have a full, restful night's sleep and a sound balanced breakfast to be mentally and physically prepared for the testing days. Every student needs to arrive on time each of the testing dates ready to perform at the best of his/her ability. Please know that we are very proud of our students and want them to test as best as they can. Your assistance to support our efforts is appreciated.



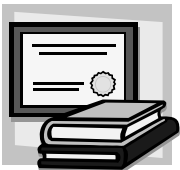


EXTENDED YEARBOOK SALE

Extended yearbook sale. Online only. Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 27. Cost \$27.00
Parents can click on "order your yearbook" icon on OVMS homepage to purchase a yearbook.



Pride of the Valley



On Tuesday, April 7, 2009, OVMS will be hosting Pride of the Valley (formerly known as The Learning Fair). During this special evening many of our teachers return to school to showcase student work that has been done throughout the school year. Parents and students are invited to walk through the building and participate in the activities that are planned for this educational evening. In addition to the Pride of the Valley which runs from 6:45-8:30 PM our PTO is hosting our Annual Taste of Italy Dinner prior to the educational exposition. The dinner is catered by A&S Restaurant and is \$8.00 per person (Great Deal!). Dinner begins at 5:30 and ends at 7:00. Come join us for food, fun and an opportunity for your children to show-off their endeavors in academia. A flyer concerning this event will be included in our March, 2009 mailing which you will be receiving shortly.

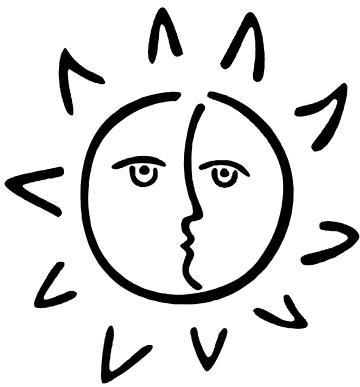


Friday	March 6	3 rd Marking Period grades in Power School made current
Monday	March 9	PTO Meeting – 7:00 p.m. OVMS
Thursday	March 19	Challenge Day – OVMS – Grades 7 and 8 Parent Internet Safety Workshop – 7:00 p.m. – Chestnut Ridge Middle School
Friday	March 20	8 th Grade High School Overview – WTHS Counselors – OVMS Cafeteria – 8:20 a.m. to 9:35 a.m. Student of the Month Luncheon – 11:53 – OVMS Main Office Conference Room
Tuesday	March 24	High School Counselors to schedule 8-O students OVMS Night at Cold Stone Creamery – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. – Benefit 6 th Gr. Council
Wednesday	March 25	High School Counselors to schedule 8-V students
Thursday	March 26	Spring Musical – High School Musical II – 7:00 p.m. – OVMS Cafetorium
Friday	March 27	Wellness Fair – OVMS – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Spring Musical – High School Musical II – 7:00 p.m. – OVMS Cafetorium
Saturday	March 28	OVMS Saturday NJ ASK Test Prep – Grades 6, 7 & 8 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Spring Musical – High School Musical II – 7:00 p.m. – OVMS Cafetorium
Tuesday	March 31	Superintendent’s Student Cabinet – 11:45 a.m.
Thursday	April 2	District Art Night - WTHS
Saturday	April 4	OVMS Saturday NJ ASK Test Prep – Grades 6, 7 & 8 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Monday	April 6	PTO Meeting – OVMS – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	April 7	OVMS Pride of the Valley – 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. PTO Taste of Italy Dinner – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – OVMS Cafetorium
Wednesday	April 8	End of Marking Period 3
Thurs., Fri, Mon.	April 9, 10, 11	School Closed – Spring Break
Thursday	April 16	Faculty/Student Basketball Game – 3:00 p.m. - OVMS
Friday	April 17	Spring Fling Dance – 6, 7 and 8 th grade – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	April 18	OVMS Saturday NJ ASK Test Prep – Grades 6, 7 & 8 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday	April 21	Budget Vote – School Board Elections – WTHS – 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	April 22	Bells 5 th Grade Visit to OVMS - 10:00 a.m. Marking Period 3 Report Cards Issued
Thursday	April 23	Thomas Jefferson 5 th Grade Visit to OVMS – 10:00 a.m. 5 th Grade Parent Orientation – 6:30 p.m. - OVMS
Friday	April 24	End of Exploratory Cycle 4
Saturday	April 25	OVMS Saturday NJ ASK Test Prep – Grades 6, 7 & 8 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tues. – Friday	April 28-May 1	NJ ASK Testing – Grades 7 & 8 4/28 and 4/29 – LAL 4/30 – Math 5/1 - Math – Grade 7, Science – Grade 8
Friday	May 1	Panther Parade of Stars Talent Show – 7:00 p.m. – OVMS Cafetorium
Monday-Thursday	May 4 - May 7	Make-up testing – Grades 7 and 8 – NJ ASK
Wednesday	May 6	Spring Concert – Grades 7 and 8 – CBAC – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	May 7	Girls’ Night Out – OVMS – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	May 8	Principal’s List Ice Cream Social for students grades 6, 7 and 8 – 2:00 p.m.
Mon-Thurs.	May 11 – May 14	NJ ASK Testing – Grade 6 5/11 and 5/12 – LAL 5/13 and 5/14 - Math PTO Meeting – 7:00 p.m. - OVMS



UPCOMING DATES AND REMINDERS

Thursday	May 14	Honors and Leadership Banquet – Grade 6 – OVMS Cafetorium – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	May 15	Dorney Park – Orchestra/Chorus/Band
Monday-Friday	May 18 – May 22	Scholastic Book Fair Week Make-up testing – Grade 6 – NJ ASK
Wednesday	May 20	6 th Grade Spring Concert – OVMS Cafetorium – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	May 21	Honors and Leadership Banquet – Grades 7 & 8 Renaissance Room – 6:30 p.m.
Monday	May 25	School Closed – Memorial Day
Tuesday	May 26	Superintendent’s Student Cabinet – 10_15 a.m.
Wednesday	May 27	Rally at the Valley – Periods 7, 8 & 9
Thursday	May 28	Rain Date – Rally at the Valley
Friday	May 29	Senior Service Day 8 th Grade Farewell Dance – OVMS – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	June 4	8 th Grade Hershey Park Trip
Mon. - Friday	June 15 - June 19	Early Dismissal – 12:20 – No Lunch Served
Thursday	June 19	Last Student Day
Friday	June 22	Last Teacher Day



Let the Sun Shine!

