REMOTE LEARNING HAPPENINGS, HELPFUL HINTS AND MORE!

REMINDER ~ NO REMOTE LEARNING
MONDAY, MAY 25 ~ MEMORIAL DAY

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Teachers always work hard, putting hours beyond the school day planning for what each child needs and reflecting on their practice. Since March, OAES teachers have been designing a new way to teach. They have crushed their crash courses in Google Classroom, Zoom, Google Meets & Hangouts, along with multiple online platforms that work best at their grade level. I am so impressed with their ability to turn this new information around to develop instruction that is responsive to their students while still creating connection.

You may be feeling a deeper appreciation this year for teachers. Maybe because you see all their dedication first hand, or maybe because you have become one yourself for your own child(ren). A few parents have reached out to ask about mailing small gifts to teachers. Unfortunately, we are not able to facilitate this request. The appreciation efforts teachers remember most are the kind notes and heartfelt communication about the difference they have made to your child. And, please remember to take a moment of appreciative reflection for yourself this week for all that you are doing to help your child's education.
PTO TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK MESSAGE

Dear OAES Families,

First, I want to say hi and I hope you are all doing well and healthy through this crazy time. We are so grateful for the families, students, staff and teachers for all of the hard work they are doing through this time. Transitioning classrooms, connection and work, what a big and unexpected shift. To that end, we would like to shower the teachers with love and appreciation during this year’s Teacher Appreciation Week, since we can not do the typical in person activities we are putting a call out for virtual love.

Let’s send abundant notes of appreciation, support and love throughout the week through their emails. Showing them we are still here even from a distance, we see them showing up still and in new ways, and we all miss them.
Regular instruction will end on May 29th. The first two weeks of June will be devoted to targeted catch up supports. These two weeks will be in lieu of traditional summer school. We will design these two weeks to target students and standards, and teachers will work with smaller groups of students to reteach standards and to address misconceptions and gaps in learning.

This enables us to plan for and implement a version of summer school, which would otherwise be very difficult to pull off for a host of reasons.

- Some students will be required to engage in this targeted learning support structure based on teacher/administration recommendation.

We love and miss Ocean Avenue Elementary daily, are so incredibly grateful for the continued dedication to the education and community they are providing our kids.

Please stay safe, healthy and well!

Victoria Parker and the OAES PTO

Donate to the Ocean Avenue PTO through PayPal! Your donations go to support after-school enrichment scholarships, teacher grants, field trips, and countless other experiences for Ocean Avenue School students.

Thank you.

MAY COMMUNITY MEETING

Here it is ~ the May Community Meeting. Thank you to our students for sending us your pictures and videos of the hard work you are doing at home each day. We want you to know that we miss all of you! You are all doing an amazing job and we couldn't be more proud of you!
For students who are not required to attend these two weeks, we will design and roll out 10 days of learning activities, which families can choose to use with their children. These will be designed by our specials teachers, Extended Learning Coordinators and Academic team.

**OCEAN AVENUE INQUIRY AT HOME WITH KATH MURDOCH**

Here is a bonus clip of four additional suggestions for Ocean Avenue Elementary parents to nurture the spirit of inquiry at home.

- **Second Inquiry Video** for parents (password: *bonusinquiry*).

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is OPEN! Even though school is closed, we encourage you to register your child online to start the process. **CLICK HERE** to register online.

For questions regarding online registration, please contact Janice Caminiti at *caminj@portlandschools.org* or Melissa West at *westme@portlandschools.org*.

**CONNECTING WITH A TEACHER VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS**

Start a Conversation

1. On your computer, go to *hangouts.google.com* or open Hangouts in *Gmail*. If you have the Hangouts Chrome extension, Hangouts will open in a new window.
2. At the top, click *New conversation*.
3. Enter and select a name or email address.
4. Type your message. You can also add emojis and photos.
5. On your keyboard, press Enter.
6. I’ve sent them each a message already but if they want to start a new one my email address is *taylom@portlandschools.org*.

Portuguese:

**Iniciar uma Conversa**

1. No seu computador, vá para *hangouts.google.com* ou abra Hangouts no *Gmail*. Se tiver a extensão Chrome para Hangouts, ele abrirá uma janela nova.
2. No topo, clique em *Nova conversação*.
3. Insira e selecione um nome ou endereço de email.
5. No teclado, pressione Enter.
6. Eu já enviei para eles cada um uma mensagem, mas se eles quiserem começar uma nova minha email address is *taylom@portlandschools.org*.
HELPFULIDEOS AND NEWS FROM SOME OF OUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS

HEALTHY HABITS WITH ROBY!

It is important to stay healthy and active during our time at home, and one way to do this is through reading. One of our staff member's, Roby, created a great video for the whole family to watch on how reading can enhance our imaginations and can take us to another place. Roby and other BEACH Staff share some of their favorite books with you.

Thank you Roby for creating this informative video! View video by clicking on the picture below.

SOME HUMOR FROM OAES' SPANISH TEACHER!
LIBRARY NEWS ~ BOOK RETURN UPDATE!

LIBRARY BOOK RETURNS:

Thank you for all of you who are curious about your library books. Here are some updates:

- If you have a library book at home, and you’d like to continue reading it, please do! There will be no late fines, and we’re happy that you have books that you’re enjoying. If you’re in 5th grade and moving to middle school next year, don’t worry. You can return them to any Portland Public School and they can be sent back to Ocean Ave. (Libraries are magical like that.)
- If you left a library book at school, it will be returned for you.
- If you’re worried because you don’t know where your book is or something has happened to it, please don’t worry. We’re all in this together, and they will likely show up.
- If you’d like to return the books that you have in your home, we’re working on a safe and reliable way to do that. Stay tuned, and for now, just keep them in a special place so you remember when the time comes.

Please reach out with any questions. Also, if you need access to books, I’m happy to help.

Happy Reading!!
Ms. Platt
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PARENT UNIVERSITY SET FOR TODAY ~ MAY 6, 5-6:30 PM

PPS families are invited to a Parent University virtual Town Hall-style discussion on managing stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 crisis. It will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, May 6, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It will feature Superintendent Xavier Botana and a panel of experts and parents.

The pandemic has brought disruption and uncertainty in our lives and the loss of “normal” has brought up a multitude of social and emotional issues for families. In this challenging time, what has PPS done that you have found useful and how else can we best support families? What resources are available for coping with stress and isolation? How can we best cultivate a resilient mindset for both our children and ourselves? What strategies have families found to be useful in this situation?

These questions will be explored with Superintendent Botana and the panel of experts and parents in a Virtual Town Hall style meeting via Zoom.

The meeting can be accessed via this link: https://zoom.us/j/91906290873?pwd=Q1ZCNkF3ZytMNnkrVHVRNgTvQUNIUQ09

Password: 647274

To join via Telephone dial
US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or + 1 301 715 8592

Or one-tap for mobile:
US: +13126266799,,2545940766# or +16465588656,,2545940766#
Meeting ID: 919 0629 0873

Interpreters will be available at this event. Click on your language when you sign in.

LET'S GO! 5210 ~~ TOP 20 INDOOR ACTIVITIES TO GET KIDS UP AND MOVING!

The MaineHealth Let’s Go! 5210 Team has been sharing out helpful wellness resources on various topics from physical fitness ideas, to nature-based educational tools and activities, to kid friendly quick and healthy meals and much more. In this weekly note, I am sharing out an article on the Top 20 Indoor Activities to Get Kids Up and Moving.
KIDS MOVEMENT PROJECT

One of Ocean Avenue's BEACH ed techs, Jill McMahon, would like to share out a project she is doing to help families find local trails for hiking, walking and biking. Jill and her family explore a new trail almost every day (weather permitting) and post about the experience @kidsmovementproject ~ Instagram and Facebook.

The Mission of the Kids Movement Project is to teach children and their caregivers about the endless benefits of regular exercise and time spent outdoors. This is Jill's passion. Right now, they are focusing on the 31 Portland Trails, but are also branching out occasionally to Scarborough, Biddeford, Cape Elizabeth, Freeport, etc.

If you are interested in checking out some new trails with your family, check it out. Jill and her family have discovered some amazing spots in the last 5 weeks!

It can be hard to be active each day, but it is so important. Get creative with your activities each day. Remember to stay healthy both in both mind and body!

PPS COVID-19 RESOURCE PAGE

The Portland Public Schools has an up-to-date COVID-19 page on the district's website with helpful school and resource information, including:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Superintendent's Letters to Families (English)
- Translations of Superintendent's Letters
- Remote Learning Set-Up & Materials
- Food Resources in the Community
- COVID-19 Information Resources
- COVID-19 Health Information
- Parent Resources

We hope you find this helpful. Portland Public Schools will use this page to keep families informed of developments related to COVID-19 and how the district is responding to the