



JANUARY, 2009

Main Line: 488-8410
Attendance Line 488-8411

3401 Auntie Stone Street
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Visit www.psdschools.org and click on SCHOOLS for a drop-down to Olander's web-site.

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! It has been great to see Olander students again and they have done an amazing job getting back into normal school routines. It is truly a pleasure to be able to walk into classrooms and see students working hard and having fun with their teachers and classmates.

The PSD Board of Education addressed our name change proposal on January 13th and I would like to extend thanks to the parents and staff who attended the meeting. Special thanks goes to Mr. Gravelle, Mr. Teck, and fourth grader Rachel Holland who all made terrific presentations. Board members were very impressed with our role in pioneering PBL and the 21st Century skills that students are learning through this unique program. We anticipate the BOE will officially approve the Olander name change at the next board meeting on January 27th. Once formally approved, our new name will be "Olander School for Project Based Learning."

With the help of students, staff, and our PTO, we will be planning some celebrations and events to commemorate this important occasion.

On another note, report cards were sent home last week! Please return the blue form in your report card envelope if you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teacher. Conferences provide an important avenue for discussing your child's academic, social, and emotional development. Conferences are also an excellent way to help your child stay on track for second semester so please take advantage of this opportunity!

If you know of families that would benefit from joining the Olander family, please let them know about the Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, January 22nd. Parents may also ob-

serve the kindergarten classrooms on January 28th and 29th. I would also be very happy to take prospective parents on a tour of our wonderful school. Please take a moment to look at the many other important upcoming school events listed in this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Brian

The newsletter is now electronic! Student Council has asked that the newsletter be sent by email to reduce the amount of paper we use. Go to the PSD website homepage, www.psdschools.org and click on the star **E Mail Alert Sign-Up**. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please use the tear-off below & send to school with your student. We will only make copies of the newsletter for those who request one.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 19** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School K-12
- Jan. 20** - PTO Board Meeting
- Jan. 22** - Kinder Info Night - 6:30, Media Center
- Jan. 23** - Sock Hop - Gym - 6:00 - 9:00
- Jan. 26** - Blevins Choir, Band & Orchestra performs for 5th & 6th Grades
- Jan. 28 & 29** - Kindergarten Visitation Days
- Feb. 3** - PTO 6:45 PM - Media
- Feb. 6** - Kindergarten Rodeo
- Feb. 11** - Kids Care Club
- Feb. 12** - Kindergarten Registration; 7 AM - 6 PM
- Feb. 13** - Valentine Parties
- Feb. 13** - School of Choice Deadline
- Feb. 16** - Staff Collaboration Day - No School K-9
- March 13** - No School K-6 Teacher Workday
- March 16-20** - Spring Break
- March 27** - Report Cards go home
- April 3** - Osprey Assembly
- April 3** - International Night

Please use this tear-off section to communicate directly with me. You can share good things that are happening at school, questions you have, or any concerns you would like addressed. Use this also to provide your email address.

Name _____ Student's Name _____

? Please contact me by phone _____ or email _____

? You do not need to contact me _____ ? Please send me a paper copy of the newsletter

COUNSELING CORNER

I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable time over the holidays. We are back in action with counseling lessons in the classrooms. In the primary grades, we are continuing to learn about how to build positive friendship skills, role-playing and practicing pro-social behaviors such as including others, forgiving, being honest and fair, giving compliments, sticking up for each other, avoiding teasing and put-downs. We'll continue to do our "Peace Keeper" circles in every grade but 6th every three weeks, being sure to complement each other for our friendly behaviors and working out our concerns.

Fourth and Fifth graders have just begun a Bullying Prevention program called "Second Step". The aim of this program is to decrease teasing and bullying by focusing on pro-social friendship skills, using empathy training, teaching communication and conflict resolution skills, and working on impulse control and anger management skills. I strongly believe that teasing and bullying can be sharply reduced by teaching students appropriate ways to interact with one another and by fostering a caring community in which students learn to care for one another regardless of our differences.

Sixth graders are beginning a 10-week district-mandated Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Prevention program called, "Here's Looking at You". Research demonstrates that the better informed students are, the healthier choices they may make. This program promotes healthy decision-making by educating students on the ill-effects of drugs and alcohol as well as teaching them positive friendship skills, refusal skills, goal-setting, and positive stress reduction skills. Please look for a much more detailed description in your 6th grader's Friday folder this week. If you are interested in learning more of the risk and protective factors surrounding drug and alcohol use, please ask me for more information.

As always, I feel honored and excited to be working with your amazing students!

Peace,
Mrs. Jensen

WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA ONLINE



Everyone throughout the district has access to World Book Online! It's an amazing resource for students to use. To access the site, go to www.worldbookonline.com. Once there, type in the I.D. "Poudre", and password "Poudre". ENJOY!



Kindergarten Information Night is Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 P.M.

Kindergarten Registration is coming February 12

Kindergarten registration for students entering school in PSD in fall 2009 is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009. Registration will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all elementary schools. Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 15, 2009, are eligible to register.

On the day of registration, parents should bring their child's birth certificate (original or certified preferred), immunization records, and emergency contact information.

There is no tuition for half-day kindergarten programs; full-day programs are \$2,100 per year; inquire at your school for specifics.

The first payment is due at the time of registration; the remainder is due in 9 monthly installments from August 1, 2009 - April 1, 2010. Full and partial scholarships may be available; check with the school for eligibility requirements.

One-way transportation is provided for kindergarten students attending a half-day program who live more than one mile from their neighborhood school. Round-trip transportation is provided for students in an all-day program who live more than one mile from school. Transportation is not provided for School Choice students (those who attend a school outside their attendance areas).

GIVE KIDS A SMILE PROGRAM

On Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 ToothZone will be doing a FREE DENTAL CHECK UP for children in our local schools, who DO NOT have any dental insurance. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please call Jill Brunner or Jody Latimer in the Health office at 488-8416, to help you make an appointment. Please call us as soon as possible since there are only a few spots available. The deadline to make appointments is January 22, 2009. There will be spanish speaking staff available on the day of the dental check up.

Easy Ways to Help Olander



BOX TOPS Due Again!

The second round of **Box Tops** are due **Feb. 9**. We gather them now, rather than at the end of the semester, because they still accept the ones that are dated 2008 and we don't want them to expire! Gather your Box Tops for Education in a Ziplock bag, write your child's name and teacher on it and send them to school. Thank you!

Silent Auction Help!

International Night needs parents to help collect items to sell in the silent auction. If you can take on a small territory and solicit donations, or have contacts with Fort Collins businesses, please contact Kelly Foerster at foefam@frii.com. **The auction is how we pay for the fabulous entertainment at this event! Please help!**



January, 2009



The spring semester is full of fun events for you and your children to take advantage of at Olander. These inexpensive events are put on by PTO in hopes that you can spend time as a family, make connections with other parents and create some great memories! But they only happen when parents help, so if you haven't given your five hours of time to Olander, please look at your calendar and commit to one of these great events—

The **20th Annual Sock Hop** is coming up on **Friday, Jan. 23, from 6:30-9:00pm!** Cost is 50 cents per person with a \$2 family maximum. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be available. All children should attend with a responsible adult! Since you're coming anyway, why not help an hour or two? If you're interested in setting up, selling admissions or concessions, please contact Heather Block at cblock@frii.com.

O.D.'s Skate Night is scheduled for **Friday, Feb. 20, from 5:00-7:00pm** at O.D.'s Sport Crossing. Cost is \$3.00 per person, plus \$3 if renting skates. You're welcome to bring your own inline or roller skates. Concessions will be available.

International Night will be here before you know it! This is the fourth year for this major Olander event and it gets better each year! You don't want to miss it, **Friday, April 3 from 6:00-9:00pm**. Please mark your calendars. Contact Holly Holland if you'd like to help at hcholland@comcast.net.

The **Spring Book Fair** is **April 27-May 1** in the Media Center. This event is Buy One Get One Free and is always a parent favorite. If you'd like to help with book sales, please contact Nancy Erickson at nc_erickson@comcast.net.

There will also be several openings on next year's PTO board for parents to make a difference at Olander! Many of our committed parent volunteers will be leaving as both 5th and 6th graders graduate this year. We need "newer" parents to step up and get involved if we want to continue our great events. Now's the time to learn about them! If you're interested, contact Holly Holland at hcholland@comcast.net.

From your PTO Board: Holly Holland, Kelly Foerster, Jennifer Hansen, Sandra Nelson, Ann Biegelsen, Rachel Olbrys and Malia Hampson

Want to help but don't know what your schedule's going to be like too far in advance?

Join the "**Give Me 5!**" email list. Simply email Rachel Olbrys at olbrys9@comcast.net or Malia Hampson at mhampson@hampsonservices.com to be added to the list. We'll send out a monthly email reminder for upcoming events and our volunteer needs. If you can help... great, let us know! If not... no pressure, wait and see how your schedule is next month. We appreciate any time you are available to help!

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School Closures Due to Weather

If schools are closed due to extreme weather or other situations:

Parents should tune in to local radio, television stations, or go online to PSD's Web site to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question. Media outlets are only informed if schools are closed; **no announcements by the media means schools are open, as usual.**

A decision about weather-related school closures is made by approximately **5:30 a.m.** and media outlets are notified immediately. **Parents should not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.**

The following radio and television stations and PSD Web site will provide information about PSD school closures. **TELEVISION STATIONS:**

Channel 2 WB2News -KWGN
Channel 4 NEWS4-KCNC
Channel 7 7News -KMGH
Channel 9 9NEWS-KUSA

NEWSPAPER:

www.coloradoan.com

LOCAL RADIO STATIONS:

BEAR 107.9 FM TRI 102 102.5
KUNC 91.5 FM KIIX 1410
AM
KCOL 600 AM KUAD 99 FM
KGRE 1450 AM (SPANISH)
KCSU 90.5 FM KJJD 1170 AM (SPANISH)
Denver radio stations KOA 850 AM, and KOOL 105 FM.

PSD WEB SITE:

www.psdschools.org



FM

Bus schedule: Please visit the PSD homepage and view the entire district bus schedule.

Food Service provides lunch choices daily at Olander. The Cost is \$1.75 for students and \$2.85 for adults. Lunch menus are printed weekly in the *Coloradoan* and a monthly menu appears in each newsletter. The payment system is automated & students enter their ID on a keypad. Parents can pay by check weekly or monthly. Make checks payable to OlanderFood Service. Students can bring their lunch money to the lunchroom. For questions regarding payments, Food Service employees at Olander from 10:00 to 1:30.

Federal Lunch Program Available: Applications for the federal fee and reduced price lunch program were mailed to parents of PSD students in June. If you have misplaced your copy, we have more in the school office. **Parents must submit this new application for the 2008-2009 school year.** Identity of students participating is kept strictly confidential.

Health Concerns: Please keep school health care staff informed about your child's special health concerns, medications and dietary needs. Jody Latimer, RN, will develop a school health care plan with the assistance of Jill Brunner, Olander's Health Tech.

Before and after school child care available: Base Camp offers student care in the Olander Flex Room on school days from 6:30 a.m. to school start and after school until 6:00 p.m. Please contact BASE CAMP at 266-1734 to enroll.

Delayed start of schools due to weather, road conditions:

Should the need arise due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, PSD may implement a **2 hour delayed start of all schools.** [®] **Bus pick up times:** Buses will pick up students at bus stops 2 hours later than regularly scheduled pick-up times. Buses will make every effort to be punctual, although traffic and road conditions may increase travel time. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly in anticipation of a potentially longer wait time. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to bus stops and avoid walking along the roadways. Sidewalks are safer even if these areas are not cleared of snow. [®] **Drop off and arrival times:** Parents dropping off students, students who walk, and students driving to school should arrive 2 hours after their regular arrival times. Please do not arrive earlier.

STUDENT DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

We ask that care be given when students are dropped off or picked up from school. For parents who drop-off students at school, please use the designated drop-off lane. **We also ask that you do not leave vehicles unattended in the drop-off lane.** If you choose to walk your child from the parking area to the building, please park in an available (diagonal) parking space. **Please do not wait in or drive through the bus areas.** **Students must be picked up at 3:38 p.m. Supervision for students is not available after that time.** For everyone's safety, we ask that all pedestrians (students and parents) use the designated crossing pathways.

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STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

We want to thank our amazing first semester Student Council reps for all of the hard work they did to support Olander and our community: weekly recycling and reporting school news to classrooms, promoting our community service projects such as Cans Around Olander, Turkey Round-Up, and Adopt-A-Family, managing our school store, promoting school spirit days and PJ day, helping with Osprey assemblies, creating BEST code tours for new students and BEST code videos, and recommending the ecological switch from paper to email newsletters.

Congratulations to our second semester representatives:

6th Grade: President, Jared Janzen; Vice President, Katherine Walter; Treasurer, Cameron Erickson; Secretary, McKenna McLean; joined by 6th grade reps., Hunter Pixley and Rachel Slark

5th Grade: Clint Sexton, Anna Biederman, Andi Johnston, Zach Mayer, Kelton Hevelone, Lizzie Morrisette

4th Grade: Lauren Nelson, Maddy Olver, Jacey Lyon, Lena Long-Shore, Makalynne Dyer, Natalie Fridal

Student Council will be hosting a **book drive** for Rocky Mountain High School's "Invisible Children" club. This club benefits the children who are affected by the warfare in Uganda. (Want more info. on "Invisible Children"? See Heidi Jensen.) Collection boxes will be located in the media center. We would be very grateful for any donations of new or gently used books by January 31st. Picture books are especially needed.

We will be doing a **penny drive** to benefit children with leukemia through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Save your pennies, as they will be collected in classrooms February 2nd – 20th!

ART NEWS

Congratulations to Andrew Teck in Mrs. Haskett's third grade. His *Rousseau Rainforest* was selected to represent Olander in the SuperArt Show at the Support Service Center. An artist's reception will be held to honor the student artists on February 5th, 2009.

For those of you who are new to Olander, I just want to clarify the practice of keeping student work in the art room until the spring when all is returned home with students. Opportunities occur throughout the year for student exhibits of art. The Youth Art Month exhibit at the Lincoln Center, Olander's Art Odyssey Night (April 9th) and The Designs and Images District show are all taking place between February and May. I like to insure that each of our students have an opportunity to exhibit their work.

If any of you are interested in a one time volunteer event: help in hanging student art work is always needed the week of April 7th when we hang the Art Odyssey Show here in the hallways of Olander. Just give me a call at school: 488-8445.

Thank You!

Mrs. Susan Ort



Socks! Socks! Socks!



The Sock Hop is coming and Olander Kids Care Club is collecting socks!

Bring your new or **very** gently used adult and child sized socks to the Sock Hop.

Let's fill the Sock Tree with socks!

☺ Adult socks will benefit Homeless Gear.
(homelessgear.com)

☺ Children's socks will benefit Angel Covers,
an orphanage & school overseas.
(angelcovers.org)





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1. Attend a Superintendent listening session

Listening sessions are opportunities to talk informally with Dr. Wilson on topics of your choice. Although scheduled around PTO/PTA meetings at the schools – all parents and community members are welcome.

February 3 7:00-8:00 p.m. Cache La Poudre Elementary, 3511 W. Co. Rd. 54G, Laporte

April 21 7:00-8:00 p.m. Zach Core Knowledge Elementary, 3715 Kechter Rd, Fort Collins

May 5 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blevins Junior High, 2102 S Taft Hill Rd, Fort Collins

2. No school for K-12 students February 16, collaboration day

3. Register for kindergarten February 12

Your child's education adventure is around the corner! Kindergarten registration for students entering school in PSD in fall 2009 is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009. Registration will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all elementary schools (please check the schedule, available at school offices or on the PSD Web page at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," for deviations). Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 15, 2009, are eligible to register.

On the day of registration, parents should bring their child's birth certificate (original or certified preferred), immunization records, and emergency contact information.

4. Apply for school choice by January and February deadlines

Nearly 70% of PSD students attend neighborhood schools, where PSD's rigorous standards-based curriculum is complemented by enrichment activities. However, parents who would like their children to attend a school outside of their attendance area can do so through School Choice, on a space available basis. Transportation of School Choice students is the responsibility of the parent.

School Choice Deadlines:

First-consideration for elementary schools (Grades K-5): Friday, February 13, 2009.

First-consideration for secondary schools (Grades 6-12): Friday, January 30, 2009.

Complete the **online** School Choice Application through the Poudre School District Web site at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with Internet access; a public use computer available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the District's schools.

5. 2009 choice/open enrollment grade reconfiguration sibling procedures

In recognition of the negative impact grade level changes will have on families that have already made school choice plans for the 2009-2010 school year based on Policy JFBA (Choice/Open Enrollment) as it would apply prior to grade level changes, the following procedures apply only for the 2009-2010 school year, as follows:

1. With respect to school choice applications for each resident student seeking to choice into elementary school or middle school for the 2009-2010 school year, the District will make an individual determination as to whether the student has/had a sibling in fifth or eighth grade at the same school during the 2008-2009 school year.
2. For each resident student regarding whom an affirmative determination is made, that student will be given third-level sibling priority status.

These procedures shall not apply with respect to school choice applications for students first seeking to choice into any District school after the 2009-2010 school year.



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6. Parents and community invited to attend budget input meetings

Parents and community members are invited to attend budget information and input meetings in January to learn about the budget development process, and provide input. The last of three meetings will be held 7 p.m., Monday, February 2, at Poudre High School, 201 Impala Drive, Fort Collins.

A new budget development process is being implemented in 2008-09 to help develop the budget assumptions earlier in the year. The process is similar to the process used in previous years and will be phased in over two years. Benefits of the new budget process include: Setting overall budget goals and expectations;

Encouraging more input from the community, employees and district departments to identify future budget needs and areas for greater efficiencies; and increasing flexibility for internal and external budget constraints.

PSD's annual budget process is the foundation for financial planning and budgetary oversight. PSD had total expenditures of \$178,763, 413 in fiscal year 2008, and is in the process of developing the 2009-10 budget. Each year PSD faces continuing budget challenges as expenses increase at a rate higher than inflation. In addition, PSD's 2007-08 per-pupil funding is the lowest in the state, among Colorado's 178 school districts.

7. Be informed, visit the PSD Web site often!

Visit www.psdschools.org to learn about what is going on in PSD including special events, district updates, school closure and delayed start information. The information changes frequently, visit often!

8. Stay connected! Online e-mail sign-up now available

We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive PSD emergency information and the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child's teacher.

Poudre School District now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child's information form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or your e-mail has changed, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the www.psdschools.org and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

9. Graduation requirements committee works on definition, reviews planning tools

The PSD Graduation Requirements Committee met in December to work on creating a definition for post-secondary and workforce readiness and to review a Web-based program that helps students prepare for college.

Work to Create Definitions

The committee reviewed the Colorado Department of Education draft definitions of post-secondary and workforce readiness and asked the following questions 1. What do we like about the drafts? 2. What do we not like about the drafts? 3. What is missing?

The committee will continue to work on the definitions and have the Chamber of Commerce/PSD Business Education Council give feedback from the business and community prospective. The Board of Education Ends Policy continues to help drive this aspect of the committee's work.

Review of Naviance

The committee has been reviewing programs and tools available to help students prepare for college, including College in Colorado and a program called Naviance. These programs can assist students in creating career and academic plans.

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PBS NEWS

Last spring, our PBS (Positive Behavior Support) team created an office referral form to help us gather and examine data on discipline incidents and trends as well as a flow chart delineating our protocol for providing interventions for misbehavior. Both of these were developed as a way to analyze discipline data and respond through our PBS team with appropriate school-wide or individual interventions, as well as to create greater consistency and efficacy in reporting and responding to discipline referrals. During our October collaboration day, our PBS team solicited examples of discipline issue and demonstrated to the staff what possible interventions might look like on our discipline flow chart. This PBS section of the newsletter is intended not only to inform you of the PBS progress we are making in our building but to provide you with a school-to-home connection. Many of the approaches we use at Olander can be extended to the home, and our partnership would be powerful reinforcement for our students. During our collaboration day, we underscored the importance of step one on our flow chart, setting clear expectations for behavior. We encouraged staff to post, review and reteach these expectations continually throughout a variety of settings.

- At home, we encourage you to identify and post your 3-5 core family expectations and review them often. Just as we give out Flying Highs to recognize specific positive behaviors, make a point to acknowledge every positive behavior you see at home.
- For every corrective response, try to give 5 positive remarks. Adopt a 5:1 ratio.

Our team encouraged our staff to review expectations and model and practice BEST code behavior regularly before such events as assemblies, working in collaborative groups, playing at recess after our first snow fall, going on a field trip, walking down the hallway, and so forth.

- We encourage you to set expectations, talk about, and practice what good behavior would look like before entering the grocery store, attending a play date, eating dinner, completing homework, going to a museum, etc.

(Continued...)

When misbehavior occurs at Olander, the next step on our discipline chart is to review the BEST code rule and remind students of the expected behavior. If the misbehavior continues, there will be a reteaching of the expectation, and the student will practice the expected behavior.

- When misbehavior occurs at home, you may find it helpful to ask your child which family rule was broken and ask him/her to demonstrate the correct response for you. Just as we do at school, praise your child if s/he is able to follow the rule after the reteaching.

If misbehavior continues at Olander after the above brief interventions, the student will be referred for a classroom, counseling, or office intervention. While our PBS team wants to empower staff member to handle many of the day-to-day incidents in their own settings, serious or chronic low-level violations will be referred immediately to the office.

Feel free to contact our PBs team members if you have any questions or suggestions: Sherry Bundy, Jon Davenport, Heidi Jensen, Heather Palumbo, Rebecca Robbins, and Connie Schreckengast

KIDS CARE CLUB NEWS

Prior to Winter Break, Olander Kids Care Club members were given \$10 each to "Pay It Forward." On Wednesday, January 14, members presented their projects to each other, parents, teachers and other guests.

Projects included: Harmony House, handing out daisies at the mall, donating to the Food Bank, Crossroads Safe-house, a student in Children's Hospital, Homeless Gear, people at restaurants, patrons in fast-food drive-throughs, their own neighbors. The creativity of caring was amazing. Member projects are on display in the two front halls of the school. Stop in and see these awesome projects!