



OCTOBER, 2008

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,

It is with great pleasure to report that the 2008-09 school year is off to a fantastic start! Students have already been involved in a variety of engaging and meaningful learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. Our fifth and sixth graders had a terrific time at their respective ECO camps. Students learned about the environment, effective teamwork, and also a lot about themselves. Our students made me proud by demonstrating outstanding behavior throughout the ECO experience. I would like to commend our fifth and sixth grade teams for all of their hard work planning and preparing for what will certainly be a memorable experience.

Students have also been demonstrating outstanding BEST Code behaviors throughout the school. Teachers have worked very hard with students to ensure the BEST Code is being followed throughout the building. Our intermediate students have really shown themselves to be role models for our

younger students.

Thanks to all of our parents who attended Back to School Night. I hope the information presented was informative and supports a strong partnership between school and home. As I discussed during the Back to School Night presentation, we have three teams that meet monthly: Project Based Learning Team (PBL), Positive Behavior Support (PBS) team, and the School Improvement Team (SIT). We are still looking for interested parents to serve on these teams. Team meetings will be at Olander on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:45 – 8:40 AM. Please contact the main office if you are interested in serving on one of these important teams.

As a staff, we truly appreciate your continued support for the teacher collaboration days. Grade level teams spent the September 15th collaborative day discussing our literacy program and specific strategies we'll put into place this year to improve student achievement in the area of reading. You can

learn more about the work from our collaboration day by obtaining a copy of our School Improvement Plan in the main office.

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up fast October 14th & 15th! This is a tremendous opportunity to discuss your child's academic and social progress directly with your teacher. Teachers at all grades will have useful achievement data to share as well as an opportunity for you to discuss ways we can better support your child's social and academic growth. Thanks you in advance for being a partner with us in your child's education!

Finally, please come to our next PTO/PAB meeting at 6:45 PM on Tuesday, October 14. This is a terrific opportunity for parents to be directly involved in our school improvement efforts!

Sincerely,
Brian

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 6-10** Book Fair
- Oct. 7** - Chili Supper - 6:00-8:00
- Oct. 8** - Kids Care Club
- Oct. 9** - 2nd Grade to Butterfly Pavilion
- Oct. 14** - PTO/PAB - Media 6:45
- Oct. 14 & 15** - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00
- Oct. 16** - No School K-6
- Oct. 17** - No School K-12
- Oct. 22** - Vision & Hearing Screenings
- Oct. 23** - 1st to Harvest Farm
- Oct. 24** - Report cards go home
- Oct. 30** - Halloween Parties
- Oct. 31** - No school K-9 - Collaboration Day
- Nov. 4** - PTO/PAB 6:45
- Nov. 7** - 4th & 6th to Fort Collins Symphony
- Nov. 7** - Osprey Assembly
- Nov. 11** - Kids Care Club
- Nov. 12** - Rotary Presents Dictionaries to 3rd Grade
- Nov. 15** - Lego Robotics Competition

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.

Name _____ Student's Name _____

? Please contact me by phone _____ or email _____

? You do not need to contact me

COUNSELING CORNER

Dear Staff and Families,

Can it be that we are already in October? We have been busy in my weekly counseling lessons setting the tone for this new school year. In grades 3-6, we have been creating skits and posters that demonstrate what good BEST code behavior looks like in each area of the school (classroom, cafeteria, hallways, etc.) Many of the intermediate students presented their BEST code projects in kindergarten through second grade classrooms this week, much to the delight of the primary students.

In kindergarten through second grade, we have reviewed the BEST code and have focused on why being a good listener is so important in school, at home, and in life in general. We've had fun practicing this skill through Simon Says, Red Light Green Light, creating a story, and so forth. Through our PBS (Positive Behavior Support) program, I will be sharing with teachers my PBS lessons, such as "I Can Be a Respectful Listener" and will encourage them to incorporate listening activities into their curriculum, continually recognizing students for positive listening behaviors. As part of our school-to-home PBS collaboration, I will ask you to reinforce these skills at home as well. To reinforce good listening, I recommend you:

- Make eye contact with your child and say, "I need your attention for a minute" or "I'd like you to follow these important directions".
- State your request, and ask your child to repeat the directions back to you.
- Give your child ten seconds to comply without reminding or reprimanding.
- If your child follows the directions, give him/her specific praise such as, "Thank you for being such a good listener," or "Wow! Great job making your bed right away!"
- If your child does not comply, repeat the directions with an, "I need to you to follow these directions right now." Your child might have missed out on something fun if s/he is not following directions.
- If you really want to address listening/following directions at home, you may try tracking the behavior daily on a behavior chart and deciding on a positive reward for earning a certain number of marks or stickers. Your praise will go a long way!

Now, wouldn't it be great if we as parents always stopped what we were doing, made eye contact, and truly listened to our children with open minds and open hearts as well? I myself will try to be a better role model of this for my own children.

On another note, friendship lunch groups have begun. I will also be facilitating a 6-week "Girl Power" lunch group open to all 5th and 6th graders, focusing on empowerment and positive relational skills. Please let me know if you **DO NOT** want your child to meet in a lunch group.
Heidi Jensen

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council thanks you for supporting our bake sale at the 4k. We raised \$65 for our Angel Fund. We will be selling GORP at the Chili Supper to support this fund as well.

Please bring canned goods to your classrooms for Cans-Around-Olander by October 17th to support the Larimer County Food Bank!

First Semester Student Council Officers:

4th grade: Quinn Schulte, Nantania Wright, Rachel Holland, Whitney Knutson, Rebecca Erickson, Cayden Clark-Sata

5th grade: Katie Winkelman, Campbell Slayden, Andrea Eppley, Madison Nigro (Secretary), Gabe Cardenas, Sean Papile (Treasurer)

6th grade: Ian Benard, Elise Niedringhaus, Lauren Buchanan (Vice President), Haylie Patrick (President), Sandra Diaz, Adam Olbrys

Hi Olander families! If you have any questions about Student Council and what they do, here are some answers I hope will help:

What is Student Council?

Student Council is a leadership group of kids who work on making Olander Elementary a better place by asking the students their opinions of what we should change and keep.

Who is on Student Council?

4th, 5th, and 6th graders elected by their classmates each semester. The people who are elected usually aren't elected by popularity, but by how they follow the B.E.S.T. code in their classroom.

What does Student Council do?

Student Council's responsibilities are:

Weekly recycling, weekly reporting of what's going on in the school, such as Cans Around Olander, (all cans are due October 17th), Adopt-A-Family, fundraisers, counting how many Flying Highs we can get in a week, operating the School Store, and last week we reported about a 1k and 4k that was on Saturday, September 27. Hope you went to that! Finally, we reach out to make kids at Olander feel like they are cared about.

Thanks for reading! 😊

Written by: Natania Wright

PBS NEWS

Our PBS team (Positive Behavior Support) would like to be active partners with you in promoting positive behaviors at school and at home. We began the school year conducting training sessions in each area of the school, defining and demonstrating for each class our behavior expectations in the lunchroom, at recess, and in the hallways. We have been directly teaching, practicing, and recognizing these behaviors in the classroom as well. If you haven't already, we encourage you to create your own BEST code at home. For example, you might state 3-4 simple expectations for school morning routines, homework time, dinner time, chores, and bed time, using the BEST code acronym. You can even create your own flying high or reward system to recognize family members for positive BEST code behavior. Offer specific praise, such as "Thanks being so responsible. You did your homework without any reminders!" You may request a blank template of our BEST code and/or assistance from Heidi Jensen if you would like to make your own set of expectations for home.

Easy Ways to Help Olander



Collect Box Tops!

Our first round of **Box Tops** is due later this month.

Gather your Box Tops for Education in a Ziplock bag, write your child's name and teacher on it and send it to school. We earned almost \$1,400 last year!

Safeway Receipts

Turn in your receipt to the box outside of the office! We must enter the code at the bottom by Oct. 13. Gather them from friends and family too!

Domino's Dough Raising Days

This year we're designating money earned each month towards different grade's PBL projects. This month the money will go to 6th grade, and then Nov. to 5th, etc. The monthly flyers in Friday folders will provide details.



October 2008



We want to thank all of you who've taken the steps to "Give Us 5!" and commit your time to Olander. Just letting us know ways that you're interested in helping makes our job a lot easier! Our many parent volunteers is one of the things that make Olander a great place to send our children. Here are some of the ways we have benefited from your help already this year:

Gold C was a big success! Thanks to all of our volunteers who stuffed envelopes, counted books and delivered packets. Thanks to all of the parents who sold books to co-workers, neighbors and family. And a big thanks to our coordinator, Stacy Fridal for pulling it all off. We still have prizes coming and of course, sliming Mr. Olver at the next Osprey Assembly!

Picture Day had several parents collecting kids from classrooms and lining up their smiling faces for portraits. This school year tradition ran very smoothly thanks to our volunteers. We received much praise from the photographer and his staff regarding how nice Olander's kids and parents are to work with!

Coming up soon, the **Scholastic Fall Book Fair** will be in the Media Center next week. Stop by and take a moment to browse. It's a great time to stock up on Holiday gifts. Your children will be visiting with their teacher on their scheduled day, but it's also open before and after school for parents and kids to shop.

A new option this year is to wait until Tuesday evening and visit the Book Fair during the **Chili & Hot Dog Dinner** from 6:00-8:00p.m. We'll have free Bingo with prizes, tasty food at affordable prices and the Book Fair will be open late. You can buy great books, the kids will have fun *and* you don't have to cook!

One last exciting item to note, we've had a parent step forward to join the board. A vote will be taken at the next meeting to make it official, but we're excited to welcome Jennifer Hansen as Vice President. We look forward to working with her!

*Your PTO Board: Holly Holland, Kelly Foerster, Sandra Nelson,
Ann Bielgelsen, 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 **6:00 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. We will notify Spanish radio station KGRE, AM 1450 and KJJD, AM 1170 for our Spanish speaking families.

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
KUNC 91.5 FM
KCOL 600 AM
KGRE 1450 AM (SPANISH)

TRI 102 102.5 FM
KIIX 1410 AM
KUAD 99 FM
KCSU 90.5 FM

KJJD 1170 AM (SPANISH)
Denver radio stations KOA 850 AM, and KOOL 105 FM.

PSD WEB SITE:

www.psdschools.org

On severe weather days, when school is held as scheduled, parents are reminded to expect delays in school bus service, and to help dress children appropriately for potential longer waits at the bus stop.



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 2007-2008 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. Cara Rudolph, 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.

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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LEGO ROBOTICS

It's BIGGER! It's NEWER! Lego Robotics is back! We are looking forward to a bigger and newer program this year. "Bigger" because there are two head coaches (Oren Vance and Jennifer Cluett) this year gearing up for four teams with 5-6 students in each team. "Newer" because we have new robots, new missions to accomplish, and a new vision for the program. Because we will be bigger this year, we are looking for a few assistant coaches to give us a hand. All you need is the desire to work with kids. Two teams will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 3:45 – 5:15 with the other two meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are interested in giving us a hand, please contact Jennifer Cluett at 227-4555 or jcluett03@yahoo.com. Our competition is Saturday, November 15th.



WALK OR BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

Next Wednesday, on October 8th, Olander will participate in International Walk and Bike to School Day. We will have a healthy snack for participating students, as well as a drawing for some prizes in the afternoon. Whether for the health of the student, the health of the planet, or just the fun of it, help us celebrate by walking, biking, scooting, or skating to school next Wednesday.

ART NEWS

We welcome Kali Nelson to the Olander art room during her CSU Elementary Art student teaching assignment! She will be with us through the second week of October.

The Art Avenue Hallway, directly outside the Art and Music rooms, is adorned with student self portraits/ grades 1-6.

Sixth and fifth grades have painted their aspen tree journal covers for their scheduled Eco adventures. Fourth grade is practicing symmetry in art using the art of Native Americans for inspiration. Fifth graders are practicing shading and highlighting drawing their Pipe Pictures. Our second grades have explored the art of artist Georgia O'Keeffe while the third grade has constructed cityscapes after reading Tar Beach. First grade is exploring the art element of Line through collecting lines and "taking them for a walk". Last but not least, our Kindergarten classes have painted using a Styrofoam stamp of a circle. We read The Dot about a little girl who isn't confident in art initially but grows to feel like a real artist through the gentle guidance of her teacher.

Mrs. Ort

PE NEWS

I'M SO EXCITED with our new school year! There are new classrooms, new teachers, new/old friends and new opportunities to learn. In PE class, we will be trying on a few new ideas as well. I spent some time this summer writing a professional paper as part of the requirements for a Master's degree in education at CSU. For this paper, I chose to review research articles that document the relationship between physical activity and academic performance. The overarching theme to almost every study reviewed was that academic performance (both in the form of grades and standardized test scores) has a positive correlation with cardiovascular fitness level. Based upon the information gathered in this review, I have chosen to make a few small modifications to the PE program here at Olander. For one, when we have a team sport units such as soccer, the students will be organized into much smaller teams. This will allow for more students to have a chance to actually become engaged in play and it should increase the intensity and duration at which their heart has to work for the day. Also, regardless of what unit we are wrapped up in, I am going to have the kids in 3rd-6th run the 1-mile run each Friday. Students in 1st and 2nd grades will run the ½ mile run. This will be the first thing we do on Fridays and we will still have time to spare afterwards for skill development/game play. In light of this, please remember to have an inhaler at school for your son/daughter if they suffer from bouts of asthma. These are just a couple of examples of changes that I hope will have a greater impact on the cardiovascular health of our students at Olander.

Below I have attached a list of important dates for PE in the 2008-09 school year. These dates are tentative and subject to change. I will also post them on the corkboard by the entry of the gym. Please save these dates for reference.

- ☺ January 13th-February 20th-Climbing/Belaying Unit (planned for 6 weeks in case objectives haven't been reached in 3 weeks)
- ☺ February 6th-Kindergarten Rodeo
- ☺ April 21st, 22nd and 23rd-Qualifying for Elementary Track Meet in PE class (1 day for Sprints and 2 days for Field events)
- ☺ May 7th & 9th-Elementary Track Meet (800/1600 on the 7th & all other events on the 9th)
- ☺ May 19th-Field Day
- ☺ May 20th-Kindergarten Field Day

Here's to the start of another awesome school year. Thanks for all you do to support PE at Olander.

Sincerely,

Mike Mackenzie

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Olander School Improvement Team (SIT) Parent Chairperson Reflections

The purpose of Site Based Management as defined by Poudre School District includes:

- Improving education through involving parents and other community members as partners in the education of all children;
- Providing multiple opportunities for input from various stakeholders;
- Building a sense of shared purpose and involvement among parents, community members, teachers, students, support staff, and administrators;
- Empowering individual Site-Based Management Teams to, as appropriate, respond to the needs of their parents, community, and students; and
- Promoting decision making processes that allow the individual sites to respond quickly to new issues and opportunities.

The Olander School Improvement Team (SIT) is our school's standing committee that has been chartered to carry out this site based management activity. At this time, the Olander SIT's membership includes the school principal, the office manager, five teachers, and several parents.

The SIT meets the 4th Thursday of each month before school (7:45 – 8:45 AM). Several other standing school committees also meet at that same time including the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Team and the Project Based Learning (PBL) Team.

At Back to School Night last month, we were very fortunate and extremely excited to have five parents express interest in SIT. Our first official meeting took place on Thursday, September 25th, and we had excellent parent participation (Shannon Yockey, Yvonne Paez, Kandy Luongo, Dwayne Schmitz, John Papile, and Chris Johnson.) We would like to thank each and every parent that took time out of their very busy schedules to attend the meeting and we all appreciate and encourage your continued participation on this team. We would especially like to extend gratitude to Kandy for volunteering to be our team's secretary. One of our communication strategies will be to post our team notes and other information to our school webpage to keep the parent community informed of activities that the SIT and other teams are actively involved in.

In addition to the monthly SIT meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, there is what has historically been referred to as the Parent Advisory Board (PAB) meetings that take place every first Tuesday of each month in the library at 7:30 PM immediately following the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting. This is an opportunity to hear first hand from the principal and the SIT Parent Chair, what SIT and the other school committees are currently working on in addition to providing an opportunity for parents and community members to provide input to those teams, ask questions, and raise issues and/or concerns.

The focus of the SIT this month is the Olander School Improvement Action Plan for the 2008-2009 school year. The team is reviewing the Olander Elementary Growth Profile data from 2006 through 2008 based on the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Colorado Growth Model, and is in the process of evaluating the data and using the information to develop school SMART goals. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable,

Realistic, and Timely. Once the goals are in place, strategies and specific strategic action items are put in place to support each goal.

If you are interested in learning more about the Olander School Improvement Action Plan, we will be discussing this plan in addition to other topics such as the Olander Site Readiness plan at upcoming PAB meetings the first Tuesday of each month. We look forward to seeing you there. Also, if you are interested in serving on either the PBL or the PBS school team, please contact Brian Olver at school or Richard Teck (rteck@fs.fed.us or 970-226-6181 or 970-295-5761).

Item of Note - PSD District Advisory Board (DAB) parents invite other parents and PSD staff to attend PSD 101: How your district works and how you can affect it on October 23rd (see flier/announcement for more detail).

One other item of note that may be of interest to parents. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is currently seeking parent/citizen input as part of an ongoing effort to evaluate the Colorado educational content standards. Recent legislation (Senate Bill 212) requires that the Colorado Model Content Standards be revised to include 21st century skills and abilities. To that end, the CDE is interested in hearing what you think about these 21st century skills? They have provided an online survey for you to provide this feedback.

I recently took the survey and found it very informative and would encourage those of you that are interested to provide your feedback. I believe that the survey will be available through October 10th. What I found most intriguing is that many of these 21st century skills are exactly what we are teaching our children here at Olander through our Project Based Learning (PBL) program. It appears that Olander Elementary School has got the jump on the Colorado CDE in regards to 21st century skills. Our children are already learning many of these through the projects they are engaged in at our school.

The survey can be found at the following location:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mMm4M3_2b7Rw6S0_2fV7VEJibQ_3d_3d

/s/ Richard Teck, Parent Chairperson, Olander School Improvement Team



Information Page

1. 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!

2. No school

October 16, K-6, parent/teacher conference day

October 17, K-12, parent/teacher conference day

October 30, 7-9, staff members attending the National Middle School Conference

October 31, K-9, collaboration day (**Irish, Lab, Linton, and high schools are in session**)

3. 2009-10 school choice process now online!

School Choice applications shall be completed **online** through the Poudre School District website 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. *For specific details on School Choice refer to Poudre School District School Choice Policy JFBA (available at www.psdschools.org)*

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.

School Choice Applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment.

4. In case of an emergency...

During an emergency situation, PSD will communicate information and instructions directly with parents through the following:

- o PSD Web site www.psdschools.org
- o Automated phone message delivered to emergency contact number
- o E-mail
- o Local radio and T.V. stations
- o PSD Channel 10 (Comcast and US Cable)
- o Parent may call the PSD Customer Service Center at 970-490-3333. Operators will have the most accurate and up-to-date information.

It is vital for parents to provide accurate and current emergency contact information.

If an emergency does occur, please **DO NOT**:

- o Call your child's school. School personnel will be occupied with taking care of students and will most likely not be able to answer the phone. Call the PSD Customer Service Center at 970-490-3333. Operators will have the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Go your child's school. Parents arriving at the school will cause unnecessary congestion and hinder school personnel from taking care of students. Parents will receive information and instructions on how to pick their children up via the methods listed above.

