



**NOVEMBER, 2008**

Main Line: 488-8410  
Attendance Line 488-8411

3401 Auntie Stone Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Visit [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) and click on SCHOOLS for a drop-down to Olander's web-site.

Dear families,

Thank you so much for taking part in the recent parent-teacher conferences. Your participation in these important meetings reinforces for me what a strong partnership we have between home and school. Research shows a strong connection between a student's achievement in school and the degree to which parents are involved in their child's education. It's no surprise that Olander students achieve at high levels with such supportive and actively involved parents!

At the October PTO and PAB meeting, we discussed making Project Based Learning (PBL) an official part of Olander's name. Also at an October staff meeting, Olander staff overwhelmingly approved adding PBL to our school identity. We are proposing our name be Olander Elementary School for Project Based Learning. Some of the reasons why parents and staff feel it will benefit our school include:

- The name better defines

and brands the identity of the school.

- Olander teachers are incorporating PBL into the school for the third year and we strongly believe in the benefits of PBL to our students.
- The name and the publicity from the name change will encourage enrollment since PBL is unique to the Fort Collins area.
- It will continue to help attract high quality staff drawn to the PBL approach to teaching and its reputation.
- Opens opportunities for grants and community support.

As a staff we are VERY excited the possibility of adding PBL to our name. We do, however, want to hear from our parents about this change before taking this proposal to the PSD Board of Education. Please take a moment to complete and return the feedback form included in your child's Friday folder. You can also get more information, ask questions, provide suggestions, and

express concerns by attending one of the open forums regarding the proposed name change. **Forums will be held next Wednesday 12:00 - 1:00 in the conference room and Thursday afternoon from 4:00 - 5:00.** Finally, you can also call or meet with me by contacting the main office to schedule an appointment at a time of your convenience.

Sincerely,  
Brian

The newsletter is going 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](http://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**

- Nov. 7** - 4th & 6th to Fort Collins Symphony
- Nov. 7** - Osprey Assembly
- Nov. 12 - PBL Forum - Noon**
- Nov. 12** - Kids Care Club
- Nov. 12** - Rotary Presents Dictionaries to 3rd Grade
- Nov. 13 - PBL Forum - 4:00**
- Nov. 14** - Sheep Heart Dissection - 4th Grade
- Nov. 15** - Lego Robotics Competition
- Nov. 18** - Blevins Info Mtg. For 5th & 6th grade parents
- Nov. 20** - 5th/6th Music Program; 7:00
- Nov. 21** - PTO Movie Night
- Nov. 24** - 1st Grade Thanksgiving Feast - 9:30 - Flex Rm.
- Nov. 25-28** - Thanksgiving Break - **No School K-12**
- Dec. 2** - PTO 6:45 PM Media
- Dec. 10** - Kids Care Club
- Dec. 11** - Choir Performance 1:00 - Mall & 7:00 - Gym
- Dec. 12** - PTO Assembly; Animal Handler Perry Conway
- Dec. 18** - Kinder Music Program; 11:30 - Gym
- Dec. 22-Jan 5** - Winter Break **No School K-12**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ ? Please send me a paper copy of the newsletter

## COUNSELING CORNER

In recognition of Red Ribbon Week, we focused in all grade levels during counseling time on making healthy choices. Classrooms brainstormed what things they could do to take care of themselves, and they wrote a "healthy choice" goal on a red bracelet. You may want to look through this great list of tips generated by students and make, post, and assess family goals for the following healthy habits:

- Get at least 8 hours of sleep a night
- Drink at least 6-8 glasses of water
- Substitute water, juice, and milk for pop
- Get 30 – 60 minutes of exercise daily
- Eat 5-9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day
- Eat whole grain breads, rice, and pasta
- Limit sugars and fats
- Have someone you can talk to
- Find healthy ways to reduce stress (exercise, journal, listen to music, yoga)
- Perform community service – reach out to others
- Join a club, group, or sport and demonstrate leadership and cooperation
- Limit fast food and processed foods
- Learn to say "no" to bad ideas – practice refusal skills
- Surround yourself with good friends who make good choices
- Limit TV and video games and read, exercise, and play with others instead!

What goals would you like to make personally or as a family? Reviewing this list together could lead to an interesting discussion and an improved lifestyle!

Here's to your health and your happiness,

Heidi Jensen

## WHAT IS RTI?

**Olander and all the other schools in Poudre School District are forming teams and training to implement RTI.**

**Response to Intervention** is an approach that promotes a well-integrated system connecting general, compensatory, gifted, and special education in providing high quality, standards-based instruction/intervention that is matched to students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. A continuum of intervention tiers with increasing levels of intensity and duration is central to RTI. Collaborative educational decisions are based on data derived from frequent monitoring of student performance and rate of learning. The overarching purpose of RTI implementation is to improve educational outcomes for all students. Some of the basic underpinnings of a RTI model:

RTI relies on the premise that all students receive research-based instruction in general education.

The learning of all students is assessed early and often (ongoing progress monitoring). Assessment is focused on direct measurements of achievement and behavior.

If there are concerns about student progress, increasingly intense tiers of intervention are available. Individual student data gathered through the process may be used to determine appropriateness of a special education referral (e.g., in the case of students who do not respond adequately to intervention) and as part of a comprehensive evaluation for determination of eligibility. Poudre School District is currently training school teams to implement RTI. For more information about RTI, please visit the Colorado Department of Education's website: [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us).

## ATTENTION ALL OLANDER 4K RUNNERS!

We have lots of great pictures of the race and the finish line. You can look at the pictures on the kindergarten Shutterfly site: <http://olanderkinderkids.shutterfly.com>. You can order copies directly from Shutterfly.



## Easy Ways to Help Olander



### Collect Milk Caps!

This ongoing fundraiser is as easy as turning in your Morning Fresh bottle caps.

So far we've raised over \$150! A portion of the money will go to the Angel Fund and help Olander families in need.



### Send in Your Photos!

We need photos of school activities for our website! If you have photos of Olander students at PTO events, in the classroom or on field trips, please share them!!

Email them to [hcholland@comcast.net](mailto:hcholland@comcast.net) or put them on CD and drop them at the office. All will be checked for "opt out" parent permissions before publishing on the web and no child names will be posted.

November 2008



Rachel Olbrys and Malia Hampson, our VIPs Coordinators, have organized the "Give Me 5!" volunteer sheets. Thanks to all who returned them with a willingness to help! A drawing was held and five lucky parents received \$10 gift cards to Target: Chris McDonald, Elizabeth Bauer, Shawn Brooks, Gretel Balmer and Jen Buchanan. Your commitment to Olander is much appreciated! Another drawing will be held in March. See the information at the bottom of this page to find out how to give Olander five hours of your time this year. Everyone's help is needed.

Our **Scholastic Fall Book Fair** went very well. Money raised will go towards the Media Center and our new Book Room for teachers. Thanks for all of the hours put in by Nancy Erickson and Rachel Olbrys. Their hard work was evident. We had a lot of parents volunteer for this fun event and we thank them too. If you didn't get a chance to help with this fair, we'll have another in the spring!

Our first ever **Chili & Hot Dog Dinner** was also a big success. Kelly Foerster and Holly Holland had fun organizing this new event. Thanks to our parents who helped, as well as our terrific Student Council Bingo callers!

We broke our **Box Tops** record again this fall. We had just over 8000 of the little buggers! Thanks to Jen Huebner for coordinating and all of the volunteers who trimmed and counted. Keep saving them! We'll turn in another batch this February.

One more group of volunteers to thank, **Vision and Hearing Screening** brought in more parents to help last month. We couldn't do this testing without you!

A favorite Family Fun Night, **Movie Night** is coming up on Friday, Nov. 21. "WALL-E" will be shown in the gym at 7:00pm. Movie admission is just \$1 per person (with a \$5 cap per family) and there will be snacks and drinks for sale. All kids must come with an adult, please. We think the whole family will enjoy this great movie.

Have a terrific month and enjoy everything Olander has to offer our children...

*Your PTO Board: Holly Holland, Kelly Foerster, Jennifer Hansen, Sandra Nelson, Ann Bielqelsen, 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](mailto:olbrys9@comcast.net) or Malia Hampson at [mhampson@hampsonservices.com](mailto: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!

# Olander Information Page

## 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](http://www.coloradoan.com)

### LOCAL RADIO STATIONS:

BEAR 107.9 FM TRI 102 102.5 FM  
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](http://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.

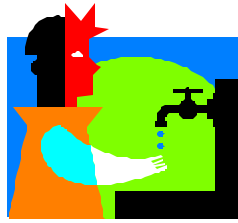
**Before and after school child care available:** Base Camp offers student care in the Olander Flex Room on school days from 6:30 a.m. to school start and after school until 6:00 p.m. Please contact BASE CAMP at 266-1734 to enroll.

## 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.

# Olander Information Page

From School  
Nurse, Jody  
Latimer, RN



With the holiday season around the corner, so is the flu season. To help maintain a healthy environment at school and home, we would like to remind all parents and students the importance of hand washing. When hand washing is done properly, it is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick. It is recommended to rub your hands vigorously together with soap and warm running water for at least 15 – 20 seconds. This combination will help loosen and remove bacteria from your hands. A tool used to promote proper hand washing techniques; along with the recommended time allowance for hand washing is the “WASH HANDS SONG!”

(Sing to the tune of “row your boat”)

Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands  
make them nice and clean!  
Scrub the bottoms and the tops  
and fingers in between!



Homeless Gear is a new Fort Collins based program with a simple mission. Collect unwanted outdoor gear from the backpacking, hiking, camping, and climbing community and distribute it to the homeless of Colorado. The homeless will use that gear to make their days more bearable and nights survivable.

We are specifically looking for packs of all sizes (even school book packs), sleeping bags, sleeping pads, tarps, boots and other “gear.” For a complete list of what items we need and where you can drop them off, please see our website at [www.HomelessGear.com](http://www.HomelessGear.com) or if you have any questions please e-mail them to Ken John at [Ken@HomelessGear.com](mailto:Ken@HomelessGear.com) or call 970-282-9001.

## Salud Family Health Centers

Need a **flu shot**? Get yours at Salud Family Health Center! \$10 flu shots for everybody! You do not have to be a patient of Salud to enjoy this great deal!

Mark your calendar:

**November 3-5**

**November 10-12**

**November 17-19**

**November 24-25**



9:00 am – 11:40 pm

1:20 pm – 4:00 pm

Fort Collins

**Teléfono:** (970) 494-4040

**Dirección:** 1635 Blue Spruce Drive Fort Collins, CO 80524



## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council thanks you for generously donating 1661 pounds of food to the Larimer County Food Bank for Cans-Around-Olander! The winning classes (who won an extra recess) were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mrs. Robbins - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Mrs. Bundy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mr. Bransen – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, is Osprey Spirit Day.** Wear turquoise and black and Olander clothing for our Osprey Assembly.

We know that there are many fundraising requests that require your time and monetary contributions throughout the year, and we don't want you to feel pressured to give each time. We would like to let you know in advance some of our fundraisers so that you make choose which, if any, you would like to participate in:

**November 14<sup>th</sup> – Turkey Round-Up** for the Larimer County Food Bank. Bring a frozen turkey (on sale at stores now!) or a cash donation to Mr. Davenport at the school entrance by 9:15 a.m. on **Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**December 12<sup>th</sup> – Donation deadline for Adopt-A-Family:** We will again be sponsoring a family in need, supplying them with household items, clothing, grocery cards, and gifts for Christmas. There will be a **Giving Tree** in the media center by November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate, please purchase an item from the tree and give it to Mrs. Jensen by December 12<sup>th</sup>.



# Information Page

## PSD seeks input on 2009-10 calendar options

Poudre School District is gathering parent input on two proposed changes to the 2009-10 school calendar related to the grade level changes and days/time elementary schools will be closed for teacher collaboration.

**Proposed changes will be discussed at site-based management team meetings at schools in November.** The deadline to provide feedback is December 5. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's school to attend or provide input to principals regarding the following calendar options:

**8 AFTERNOONS OFF FOR ELEMENTARY STAFF COLLABORATION, INSTEAD OF 4 FULL DAYS:** Elementary schools are proposing that PSD have eight early release half days during the school year on Fridays, monthly, rather than 4 full release days, once a quarter (the current practice). Junior highs/middle schools would retain the 4 full collaboration days.

Following are the benefits of changing to eight, half day collaboration days, Friday afternoons once a month, for elementary schools (instead of 4 full days, 1 each quarter):

- This option is the most effective use of collaborative time for teachers to address student achievement and learning needs. Provides more frequent timing so teachers can analyze student achievement and develop instructional interventions, focusing on four key questions:
  1. What do we want students to know?
  2. How will we know if students have learned the material?
  3. What do we do if students haven't learned it?
  4. What do we do if students already know the material?
- Transportation would continue to be provided to and from school.
- Can be implemented without affecting middle or high school schedules or transportation.

Issues to be addressed include serving lunch on release days, adjustments to the afternoon kindergarten schedule, and whether BASE Camp child care can be offered those afternoons.

**DISTRICT-WIDE TRANSITION DAY:** To assist students with successful transitions at the beginning of school year in conjunction with grade level changes, PSD proposes that incoming 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students start school on August 17. All grades of secondary schools would then start August 18, and elementary would start on August 19.

Following are the benefits of a district-wide transition day:

- A transition day will help successfully orient students as an entire grade to their new school, given that 4 grades are moving in fall 2009.
- The transition will be necessary for one year only to support district wide configuration changes.
- The negotiated elementary work day prior to the first elementary student attendance day will remain in place under this proposal.
- The transition day will not require lengthening the school day or school year.

For more information, contact your school principal or call district communications at 490-3427.



# 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](http://www.psdschools.org) and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

## 2. 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 sites – all parents and community members are welcome.

November 6 6:30-7:30 p.m. Irish Elem.  
February 3 7:00-8:00 p.m. CLP E  
April 21 7:00-8:00 p.m. Zach  
May 5 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blevins

## 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](http://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](http://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. No parking in school fire lanes

Poudre Fire Authority wants to remind motorists that parking is prohibited along designated fire lanes on school property. In 2007-08, PFA and PSD worked together to identify fire access lanes at all 44 schools in Fort Collins. All the fire lanes have been similarly marked: red paint on the curbs and signs that read "Fire Lane – No Unattended Vehicles."

Drivers may remain in their vehicle while in the fire lane but may not park the car and leave it unattended. This applies during the school day and also for school activities in the evening. Cars must be parked in designated stalls in parking lots or on adjacent public streets.

The fire lanes must be kept clear to ensure fire apparatus and ambulances can access the property during an emergency. Also, fire trucks may need to deploy outriggers and aerial ladders, which would require at least 20 feet of roadway width. Vehicles parked in fire lanes are subject to ticketing and/or towing, at the owner's expense.

# Olander Information Page

## MUSIC NEWS

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students of Olander Elementary will present *Building America in Song* on Thursday, November 20, at 2:30 and 7:00 P.M. in Olander's Gymnasium. This music program dramatizes five key scenes from American history and celebrates some great music associated with these important historical events. Contact me if you are interested in helping with staging, costumes, or rehearsals. And please come and share in the excitement and creativity of these fine young performers.

It is with great excitement that I am nominating four students to represent Olander Elementary in the Poudre School District Honor Choir they are: **Clint Sexton, Abigail Moffett, Anna Biedermann, and Ella Haynes**. This opportunity is only offered to the most reliable and advanced singers in the district who also participate in their school's choir. This exciting musical experience involves several fun rehearsals at CSU's new fine Arts building with singers from all PSD elementary schools, and culminates in a monumental performance on the Lincoln Center Stage February 17 at 7:00 P.M. Please congratulate these students for their hard work and excellent achievements in music.

The Olander Osprey Choir will be performing two holiday concerts on Thursday, December 11 one at the Foothills Mall amphitheater at 1:00 P.M., and one in the Gymnasium at Olander at 7:00 P.M. Please don't miss these opportunities to hear some great music and enjoy the Osprey Choir's jolly holiday cheer.

· **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Present *Building America in Song* – Thursday, November 20, at 2:30 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.**

· **Osprey Choir Performs at the Mall Amphitheater – Thursday, December 11, at 1:00 P.M.**

· **Osprey Choir Holiday Program at Olander – Thursday, December 11, at 7:00 P.M.**

A very special thank you to The Fort Collins Symphony, the Bohemian foundation, and Jane Westcott, Administrative Secretary Whole Child: The Arts, Gifted & Talented, World Language; for organizing yet another superior 'Yes Concert'. The Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra has been performing high quality educational concerts for kids for more than twenty years. *(Continued next column...)*

On Friday November, 7 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students of PSD went to the Symphony and learned a great deal about orchestral music, the musicians, and the instruments they play. Students also got to practice the three A's of concert etiquette: Attention, Appreciation, and Applause. This year's program focused on storytelling through music and featured the 1984 Olympic Fanfare by John Williams. The presentation later expanded on the idea of Olympic competition and featured a fun contest to see which section of the orchestra could play the highest, loudest, lowest, fastest, softest, shortest, and longest notes - Bravo!

Please check out Mr. Falcon's web site: The Olander Osprey Music Page – just go to the Olander Music Classroom website and follow the link to Mr. Falcon's website. Again, please contact me if you are interested in helping with costumes or staging for any of the music programs, and thanks for your hard work and all you do to support music education at Olander Elementary, together we make Olander a great place for all students to experience the fine arts.

**James Falcon, Music Education Olander Elementary**  
**[jfalcon@psdschools.org](mailto:jfalcon@psdschools.org) – 970-488-8439**

## Blevins Middle School 5th and 6th grade Parent Info Night

November 18, 2008 6:00 pm in the Blevins Gym  
Come and hear information about the changes in grade configuration that will be occurring next year. This will also be a great chance to hear about our school and ask any questions you might have. Please feel free to contact our Student Services Office (488-4008) at any time to schedule an appointment to tour the school or talk to a counselor. We also welcome you to the following events:

Concerts: (7:00 pm)  
Dec. 11, 2008 - Choir/Orchestra Holiday Concert  
Dec. 16, 2008 - Band Holiday Concert

Blevins Community Fair  
January 16, 2009 - 6:00 pm

Blevins Musical  
Pirates of Penzance  
March 5-6, 7:00 pm

