



DECEMBER, 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,

December is always a very busy month for Olander students and staff. Some of the many activities and projects taking place include the kindergarten holiday music program, the first grade pilgrim project, the second grade "Smoke House" experience with Poudre Fire Authority, the third grade African museum project, fourth graders studying Colorado history, the fifth grade simple machines project, and sixth graders wrapping up their units on geometry and chemistry. The Olander choir will be performing on December 11 for Olander families and at the Foothills Mall. Student council currently has three community service projects taking place that will benefit Fort Collins families. Kids Care Club will also begin their touching "Pay it Forward" project next week.

I would like to thank everyone for completing the on-line branding survey and for submitting feedback on the proposed Olander name change. Based on the response from parents and staff, we have decided to move forward with the process of re-naming Olander. Survey data from Olander teachers and parents demonstrate strong support for the proposed name change. Approximately 70% of our parents surveyed (n = 80) support the

name change. Olander teachers unanimously support the name change. In addition, results from our fall branding survey showed 90% of respondents (n = 97) support our school's focus on PBL and 89% were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the benefits of PBL.

So why is a name change important? We believe adding Project Based Learning to our name will solidify Olander as a school on the cutting edge of education reform. A name change will formalize Olander's pioneering role in developing PBL as a unique program available to parents and students within the Fort Collins community. Recognizing PBL as central to our school program will also open opportunities for grants and community resources. Finally, our PBL focus will continue to attract high quality staff, further enhancing the educational experiences available within Poudre School District.

Olander staff, students and parents will discuss the proposed name change with the PSD Board of Education at their upcoming meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 13. We anticipate the name change will be officially ap-

proved at a future board meeting. Please feel free to join us at this meeting; we would love to have a strong show of support!

Kindergarten registration is coming up fast! 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 22. 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.

Best wishes to all of our families during the holiday season!

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 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

- Dec. 10** - Kids Care Club
- Dec. 11** - Choir Performance
1:00 - Mall & 7:00 - Gym
- Dec. 12** - PTO Assembly; Animal Handler Perry Conway
- Dec. 15** - 5th Grade PBL Presentation - 2:00 - Flex Room
- Dec. 16** - PTO Board Meeting
- Dec. 18** - Kinder Music Program; 11:30 - Gym
- Dec. 18** - 2nd Qtr. Ends
- Dec. 22-Jan 5** - Winter Break
No School K-12
- Jan. 5** - Teacher Workday
- Jan. 6** - School Begins
- Jan. 6** - PTO - Media - 6:45
- Jan. 9** - Report Cards go home
- Jan. 14** - Kids Care Club
- Jan. 16** - Osprey Assembly
- Jan. 19** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School K-12
- Jan. 22** - Kinder Info Night
- Jan. 23** - Sock Hop - Gym
- Jan. 26** - Blevins performs for 5th & 6th Grades
- Jan. 28 & 29** - Kindergarten Visitation Days
- Feb. 12** - Kindergarten Registration

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

"Are we doing Peace Keepers today? Is it time for Peace Keepers?" are the barrage of questions I hear as I enter each classroom. I've been amazed at the strong reception Peace Keeper circles have received since I began them in each classroom last month. The purpose of Peace Keepers is to promote pro-social behavior and a deeper sense of community by acknowledging, in a supportive environment, the kind and helpful acts students do for one another. Students exchange tokens as they give one another specific compliments describing the kind behaviors they appreciate.

For the past month, we have focused only on giving compliments. Soon, students will give compliments as well as voice small grievances in an effort to address concerns before they become large conflicts. Students will be carefully guided in this process. Through modeling, students will learn to describe hurtful actions without blaming, so that students become aware not only of the things we can do to attract friends, but the hurtful behaviors that we wish to avoid. This process allows students the chance to make things right. The goal of this program is to bring students together, encouraging and increasing kind acts and decreasing conflict.

Peace,
Mrs. Jensen

OLANDER ANGEL FUND

We have developed a formal process for our Angel Fund this year. This fund has been established to support Olander students and families experiencing acute financial need. The fund provides financial assistance for items or services that promote the health and welfare of an Olander child or family or enhance his/her educational experience. Requests for Angel Fund money might include assistance in paying for glasses, a sports team registration or camp experience, or a scholarship for a school field trip, school supplies, and so on. Through your generous donations to our jug in the office, Student Council bake sales, milk caps, and a donation from the Olander family, the Angel Fund has given \$550 to two Olander families to help cover medical costs. Thank you for your contributions! If you are interested, you may give donations to Nancy Ozzello for deposit in our Angel Fund.

As of January, if you wish to request Angel Fund assistance, applications will be available through Heidi Jensen or Nancy Ozzello. A small committee of parents and staff will review the applications monthly to see if they can meet the needs of the request.

Congratulations to Mr. Pearson and Mr. Mackenzie who have both completed their educational requirements to earn a PhD and Masters in Education, respectively! Way to go!



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).

KIDS CARE NEWS



Olander Kids Care Club is collecting hygiene items (soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, combs, nail clippers, etc.) for homeless families in Fort Collins. Please place items in the box by the school's front door by December 19.
Thank you!

Easy Ways to Help Olander



Stop Completely!

It's that time of year when everyone is busy, busy, busy. But please take time to stop at the stop signs around Olander! The three-way stop at **Auntie Stone and Bronson** has been the sight of many cars not stopping when children are present in the crosswalks. Kids don't always wait their turn or may be hard to see. It's our responsibility to obey the law and stop completely.

Attend a PTO Meeting!

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month in the Media Center at 6:45pm.

Free pizza!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5



December 2008



It's hard to believe we're wrapping up the first semester at Olander already!

The **Student Directory** should be out by winter break. We no longer have access to the PSD database, so addresses and phone numbers have had to be entered by hand. All children's names (unless specifically asked to be omitted) will be included, but there are a lot of blanks for addresses and phone numbers due to parents not sending in their child's information. In the future we'll look at revamping this project, or possibly forgoing it altogether, as it's simply too time consuming and incomplete.

Thanks to Jennifer Hansen (event coordinator) and all of our parents and student council members who helped at **Movie Night**. "WALL-E" was a great show and the kids should be commended for their terrific BEST Code behavior throughout.

Barb Lorenz is coordinating the **Staff Holiday Luncheon** to be held Friday, Dec. 19. Those who signed up to contribute should be contacted soon. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for this potluck event and would like to bring in food, please contact her at brownlorenz@yahoo.com.

The **20th Annual Sock Hop** will be a little earlier than in past years. It's coming up on Friday, Jan. 23! We'll need help setting up, selling concessions and cleaning up. If you're interested in helping, please contact Heather Block at cblock@frii.com.

Here's a gift idea that benefits Olander! How about a **Gold C Book** or an **Olander T-shirt or sweatshirt**? We have some leftover books as well as shirts in most sizes. Contact Holly Holland for more information, hcholland@comcast.net.

If you're traveling during the vacation, have a safe journey! We wish you joy and peace this season and throughout the New Year...



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

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.



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.

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MUSIC NEWS

December is Choir Month at Olander as 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 Gym 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. It is time to sign up for Spring Choir which will begin meeting on Wednesday, January, 7 at 8:00 A.M. Choir rehearsals are Wednesday and Friday Mornings from 8:00 to 8:45. All 4th 5th and 6th grade students are welcome to come and take advantage of this great opportunity to extend their musical learning by singing in the dynamic Olander Osprey Choir. Please contact Mr. Falcon for more information.

The PSD Honor Choir including Olander's Clint Sexton, Abigail Moffett, Anna Biedermann, and Ella Haynes will perform at the Lincoln Center Stage February, 17 at 7:00 P.M. Please come and experience this awesome event in the musical development of the students of PSD.

Upcoming Musical Events:

- ☺ Osprey Choir at the Foothills Mall Thursday, Dec. 11 at 1:00 P.M.
- ☺ Osprey Choir Holiday Concert at Olander Thurs., Dec.11 at 7:00 P.M.

- ☺ Kindergarten Holiday Program Thurs., Dec., 18, 11:30 A.M.

- ☺ PSD Honor Choir Tuesday, February, 17 at 7:00 P.M. on the Lincoln Center Stage

- ☺ Osprey Choir @ Blevins Jr. High Combined Concert – Tue. March 10

- ☺ Olander Art Odyssey Night - April 9

- ☺ 3rd and 4th Grade Program – Thursday, April, 16 at 7:00 P.M.

- ☺ 1st and 2nd Grade Program – Thursday, May, 7 at 7:00 P.M.

- ☺ Osprey C hoir Spring Concert – Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 P.M

Congratulations! to all 5th and 6th graders who recently delivered two exciting performances of *Building America in Song*. This fun music program celebrated American history with many great songs from the past including "The Erie Canal," "Over There," and "If I had a Hammer" to name a few. I will never forget Noah Godo's joyful performance as the Engineer of that celebrated train The Orange Blossom Special, or Emily Holland's dance moves in the "Shady Grove." I was thrilled by the musicality of the full ensemble, which included 120 students, as they sang "This Land is Your Land" the grand finale to a wonderful program full up great musical moments and fun for all. Special thanks to Jill Bruner, Nancy Miller, Susan Ort, Mike Mackenzie, and the Olander Integrated Services Staff for helping with many details behind the scenes.

Music News—Continued

Why Study Music? Our students deserve the benefits of an education that includes music. Studies show that learning music can improve math, science and language skills, and increase spatial I.Q.

Did You Know? Music is designated a core academic subject in the 'No Child Left Behind Act.' No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, Title IX, Part A, Sec. 9101 (11)

Why Music? Music is simply among humanity's most valuable inventions. As an art form, its power to thrill, inspire and move is unmatched. It is the score to our history and heritage and a key to our cultural awareness. Support music education by going to the MusicFriends.org website!

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James Falcon, Music Education Olander Elementary
jfalcon@psdschools.org – 970-488-8439

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council has been busy working on "BEST CODE" videos that demonstrate our behavior expectations to current and new students as well as creating BEST CODE tours of the building for new students and family. We have been working on community service as well.

Thank you for bringing in 51 turkeys for the Turkey Round-Up to benefit the Larimer County Food Bank! We are now working on our next event to help families in need during the holidays: Adopt-A-Family. If you would like to participate as we support two families, you may do so in several ways:

- 1) Visit our Giving Tree in the media center , select a star with a "wish list" item, and return the item to your child's homeroom by December 10th.
- 2) Make a cash donation to your child's teacher. Student Council will go shopping for remaining wish list items on December 11th.
- 3) Donate non-perishable food items, gently used household items, toys, or clothing to your child's homeroom.

For more information, please refer to the email sent out last week or talk to Heidi Jensen or Jon Davenport. Directions are also on the podium next to the Giving Tree. **All donations are due by December 10TH.**



Information Page

1. Kindergarten Registration Scheduled for 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 (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.

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).

2. PSD School Choice Deadlines Fast Approaching

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.

Parents may choose from a neighborhood school, a school close to work, all-day or half-day kindergarten programs, before- and after-school care, and various programs and curricula.

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.

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. *For specific details on School Choice refer to Poudre School District School Choice Policy JFBA (available at www.psdschools.org)*



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3. 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.

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

4. 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 initiative (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!

5. PSD Board Goes Paperless in Nov.

Not only will it save trees, the PSD Board of Education's move to Web-based electronic packets will also make information more accessible for parents, the staff, and public.

Gone are the days of copying and delivering 120 thick "insight" packets twice a month to board members, administrators, staff, and citizens who request information. Parents, staff, media and community members interested in viewing agendas, supporting documents, minutes, and attachments need only access the board's website, at www.psdschools.org under the front page "Board of Education" link.

The benefits are many—ease of access, more transparency in government, the ability to update meeting information immediately, and individuals can access all supporting, in-depth information prior to board meetings.

A printed version of the meeting materials will continue to be available in the Superintendent's Office, and agendas will still be posted in the lobby of the Johannsen Support Services Center (JSSC). Persons requesting a printed copy can call Suzie Struve at 490-3607 or email sstruve@psdschools.org. Please request printed copies no later than 12 noon the Monday before board meetings.

The public is invited to attend Board meetings (second Tuesday), and work sessions (fourth Tuesday) of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., in the JSSC Conference Center, 2407 LaPorte Avenue. Board meetings are also televised live on PSD Channel 10, the district's educational, cable access television station.