



OVERLOOK THE OWL REVIEW



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Ms. CARLA GREENE

First let me thank all of you for a smooth start to our school year. The partnership between home and school is critical to the success of all students. I will continue to be available to you for input and suggestions that will benefit the Overlook community.

Overlook supports your child through various initiatives: academic support and enrichment, prosocial growth, and technological competency to name a few. You can access more information about these initiatives through PTO meetings, web based updates, flyers, and parent meetings. As always, contact me with any questions or concerns.

There is much to be gained when parents and teachers meet face to face to discuss the progress of students. In addition to the fall conferences on December 7th, 8th, 9th and the spring conferences on March 8th, 9th, 10th, you will have several opportunities to do this during the current school year.

We encourage all parents to take advantage of every opportunity to connect with the school staff. When you attend these sessions we hope that you will speak frankly to the teacher and listen attentively to the teacher's report on how your child performs in school.

American Education Week will be observed from November 15th through November 19th. At this time, you are invited to see your child's class in action. For many of you it will be a real eye-opener to observe the group dynamics that take place in a classroom and see our expert staff in action.

Again, Welcome Back! Please make full use of these opportunities to learn more about your child and his or her school life.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten teachers enjoyed meeting the parents at Open House and at the Back-to-School picnic.

The children are very excited about the Halloween Parade and Reading Night!

The kindergarten classes are working hard to follow the classroom rules and school expectations. We are enjoying learning about fall and families. We are looking forward to another great month!

GRADE 1

Welcome back families! First grade is having a great time getting to know each other and reviewing our kindergarten skills. Thank you, families, for coming to visit us during our Back-to-School Night. If you did not have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

We will be going on our first field trip to Merrymead Farm on Wednesday, October 27th. Please complete your child's information form and permission slip when it comes home. At the end of the month we will have fun activities to celebrate harvesting. Lastly, the children will complete a presentation Friday, October 22nd for Culture Day. Please look for the flyer to help us celebrate each child's nationality. Thanks, and enjoy the change in weather.

GRADE 2

Welcome to second grade! We have four classes of second grade this year, and our teachers are: Ms. Bond, Ms. Rusch, Ms. Gambino and Ms. Brown.

Second grade students are learning about soils and observing worms in science. We are enjoying reading and participating in the 76ers Challenge, and we are working on our first book report! Second graders are also enjoying our Tier time reading opportunities.

In math, we have reinforced our skills with counting money, telling time and addition in Unit 1. We are starting more math skills and number stories in Unit 2.

In second grade our social studies curriculum includes citizenship, and we are reinforcing our Overlook Expectations daily. As a school, we are all focusing on anti-bullying. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

GRADE 3

Third grade is off to a super start! We are growing plants for our science unit this marking period. Which class will have the "greenest thumb?" We are also beginning cursive writing, a third grade favorite. Our first book report is due at the end of October.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

GRADE 3

September was a busy month for birthdays: Angelina Pinto, Jacob Simms, Kiera Groves, Michael Flannigan, Sierra Glants, Patty Defelice, and Jasmine Williams all celebrated a happy birthday! In October, Giovanna Berkovitz, Mia Castiglione, Patrick Magauran, Zamir Werts, Sarah McArdle, and Max Coffee will blow out their candles!

Don't forget to practice First in Math at home! And keep reading for your reading log and the 76ers Challenge!

GRADE 4

Fourth grade is off to a great start. We have been focusing on organization and responsibility. Our cycling for content area subjects is underway, and the students seem to enjoy the change. We had a field trip scheduled to the Lenape Village at the Churchville nature center; however, it was cancelled due to weather. The rescheduled date is May 12, 2011!

Fourth graders are currently reading selections from the "Let's Explore" theme in reading. In math we finished up Unit 1 on geometry basics and are moving on to Unit 2 which will cover landmarks, bar graphs, and multi-digit addition and subtraction. Keep practicing your facts! It has been a wonderful start to the school year!

GRADE 5

The beginning of the year has been an exciting one for our 5th graders. With a new teaching team and the introduction of cycling for special subjects, the students have been exposed to many new and thrilling experiences.

We are working hard in all subject areas, learning how to write personal narratives in communication arts, figuring factors in math, "Discovering America" in social studies, exploring microworlds in science and digging into our emotions in health.

5th graders are fanatical about First in Math! Mrs. Conway's class reached their goal of 10,000 stickers in just three short weeks. All the classes are joining in on the fun and some good, clean competition!

Congratulations to Ms. Goold's class on winning the Owl's Nest Café award for September. Way to go!

Mr. O'Brien's class has already begun their Service Learning projects, offering their services to the lower grades. They are committed and caring!

With such a great bunch of students, this year is sure to be an Overlook proud year for 5th grade and their teachers!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

GRADE 6

On Saturday, September 25th, the 6th grade held their first fundraiser- the annual fall carwash. Family, friends, and community members lined up to have their cars washed by the 6th grade students, and the event was a huge success! A lot of money was raised for the class trip to the Academy of Music, and everyone involved had a great time.

Special thanks to all of the parent volunteers that came out to help- we couldn't have done it without you!



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

MUSIC NOTES

Ms. JULIE MARAGOS



Ms. Maragos is very pleased to announce that the Overlook handbell ensemble will be resuming this year! The handbell ensemble will consist of 16 fifth- and sixth-graders. They will be performing at the winter and spring concerts.

The sixth-graders are learning how to play the guitar! They will be learning chords and melodies. All of the students will be working on performing rhythm patterns and melodic patterns as well as playing music classroom instruments.

ART IMPRESSIONS

Ms. PATTY FORREST AND
Ms. DONNA ZAR



“Hello” from the Overlook Art Room. Many exciting projects are being planned for all of the grades. The students will be learning about many different cultures and producing an art project inspired by those cultures. Some of the places that they will be "traveling" to are: China, Mexico, Japan, Africa and different areas of the good old U.S.A.

Literature will also play a big role in the art room this year. The children will be reading a few great award-winning books and illustrating them!

We look forward to a great start to the new school year!

COACH'S CORNER

Ms. MEGAN OLINGER



Hello, I am the physical education teacher here at Overlook Elementary, and I am so happy to be here all four days! This year is going to be a great school year filled with lots of exercise and fun. Take a look at some of the activities we will be doing this school year...

Soccer

Football

Turtle Tag

Volleyball

Hockey

Basketball

Hula Hoops

King ball

Lacrosse

Tennis Baseball

Jump Rope

Physical Fitness

Parents and guardians, please make sure that your child is wearing sneakers on gym days. Students that do not wear sneaker are not allowed to participate and will be asked to sit out.

Don't forget to exercise!!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

THE READING TEAM

MS. REYNOLDS, MS. RINK, MS. SCHMIDT, AND
MS. SPOERL

Happy Autumn! Please join us for...







READING NIGHT AT OVERLOOK!

October 25, 2010 from 7pm-8pm

**COME CELEBRATE AUTUMN WITH
AN EVENING OF FUN READING
ACTIVITIES!**

 Make a bookmark  Hear a read aloud

 Decorate a pumpkin 

 Check out some reading websites 

 Play a game  Enjoy a snack

We hope to see you there!

LIBRARY

MR. SERGIO

How many pages has your
child read?



The 76'ers Book

Break Challenge program is designed to encourage students (K-6) to read during their free time in place of watching TV and playing video games. Students are challenged to read at least 760 pages during the months of September and October. As they read, students log the pages on their scorecard. Completed scorecards need to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to their classroom teacher. All students reading the required 760 pages or more will receive a complimentary ticket to attend a Sixers home game and discount ticket offer for friends and family. In addition, students will also receive a Book Break Challenge Certificate! Please encourage your child to continue reading throughout October and beyond!!!

In addition to the 76'ers Book Break Challenge, the annual Overlook Turkey Bowl Challenge for grades 5 and 6 has begun. To be eligible to play in the Turkey Bowl, students must earn 12 Accelerated Reader points by completing short tests on the books they have read. Students in grades K-4 can start racking up Accelerated Reader points to earn an invite for the end-of-the school year ice cream party. And, there is always Reading Olympics to start thinking about... So, the next time you hear "I'm sooooo bored" or yet another Sponge Bob episode has your head pounding... Turn off the TV open a book and start reading!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

HEALTH CHECK

MS. MARY GALLAGHER
MS. ANGIE McFADDEN



Forms, forms, and more forms....

Sorry folks, but we need them! Please be sure to hand in all the required paperwork. Kindergarten and third grade dental forms are required. Kindergarten and sixth grade physical forms are required. Additionally, please make us aware of updated immunizations for your child.

Keep us informed....

Please keep the health suite informed of any special health problems or concerns, relevant to your child, that may arise during the school year. Any injuries that require an absence or gym restrictions need a doctors note and a parent/guardian note when your child returns to school

Remember...

If your child is home sick, they must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Speaking of fevers... The Flu season is upon us! Have you gotten your flu shot yet? The Influenza Vaccine is now recommended for all individuals age 6 months and older.

THINGS TO DO AT SCHOOL

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES.... SO MUCH TO DO....
SO LITTLE TIME...

Check it out! There many different clubs and activities available to Overlook students. Some meet before or after school and some meet at lunch/recess. The following is just a partial list:

Art Club, Arts and Crafts Club, Writers Club, Movement Expressions, Sports Club, Ultimate Football, Garden Club, Handbell Choir, Safety Patrol, Student Council, Chess Club, Reading Club, Reading Olympics, Jewelry Making, TV Production, Track, Girls Inc.

Get involved, sign up for a club or activity!



ITEMS FOR OPEN GYM

HELP!

We need new, or gently used board games, game tables (i.e. ping-pong, pool, air hockey), and floor games for open gym. So, if you have some games that are in good shape and are just gathering dust we could use them!

Donated items can be dropped off at the front office. Thanks for your help!

Questions... please contact Kathy Bein
kathy_bein@comcast.net



HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW BEAUTIFULLY!!!

Thanks to Overlook neighbor
MR. DAVID J. HOWARD!

As you passed by Overlook this summer did you happen to notice a gentleman working in the front flower beds? Have you wondered who was that dedicated man that worked all summer in the sweltering heat, to design and cultivate an amazing garden in the front of our school? The answer is... **Mr. David J. Howard.**

Mr. Howard has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Delaware Valley College, and has many years experience including head designer for Russell Garden Center. Retired from the horticulture industry, and working in his second career as a Cardiac Sonographer, Mr. Howard is still drawn to his love of gardening. It was this love of gardening that motivated him to volunteer his time and energy this summer at Overlook. On his daily walks past our school with Lady Tai-Tai, his 14 year old Bearded Collie, Mr. Howard noticed the sad shape of the front planting beds and decided to fix them. And so the task began: pulling weeds, weeds, and still more weeds, aerating soil, repositioning plants, donating and planting new plants in beautiful bright colors, and hauling water to help them survive the brutal summer heat and drought. People passing by would stop and talk or ask questions. Some of his favorite comments were: "Hey Mister, you got your work cut out for you!" and "Wow, it really looks nice!" The staff and students of Overlook think that the front looks fabulous!

Mr. Howard is passionate about the environment and strongly believes that we are losing our connection with our earth. He feels that we must teach our children about their environment, and the connections to our natural roots and that gardening is an excellent means to achieve this. Mr. Howard hoped his work in the garden would inspire our students to want to learn more about gardening and being green.

THANK YOU, Mr. Howard for our beautiful flowers and all your hard work! The front of our school looks truly amazing! The bright colors and lovely plantings make everyone smile as they pass by. Again, **THANK YOU!** It was a wonderful way to start the school year!

STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT

OVERLOOK STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

Overlook students are amazing! Sometimes however, we don't give them enough credit. It's time to shine the spotlight on Overlook students both past and present....

OVERLOOK STUDENTS PAST

Did you know that Overlook students do exceptionally well when they move on to the Junior and Senior High? They do! From time to time The Owl Report will highlight some of the achievements of former Overlook students. This month the spotlight shines on ANDY TRAN.

Andy Tran is an eighth grade student at Abington Junior High. As an Overlook student Andy consistently scored in the top percentile for math in both State and National. At the Junior High the trend continues. This past May, while in seventh grade, Andy took the College Board SAT. He scored a PERFECT 800 IN MATH. **WAY TO GO ANDY!**

OVERLOOK STUDENTS PRESENT

Thank you to the following sixth grade students who helped out at Open House Night: Diana Arias, Isabella Mager, Vasilia Nickles, Tiani Powell, and Maggie Slavin. The students greeted our guests, held open doors, handed out information, and helped with directions. Ladies, thank you for giving up your evening and helping out!



COOL OWL FACTS

Owls are AMAZING! There are over 150 species of owls in the world and about 19 different types of owls live in North America. They can be found all over the world except for Antarctica, parts of Greenland and some smaller islands. Owls are birds of prey. They feed on a variety of prey including mammals, other birds, insects, and reptiles. Owls' eyes are very large and are fixed in their sockets. They can't move their eyes so they have to swivel their whole heads in order to look around. Owls have very flexible necks, they can rotate their heads three-quarters of the way around and even turn their face upside down!



OVERLOOK
WE ARE
BETTER
TOGETHER!

CURRICULUM CORNER

MR. LEIGH DUNCAN

Much has been written about “helicopter” parents, those who hover over their children, watching and directing their every move. While elementary-age children certainly need and deserve close parenting, I think even at this tender age, it can be carried too far.

Children need to learn how to bounce back from failure and mistakes. They can’t begin their development into responsible citizens if we constantly protect them from failure and make excuses for their mistakes. As parents and educators, we need to teach our children how to rebound from failure by teaching them to try harder or work differently. Children need to learn from mistakes by understanding the negative consequences of poor decision making. We grow emotionally, socially, and academically by learning from our mistakes. If we constantly shield our children from these lessons, how will our children learn? How will they grow?

We can’t – and shouldn’t! – remove every roadblock in their young lives. Instead, let’s teach them to pick themselves up and dust themselves off when they stumble. Let’s teach them responsibility. Let’s allow them to become great.

COUNSELING CORNER

DR. ROB ROSENTHAL

Hello again Overlook families! Welcome back! My name is Rob Rosenthal and I am the School Psychologist here at Overlook Elementary School. This will be my 8th year at Overlook and I look forward to seeing all of our wonderful students back.

My main goal is to help promote student success in academic, personal, and social development. I will be collaborating and consulting with teachers, parents and community agencies to help achieve this goal. I will also be providing small group instruction in social skills leadership and emotional development with students from all grades. Short term crisis counseling is also available.

This year, I will be starting Chess Club once again for our students in 4th-6th grades. We are also adding to our hugely successful Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support programming with a brand new anti-bullying program designed to have all students involved in promoting a safe, fun, and warm climate.

As a School Psychologist, I am able to advocate for all students and help assist administrators, staff, teachers and families. I look forward to working together to help our students learn and develop. Please feel free to contact me at any time.