

# Oak Creek Principal Newsletter

September/October 2008  
Oak Creek Elementary

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## Upcoming Events

- ❖ Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Cans for Cash
- ❖ Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – International Walk to School Day
- ❖ Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – WISE Owl Assembly 8:00 am
- ❖ Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – Fall Family Fun Night 5:00 pm
- ❖ Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – Red Ribbon Week
- ❖ Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween Dress-up Day
- ❖ Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – School Picture Make-up Day
- ❖ Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – Holiday for Students & Teachers
- ❖ Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day Holiday
- ❖ Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> – Book Fair
- ❖ Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Holiday
- ❖ Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Holiday for Students & Teachers

## New Additions to the OC Staff

The opening of the 2008-2009 school year brought many new surprises. Our enrollment grew by over 30 students and it seemed as though we had an endless line of parents registering their students during the last weeks of summer. We currently have 788 students learning in Oak Creek classrooms. It is wonderful to see all of their smiling faces each day!

The addition of new students always necessitates the addition of new staff. I am proud to introduce the following individuals as our newest members of the "WISE-est" staff in town:

**Jessica O'Connell** (kindergarten teacher)  
**Kristina Geronsin** (1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher)  
**Lauren Rosenwald** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher)  
**Jennifer Chen** (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher)  
**Cheryl Watkins** (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher)  
**Jeff Layland** (psychologist intern)  
**Michelle Borrego** (speech & language pathologist)  
**Toni Fratzke** (speech & language pathologist)  
**Brian Park** (speech & language assistant)  
**Mark Rogers** (resource teacher)  
**Lisa Kou** (occupational therapist)  
**Bonnie Harris** (counseling assistant)  
**Kanchana Karthikeyan** (instructional assistant)  
**Afsaneh Djifroudi** (instructional assistant)  
**Cindy Vogt** (instructional assistant)  
**Dianna MacDavid** (instructional assistant)  
**Samantha Lutz** (nurse)  
**Ann Milstead** (playground assistant)

We are certainly very lucky to have each of them on our team!

*Please visit our school website for all of the latest OC news and upcoming events!*

**[www.iusd.org/oc/](http://www.iusd.org/oc/)**



## Upcoming Events

### Cans for Cash

**October 1-31**

Cans for Cash is a national recycling challenge and our students are encouraged to join in the challenge to make the city of Irvine an award-winning participant once again this year. The great news is that our school receives a monetary donation for all cans collected. For every pound of cans collected, Oak Creek School receives \$1. Additionally, our corporate partner, Gelson's Market, will donate their \$1 per pound to us! Please encourage your students to recycle their cans and bring them in their bags to school. Our drop off area is adjacent to the parking lot in front of the dumpster area.

### Walk to School Day

**October 15**

Irvine Public Schools Foundation, PTA, the City of Irvine, and Irvine Unified School District are proud to be a part of International Walk to School Day. Oak Creek students are encouraged to take a day off from riding to school—and walk instead. Please join us by walking to school on Wed. October 15<sup>th</sup>. If you live too far to walk safely, you can meet at Oak Creek Center by Office Depot and we'll walk together. Parents and students will leave the center at 7:40 am so that all can make it to school on time. Irvine Police will be there to make sure that we are safely walking across Alton. Don't forget to wear your spirit wear—or something yellow or green!

### Red Ribbon Week

**October 18-26**

Red Ribbon Week will be from October 18-26. This is a nationally recognized week designed to educate students and prevent them from making unhealthy choices for their bodies and remain drug free. This is also a school-wide spirit week. Each day is a different theme. Please refer to the info sent home by our wonderful PTA Red Ribbon Week coordinators. Also, all week long will be a *Pennies for Prevention* fundraiser. This is a classroom competition to see which class can raise the most money for drug prevention programs, so bring in those pennies! The winning primary and upper grade classes will receive a classroom prize.

## Student Council

Student council elections occurred last week and we are very proud of all of the candidates that took part in the campaign and election. Our new student council officers for the 2008-2009 school year are:

**President – Andy Mitchell**  
**Vice President - Shuntaro Nishi**  
**Treasurer – Kelsey Eyre**  
**Secretary – Lauren Kim**

Congratulations to each of you!



*Remember to  
read every day!*

*“W.I.S.E. Owls always  
have a winning  
attitude, demonstrate  
integrity, show  
respect &  
responsibility, and  
encourage others.”*

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## Message of Appreciation

Thank you to our PTA parents for the annual WELCOME breakfast they provided on the first day of school. Our new and returning families sure felt a warm welcome back! Additionally, a BIG thank you goes out to our parent volunteers who continue to enhance all aspects of the Oak Creek experience for our students and staff. Your time and dedication are greatly appreciated!

## School Site Council

Congratulations to our newly elected School Site Council members:

**Karyn Avazian**  
**Kym Henderson**

Thank you to all candidates for their interest in serving our school community!

## WISE Owl Incentive

Here is our new monthly WISE Owl incentive. We're looking forward to awarding many Oak Creek dog tags at our first WISE Owl assembly on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am on the blacktop!



## OAK CREEK SCHOOL

### *Dress up Guidelines for Halloween*

Halloween continues to be an enjoyable community festivity in which most of our children participate. At Oak Creek School, we will allow the children to come to school dressed in costumes on Friday, October 31st. Besides our classroom parties, however, there will be no school-wide activities. If you would like your child to come dressed in costume on October 31st, please adhere to the following guidelines that our staff have outlined for you. We truly enjoy the fun and community spirit of this celebration, but it is important that students who wish to dress-up do so in a way that doesn't interfere with the instructional day.

#### **COSTUME GUIDELINES**

- Children come to school dressed in their costume. **We will not allow costume changes to take place at school.** (This takes far too much adult assistance for our little ones. We have had far too many difficulties with changing into costumes at school when we have allowed it in past years.)
- Children should wear a costume that can be comfortably worn throughout the entire day.
- Be sure to have your children wear proper clothes and underclothes underneath their costume just in case they find their costume to be too hot or uncomfortable and wish to take it off before the day is over.
- Children may not wear masks to school.
- Children may not wear make-up to school. (For example, no full face make-up, no dripping blood, no make-up on hands that will smear on papers.)
- Children should not bring any object that they will need to hold in their hands. Of special emphasis is our State Education Code that states children **may not bring any toy weapons** to school of any sort at any time.
- Children should not come in costumes that depict any kind of graphic violence.
- Children should be discouraged from wearing any costume material that could be easily damaged. (We don't want a mishap at school to interfere with the fun of Halloween night.)
- Children should not wear costumes that make fun of others or make others feel uncomfortable.

Thanks for your help and cooperation in making sure that this is both an enjoyable and productive day for all of our children.

#### **Halloween Candy Safety Tips**

Instruct children not to snack on candy while out trick-or-treating. Be sure you examine all candy for tampering before consumption.

- Tell children not to accept and, especially, not to eat anything that is not commercially wrapped.
- Discard candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.).
- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys.



**Please remember that IUSD has a healthy snack policy. Please do not send your students with candy items and/or sweets to hand out in their classrooms. Pencils, healthy snacks and other non-consumable goodies are appropriate. Thanks!**