

Owens Elementary School 11780 CR 168, Tyler, TX 75703

The Eagle Eye

September 2009: First Issue

Principal: Linda Payne Assistant Principals: Shelly Bosley & Kathy Edwards-Hart PTA President: Jennifer Taylor

From the Desk of Mrs. Payne.

Back to Back! Doesn't that have a wonderful ring to it! Owens' students once again have earned the "Exemplary" rating from the Texas Education Agency. Lots of hard work and determination to do their very best each and every day is what makes that happen. We are very proud of our students and we greatly appreciate their families for placing a high emphasis on education.

Welcome to a new school year! The beginning of school always brings a lot of excitement and opportunities. Everyone looks forward to a great year of learning new things and making new friends. The coming together of parents, teachers, and staff to provide the best for our students is the key to their success! The memories you are making with your children are priceless! We look forward to making this the best school year ever and creating many, many opportunities for parents to be actively involved in sharing what will be one of the focal points of your child's life for several years to come: school!

When you are visiting our campus this year, you may notice some signs in various areas of the school that have our school-wide rules posted. This is part of our "Positive Behavior Support" approach to helping every student learn and practice our expectations for behavior. Our teachers taught the expectations for each area during the first few days of school and are reinforcing students for following the rules.

Our goals this year include:

- Creating positive learning experience for each child that focuses on academic excellence.
- Building relationships and creating a learning environment that fosters respect.
- Our theme for the 2009-2010 school year is "Wild About Owens" and we look forward to an exciting year in which every child knows we are glad they are an Owens Eagle!

This year we are going for three...Exemplary, Exemplary, Exemplary!! Good things come in threes!

See you on campus,

Linda Payne
Owens Elementary Principal
903-262-2175 or 903-262-2176 (fax)

From the PTA President

Did you know this year Texas PTA is celebrating its centennial? I don't know about you, but I am proud to be a part of an organization that for 100 years has supported children, families, and education.

I encourage everyone to join PTA! Moms, dads, and grandparents. Studies have shown that membership in PTA provides your child and other children around you with a greater chance of achieving in school. As a PTA member you are more likely to be an informed and involved parent.

I challenge you to become more involved in your child's education this year; whether it is to volunteer on campus, volunteer in your child's class, or to volunteer and attend PTA events. Your time, energy, and commitment benefit not only your child, but every child at Owens!

I want to thank the following PTA parents, teacher, and community members for already making a difference at Owens this year for all the children:

Thank you to James Fulton for moving the entire PTA storage room at the end of the school year!

Thank you to Melissa Combs, Michelle Findley, Susan Gunter, Janice Pritchard, and Sandra Thompson for putting labels on all the first day folders for Owens!

Thank you to the following for helping stuff the first day folders for Owens: Deana Attaway, Lisa Bailey, Erin Bush, Melissa Combs, Cole Findley, Dalton Findley Michelle Findley, Tina Foster, Susan Gunter, Joseph Hernandez, Patricia Hernandez, Jana Johns, Crystal Johnson, Kim Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Sandy Junek, Kelsey Kilgore, Jewel Kirkendoll, Cynthia Marshall, Lee Mata, Nicole Mayfield, Tara McCrea, Shannon McDaniel, Kim Oldham, Ellie Parker, Karen Parker-Kilgore, Linda Payne, Janice Pritchard, Jeanne Pyle, Shelley Rocha, Sheri Skanes, Teresa Stuth, Jessica Thompson, Kristin Thompson, Sandra Thompson, Tina Upton, Jennifer Vilade, Valerie Walthall, and Jewel Witt.

Thank you to Valerie Walthall for distributing all the school supplies!

Thank you to Nicole Mayfield and Sandra Thompson for planning and serving the Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon!

Thank you to Kelli Carpenter and Tara McCrea for hosting the Boo Hoo Breakfast!

Thank you to Toby and Tina Foster for a successful Dads and Kids Pizza Night!

Thank you to Kim Johnson and Sheri Skanes for organizing the PTA membership drive!

Thank you to Kim Oldham, Cynthia Marshall, and Heather Murphy for organizing our Owens' t-shirt sale!

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to be a homeroom representative and to **Erin Bush and Melody Knight** for coordinating the homeroom representatives!

Thank you to all parents who returned a Volunteer Opportunities Form! (We are in the process of organizing the information so that you can be contacted. If you don't hear from us soon, please contact us.)

Thank you to all Owens parents, teachers, and staff for a wonderful start to our 2009-2010 school year at Owens! Owens is the best!!!

Looking forward to a great year as we serve together to benefit all the children of Owens,
Jennifer Taylor, PTA President 2009-2010
Jennifer.taylor@tylerisd.org



Reflections News---

Do you find yourself taking pictures of things that catch your eye even without a camera? Do you love to write stories or create plays? Do you tap your feet to the beat even under your desk at school? Do you find yourself counting the minutes until the next art class so that you can create, draw, and express your artistic side? If the answer is "Yes" to any of these questions, then PTA invites you to participate in the annual Reflections contest.

The theme this year is *Beauty is...*

All you have to do is choose a category: Film Production; dance choreography; musical composition; photography; visual arts or literature. Next, go to office and pick up an entry form and rules for your category. Read through the rules and fill out the form. Get creative! Turn your project in to the office by **OCTOBER 29, 2009**, to be judged. **HAVE FUN!**

QUESTIONS? Call Tara McCrea 903/894-9294 or Stacy Foster 903/894-6655.

Would you like to see your child's picture in the 2009-2010 yearbook?

Please submit photos to front office/teacher on a CD labeled "Yearbook Committee" (300 Megapixels). Photo titles should be less than 25 characters.

Thank You!
Shannon McDaniel and Michelle Findley



The East Texas Food Bank Can Drive October 5th-16th



More information will be coming home soon. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Thank you! Chair—Melody Knight and Co-Chair—Erin Bush

Owens T-Shirts

PTA will be selling long sleeve Owens t-shirts soon!
Look for order forms shortly.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDERS!

Kim Oldham/t-shirt chair

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At Owens Elementary, we are helping the environment and raising money all at the same time!! Through a company called Terracycle (www.terracycle.net), we are collecting the following labels and sending them in for \$.02 each:

CapriSun, Kool - Aid and Honest Kids drink pouches
Mars/Wrigley candy product wrappers - Skittles, M&M's, Starburst, Twix, Snickers, etc.
Cliff & Balance bar wrappers
Nabisco cookie wrappers - Oreo, Chips Ahoy, etc. (large bags and small snack size)
Frito-Lay chip bags - Cheetos, Lays, Doritos, Fritos, etc. (large and small sizes)
Kashi product packaging - cereal, breakfast bars, etc.
Toasted chip bags - Ritz, Wheat Thins, etc.

If you would like to help raise money for our school, please return your labels to Owens Elementary or if you would like to mail them in yourself go to the website above and sign-up to collect. Just make sure to select Owens Elementary for your donations.

If you are in an organization (MOPS, JLT, etc.) that would like to collect these items for us, I would be glad to arrange pick up for any wrappers collected.

Thank you for your help! Melissa Combs-PTA Treasurer

BOX TOPS for Education



Please remember to clip those BOX TOPS for Education and send them to school. The class that collects the most BOX TOPS during the 2009-2010 school year will win a pizza party in May. The money received from BOX TOPS for Education will be used to purchase books for the Owens Literacy Library. Last year Owens raised \$1,190.30 from all classes combined.

Pat Bickley - Literacy Coach

~Mrs. Broome's BOX TOP CHALLENGE

Mrs. Broome's class has won the BOX TOPS contest for the past two years! We would like to make it three in a row! Last year Mrs. Broome's class collected 1,846 BOX TOPS. Can your class do better?

Let's see how much money we can raise together - Mrs. Broome - 1st Grade Teacher

Mrs. Broome-1st Grade Teacher

Did you know your used printer cartridges and cell phones can make a difference by helping Owens earn technology equipment and classroom supplies? **Please collect old cell phones, empty inkjet or laserjet cartridges to the front office.**

Lisa Walsh-Math Intervention Teacher

Campbell's Soup UPC

Collect labels to purchase items out of a special catalog.

Refer to www.labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of products.

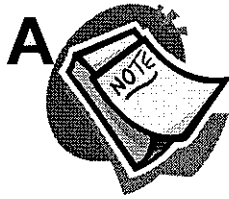


SAVE labels of Tyson products that have the Project A+ on the label.

Pat Bickley—Literacy Coach



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from our Nurse

I am a firm believer in good preventive care when it comes to taking care of ourselves and our children. In our busy, rushed schedules, we sometimes neglect to follow some basic, common sense "rules" for staying healthy.

Now that our winter season is just around the corner, these are especially important. In the long run, it makes a lot more sense to take the time for these steps, versus you or your child missing work/school.

1. Make sure your child gets 9-10 hours of sleep a night. Especially Sunday nights....I see a large number of kids on Monday mornings that are just plain tired!
2. Give your child a good breakfast every morning. Even if you are running late, ANYTHING is better than nothing. My two biggest complaints are stomach aches and headaches and many times it is due to no breakfast. You know how you feel when you get to work with no breakfast...for kids it's even worse.
3. Dress your kids for the weather....hats, gloves and raincoats. Teach them how to stay warm and dry.
4. Teach your kids good hand washing. Before meals, after the bathroom, and after playing outside. Warm water and plain soap do great!
5. Do not send your child to school with anything considered contagious; temperature of 100; vomiting; diarrhea, or red crusty, draining eyes. Your child needs to be free from such symptoms for 24 hours before coming to school. It is when kids are sent to school with contagious symptoms that we have the outbreaks of viruses in large numbers.

Have a healthy winter! Call if I can help!

Rhonda Reagan R.N.
School Nurse at Owens Elementary
903-262-2175



WATCH D.O.G.S.
AT OWENS ELEMENTARY



WATCH D.O.G.S. is a national innovative program focusing on the prevention of violence in our children's schools by using the positive influence of fathers, grandfathers and father-figures.

WATCH D.O.G.S. PIZZA NIGHT...

We had a great turnout at the annual "Dads and Kids Only" Pizza Night at Owens. We served 400 dads and students on September 1st in the gym. We had 65 Dads sign up to be WATCH D.O.G.S. on campus during the school year, and many more who took home sign up forms! We appreciate all who came and enjoyed the free pizza and fun.

Also, thanks to all the volunteers who served the pizza and drinks and to those who stayed late and helped clean up (especially the dads)! Our thanks also goes out to Mr. Fulton for being our technology expert for the evening, and to the custodians and Mr. Sharman for their great job of setup and cleanup.

If you were unable to attend Pizza night, its not too late to sign up for WATCH D.O.G.S.!

How to sign up:

- 1) Fill out a registration form and sign up for a date/s that you want to volunteer. Please schedule two weeks away to allow for processing. You can find these registration forms online at the Owens homepage under the parent center and then WATCH D.O.G.S. links, or in the school office.
- 2) Return the form to our counselor by one of the four methods listed on the registration form.
- 3) Register to become a volunteer with TISD by going to the Owens homepage under parent center and WATCH D.O.G.S. links, then to TISD Volunteer Form. This allows you to be screened by TISD to become a volunteer at your desired campus. Once you have been cleared to volunteer, you will be issued a volunteer badge that will be sent to the campus you request.
- 4) Mrs. Fleisher will be in touch about the dates you signed up to volunteer on your registration form. *Your badge will be issued as soon as possible by TISD Administration.

Want more information:

Websites: www.tylerisd.org/owens or www.tylerisd.org

School contact: Joyce Fleisher @ joyce.fleisher@tylerisd.org

PTA contacts: Toby & Tina Foster @ fostertina@hotmail.com

Moms and Dads!! Did you know you can manage your child's cafeteria account online?

You can also sign up for an e-mail notice that lets you know the account is below a certain amount.

Go to: www.lunchmoneynow.com/lmntyl/Main.htm

Try it out today!!



Remember, keep those cans coming!

Please bring in your aluminum cans for **recycling.**

All profits from recycling are used for programs at Owens.

Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!



GET BACK TO BASICS

JOIN PTA

The Owens Elementary PTA would like to invite you to support our school and our children by becoming a member of PTA. Your membership will help us reach our goals for this year. Here at Owens we offer the following programs: Grand-Friends Day, Fall Round-Up, Donuts for Dads, Dads Pizza Night, Teacher Appreciation, and many others.

You can join by picking up a membership envelope in the office or by sending an envelope to school marked with your name, address, child's name and teacher. Please make checks payable to: Owens PTA for \$5.00.

Both parents are encouraged to join, grandparents, and any other relatives that would like to. **OUR GOAL IS 100% IN EACH CLASSROOM. THE CLASS WITH THE MOST MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL TREAT.**

PTA Membership Committee - Kim Johnson & Sheri Skanes

OWENS PTA MEMBERSHIP

(#) _____ REGULAR MEMBERS @ \$5.00 EACH \$ _____

(#) _____ TEXAS LIFE MEMBERS* @3.75 EACH \$ _____

(WON BY AWARD ONLY)

INSERT MEMBER TYPE: R = *Regular *F=Faculty *G= Grandparent

*C=Other Community Member

Member's Name	Member Type	Address	City	Zip
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Child/Children at Owens (please only turn in with 1 child; each will receive credit for your membership)

NAME	GRADE	TEACHER
_____	_____	_____



choir notes . . .

Singing Eagles Honor Choir members are busy rehearsing for their upcoming holiday program! This 80-voice auditioned choir of Owens 4th & 5th grade students will present **"It's Christmas, Carol!"** for the PTA meeting on **December 17th**. The PTA meeting/choir program will begin at 6:30 PM at REL High School. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to catch the holiday spirit in this humorous, contemporary version of the traditional Dickens classic.

Calling all Owens Parent & Grandparent Musicians!

If you play an instrument, consider sharing your talent with your child or grandchild's music class. Students really enjoy live music, and would love to have a short demonstration of how to play your instrument as well as a short concert or sing-along. Contact Mrs. Edwards to set up a time! Our emphasis this year is on American music. Students will listen to several American composers such as Sousa, Foster, Gershwin, Copeland, Bernstein & Joplin. They will also explore the many styles of American music from folk music to jazz to patriotic marches. Hurrah for the good, ole USA!

Laurie Edwards

CHIC-FIL-A NIGHT

Owens Elementary Spirit Night

September 24, 2009

5:00-9:00p.m.

Owens receives 15% of sales!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Stay connected to the latest news from Tyler ISD by subscribing to the E-Link electronic newsletter. You can choose to receive news on the following:

- TISD Link - a district wide newsletter highlighting campus/student news.
- School Board Notes - highlights from regular school board meetings.
- Press Releases.



To subscribe, go to www.tylerisd.org and look for the E-Link image at the left top of the webpage.

GYM NEWS...

THE "SKINNY" ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE GYM!

Coach Balkey and her assistant, Mr. Sharman, welcome you all back to another exciting school year. We always welcome the new families to Owens! We will stay busy, busy, learning the importance of fitness & nutrition, sportsmanship, and all about how to exhibit good character traits. The students are given many opportunities to develop and improve positive social skills that help improve their ability to participate well with others in small and large groups. We try to keep a fun, safe, learning environment in our gym at all times.

Grades K-5

Our daily activities in P.E. include motor skills, rhythms, physical fitness, gymnastics and tumbling, and games & sports. We begin each class period with a daily exercise like power-walking, jogging and/or exercise to music. The students are given many opportunities to develop and improve these components of P.E. during their daily P.E. classes.

Also, this is our 3rd year to have the state mandated "Fitnessgram", a Physical Fitness Test in place for students in grades 3-12. From the data that I send in with each student's testing results, it is interesting to compare the strengths and weaknesses from one year to the next. You will be given a copy of your child's "personal report" at the end of the year, that the state sends back after they evaluate your child's test results. The items on the "Fitnessgram" that every 3-5 student will be tested on are :

- Pacer (20M)= cardiovascular endurance
- Sit & Reach= flexibility
- Push-ups= upper body strength/endurance
- Trunk Lift= flexibility
- Body Composition (Height & Weight)

*We are learning proper positioning & the correct way to do some of these test items NOW & we will be practicing them until we test in the spring. With lots of practice we will see much improvement at test time! Any encouragement from home will be greatly appreciated to help your student improve in the areas listed above. **If we teach them good diet & exercise habits NOW, they won't have to worry about the new "fad diets" later!** Hopefully, we can ALL help improve the high OBESITY problem with children, as we educate them on proper nutrition and exercise!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. Please send your child to school wearing appropriate shoes and clothing conducive to academic success and school dress code standards. Sandals, flip-flops, or any other shoe that is not secure on their feet, presents a safety problem at recess & P.E. , and they cannot perform their best during P.E. exercises & activities.
2. Please insist that your student ties their shoelaces. This is for safety and support!
3. A student can be excused from P.E. **ONLY** if they bring a note from home. Please write how many days the student needs to be excused. A doctor's excuse is needed in writing if the student needs to be excused for more than 3 days.
4. If a student has to be excused from P.E. for any reason, they must sit out of recess that day, also.
5. Please let Coach Balkey know if your child has any special medical needs that she needs to be aware of during exercising/ jogging, etc (ex. asthma, physical handicaps, etc.)
6. **LOST & FOUND is located in the gym.** Please write your child's name in their personal belongings (coats, sweaters, jackets, lunch bags) so they can be returned to them when found!!!!

We are looking forward to another healthy school year. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns.

We always appreciate the parents support at Owens Elementary!!!

Coach Balkey
denise.balkey@tylerisd.org or 903.262.2188

Library News...

Welcome back! Everyone mark your calendars for the Owens Grandfriend's Book Fair, Friday, September 18, 9:00-1:00. Students are encouraged to look through the Scholastic flier in advance in order to plan ahead for this amazing one day shopping experience.

This year students will be able to pre-order the new book, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dog Days*, by Jeff Kinney. This book is the fourth installment of the popular Wimpy Kid series and will not be available in bookstores until October 12. Through this special offer, Owens students will be able to pre-order the paperback book at the special price of \$7.57 (tax included).

To reserve your copy, simply complete the form below, attach check written to Owens Elementary and return to the Owens Library by September 18. Cash will not be accepted in advance.

Hope your year is off to a fantastic start! See you at the Book Fair!

Laura Russell
Owens Librarian

RESERVE YOUR COPY OF WIMPY KID 4 TODAY!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid 4: Dog Days Pre-Order Form

	Quantity	Price	Subtotal	Tax (if applicable)
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 4: DOG DAYS	_____	\$7.57	_____	_____
				_____ TOTAL

Payment must accompany order. Please make check payable to your school, enclose cash, or use a credit card at participating schools. Please return to your Book Fair Chairperson in a sealed envelope.

I am enclosing a check for \$_____.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

TEACHER: _____ GRADE _____

Fall Roundup

Owens Elementary Annual Fall Round-up Night will be held **November 6, 2009 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.** This will be a night of great games, fun activities and good food. The annual Art from the Heart Silent Auction will also take place that evening. Get involved by volunteering, donating food items or becoming a sponsor. Watch for additional information (including the Fall Round-Up Newsletter) being sent home with your student.



Save the Date



September

1st - Dads and Kids Only Pizza Night

17th - PTA meeting and General Conferences with teachers 6:30 p.m.

18th - Grand Friends' Day 10:00 am-1:00 pm and Book Fair

24th - Fall pictures

24th - Chick-Fil-A night

30th - PTA Membership drive ends

October

5th - 16th - East Texas Food Bank Can Drive

7th - Bus Driver Appreciation Day

8th - Report Cards - 1st six weeks

12th - no school - staff development day

26th - 30th - Red Ribbon Week

27th - Progress reports - 2nd six weeks

30th - Reflections Contest Entries Due

November

4th - Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

6th - Fall Round-up 5:30 - 8:30 pm and Silent Auction

19th - Report Cards - 2nd six weeks

23rd - 27th - no school - Thanksgiving

If you have any questions or comments concerning the newsletter, please contact Deana Attaway, Newsletter Editor, at deanaattaway@yahoo.com. Any errors in text, dates or times are unintentional.

2009 - 2010 Calendar

Calendar Legend

Six Weeks 1 August 24 - October 2 29 days
 Six Weeks 2 October 5 - November 13 29 days
 Six Weeks 3 November 16 - January 14 29 days
End of First Semester - January 15
First Semester Days 87 days
 Six Weeks 4 January 19 - February 26 28 days
 Six Weeks 5 March 1 - April 16 29 days
 Six Weeks 6 April 19 - June 3 32 days
End of Second Semester - June 3
Second Semester Days 89 days
TOTAL Instructional Days 176 days

Staff Development Days

August 18 - 21
 Sept ember 12*
 Sept ember 26*
 October 12
 February 12

*Make up day for missed summer training
August 10 - 14 New Teacher Induction

Teacher Work/Clerical Days

August 17
 January 15
 June 4

Graduation

June 5

Holidays

Labor Day September 7
 Thanksgiving November 23 - 27
 Christmas Break December 21 - January 1
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 18
 Spring Break March 8 - 12
 Memorial Day May 31

Bad Weather Make Up Days

April 2
 May 28

TAKS Testing

Administration Shutdown

July 6 - 17, 2009

Summer Hours for Administration Building
 June 8 - July 31, 2009

September 2009

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December 2009

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November 2009

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March 2010

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June 2010

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May 2010

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October 2009

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January 2010

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April 2010

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Tyler Independent School District
Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day!