

Osan American Elementary School

January 2011
Issue 5



Home of the
"Mighty Mustangs"

Principal: [Mr. David L. Petree](#)
784-6912

Superintendent: [Dr. Irby Miller](#)
738-6826

Principal's Comments

"Listen to the children first....learn about them, learn from them."
--Mister Rogers

Welcome back from the Winter Break!

Mission Statement:

The mission of Osan American Elementary School is to provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

School Improvement Goals

Goal 1: By June 2012, all students will increase performance on targeted reading comprehension skills using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TerraNova 3 Reading and Science sub-tests as well as other system-wide and school based assessments.

Goal 2: By June 2012, all students will increase performance on targeted vocabulary skills using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measure by the TerraNova 3 Social Studies sub-test as well as other system-wide and school – based assessments.

Osan American Elementary School
Unit 2037
APO AP 96278-2037
DSN: 784-6912
Local: 661-6912
Commercial: 011-82-31-661-6912

Happy New Year! I trust that your holiday season was relaxing, joyful and full of wonderful memories. As 2011 begins, our thoughts turn to what is fresh and new.

As we look forward to the New Year, I wish the best to you and your families. It is hard to believe that the school year is almost half over. We at OAES will continue to endeavor to make this the greatest school for your children.

With the New Year, there are new changes in our school. Two of our kindergarten teachers, Dr. Elizabeth Stapleford and Dr. David Stapleford retired after 40 years of teaching in DoDEA. We want to wish them the best as they move on to a new chapter in their lives. The new teachers are Ms. Rebecca Schenkel and Ms. Nancy Chandler. They have been working hard all winter break to ensure that they are ready to fill the Stapleford's shoes. We are very excited to welcome them to our Team of Great teachers.

The winter season has arrived. We will continue to have outdoor recess on the days that the weather and temperature permits. Please make sure that your child is dressed warmly for the winter weather and prepared to go outdoors for recess. We would like your children to dress in layers. This will ensure that they are ready for all of the temperature changes that take place during the day.

I want all new students to know that you are a welcomed addition to OAES. If you have any questions about our school, please come and see me.

Thank you,

David L. Petree
Principal

COUNSELOR CHRONICLES

By J. Burk

COUNSELOR CHRONICLES FOR JANUARY

I would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. Hopefully the New Year will bless you with quality time together and opportunities to grow even closer as a family.

TELEVISION/COMPUTERS/VIDEO GAMES: TOO MUCH? OUT OF CONTROL?

Television, computers and video games are a means of entertainment to be enjoyed, but not at the expense of completing homework, doing assigned tasks, being a contributing and appreciated family member, or hiding from a personal or interpersonal problem. Watching television or playing video games can become addictive for children, but only if you as the parent allow it to happen.

In order to take control of TV viewing and video games and to in turn help your child to become a better learner and more active family member, consider the following points and ideas:

1. Conduct a needs assessment:
 - . How much time is spent by your child watching TV or playing video games daily/weekly?
 - . How much time do you think *should* be spent watching TV or playing video games?
 - . Is there a need to reduce the amount of actual viewing time or playing of the video game?
2. How do you reduce the amount of your child's TV and video playing satisfactorily?
 - . You can be autocratic and say "NO".
 - . You can discuss it and together (we) make decisions.
 - . You can bring it up as an item of concern during a family meeting.
 - . You can put your child on a TV and video game diet.

A TV or video game diet would be similar to the following:

The first week your child can watch TV or play video games for 3 hours each day, the second week two and a half hours each day, the third week two hours each day, the fourth week one and one half hours each day and during the fifth week and subsequent weeks, only one hour per day.

3. Once the desired amount of viewing and playing time are established for each child, select the programs to be watched and games to be played. Post the schedule and stick to it.
4. As a parent, you control the switch. You may choose special educational shows (for example Discovery Channel) as "extras" that the whole family can watch. You may also consider playing a video game with your child and include that as an "extra" opportunity. Remember, you control the switch and the quality time your family spends together.

NURSE'S NEST

By K. Chapman R.N.

784-4809



Dear Parents,

Health screenings and re-screenings have been completed for the entire school. We did it a few classes at a time in November and December. Re-screenings of students who did not pass the original screening were done late in December. All grades were screened for vision and hearing. Fifth Grade was also screened for blood pressure and scoliosis. Any student who did not pass a part of the screening was rechecked by the School Nurse and referred to the appropriate clinic if necessary. If your child was referred, you were notified by a letter or phone call. It was a successful screening, our goal being to see that our students receive the best medical care possible. Thanks to all our parents for their cooperation. Students have already returned with glasses or new prescriptions and are seeing a lot better.

Sometimes children do not bring home letters from the Nurse, so if you have any questions please give me a call.

I also want to thank my two volunteers who helped out tremendously; Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Grassley.

CSI - Continuous School Improvement

By C. Badidis (CSI Chairperson)

GOAL ONE:

By June 2012, all students will increase performance on targeted reading comprehension skills using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TerraNova 3 Reading and Science subtests as well as other systemwide and school-based assessments. The targeted skills are to synthesize information from multiple sources and to apply this information to solve problems and make decisions.

Adopted Strategy

The "T Chart" is a graphic organizer that is easily adapted across grade levels and content area curriculum. This helps students bridge the gap between concrete and abstract understanding of newly learned material and concepts.

GOAL TWO:

By June 2012, all students will increase performance on targeted vocabulary skills using instructional interventions implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TerraNova 3 Social Studies sub-test as well as other system-wide and school-based assessments. The targeted skills are to develop a comprehensive vocabulary used to analyze and understand key concepts in curriculum areas.

Adopted Strategy

Six Step Vocabulary

Graphic organizers such as the "Frayer Model" or "Illustrate and Associate" are employed to raise vocabulary understanding and reinforce the targeted skills