

Osan American Elementary School

September 2010
Issue 1



Home of the
"Mighty Mustangs"

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

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

Principal's Comments

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."
--Chinese Proverb--

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
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I would like to welcome each of you to the new school year 2010-2011 at Osan American Elementary School (OAES). Parents, you are always welcome to eat lunch with your child, volunteer in the classroom or school, and be an active part of our school. The start of a new school year has brought many new and returning students to OAES who's smiling faces and eagerness to learn is evident as I walk through the classrooms and hallways. At OAES we have many new staff members too. We have a total of 20 new staff members. This makes a big change for us. The Department of Defense Dependent Education Activity (DoDEA) has developed rigorous curriculum standards for all schools. The curriculum standards specify what students should know and be able to do in each subject at each grade level. Standards are important because they set high expectation levels of learning and performance for all students. You will see the standards posted in all classrooms. The curriculum standards are also posted on the DoDEA website: www.dodea.edu.

OAES has been fully accredited since 1985 by the North Central Association. Each year the school has met the annual requirements and standards for accreditation without citation. As we start the new process for school improvement, we are looking for parents and community members to participate in Continuous School Improvement (CSI). If you are interested please contact us at: www.osan_es.pac.dodea.edu.

Open House will be held on **Monday, September 13** from **1700 -1800** in the gym. Please come to the gym first in order for the teachers to be introduced. There will be two sessions to meet your child's teacher following the introductions. There will be many opportunities for you to volunteer for the PTO, in the classrooms or other areas in the school. Booths will be set up by the PTO and other base organizations for you to visit on that evening.

The parent newsletter is sent home once a month. This year we are going to go paperless as much as possible. Please make sure the office and the classroom teacher has your current email address.

The SAC (School Advisory Committee) needs 2 parents and 2 teachers to be part of that committee. If would like more information about SAC please contact me.

You are invited to be an active participant in your child's education at OAES.

Thank you,

David L. Petree
Principal

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is wasted." –Aesop—

Important Dates:

September:

13 Sept.-Open House
1700-1800

16 Sept.-Sure Start begins

22 Sept.-Chusok Holiday
No School

October:

11 Oct.-Columbus Day Holiday

12-13 Oct.-School Pictures

Lunch Price: \$2.05

Milk: \$0.60

Additional Items. \$0.75

****Safety Alert****

Please remember to sign in at the main office before proceeding to the classrooms.

From the Information Center by Mrs. Richardson

Welcome back to a new school year. As you have probably noticed, the library underwent great change this summer. Hopefully you will find it an open and inviting environment to read, learn and visit. Here is some helpful information about the center.

- The center is open during school from 8:00 until 2:40.
- Students and parents may check out books for a two-week period.
- Teachers may check out unlimited materials for an unlimited period of time
- Kindergarten and First Grade students may check out one book at a time.
- Students in Second through Fifth Grades may check out two books at a time.
- Parents, who have an application on file, may check out four books.
- Exceptions can be made for special class projects.
- Books may be renewed. It is not necessary to bring in the book to renew it, just stop by the center and request a renewal.
- Students/parents will not be able to check out additional books until any overdue book has been returned.
- Computers in the center can be used by students for reference work, class projects, and *Scholastic Reading Counts* quizzes.
- Computers and internet access are provided for school purposes only. They may not be accessed for personal use.
- Food and drink are to be left outside the center; a pleasant attitude and gentle demeanor are to be brought into the center.

"Reading to the mind is what exercise is to the body." Richard Steele

COUNSELOR'S CHRONICLES by Mr. Burk

Welcome to the new school year. It is an exciting time for students, teachers and parents. We hope it will also be a premiere year for all of us socially, emotionally and scholastically. As the school year wears on, sometimes children become lackadaisical towards school work and homework in particular. The big stressor then becomes how do I instill motivation in my child? In the next two or three newsletters we will discuss the keys to motivation.

*Motivation...*is getting your child to do what you want him/her to do.

How do you get your child to do their chores; complete their homework; get along with family members and do what is generally expected of them? The answer lies in the concept of *motivation*. There are two sources of motivation...internal and external.

Internal motivation is the same as self-motivation. It is internal energy that drives students to want to learn. When people do what they love to do, they do more. Self-motivated students value knowledge and achievement; they are driven to create and to advance in their career preparation and work situations. Research shows that students can learn to achieve. It is possible to encourage internally or self-motivated learners by:

1. Establishing learning rituals that are consistently enforced in the home.
2. Enhancing the learners' self-esteem on a consistent basis.
3. Consistently using positive reinforcers in acknowledging learners' successes.

External motivation is generated from others. Although external motivation is better than no motivation at all, external motivation should be used by parents only when necessary to provide learners a sense of achievement and confidence which

may result in motivation becoming more internally derived. External motivation usually begins early in a child's life with the use of rewards and punishments.

The following list of external motivators is a suggested sequence of effective reinforcers, beginning with the least motivated learner, moving in order toward becoming more internally motivated learners. Examples are given for each category.

CONSUMABLES

The most immediate gratification for children is something they can eat. Try to avoid junk food and offer more healthy treats such as fruit, frozen juice bars and even ice cream. Consumables are most effective with small children or very resistant children. Increasing the time between the desired behavior and the reward moves the child toward the next level of reinforcer.

USABLES

Pencils, pens, desired clothing, writing or note paper, ink stamps and other items of choice serve as external motivators for children who are old enough to wait a few days for the reward.

PRIVILEGES

This is the first step in moving the child from concrete reinforcers to less tangible rewards. Ideas include watching a special television program, staying up late on a weekend night, having friends over, helping select items when grocery shopping and having lunch at school with a parent.

SERVICES

Services can be something you do for the child such as helping to clean up his or her room, driving him or her to the library, taking the child and his or her friends to a movie; or they can be services the child does for others, such as helping grandparents with a photo album, or preparing a special dinner for the family.

TROPHIES

Trophies are symbols of success and can range from awards posted on a family bulletin board or the child's bedroom door to having a special cake or dessert with a candle.

HONORS

Honors are similar to privileges but provide a level of recognition such as sitting at a special position at the dinner table, selecting a special restaurant or special dinner for the family or wearing a special insignia or item of clothing.

PRAISE

Verbal appreciation is a powerful motivator when it is given with care; used carelessly it can be perceived as condescending.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The child who is mostly internally motivated will respond positively to a thank you, a statement of appreciation, a hug or a pat on the back.

The purpose of using external rewards is to assist learners to become self-motivated through gaining self-control. Discipline is a form of external motivation that is used to facilitate obedience. Discipline is most effective when you mean what you say, follow through, be sure your child understands what he or she did wrong and be sure your child understands the consequences.