

In the Middle

Oaklea Middle School • 1515 Rose St. • Junction City, OR. 97448

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

As many of you may have heard, I will be moving to JCHS next school year to serve as co-Principal with Dina Marschall (current principal at Territorial). After serving staff and students for the past five years at Oaklea, it is difficult to think about leaving this special school. I will miss the "unpredictable interactions" with middle school students, their sense of humor, and the opportunities to help mold positive traits and character values, before they get to high school. I also look forward to continued work with students and families at JCHS. I'd like to thank all of the parents and guardians who have volunteered so many hours of their time to our students and staff.

Great things are happening at Oaklea! As you may have seen recently on KVAL news, we are working on some amazing school-wide initiatives with our kids. Walking into the building, you will notice four new murals created by our students, our "Art Weaver" Betsy Wolfston, and another professional artist from Imagination International, Bayne Gardner. Bayne created the Tiger backdrops and students painted their own visual images to capture the following: Understanding Our World, Self & Social Awareness, Academic Grit & Goal Setting, Creative and Critical Thinkers, and Communicators and Collaborators. These are all traits and characteristics our staff has established as essential to instill in all of our kids before they graduate as 8th graders. This project is called "A Portrait of an Oaklea Graduate." The murals will help to remind us of our focus and vision.

For planning purposes, please note that the last day of school is now on June 21st. The last day for 8th graders will be on Friday, June 16th, with the Recognition Ceremony happening in the main gym at 6pm. An "after party", sponsored by the Oaklea Parent Group, will take place immediately following. If you would like to be involved as a chaperone for one of our field trips this spring, please remember to fill out a volunteer background form located on the JC district's website (under "Forms") and return it to our front office. As principal, it has been an honor to work with all of you to provide the best possible support for all of our students at Oaklea.

Sincerely,
Brian Young

Calendar of Events

<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
Fri 5/5	8:15 Parent Group Meeting 5:00 OMS Cheer-"Parent's Night Out"	Thu 6/1	6:30 Oaklea Talent show, Large gym
Wed 5/10	1:20 Early Release	Tue 6/6	Jazz Band F.T. to Roseburg
Tue 5/9,18	6th gr. Coast Field Trips	Mon 6/12	7:00 Choir concert, Large gym
Fri 5/26	NO SCHOOL—Teacher work Day	Tue 6/13	7:00 Band concert, Large gym
Mon 5/29	NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day	Fri 6/16	6:00 p.m., 8th Grade Recognition
Tue 5/30	Choir F. T to Roseburg	Wed 6/21	12:50 Release, Last Day of School



Students of the month for April were chosen by Staff for outstanding citizenship and dedication to school work. Congratulations!

“Adam Lowman is one of the most caring students in 5th grade. He is very good at knowing when help is needed, and he responds with compassion.”

6th grader- “Serena Emmons is an excellent student. She does all of her work, and completes it above and beyond expectations.”

7th grader, Brandon Stair -“Brandon puts effort into his work and is a valuable contributor in class.”.... “a truly warm person who inspires through example!”

8th grader Caleb Gibson- “Caleb is kind, caring and a hard-working student. He is a natural leader and leads his classmates positively every day!”

Parent Information Session: Peer Aggression and Digital Drama

We have a special event planned for parents on May 5th at 9am. Ophelia's Place will be here to present to parents on the topics of peer aggression and digital drama. This 45 minute session will focus on how parents can support their child through the sometimes difficult middle school years. It will give you practical suggestions on how to talk to your child about changing friendships, making good decisions, and monitoring online behavior. This event is free and there will be snacks (there is no childcare for this event). Location: Small Gym. For more information please contact the Parent Group or Angie Elstone, School Counselor, 541-998-3381

Many Groups of Oaklea students recently revealed their creativity Thursday with the help of a local mural artist, Bayne Gardener, along with Betsy Wolfston our Artcore teacher. Mr. Gardner designed and painted four murals of various tiger poses in the hallways at the school. Students made designs and wrote words on them that represent the positive traits of an Oaklea graduate, such as self-awareness, adapting, collaboration, empathy, courage, gratitude, engage, don't quit, and many more. Students say it was a chance to leave their mark on their school. Student Regan Morris commented, "It's been really fun because it lets us express our artistic creativity." Come check it out!

FYI Parents—There are many nice jackets and sweatshirts in our “Lost and Found”. Please encourage your children to check it out. At the end of the year they will be taken to a charitable organization.

Student Leadership’s Fundraiser, Pennies for Patients was a huge success because so many students participated. The total amount raised was \$1,606.88 (132 lbs of coins!). TEAM Harrington collected the most coins with TEAMS Albert and Kulm coming in 2nd and third. A special “Thank You” to Citizens Bank for processing

Tiger Stripe winners: Kealee C., Edgar B., Lilly I., Eli M., Kyle S., Malayna W., Ocean C., Logan B., Juilan K., Cienna L.for being Safe, Respectful and Responsible!



Empty Bowls—One Bowl, One Life!

Help provide funds for “Bunches of Lunches” by purchasing a bowl of soup for \$10 and receiving a handmade clay bowl! Come **Wednesday, May 3, 5:00-7:30 to the JCHS gym**. Entertainment includes different music with participants from all JC schools. We are proud to have our own “Dem Oaklea Boys” representing Oaklea. Principal, Mr. Young, Mr. McReynolds our music teacher, as well as several other teachers—Mr. Tedrick, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Meskil. Also included is a special guest on the banjo, local B&I Hardware legend, Jim Krowka. Bring your appetite and the family for a fun evening!

Did you know that the Soroptimists are the sponsors of “Bunches of Lunches” program? They provide 80 students in our school district, who experience food instability, with healthy snacks and food for weekends. Soroptimist volunteers pack and deliver healthy foods each week. Bring friends and family to help support this great program by coming to the “Empty Bowls” event.

SEATTLE 8TH grade JAZZ BAND TRIP – At 5:30 a.m., May 22nd, a train will pull out of the Eugene Amtrak Station and our 8th Jazz Band students will be on board. They are heading for the “Experience Music Project” in Seattle on a whirlwind trip that will also include the Space Needle and Pike’s Place Market. They’ll arrive back home on the 23rd around 8:00 p.m. tired, but happy.