

CONNECTION

From the Principal...

Fourth Grade parents, please click on the link below to complete the survey regarding the 4th Grade Transition Ceremony.

4th grade parent survey

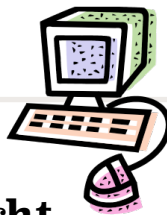


Specialist News

Technology News

By Patricia Brown

Hour of Code Family Night



Computers, tablets, smartphones, video games, apps, oh my! As technology plays such an important role in our lives, learning basic computer programming isn't just a smart idea, it's an essential skill for grown-ups and children alike.

Join us for a Family Code Night - a fun, interactive family event for students and their parents or guardians to experience computer programming for the first time - together! Playing in teams to complete puzzles and challenges at their own pace, families learn foundations of coding in just one hour. Instead of *watching* screens, parents and kids will learn to *create* what's on their screens!

Fun & Memorable Family Screen Time!

- No coding experience needed
- Bring your own laptop & earbuds, or use ours
- This is a family activity, no child drop-offs
- Bonus: Everyone goes home with a special "**Code On at Home**" guide with engaging activities for continued learning

Volunteers Welcome! Parents & kids with tech experience or kids who have participated in Hour of Code are encouraged to sign up as volunteer coaches, using the link above. We'll gather 15 minutes early for orientation.

To RSVP for the event go to: <http://bit.ly/OBCODENIGHT>

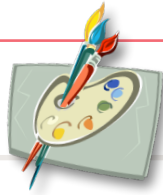
November

- 26** Giving Assembly, 9:30a.m.
- 27-29** NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break

December

- 2** OBPTO Mtg. 7 p.m.
- 3** Hour of Code Family Night 6:30-8p.m. in OB Cafeteria
- 4** 3rd Gr. Trip- Sheldon Concert Hall, 9-11:30 a.m.
- 10** It's A Small World PTO Event 6:30-8 p.m.
- 11** Walk in the Park (during PE)
- 20** Show Choir Winter Performance, 9:30 a.m.
- Winter Parties, 10-11 a.m.
- Early Dismissal, 1:15 p.m.
- Quarter 2 ends
- 23-Jan.3** NO SCHOOL-Winter Break

Art Studio News



By Mrs. Roth

We have completed our first round of clay projects for the year. I am excited to be firing Diwali lamps, pandas, pinch pots and Japanese teacups. The O.B. artists love exploring and working with clay! The fourth-graders have started the annual Knitting for Dr. King Project and so far so good! The enthusiasm is high and lots of students have already completed multiple hats! Each student will be making one hat to keep and one to donate to a charitable cause in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January.

We continue to explore the Asian Continent and many different art mediums. Kindergarten is folding origami elephants and learning about the elephant parade in Jaipur, India. First-graders are exploring painting techniques and the national bird of India, the peacock. The second-graders are studying to be architects after discovering the Taj Mahal. The third-graders have just completed a difficult project of learning the origami folds for the Japanese crane, they made five of them!

Don't forget to follow all of the wonderful projects on our art studio instagram page [@OBartstudio!](#)

Physical Education



By Coach Jander & Coach Prange

Did you hear about the HUGE leaf pile we made in PE? OB students worked together to move around our amazing outdoor space to get as many leaves as their hands, pockets, hoods, and buckets could hold. It was fun to see. Did you know children who regularly play outdoors are more curious, self-directed, and likely to stay with a task longer? Playing outdoors is vital to keeping our immune systems strong and making us feel happier. We plan on being outside for PE as long as the temperature feels 20 degrees or above. Make sure your kids are prepared to be outside for PE and recess as often as possible!

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes." -Anonymous

The OB PE teachers have been talking about physical literacy lately. Physical literacy is the competence and confidence to be physically active in a variety of environments for the benefit of self, others, and community. We hope our OB students can become physically literate for a lifetime!

Library in the Limelight



By Mrs. Kelley

Here's what we've been reading in the library this fall—

Kindergarten: *Can I Be Your Dog?* paired with *Silly Dog!*, *How To Care For Your Lion*, paired with the nonfiction book *Lions*, *Mother Bruce* and *Bruce's Big Move* (both written by Ryan Higgins), *Stop, Drop and Roll!*, *There's a Monster In Your Book*, *Monster Trouble* and *Charlie the Ranch Dog* books.

First grade: Extra Yarn and Square (both written by Mac Barnett), They All Saw a Cat and Duck! Rabbit (both used to talk about perspective), Bob, Not Bob! paired with the nonfiction book Why Do I Sneeze?, Penguin Problems, paired with a nonfiction book about penguins, I'm Trying To Love Spiders and Aaaarrgghh! Spider!, Tyrannosaurus Rex Vs. Edna The Very First Chicken and Saffron Ice Cream.

Second grade: The Hula-Hoopin' Queen, paired with some hula-hooping outside, Catch That Yawn, paired with the nonfiction book Why Do I Yawn?, There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves reader's theater (paired with the nonfiction book called Why Do Leaves Change Colors), and the popular folktale called Abiyoyo. We've also started reading this year's Show Me Nominees and reviewing each one after the read aloud. We'll use these reviews to help us decide which one to vote for in the spring.

Third grade: Jangles, Turning Pages: My Life Story (the autobiography of Sonia Sotomayor), Her Right Foot, and The Pumpkin Runner. We've also read books about remarkable animals, including: Elizabeth Queen of the Seas, Owen and Mzee, Two Bobbies and Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine and a Miracle.

Fourth grade: A lot of my time with fourth-graders has been spent doing book talks. I'm working hard to get them excited about longer chapter books! We've also managed to read Brothers At Bat and My Journey to the Stars. If you haven't seen pictures of the Storybook Pumpkin Patch on the library Instagram account yet, you should check it out ([oblibrary1](#)). Fourth-graders were invited to decorate a pumpkin as their favorite storybook character to display in the library. OB students really enjoyed these awesome pumpkins! Thanks to everyone who participated! This will be a new fall tradition for fourth graders.

**A quick note about book care—I've noticed that a lot of books are being returned damaged. Keep water and writing utensils away from library books and try hard to avoid ripping pages. Please remind your student to take extra care with library books so that we continue to have an appealing collection that everyone can enjoy!*

Music Notes



By Ms. Ladue

The Show Choir did a fantastic job on their recording of "To Those Who Serve" by Jill Gallina, and "One Dream" by Andy Beck, for the Veteran's Day Slideshow. If you did not have the opportunity to watch, please take five minutes to view as a family and honor our veterans, who have devoted their lives in service to others.

[click here to view Veterans video](#)

The Show Choir is also preparing for their Winter Concert, which will take place at 9:30 a.m. on December 20, at our school assembly. This has become a fun send-off tradition for students and staff to celebrate the joys of the winter season.

Be sure to check out the music classroom blog at www.oldbonhommemusic.blogspot.com for regular updates on music room happenings!

Counseling News



By Mrs. Arnold & Ms. Carey

Creating Calm Amidst Chaos

The holiday season can be a time of heightened emotions, whether it be excitement, joy, stress, or anxiety. Changes in schedules and additional expectations can be difficult to manage. Here are some great gift ideas for creating a calm and mindful space in your home. [Hoberman ball](#), [Bubble timer](#), [Budda board](#), [Kinetic sand](#).



Classroom News

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten continues to be a very busy place where students are working so hard to grow and learn. We enjoyed seeing many of our families at fall conferences! This was a great time to share each student's growth and discuss the kindergarten goals throughout the remainder of the year.

Our kindergarten classes have been really diving into the curriculum these past couple of months! In Reading, the students have been getting into great routines during guided reading and center time. They enjoy rotating through engaging reading centers and each of these centers helps students implement skills that were previously taught. Students have been learning to be independent thinkers during each center so that guided reading groups can run smoothly. During center time, teachers have begun pulling small guided reading groups. In these small groups students are working on more individualized reading goals to enhance each student's reading ability. Also during our reading block we continue to do whole group blue book lessons focusing on phonemic awareness skills. We have been busy practicing sight words, rhyming, sound association, blending, deleting/adding phonemes, and breaking down words during this time. Students are also building stamina during our independent reading time. We are becoming great readers and have learned so many new skills.

In Handwriting, students continue to work hard in our "Handwriting Without Tears" book. They continue to work on making sure they have a correct pencil grip as they are writing their letters. They have also been focusing on writing capital letters correctly in their books and starting their letters from the top. In Writer's Workshop we continue to do a whole group mini lesson each day and we are finishing up our second Writer's Workshop unit "Show and Tell: From Labels to Pattern Books." In this unit we are learning how to use inventive spelling, drawing, adding descriptive labels to our pictures, stringing together words to

make full sentences, writing across pages in a pattern using high frequency words to create our own books, and planning each page in our books by studying mentor texts. The last couple of weeks students have been trying to write in complete sentence patterns for their books. Students have been writing about special items and places. Our kindergarten students keep growing as writers each day.

In Math in Focus, the students continue to add parts to our calendar routine. We are counting the days of school, breaking down numbers, figuring out the date, learning the days of the week and months of the year, and graphing the weather. This past month students have been working hard in our *Math in Focus* unit, "Counting and Numbers 0-10." In this unit we have been working on composing numbers to 5, counting on, ordering numbers, using the terms more than and fewer than when comparing numbers, and understanding the meaning of the same. Kindergarten students also worked on our "Size and Position" unit where students compare sizes, identified positions of objects in space, and sequence events.

Science has been another busy time for our kindergarteners. We are loving our new mySci program and how hands-on it is. Over the past month we have been studying plants and animals. Each class has been able to make their own small greenhouse and watch radish seeds grow. In addition, we have been discussing what are living things and what do living things need. Students have also had a great time studying the different animal classifications.

We ended October with wonderful fall parties. Our room parents and parent volunteers did a great job planning fall crafts, games, and special fall treats. We can't wait to see what's in store for the winter parties!

The kindergarten teachers are looking forward to watching the kindergarten students grow as readers, writers, and mathematicians this year!

First Grade News

Second quarter was an exciting and engaging time in first grade. In Social Studies, we have been studying neighborhoods and towns, where students have learned that they are members of a neighborhood and a town, and there are people that help and improve the community. Neighborhoods are made up of many components which can be represented on a map. Jobs can benefit the community by providing a way to meet the needs and wants of people. As readers, students are studying non-fiction books and using all they know about solving new and more challenging words in books. They are also learning how non-fiction books are organized and how they can study these types of books to learn more about the topic. Their perseverance is growing as the year moves forward. In Writing, students are writing their own non-fiction, "all about" and "how-to" books. Students love this unit because it gives them a chance to show-off their expertise in many areas, teach their peers, and sometimes even their teachers! Finally, in Math, students are learning a lot this quarter! Topics will include addition and subtraction to 20, comparing numbers, and place value. Please also encourage your child to continue reading at home, as well as practice their basic fact fluency with addition and subtraction within 20 as the year moves forward.

Second Grade News

How would you like to learn about the government in our community? That is what our students spent time doing during social studies this quarter. The discussions have been thoughtful and the students have been very interested in the process. (They are also VERY interested in taxes, hmmm.)

Our upcoming science unit will be all about wind and water and how they impact the earth. It will be VERY hands on and there will be a lot of rocks and dirt involved. We are looking forward to determining how we can design, test and improve structures to prevent wind erosion?

In Math, we recently completed our chapter on subtraction up to 1,000, both with and without regrouping. Please continue to review our basic addition and subtraction math facts at home. We are introducing multiplication and division skills before the semester ends too.

Our reading and writing units are all about INFORMATIONAL books! Focusing on what they are experts at individually has been challenging but rewarding. They are learning how to take all their knowledge and then write multiple ways to teach others. They are also working on comparing books on the same topic during reading time. It is an important skill that they are getting better at daily.

All in all, second grade has been busy and has a great deal to look forward to, and even more to be thankful for!

Third Grade News

The weather outside may soon be frightful, but our third graders are bringing the heat in the classroom during the second quarter!

Our third grade readers wrapped up an October filled with small group work that addressed a wide variety of reading skills and strategies. Students have been exploring nonfiction texts about topics like space, pandas, lost civilizations, and more! They also have put their detective hats on for an exciting mystery reading unit. Writing has been exciting with teaching about topics of expertise and sharing their opinions on how they can change the world. As we enter the months ahead, our readers will be learning more about how wondering and questioning while reading can lead to improved comprehension.

From learning about bar modeling, in October our students were pushed to use a visual approach to solving real-world problems involving addition and subtraction. Multiplication and division have now been taking center stage for third grade mathematicians. Through the use of arrays, number lines, skip counting, and other representational forms, third-graders have been building an understanding of multiplication/division word problems in terms of the number of groups, the number in each group, and the total number.

After months of scientific inquiry in which our learners investigated light and sound, and even some weather, third-graders will now put their social studies hats on. Through read-alouds and in-depth research, the kids will begin going back in time, learning about the history and lifestyles of Colonial America.

It's true that the weather is getting colder, but third grade is really heating up!

Fourth Grade News

At the end of the second quarter, we will be halfway through the fourth grade. Can you believe that?! Students are still working on the skill of utilizing their planners to develop independent responsibility.

In November, we are so lucky at OB to participate in the annual Giving Assembly. As the oldest students in the school, fourth grade gets to help collect, count, and organize all the donations we get. Students were given a variety of ways to help and had a chance to apply for certain jobs for this special occasion.

We also have a lot of great learning going on! Students are perfecting their multiplication and division skills in math and will be ending the quarter working on fractions and decimals. These are definitely skills that take practice, precision, and patience. In Social Studies, we are learning about westward expansion, including the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and the pioneer spirit! Your fourth grade scientists will begin a new unit in December. In this unit, students explore how different organisms use their body structures in order to sense, respond to their environment, and survive. For Reading, students have been developing skills to read nonfiction well. Specifically, we have focused in on skills like making a connection, previewing the text, understanding text features and structure, and tackling the hard parts of nonfiction. Students have started developing skills in summarizing what they are reading. Also, each fourth grade student is expected to read a minimum of thirty minutes each night. In Writing, your students have been writing opinion essays. These essays are five paragraphs, include a thesis statement or claim, and have well developed reasons with evidence.

