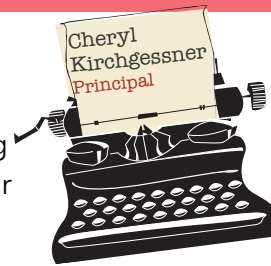


# CONNECTION

## From the Principal...

I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break! We will certainly be needing our energy for the weeks ahead. Can you believe there are only eight weeks of school left? We have many exciting things to look forward to with our students and families, so check out the calendar and mark the dates. First up, is the OB Science & Innovation Night, the Principal's Picnic for students at Stacy Park, and add in a little MAP testing for third and fourth-graders. Then take delight in our annual Art Show and OB Spring Fling School Picnic! Dr. Wipke, our new Superintendent, will be joining us for the OB Science & Innovation Night. We'll welcome Mrs. Stephanie Taggart, Old Bonhomme School's new Principal, at our Spring Fling School Picnic, where she will informally meet and greet families. We still have lots of learning ahead and intend to celebrate the joys of learning and growing together. Finish strong!



## April

- 1** After-School Classes Begin!
- 2** NO SCHOOL, Prof. Dev. Day  
Flying Spider Fundraiser, 10-12 p.m.
- 4** Fourth Gr. Jeff City Field Trip
- 5** Science & Innovation Night, 6 p.m.
- 16** 2019-20 Kdg. Parent Mtg. 7p.m.
- 22** MAP Testing begins, Grades 3 & 4
- 23** Fine Arts Show w/ Third Gr.  
Performance, 6:30p.m.
- 26** Principal's Picnic (during lunches)

### Old Bonhomme Elementary Arrival / Dismissal Safety Procedures and Parking

We are continuing to focus on student safety and smooth traffic flow during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Although we still have more cars than we can accommodate on our parking lot, we've seen positive results for student safety. The challenging weather this winter has made things more difficult for all of us. Thanks for all your help following the procedures and being patient with each other.

Please assist us with the following items.

- Follow established procedures
- Use Stacy Park for overflow parking when the upper blacktop is full or traffic is congested at arrival or dismissal
- Do not park on adjacent city streets or turn around in neighbor's driveways
- Be patient
- Do not move your vehicle without looking in all directions
- Carpool or ride the school bus, if possible

Mrs. Kirchgessner

blog: <http://obeprincipalblog.blogspot.com/>

**NOTICE: Walk in the Park is canceled for April but will return in May**

# OLWEUS News

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The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program encourages students to tell an adult at school and at home if they are being bullied or know someone who is. A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.

Parents whose child is involved in bullying – from either side – face difficult family conversations. Some simple Olweus-based guidelines, taken from a 2007 article by the Hazleton Foundation, may help.

## **For parents whose children report being bullied:**

- DO control your own emotions so you can listen clearly and take appropriate action.
- DO ask your child to describe what happened, who was involved, where it happened and if anyone saw or heard it happen.
- DO tell your child that you are glad he/she had the courage to speak up.
- DO tell the child what you will do next. Even if a child asks you not to talk to anyone, stress that bullying is always wrong and you both have to be a part of keeping our school safe. It is part of the Olweus agreement.
- DO talk to the principal or your child's teacher. Explain the facts you know.
- DO expect the bullying to stop. Talk to your child and the teacher or principal to ensure this happens.
- DON'T talk to parents of the child who bullied your child. Let school staff handle this.
- DON'T ignore the bullying or tell your child to ignore it. This sends the message that bullying is okay.
- DON'T blame your child. He cannot do or say anything that deserves bullying.
- DON'T criticize how your child handled the situation.
- DON'T tell your child to fight back. This problem may not be over and it might make things worse as well as get him/her in trouble at school.

## **There are steps you can take to build a more positive environment for a child who feels isolated and bullied:**

- Encourage interests and hobbies that will help him handle difficult situations like bullying.
- Encourage friendships with students you know are friendly, and allow the children to spend time together outside of school.
- Help your child develop friendships through organizations outside of school.
- Teach your child to seek help from an adult, and practice what that can look and sound like.
- Make home a supportive place; take time to talk to your child about her thoughts.

## **For parents whose child is accused of bullying others:**

- Take a deep breath. It's normal to feel defensive or ashamed, but remember this is not a permanent label or the only picture of who your child is.
- Listen carefully to the school's report, and take some time to process it. Promise to follow up.
- Talk to your child – the goal is to get facts. Present what you heard, ask if he/she knows what they are talking about. If possible, have your child write down a detailed account of what happened.
- Make it clear that bullying is not okay and that you take it seriously, and that you are going to do what is necessary to make sure it doesn't happen again.
- Work with the teacher, counselor and principal to develop a plan that ends your child's use of bullying.

### **You can also take steps to build a supportive environment for change in your family:**

- Make sure your child knows that we can always redefine ourselves in increasingly better ways.
- Teach better ways to deal with conflict and to avoid drama (e.g., walk away, tell a teacher, stop a friend who is picking on someone).
- Develop clear rules within your family for your child's behavior. Praise him/her for following those rules.
- Use nonphysical and logical consequences if rules are broken (e.g., losing privileges such as iPads, phones, television, or activities).
- Spend time with your child and carefully supervise and monitor his/her activities. Know his/her friends and how and where they spend time.
- Build on your child's strengths. Get him/her involved in positive activities (e.g. clubs, music, non-violent sports) that will promote self-esteem.

Whatever situation you find yourself in, feel free to make use of our school counselors, Hayley Arnold, Kristine Carey, or a mental health professional.

## Specialist News

### Art News

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**By Mrs. Roth**

Please mark your calendars for the annual OB Art Showcase! It will be Tuesday, April 23 from 6:30-8 p.m. Every student will have two masterpieces on display in addition to the three dimensional work. The third graders will be showing off their musical talents as well. We have explored many parts of the African continent and have much to be displayed so please come and see us shine! Artists are busy selecting their favorite works of art from their portfolios and recording their QR codes to tell more about what we learned, what materials we used and why this work is important to each artist.

A special thanks to the PTO for supporting our arts field trips. We will have the final field trip on April 4, as our kindergartners venture to the Missouri Botanical Garden for a STEAM immersion into plants! Our workshop is called Tops and Bottoms, can't wait to see what we learn and connect. This year the first grade was lucky enough to see the Nutcracker performed live! Second and third grades enjoyed a trip to the St. Louis Art Museum to see the special exhibit of Kehinde Wiley and the African galleries. Fourth grade experienced a special trip to Powell Symphony Hall to hear the St. Louis Symphony perform. We are lucky to have such a generous PTO who supports many rich experiences in our community. Thank you! Happy Spring, see you at the art show, Mrs. Roth

### Library in the Limelight

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**By Mrs. Kelley**

First through third grade students finished reading the ten Show Me Nominees and they voted on their favorite picture book from the group. Our readers overwhelmingly voted for *The Magic Word*, by Mac Barnett as their favorite, which is not a complete surprise as Barnett's books are always popular with kids (and adults, too!). Old Bonhomme's votes were sent to Jefferson City and state results will be available mid-April; it's always exciting for the kids to find out which picture book wins the Show Me Award!

The Scholastic Book Fair is quickly approaching and the kids are really looking forward to it! The book fair will be in the library the week of April 15-19. Your student will visit the book fair with his/her class and will bring home a wishlist for you to review. Students can either return to the book fair with their class to purchase books or you can visit the book fair during either of the after-school/evening family nights. Scholastic has a new, digital eWallet payment option for those of us who rarely have cash on hand. Be on the lookout for more information about this convenient option to pay for some new books! If you want to help with the book fair, please contact Jamie Steinbach at [jehitter@hotmail.com](mailto:jehitter@hotmail.com) or OB Librarian, Susan Kelley at [skelley@ladueschools.net](mailto:skelley@ladueschools.net).

## Music News

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### **By Ms. Ladue**

The Show Choir had the opportunity to perform in the Elementary Honor Choir at the Ladue School District Choir Festival on Tuesday, February 26, at Logan University's Purser Center. The choir sang several two-part choral arrangements including, "J'Entend Le Moulin," "Sarasponda," "Mary Had a Little Blues," "What Color is the Music?" and "Turn the World Around" from memory! Their performance garnered a rousing round of applause for a job well done! The Show Choir will also be performing an evening concert on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. to celebrate a whole year musical accomplishment!

In celebration of "Music in Our Schools" month, the kindergarten and first grade parents were invited to attend and participate in their child's music class. Students taught parents a selection of their favorite music activities including "How Do Ya Doo-ti," the Kings and Queens Dance, rhythm reading, and mallet instrument technique with our all-time favorite book, Mortimer, by Robert Munsch.

Don't miss the third grade musical performances at Arts Night on April 23, from 6:30-8 p.m.! Each third grade class will have the opportunity to showcase mallet ensemble pieces in the gym. A schedule with performance times will be forthcoming. We hope to see you there!

CARDINALS GAME ticket sales will begin after Spring Break! Old Bonhomme Show Choir will be singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the 7th inning stretch for the Cardinals vs. Brewers game on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. You don't want to miss this opportunity to support the OB Music program and get discounted tickets! For ticket purchasing information, please contact Courtney Swillinger, [cswillinger@hotmail.com](mailto:cswillinger@hotmail.com) or Meghan Ladue, [mladue@ladueschools.net](mailto:mladue@ladueschools.net).

## Physical Education

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### **By Coach Jander & Coach Prange**

As your child's P.E. teachers, we are helping your child learn to move AND move to learn; we know that a fully functioning body creates a fully functioning brain; and we want your child to have the confidence and competence to be physically active for a lifetime.

When you're through reading the O.B. Connection, how about going outside to play?! Phone down, heart rate up. Screen off, sunscreen on. This goes for kids AND adults! Make it easy. Play catch. Go for a walk together. Ride bikes. Kick a ball back and forth. Be present, really interacting together in real time. No website necessary.

**Kids' Heart Challenge** is here!!

It has a new name, but "Jump Rope for Heart" is back!

Please check your child's backpack TODAY for information.

Or, you can easily click [HERE](#) to sign up online and get started.

Let's make this another OUTSTANDING year for O.B.'s support of the American Heart Association.

## Counseling News

**By Mrs. Arnold & Ms. Carey**

Third and fourth grade students will be taking the annual state MAP test the week of April 29. Below is the schedule for each of the classrooms.

	<b>April 29</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>B Day</b>	<b>April 30</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>C Day</b>	<b>May 1</b> <b>Wed.</b> <b>D Day</b>	<b>May 2</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>E Day</b>	<b>May 3</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>A Day</b>
<b>9:00- 11:00</b>	<b>MATH</b> <b>Session 1</b> 4K, 4H, 4P	<b>ELA</b> Session 1 4K, 4R, 4H, 4P	<b>Math</b> Session 2 & 3 4H, 4K	<b>Math</b> Session 2 & 3 4R, 4P	
	<b>MATH</b> <b>Session 1</b> 3C 3M 3D 3W 3B	<b>ELA</b> Session 1 3C 3M 3D 3W 3B	<b>Math</b> Session 2 & 3 3C 3M 3W 3B	<b>ELA</b> Session 2 & 3 3D 3W 3C 3M 3B	
<b>1:00-2:30</b>			<b>Math</b> Session 2 & 3 3D		
<b>1:30-3:30</b>	<b>ELA</b> <b>Session 2</b> 4K, 4R, 4H, 4P	<b>Math</b> Session 1 4R	<b>ELA</b> Session 3 & 4 4P, 4R	<b>ELA</b> Session 3 & 4 4H, 4K	

# Spanish News

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**By Señor Martin**

I can't believe Spring Break is over. I hope everyone enjoyed the break and spending quality time with their little ones! The school year is flying by, and we only have a little over two months of school left! Spanish classes are doing a great job learning and practicing new vocabulary. The kindergarteners were having fun learning the Zoo animals. Now they are working on new vocabulary and verbs in order to create short phrases in Spanish. First graders are learning the seasons and the weather. Second and third graders have been working very hard learning fruits and vegetables and describing their likes and dislikes with the food. Super job to the fourth graders for learning and using the house and city vocabulary. They just completed two amazing projects, a city map and floor plan project. Muy Bien!!! All levels are continuing to get better with the verb conjugations and the basic grammar rules. They are adding new verbs to their vocabulary in order to increase their conversation skills. Please keep asking your kids questions about what they are doing in Spanish class. The more they practice the better they will get. GRACIAS!!!!

## Classroom News

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### Kindergarten News

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Kindergarten students have truly blossomed this year as we enter into the spring season. Our classes have been very busy these past couple of months. Our kindergartners were excited to perform a community service project for our whole school by running a school-wide mailbox for Valentine's Day. We sorted and delivered hundreds of pieces of mail. We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading many of his books and did correlating rhyming and word family activities. We also spent time learning about animals in winter, black history month, Presidents' Day and dental health. We look forward to our upcoming field trip to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in early April.

Students have been working hard on writing how-to books, persuasive letters and all about books in Writers' Workshop. Students are continuing to improve in their writing, making it more readable. Students are labeling pictures, adding details, creating diagrams, stretching out words, using transitions words, and editing their work by using checklists. They have grown immensely as authors and illustrators.

In Reading, students continue to grow as readers and apply their reading strategies to more challenging texts. They also continue to enjoy rotating through literacy centers each week to strengthen their reading. The students' growing knowledge of sight words also allows them to read text more accurately and fluently.

In Math, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and comparing sets of numbers. Students have been exposed to vocabulary such as fewer, less, more, most and fewest. Students compared sets of items, practiced counting on, and counted the difference through comparing sets using one-to-one correspondence. Our previous units have set the foundation for our current unit on number facts. We are composing and decomposing numbers and becoming more automatic at knowing addition and subtraction facts up to five.

It is amazing to see how much we've grown as readers, writers, mathematicians, and thinkers this year. We look forward to watching our kindergarteners progress the remainder of the year.

## First Grade News

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First-graders have been hard at work! Students spent February learning about our past Presidents, many famous black Americans, and dental health. Every class learned about an African American for Black History Month. The students learned about this person and created a museum exhibit in their honor. The museum exhibits were placed in the Old Bonhomme Library so that all classes could visit the exhibits and learn from them. It was wonderful to see and touch the artifacts that represented these important people's lives.

During the spring, we will continue to build and develop our reading and writing skills. The students' abilities have grown greatly. Students have become really good at using reading strategies to decode unfamiliar words and make sense of what is written. Our latest writing unit focused on opinion/persuasive writing pieces. Students became skilled with writing catchy beginnings, providing reasons and evidence for their opinions, and writing a conclusion--an end to their opinion piece. We have just started moving into our realistic fiction writing unit, and students always seem to love to write about characters who have real-life problems and solutions. It is a time where they really get to be creative and use their imagination. It's fun for the first-graders to listen to each other's stories.

Our latest math unit focused on place value with tens and ones. After ensuring students understanding of place value for numbers to 40, they began adding and subtracting two digit numbers. It is amazing how much growth we have seen in math. Students have really increased their number sense and are also making great progress with addition and subtraction fluency.

The upcoming science units in March and April include learning about plants and weather. By the end of our plant unit, students will really understand all of the parts of a plant and what a plant needs to grow. Weather typically coincides with our plant unit because the weather really affects plants and our environment. Students will learn about the water cycle, how weather changes, various cloud types, and collect weather data. Students love these hands-on units!

## Second Grade News

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Second grade is springing forward with force and motion. Students are conducting experiments and working through the scientific process to determine results. Our metric measurement unit in math has helped the students to find the difference in the distance objects traveled. It has also made sure we have more accurate measurements when writing testing results. Everyone has been working to improve their hypothesis and reflecting on whether or not the results of their experiment could be improved. Then we move into what variable can be changed to make that improvement.

Our last quarter has historically been the most memorable for students. We will be starting our life cycles and animal classification units. This involves a hands-on experience to watch fertilized eggs develop into chicks that will hopefully hatch while we can observe. It also has our big field trip of the year to the zoo to be involved in their vertebrates and invertebrates program.

Our remaining units in mathematics involve geometry and data collection. Students will be working on building line plots as well as understanding other types of graphs. They will also be learning more about



lines, 3D and 2D shapes, and patterns. We will also be going back to earlier skills like multiplication and bar models to make sure we are ready for third grade. This will be a fun way to end the year!

Fairy Tales will be taking center stage as we learn to compare and contrast the same tale from different origins. They love to work with the fun characters and discuss how they change in different stories. Then students will become experts as they use this knowledge to help with our new topic of opinion writing. The opinion letter's students write will be based on their books from reading time. It is a fully integrated unit that has the students digging deep into their books to form their own opinions. We will kickstart the students cursive writing with a short introduction to just the letters. We ask that the students do not write anything in cursive until they know all the letters and their connections in third grade.

It has been an exciting year for second grade teachers to watch our students grow and we look forward to seeing "our kids" walking down the hall as successful third graders!

## Third Grade News

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Our third-graders are blooming just like our plants will be blooming now that we are back from Spring Break. We will become plant experts fourth quarter. With the help of Mrs. Hellmann, we will use the O.B. Garden to explore plants, grow plants, and dig deeper into learning about them. The students will observe the life cycles of plants and what living things need in order to grow and survive. We will end our year with economics. The students will get a first-hand experience with supply, demand, opportunity cost, and much more! They will get to create a business and learn how to be a producer and consumer in a third-grade setting.

The magic of third grade will also continue through writing Fairy Tale Adaptations. We will use fairy tale originals like Cinderella, The Three Little Pigs, and Jack and the Beanstalk to become stronger narrative writers. We will be using narrative writing skills to help us create magical stories of our own. By May, we will become poets! Students will be reading, analyzing, critiquing, and creating their very own free verse poems. They will learn to gather inspiration from common, everyday objects, turning something as simple as an orange into amazing beauty that represents feeling and personal experiences.

Get out your nickels, dimes, quarters, and pennies at home! Get out your analog clocks! Two of the skills we will be learning fourth quarter are money and time. Students will be learning how to tell time to the nearest minute and finding elapsed time. Third graders will also be responsible for learning how to count coins and add and subtract dollar amounts. Some other skills third graders will be mastering are measurement and 2D shapes. Students will be measuring length using inches and feet, measuring weight using pounds and ounces, and measuring capacity using cups, pints, quarts, and gallons. Let's not forget to keep practicing your math facts at home!



## Fourth Grade News

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It's hard to believe it, but the fourth-graders are heading into their final quarter as Old Bonhomme students! Still, there is so much to do in the coming months that they shouldn't start picking out their graduation outfits just yet!

The biggest event on the horizon is the annual Jefferson City field trip, which will take place on Thursday, April 4. The kids will enjoy a fast-paced day learning all about our state's capital and government, and will dig deeper into Missouri's state government back in the classroom.

During reading time, the fourth graders have been learning about the nuances of reading historical fiction, and the importance of understanding the historical time period in which a story is set. Soon the focus will shift to brushing up on test-taking strategies as we prepare for the MAP test at the beginning of May.

As writers, the fourth graders have been learning the important skill of crafting an effective literary essay. It would blow your mind to see how well a fourth grader can analyze a complicated text using evidence and quotes! Now that we are back from Spring Break, poetry will take over as the writing unit of study.

Fourth grade mathematicians have been exploring geometry over the last few weeks, specifically learning how to use a protractor, as well as how to define different angle types and polygons. More geometry work, as well as measurement and data analysis, will round out the remainder of the year— in addition to review work to get ready for MAP testing, of course!

Last but not least, all fourth-graders will have one more round of science learning toward the end of the year, during which they will learn about geology, mixtures and solutions, the human body, or ecosystems. Yes, the fourth-graders' OB careers are almost complete, but we promise to keep them nice and busy until that final school bell rings!