

OB WEEKLY NEWS

Valentine's Day Mailbox

Our annual Valentine mailbox will soon be opening for business! Please read all the information carefully to help us run it successfully! Parents - please check your child's cards before they bring them to school to be sure that they follow the guidelines.

In the spirit of community, kindergarten will once again be sponsoring a Valentine Post Office Service. This will be an opportunity to send Valentine cards to anybody in the school.

- Opening: Thursday morning, February 7.
- Last pick-up will be **Wednesday, February 13 at 12:00 p.m.** We need to close early in order to get all Valentines sorted and delivered!
- **All Valentine cards must be in an envelope with only the "TO:" portion on it written in print writing.** (Kindergarten kids can't read cursive!)
- **Cards must have the recipient's first and last name and class name (grade then teacher's initial) Example:** To: John Doe - KW
- Print writing only - NO CURSIVE!!!
- No candy or gum is allowed! This is true for all Valentine cards, both in the school mailbox and within your room.

• The Post Office is for cards for children and teachers in **other** classrooms.

Parents, feel free to use the mailbox for your own personal Valentines. What could be more special than a Valentine from Mom or Dad, delivered to your son or daughter at school?

Please remember that Valentine's Day is for everyone! If your child brings Valentines on Thursday, February 14, please be sure that there is a valentine for each member of the class.

Classroom valentines will be distributed in the classroom - they should not go in the school mailbox. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Mrs. Wallace's, Mrs. McGee's, Miss McKenna's, Miss Feintuch's, and Miss Clausen's Kindergartners
Questions? Contact Mrs. Wallace at dedewallace@ladueschools.net

Class Meetings Are Important

As a school, we've learned that class meetings are a great way to build community within our building. Meetings give our children a common language for addressing problems and developing their own solutions. Students who are involved in regular meetings learn that simple and difficult issues are best solved from a culture of respect and engagement, and that often those solutions require hard work and a long-term commitment. In turn, those of us who help

February

5 School Counseling Advisory, 6:30 p.m.

13 Walk in the Park (during PE)

14 Valentine's Day Parties, 2:40-3:40 p.m.

15 NO SCHOOL- Professional Dev. Day

18 NO SCHOOL- Presidents' Day

facilitate those meetings learn how very wise and resourceful young children can be. We learn to trust that they can be part of, and even lead, the solutions.

Class meetings are one of the most important elements of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) and Restorative Practices. At the beginning of a school year, all classes use the first few meetings to talk about bullying and our individual and collective responsibilities to stop it when we recognize it. But as the year progresses, the challenges our students discuss and resolve vary widely from class to class. Several classes have used meetings to brainstorm about way they can change the individual and class "mindset" -- the way we think and talk about the learning experience. They may solve a problem on a playground, or discuss how their community can better support a fellow student who is struggling with something. Students may revisit why strong, school-wide choices follow behavior expectations make us all feel safer and secure and better able to learn. Or they may just brainstorm reasons and ways to keep their classroom clean! When students are encouraged to problem solve and make some of their own decisions, they are more likely to buy in to the solutions. And this leads to another important payoff: As students assume increased responsibilities in their classroom communities, they also can become more motivated to learn.

Class meetings work because they build a sense of cohesion and community among the students and adults in the building. When you listen to other students and help them solve problems, and share your own concerns, you've started breaking down habits of exclusion. Listen to what students from different grades are saying:

"Class meetings are good. They help me know stuff I didn't know, like you can't have clubs during recess because it makes people feel left out."

"I like class meetings because you get to let the teacher know your feelings and it helps you talk about what is going on."

"I like class meetings because we get to talk about solutions for problems we are having at recess."

"I like to learn new stuff in class meetings. I enjoy learning about my mind and how to stop bullies."

If you ask any child at Old Bonhomme, almost every one can tell you about their meetings and some detail about what they may talk about. Class meetings braid our learning and our character together. Our children learn that community isn't just a debate, a your-way-or-my-way contest, but a careful and sometimes messy path we create and walk together.

PTO News

'It's A Small World' event with Mama Lisa on Tuesday, Feb. 12

Let's go on an adventure to Ghana! We are excited to welcome Mama Lisa as she takes us on an adventure of music, dance, and interactive folktales from Ghana. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 12, 6:30-8 p.m. The program begins promptly at 6:30 p.m., so please arrive at 6:15 to get your seats.

This event is free and open to all Old Bonhomme families (siblings welcome). Cookies and milk will be served after the event. Please click [here](#) to RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

Mama Lisa, who regularly presents her programs at the History Museum, specializes in African, Caribbean and African American folklore. She will present an interactive folktale that takes place in Ghana and will teach the children Ghanaian dance moves.

The purpose of 'It's a Small World' is to celebrate diversity and the many cultures at Old Bonhomme. We provide a forum for children and their parents to learn about different cultures and work toward bringing us closer together. If you have any questions please contact Cynthia Wachtel at cwachtel@racestl.com or Sandra Calvo at sandra.calvo7@gmail.com.

"Lights, Camera, Auction!"

Mark your calendars for the 2019 OB Spring Fundraiser, set to kick off on **FEBRUARY 23**. This year's event will include the "Bid It to Win It" online auction of items, activities, and parent or teacher hosted sign-up parties! Thank you to everyone who contributed an item or party for the auction! We still need parents to volunteer to host sign-up parties. Please contact Tessa Williams if you can help: tessamarie63@hotmail.com. The auction will go live on February 23, and close on March 1.

Order your OB yearbook today!

Yearbook order forms went home recently. The deadline to submit your yearbook order is March 1. You may order and pay online using Wagner's site: www.yearbookmarket.com and type in **Old Bonhomme** in the search bar. All fourth grade students will receive a yearbook courtesy of the OBPTO- so please DO NOT order a yearbook for your fourth grader. Contact Courtney Swillinger for more information: cswillinger@hotmail.com.

Ads for Grads

Attention fourth grade parents, celebrate your student's final year at Old Bonhomme by purchasing a special ad for your grad! These ads are \$15 each and are included in a special section of the yearbook. The Ads for Grads submission deadline is February 22. Forms are available on the OBPTO website: <http://obpto.squarespace.com/ads> and payment for the ads may be made using the MySchoolBucks page for Old Bonhomme PTO. Contact Courtney Swillinger for more information: cswillinger@hotmail.com.

The OBPTO Needs You!

Each year, the Old Bonhomme Parent and Teacher Organization recruits new board members to fill open board positions. WE NEED YOU!! More information and nomination forms will go home in the upcoming weeks, but if you or someone you know is interesting in serving on the OBPTO board, please reach out to Alli Brose allibrose7@gmail.com or Kate Hellmann at ktpichon@yahoo.com.

Spring 2019 Events

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

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| 2/12 | It's A Small World event 6:30-8 p.m. |
| 2/23 | Lights, Camera, Auction! online fundraiser opens |
| 3/1 | Enrollment begins for spring After School Classes |
| 3/5 | OBPTO Community Meeting 7-8 p.m. |
| 4/15-19 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| 4/2 | Fundraiser @ Flying Spider 10-12 p.m. |
| 4/5 | Science and Innovation Night 6-8 p.m. |
| 5/3 | Spring Fling 5-7:30 p.m. |