

# OES PTO Newsletter

Growing Together at OES

September/October 2009

Happy Back to School! We are off to a great start this year with over 75 new and renewed PTO members. If you have not had a chance to complete a membership form yet, stop by the gym during Meet the Teacher Night on Oct. 1 to sign up and see how you can be involved with PTO this year. We have many opportunities, some requiring a lot of time and many requiring minimal amounts of time.

The easiest way for you to be involved with PTO is to send in your box tops and Labels for Education UPCs, etc. See the list of items we collect on the OES Parent Reference Guide. If you do not have one yet, stop by the PTO table at Meet the Teacher Night to get a copy. You can also receive a copy by sending in your membership form or emailing your membership information to our secretary, [traci@oespto.org](mailto:traci@oespto.org).

PTO goals this year include continuing to support OES and the education of our children, continuing to increase communication between school and home, and continuing to provide several fun activities & events for families throughout the year.

PTO has special long term school improvement plans for adding a new school sign at the end of the school driveway as well as a covered pavilion with picnic tables near the playground. The pavilion can be used by classes during the day and families after school and during the summer. Stay tuned for more information about these projects.

We are excited about the new school year and look forward to working with you throughout this school year.

-Jennifer Dove & Wendy Deis  
OES PTO Co-Presidents

## Principal's Corner

The start of school is such an exciting time for everyone. Students are into routines now and even our youngest kindergarteners seem to have figured out where most things are in the school. We are now asking parents to say goodbye to their children in the lobby. The students know where to go at this point and we need to allow them to be independent.

Parent pick-up takes place in our cafeteria. Our door to the cafeteria opens at 3:05 and sign-in needs to be completed by 3:15 to get our announcements made and get children home on time. There seems to be a large number of parents picking students up. If your child has not tried riding the bus, you may want to give it a try. It is often more convenient and it is also very safe.

I would like to encourage parents and guardians to get involved with your child's schooling. There are many ways to do this. Please check your child's backpack every day to see if there are announcements, handouts, etc., you may need to see. Talk to your child about his or her day. Check if there are assignments to be done that night. Remember that we hope all children will be reading every night at home. Please encourage this. Your child's individual teacher may have other suggestions for how you can help your child at home. Another way to get involved is to help with PTO sponsored events. This benefits all our children. At OES we appreciate the many ways parents support our school. Let's keep working together!

Laurie McKeveny

## IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 28-Oct 2 – Book Fair  
Oct 1 - Meet the Teacher Night  
Oct 3 – Homecoming Parade  
Oct 7 - Picture Day  
Oct 8 - Emergency Drill (see info below)  
Oct 9-12 - No School  
Oct 13 - PTO meeting at OES  
7:00pm  
Oct 30 – Parade of Good Books

## Hellos & Goodbyes

In the same quiet and pleasant way that she helped everyone who came into the OES office, Mrs. Carol Struble retired on July 30th. Mrs. Struble tried to sneak away during the summer break without any fanfare. But many teachers and staff honored Mrs. Struble with purple flowers, balloons and queen-like sash on her last official afternoon at OES.

As we say goodbye to Mrs. Struble, we extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Marsha Heeter. Mrs. Heeter joins OES from OAMS, where she worked in the Guidance office. Mrs. Heeter is excited to be working at OES. She has been working for the school district for 8 years. Be sure to stop by the OES office to get to know Mrs. Heeter.

Also joining the OES staff this fall are social worker, Diane Kensey and aide Helen Edwards. We are happy to have you in the OES family!

## Emergency Drill – October 8th

For this drill all students leave their classrooms at 2:55pm. Once they leave the classroom they will not be allowed to be dismissed until after the drill. If you pick up your students, plan to be at the school no later than 2:45pm so they can be called from their classroom. The normal PA announcements are not made. If you arrive after 2:55pm you will have to wait until the drill is complete and your child is dismissed from the gym. The bus dismissal is approximately 15 minutes early.

# Volunteers Needed

## New PTO Meeting Schedule

Last spring, the PTO surveyed parents and staff about when to host PTO meetings. The results were a mix between evenings and after school. In an effort to allow for parents and staff to make at least some meetings, we have set up the following schedule. Meetings will alternate between the 2nd Thursday (odd months) at 3:30pm and the 2nd Tuesday (even months) at 7pm. Meetings are held at OES and limited to 1 hour.

In order to keep meetings short, planning of events and lengthy discussions will be saved for committees. OES PTO welcomes new ideas - email ideas to any board member or put in the PTO mailbox. Contact Wendy Deis or Jennifer Dove to be added to a meeting agenda. Meeting minutes will be posted on the website and emailed to the distribution list. Children are welcome to attend. We are hoping to have a volunteer to work with the children during the meetings after school. If you are interested, contact Jennifer or Wendy.

### 2009-2010 Meetings Dates

Tuesday, **October 13** at 7:00  
Thursday, **November 12** at 3:30  
Tuesday, **December 8** at 7:00  
Thursday, **January 14** at 3:30  
Tuesday, **February 9** at 7:00  
Thursday, **March 11** at 3:30  
Tuesday, **April 13** at 7:00  
Thursday, **May 13** at 3:30  
Tuesday, **June 8** at 7:00

## OES & AES Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held during school hours Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The fair will also be open during Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, October 1st. Detailed information will be sent home. Volunteers are needed to help make this fundraiser a success. Some of the opportunities are:  
-Work a shift as a cashier at the book fair during school hours.  
- Help set up the fair for Meet the Teacher Night Oct. 1st 3-4:30pm  
-Help take down the book fair on Friday Oct 2nd 12-2 pm  
-Work as a cashier at AES Open House Wednesday Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm  
To volunteer or for more information, contact Jeri Sarrge 687-2217 or [djsarrge@stny.rr.com](mailto:djsarrge@stny.rr.com)

## School Photo Day Volunteers

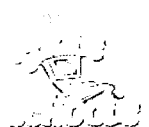
School photos will be taken on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help during the school day for 2 hour shifts. Volunteers will receive a gift credit towards their photo package. Contact Jeri Sarrge 687-2217 or [djsarrge@stny.rr.com](mailto:djsarrge@stny.rr.com) if you can help.

## Odyssey of the Mind

It is about time for a new season of Odyssey of the Mind. Miss Tabbert is looking for parent coaches and volunteers. Teams meet after school about two times a week for a few hours, October through March.

If you are creative, patient, and up for a challenge, please consider becoming a coach. There will be an **Information Meeting for Perspective Coaches** Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 in the OES Art room.

Interested students should come to the art room with their parents during "Meet the Teachers Night" for more information. Contact Miss Tabbert in the art room or at \_\_\_\_\_ with any questions.



## Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Sign up your AdvantagEdge card to Owego Elementary School (#39399). OES will automatically earn tools for the school every time you shop. Return the purple flyer that was sent home or sign up in store or at [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com).

Bookmark the PTO Today:

[www.oespto.org](http://www.oespto.org)

**Calendar, Contacts, Volunteer Needs, Menus, Community Links, Photos, Rebates & Coupons, Forms & past newsletters.**

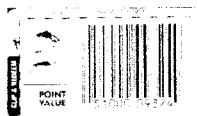
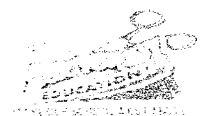
## Busy Start to the PTO Year

The PTO is off to a great start. The Kick-off meeting was well attended. Thank you to those who were able to attend. If you signed up to volunteer for an event someone will contact you soon. If you were unable to attend but want to help, let any PTO officer know!

Did you notice the new OES folders your students are bringing home? The PTO purchased different color folders for each grade level. We look forward to your feedback throughout the year to see how well these folders work. We've also purchased bins to help the classrooms relocate due to construction later in the year.

Thank you to the volunteers who supplied goodies for the teachers & staff on the first day of school. The PTO planned this to welcome them back and show our support.

The PTO has a list of event ideas for the year. If we can get enough volunteers to run the events we will have something almost every month! Come to the next meeting to learn more.



## Send in Box Tops & Campbell's Labels For Education UPCs

The PTO will be collecting Box Tops Education and Campbell's Labels for Education UPCs throughout the year. Please take time to clip the familiar Box Tops coupons and special UPCs from hundreds of participating products. Place them in an envelope or bag and have your student put them in the boxes in the lobby. See [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) for a current complete list of participating Box Tops products; or [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for Campbell's products. Please keep box tops and UPC's in separate bags as we have different volunteers counting each.

## Meet the Teacher & Open House

Thursday evening October 1<sup>st</sup> will be an open house at OES and a chance for you to meet your children's teachers. Classrooms will be open from 6:30 – 7:30. The Book Fair will be open from 6-8pm. The PTO will be accepting membership forms, sharing information and selling OES shirts in the gym. Community organizations will be in the gym providing information about their activities. Food will be available to purchase in the cafeteria. Look for more information to come home soon.

## Lending Library Needs Books!

The OES Lending Library is a place for children to borrow or donate books. The lending library is located on the book shelves in the main lobby. The shelves started the year empty! This is good news since it means the kids have been reading over the spring and summer. But it's also bad news as we are out of books for them to borrow. Please consider donating any books your children are no longer reading. Let's keep filling the shelves and keep our students reading!

## Sneaker Donations Needed

Everyone has been known to forget something at some point. Help out students who forget their sneakers for gym class by sending in any size good condition sneakers. They will be kept in the borrowing box in the gym.

## Rainy Day Recess

When weather does not permit students to enjoy the fresh air they are often allowed to play games in the classrooms. The PTO invites you to donate new or gently used games and Legos to be used in classrooms. Deliver games labeled "Game Drive" to the OES office. Here are some ideas: Primary Grades: Legos, Guess Who?, Sorry. Intermediate Grades: Legos, Sorry, Connect Four, Uno, Boggle, Yahtzee, Pictionary Jr., Izzi, Checkers, Chess, Dominos.

## Holiday Shoppe Donations

The PTO will sponsor a Holiday Shoppe again this December. It's a chance for the kids to do their holiday shopping without Mom or Dad around. In an effort to keep expenses down for this event, we are looking for donated "re-gift" items. You know the picture frame Aunt Mary gave you that you never took out of the box. Or what about the new candy dish your Sister-in-law gave you?

The PTO is collecting items for the sale. You can drop off your items in the box in the school lobby marked: Holiday Shoppe. If you have questions, please contact Wendy Deis at 223-4487 or email at

## A Call for Art Room Supplies

If you have any of the following bumping around your house feel free to donate it to the art room:

- small scraps of wood (no bigger than 6 inches),
- old crochet hooks,
- plastic baby food containers with lids, and
- large wrapping paper tubes.

*Thank you in advance!*

## Summer Reading Program Logs

The PTO Summer Reading program has come to an end. Congratulations to all the students who have met their reading goal! If your child participated in this program, please send the reading logs to school ASAP. The students will be notified of their prize in October.

## Kid's Crochet

OES "Kid's Crochet" will start in November! Kid's Crochet is a third through fifth grade after-school group for students, parents and community members to work on crocheting, knitting, and other fiber arts. Miss Tabbert will be available to teach basic skills, answer questions, inspire projects, and hopefully do some crocheting herself! Students must bring an adult along to learn with them. All materials are free and made available by donations. Watch for flyers coming home soon.

## Homecoming Parade OES Spirit!

OES students and parents are invited to walk in the OFA homecoming parade on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Mrs. Luke at OES and look for emails coming soon.

## Newsletter Help Wanted

The PTO would like a few student volunteers to interview people and write articles for this newsletter. If your child is interested in helping, contact Traci Potter. We welcome your ideas and topics you want to read about.

### *Cool Stuff at OES*

- Mr. Ferraro's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is working on i-movies of Summer Fun. Mr. Ferraro and Mrs. Jones' classes are participating in an hour long interactive video conference with a representative from NASA entitled "Mission Geography" which focuses on how satellites work, volcanic eruptions, and hurricane paths.

## *Did You Know...*

- There is a box in the lobby for you to submit questions or suggestions to the PTO?
- PTO members can receive emails about OES events and news?
- Email addresses for all faculty members are on the district website [www.oacsd.org](http://www.oacsd.org)?
- Reading and talking with your child every night is the best way you can help them learn?
- The Tioga Boys & Girls Club runs Club Positive – a before & after school program at OES?

### **OES PTO Contacts:**

Co-President: Jennifer Dove 687- 5564 [Jennifer@oespto.org](mailto:Jennifer@oespto.org)

Co-President: Wendy Deis 223- 4487 [Wendy@oespto.org](mailto:Wendy@oespto.org)

Treasurer: Sharon McFarland 765-4700 [Sharon@oespto.org](mailto:Sharon@oespto.org)

Secretary: Traci Potter 687-2472 [Traci@oespto.org](mailto:Traci@oespto.org)