



News from Orcutt Academy's K-8 Campus in Los Alamos

2017-2018, Edition 24 | Week of February 19, 2018

Principal's Message

School safety was a much-discussed topic this past week, as Wednesday's school shooting incident in Florida elicited a range of reactions from students, parents, and staff. My own reaction was probably like yours -- my heart hurt (and still hurts) with empathy for everyone affected.



We periodically report on safety topics in this newsletter. We have a school safety plan, emergency preparedness is a priority for our school and district, and we closely supervise and monitor our students. We also work closely with the County Sheriff's Department and County Fire Department to make sure we are doing everything we can to protect our students. I think you likely are pretty familiar with our safety efforts.

What I want to stress this weekend is the vital role that parents play in school safety. Please pay attention to what is happening with your child. Know who your child is talking to, what they are talking about, and where they are talking (including social media). Additionally, we invite communication from you about safety concerns. We keep an eye on our students, but there is no way we can know everything that happens at school. If you see something concerning or your child reports concerning information about one of our students, please be sure to let us know.

The bottom line here is that parents are part of the safety equation. Let's continue our efforts, working together to make our campus safe for everyone.

Respectfully,

Joe Dana, Principal

Happy Notes



Music teacher Mrs. McGarity and four OAK-8 students are all smiles during a classroom music lesson this past week. Students were learning about notes and note reading.

Weekly Planner

Monday

We have **no school** today. It is the Presidents' Day holiday. Enjoy the three-day weekend, everyone!

Tuesday

Hot lunch: Domino's Pizza

Wednesday

Hot lunch: Mexican Food Bar/Tacos or Gourmet Salad

Today is a **teacher collaboration day**, with dismissal at 2:00 p.m.

Students and staff are **wearing orange**, the color of leukemia, on Wednesdays to show support for OAK-8 student Jill Mott.

Thursday

Hot lunch: Chili Cheese Fries

Today and every Thursday is "**College Day**" at OAK-8. Students and staff are invited to wear college apparel to school to reflect a college-going culture.

Local author **Farah Shaw** (writer of the Sherlock Academy series of children's books) will present to grades 3-6 from both schools this morning. Students also will have the opportunity to purchase a book from Shaw and have it signed by the author.

The **OAK-8 basketball teams** visit St. Louis this evening at 5:30 (girls) and 6:30 (boys). The games will be played at Arellanes Junior High School in Santa Maria.

Friday

Hot lunch: Teriyaki Chicken & Rice or Gourmet Salad

Today and each Friday is a "**Blue and Silver Day**" at OAK-8. Students and staff are invited to wear school colors to show school spirit.

We have a **student awards assembly** this morning.

Saturday

The **Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation (OCAF) Gala** takes place tonight at the Santa Maria Country Club. The Gala is a dinner/dance with both silent and live auctions, and it is the biggest fund-raiser for OCAF. Admission is \$100 per person. To purchase tickets, or for more information, please go to www.orcuttarts.com and click on "Gala 2018."

Coming Up

Monday, February 26: Parents of sixth graders are invited to an Outdoor School Parent Night tonight at 6:00 at Joe Nightingale School, 255 Winter Road in Orcutt. OAK-8 sixth graders will be going to Outdoor School at Rancho El Chorro outside of San Luis Obispo April 17-20.

Wednesday, February 28: The Nipomo High School Dance Company will be putting on a dance performance this morning for grades 4-8.

Wednesday, February 28: Today is a teacher collaboration day, with dismissal at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 1: Our basketball teams play at Valley Christian this evening at 5:30 (girls) and 6:30 (boys).

Friday, March 2: PCPA Outreach will be on campus this morning at 9:15 to perform the play The Purple Marble.

Friday, March 2: Today marks the end of the Second Trimester for grades TK-6. Second Trimester report cards will go home on Friday, March 16.

Friday, March 2: Our basketball teams host Valley Christian tonight at 5:30 (girls) and 6:30 (boys).

Tuesday, March 6: Our basketball teams visit Blochman this evening at 5:30 (girls) and 6:30 (boys).

Wednesday, March 7: Today is a teacher collaboration day, with dismissal at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Our basketball teams play Olga Reed tonight at 5:30 (girls) and 6:30 (boys). Olga Reed plays host.

Friday, March 9: Our basketball teams host St. Mary's this evening at 5:30 (girls) and 6:30 (boys).

Wednesday, March 14: Thursday, March 15; and Friday, March 16: To accommodate parent-teacher conferences, these three days are minimum days, with dismissal at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14: Thursday, March 15; and Friday, March 16: Students in grades 5 and 7 have state fitness testing on these days.

Friday, March 16: Second Trimester report cards for grades TK-6 go home today.

Monday, March 19: We have no school for students today. It is a district staff development day.

Monday, March 19; Tuesday, March 20; and Thursday, March 22: The OAK-8 girls' basketball team will be playing in a postseason league tournament at Valley Christian Academy on these days.

Tuesday, March 20: Mrs. Cole's and Mrs. Wilson's classes will be taking a field trip to the Santa Barbara Zoo today.

Wednesday, March 21: Today is a teacher collaboration day, with dismissal at 2:00 p.m.

Friday March 23: We have a student awards assembly this morning.

Monday, March 26: We have a P.E./Dance performance by OAK-8 students directed by P.E. teacher Tracy Levey this evening. The performance will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the gym.

Monday, March 26; Tuesday, March 27; and Thursday, March 29: The OAK-8 boys' basketball team will be playing in a postseason league tournament at Valley Christian Academy on these days.

Tuesday, March 27: Spring Pictures are today.

Wednesday, March 28: The PTSA Jog-A-Thon takes place this morning.

Wednesday, March 28: Today is a teacher collaboration day, with dismissal at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 29: Today marks the end of the Third Quarter for grades 7 and 8. Third Quarter report cards will go home on Friday, April 13.

Friday, March 30, through Friday, April 6: We have no school during this time. This is our Spring Break. School resumes on Monday, April 9.

School News

Reminder for families: If your child will be out of school for a predetermined reason and you are requesting an independent study packet, please be sure to give Reyes and your child's teacher at least one week's notice and preferably two week's notice. Teachers need adequate time to put together work for a packet. If not enough notice is given, we may not be able to issue a packet and the absences may be termed unexcused.

The Orcutt Academy has begun taking **enrollment applications for the 2018-2019 school year**. The application is online, and can be accessed via the Orcutt Union School District website [here](#). If you have other children whom you would like to enroll at OAK-8 or Orcutt Academy High School, please note that you will need to fill out an enrollment application for each child.

Everyone is invited to subscribe to this email newsletter, the "OAK-8 Update." Parents can subscribe at multiple email addresses, and grandparents and other family members also are invited to subscribe. The newsletter will come out each weekend during the school year. To subscribe, please email Mr. Dana at jdana@orcutt-schools.net.

OAK-8 Bus Schedule

Following is the OAK-8 bus schedule for 2017-2018, as revised in October 2017 to include a new morning stop at the Lakeview Junior High School Gym. Parents of Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten students are requested to let Mrs. Cole know which bus/bus stop their children will be using in the afternoon; that way, Mrs. Cole can make sure the students get on the correct bus. Our complete schedule follows:

Morning

7:40 - Pine Grove School (front of school on Bradley Road)
7:50 - Alice Shaw School (on Dahlia Place by side parking lot)
8:00 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
8:05 - Lakeview Junior High School Gym (in front of gym doors)
8:25 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)

Afternoon (3:00 Dismissal - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)

3:00 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)
3:25 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
3:25 - Alice Shaw School (on Dahlia Place by side parking lot)
3:35 - Pine Grove School (in parking lot)

Afternoon (2:00 Dismissal - Wednesdays)

- 2:00 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)
- 2:25 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
- 2:25 - Alice Shaw School (on Dahlia Place by side parking lot)
- 2:35 - Pine Grove School (in parking lot)

Afternoon (1:30 Dismissal - First Day of School, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Last Day of School)

- 1:30 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)
- 1:55 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
- 1:55 - Alice Shaw School (on Dahlia Place by side parking lot)
- 2:05 - Pine Grove School (in parking lot)