

News from the Den

Grande Park Elementary School

December 8, 2016



26933 Grande Park Blvd.
Plainfield, IL 60585
(630) 551-9700

Important Dates

12/9/16 - Last Day for Hat/Mitten Drive

12/9/16 - Omegaman Assembly
4th Boys/Girls Hockey CANCELED

12/12/16 - Board of Ed. Meeting

12/13/16 - Culver's Night 4-8pm

12/15/16 -PTA Butterbraids Pick-Up in the gym 4:30-6:30pm

12/21/16 - 12:45 Dismissal - Lunch will be served to 1-5th grade students

Grande Park Elementary School... Positively working together to achieve our goals with Grizzly Pride!

Sean Smith, Principal
Amy Feulner, Assistant Principal
Bonnie Osborne, Sp. Ed. Coordinator

Spirit Wear Winners!

Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson's classroom!

Students are encouraged to wear their Grande Park spirit wear or red and blue to school every Friday. Who will get the winning wreath next week to hang outside their door?



Positive Staff Recognition Winners

Congratulations to **Mrs. Schmidt & Mrs. Parfitt!** They were our staff winners from last week! We acknowledge all entries over our morning announcements and then they are placed in our raffle drawings. **Click here to acknowledge a staff member for the great work they do:**

[GP Staff Recognition](#)

This link is also available on the Grande Park website under "Announcements."

Character Counts Winners!

Congratulations to the following students for being our *Character Counts* winners this past week:

Pictured Below: Dante Layton, Nolan Koebele (Grand Prize Winner), Saul Salas, Alyssa Stamm and Olivia Menolascino.



Character Counts - Wednesdays

We will celebrate our monthly *Character Counts* pillar by wearing the color of the month. November & December is **RED** and we will celebrate the pillar of CARING. We encourage the children to dress in red on all Wednesdays in November & December.

5 Essentials Parent Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the annual statewide Illinois 5 Essentials survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of Grande Park Elementary School. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school. Please see the attached letter with more detailed information. To complete the survey, click on the link below, select "Kendall" as the county and type "Grande Park Elementary" to select the school. Thank you very much in advance.

[Click Here to Complete Survey](#)

Children in Change

Grande Park Elementary School is happy to announce that we will again be offering the Children in Change program this school year. If your child is struggling through a recent family change (death, divorce, military deployment, etc.) this may be an opportunity for him/her to share within a confidential weekly small group that will meet during their lunch time. For more information, please see the attached Children in Change letter (page three) or contact our school social worker, Jay Peterson at 630-551-9705 or jpeterson02@sd308.org.



Outdoor Recess

The cold weather is here! When your child leaves in the morning please make sure they are dressed to go out for recess. We will have outside recess during the school year as weather permits. Recess will be inside only on bad weather days and on days when the temperature is below 10 degrees (with wind chill). Please have your child dress appropriately for outside recess. Snow pants and boots are needed to play in the snow.

Optimist Club Scholarships

Scholarship Opportunities are offered by the Oswegoland Optimist Club!

Essay Contest

The Optimist Club is once again holding an essay contest, as well as an oratorical contest, for area students. The essay contest requires students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016, who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent to, compose a 700- to 800-word essay around a central idea. The topic this year is "Chasing Optimism In The Face Of Challenges." The contest is designed to develop writing and critical thinking skills. All essays need to be turned into Ms. Tracey Contino at Oswego High School, no later than February 1, 2017. For complete

rules, please visit www.optimist.org. Cash prizes are awarded for the top three placing individuals at the club level. The first place winner advances to the district level, where there is an opportunity for a \$2,500.00 scholarship.

Oratorical Contest

The Oratorical Contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016, who have not yet graduated from high school or its equivalent. Students are required to prepare a 4- to 5-minute speech on a pre-assigned topic. The Topic this year is "What The World Gains From Optimism." This contest is designed to assist youth in gaining public speaking experience and provide them with an opportunity to compete for a scholarship. For more information and complete rules, please visit www.optimist.org.

For information on these opportunities, as well as the local Oswegoland Optimist Club, visit their website at www.oswegooptimists.com, or their Facebook page, Oswegoland Optimist Club.

Attendance Reminders

As a reminder, our attendance line is open 24 hours a day. Messages can be left for our attendance secretary. It is critical that students arrive on time. After 8:45a.m., students must be signed into the office by an adult. According to state law, chronic absenteeism is defined as being absent 5% of the previous 180 school days without valid cause. Thank you for your help.

Mutual Ground

This year our school is once again partnering with Mutual Ground, Inc. to provide Personal Body Safety Education programming to our 1st, 4th and 5th grade students. Mutual Ground has been providing these programs to Oswego 1st and 4th graders for 25 years. This year, our school has added the 5th grade program and our school social workers will be providing programs to our Kindergarteners, 2nd and 3rd graders. Erin's Law requires all public schools in Illinois to provide this programming each year. In each grade, the programs will discuss sexual abuse prevention at an age appropriate level for our students as outlined below. These programs will take place during the week of May 8-12, 2017. Community Unit School District 308 and Mutual Ground will also be providing a parent program which will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 6pm at Churchill Elementary School. This program will be the time to hear all about the presentation your child will be receiving, as well as an excellent opportunity to learn about what we can do as parents and as a community to help prevent child sexual abuse. This program is highly recommended for all parents. A letter will be sent home on Thursday, December 8th, explaining more information and an option to opt-out.

Coin Collection to Support Southbury Elementary

At Grande Park we are always helping others and looking for ways to give back to our community and our world while instilling a passion for service learning with our children throughout the years. Last school year, Southbury Elementary started a partnership with a school named Katakyaase in Ghana. Southbury Elementary School has donated school supplies and raised money to start building a library. The library is almost complete but there are a few key items needed: ceiling fans, bookshelves, chairs, and tables. Grande Park will be helping Southbury by collecting change in order to help finish the library. Students can bring any loose change during the month of December. Grande Park Gives Back would love your help! There will be a jar outside Mrs. Hettinger's room for collecting and counting the change. Anyone wishing to make a donation by check can make it out to Grande Park Elementary with Ghana in the memo line. Thank you for helping us make a difference and spread the love of literacy we all hold dearly to our hearts.

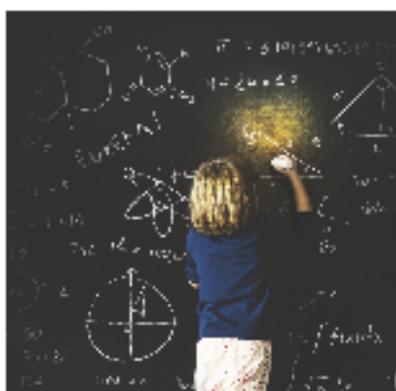
Report to PARENTS

Dos and Don'ts for Building Deep Math Skills

Though Common Core math problems may look complex, math itself hasn't changed. One plus one is still two. What has shifted is the way schools teach math under many states' new college- and career-readiness standards. To prepare students for an increasingly technical world, many teachers are working to strengthen students' deep math knowledge—how, where, and why math ideas fit together. How can you support that work at home? Here are six dos and don'ts.

Do know how elementary math builds.

As your child progresses from kindergarten into later elementary grades, math concepts will build on one another. For instance, under the Common Core, second graders learn how to break rectangles into two, three, or four equal parts. Third graders learn how to place these fractions on a number line and compare fractions' size. This leads to fourth graders being able to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. Teachers call this vertical understanding—knowing how skills build across grade levels. Your child's teacher can explain related learning goals for each grade.



this at home by asking, "How do you know?" and "Do you think that's always true?"

Do make math as fun as possible. Sure, boosting deep math knowledge may feel like serious business. But to build your child's math confidence—which wavers for many students as math gets tougher—celebrate successes. Praise your child for studying hard, arriving at an answer, or tackling a tricky problem for the first time. Play age- and skill-appropriate math games that bring math to life and boost family fun.

Do focus on mastery, not tricks. To understand new, complex math concepts, students have to leverage ideas and skills they've already learned. Students can't make those connections if we present math as a series of rules or shortcuts. If your child asks for help, talk through assignments, reread textbook passages, or draw a picture together, if possible.

Don't press your child to move too quickly. If pushed through challenging ideas too fast, students can develop gaps of understanding and they won't be prepared to tackle high school math. Have honest conversations with your child's teacher about whether your child is on target, or needs extra help or enrichment.

Don't take the reins. If your child is struggling, it can be tempting to show him or her how to finish a problem. As much as possible, try to coach your child through the assignment. Many teachers are moving away from showing students how to simply compute answers; instead, they place students in small groups to explore challenges. At home, allow your child to put on his or her critical thinking cap.

Do ask extra questions. In the classroom, your child's teacher may ask questions that assess students' reasoning. Mirror

Drawn from "Build Deeper Math Foundations" by T. Spencer Jamieson. Principal September/October 2016.

Web Resources

The Council of the Great City Schools' grade-specific parent roadmaps outline math learning goals and games to play. www.cgcs.org/page/244

The National PTA's Parents' Guide to Success offers FAQs and activities for both math and language arts. bit.ly/2b5kReJ

Search Be a Learning Hero's grade-specific guides for math homework help. bealearninghero.org/learning-tools/homework-help/#results

This resource is brought to you in partnership with the Learning First Alliance, a partnership of education organizations representing more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. learningfirst.org.



OHS Father/Son Pitching Camp

OHS baseball staff is hosting a two day clinic demonstrating the skills and drills needed to be a successful pitcher. Camp designed for all abilities and provides knowledge on the art of pitching, technique, and the development process for anyone interested in pitching.

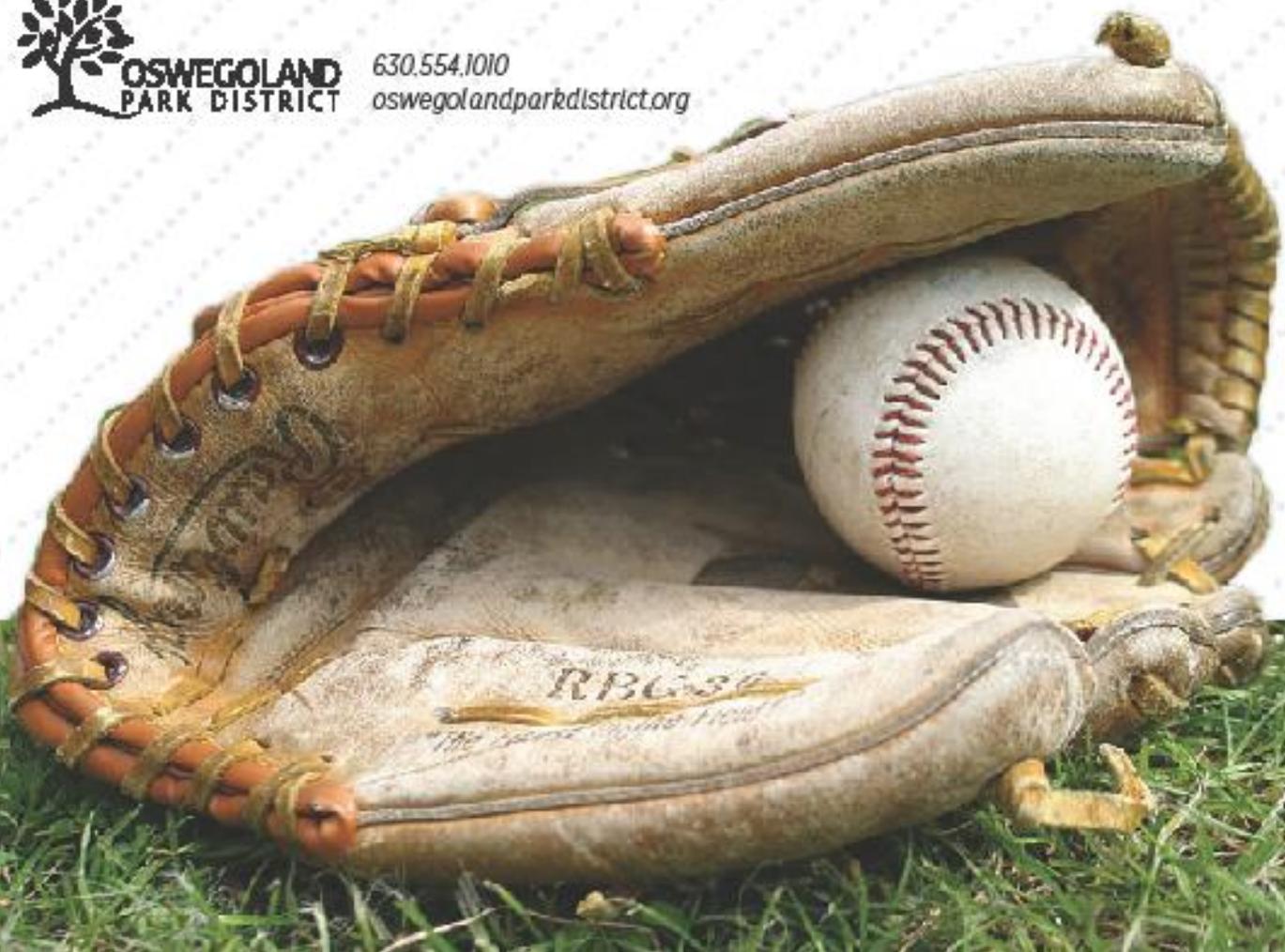
Saturday • Jan 28 & Feb 4 • 9:30-11:00am • Oswego High School

GRADE 5-8 #8173 \$25(R)/(N)

Register online or In person at any Oswegoland Park District facility.



630.554.1010
oswegolandparkdistrict.org



OHS Spring Training Baseball Camp

OHS baseball staff is hosting a clinic to help athletes (Grade K-8) prepare for their upcoming baseball season.

Saturdays • Jan 14-Jan 28 • 9:30-11:00am • \$50 (R)/(N) • Oswego High School

GRADE K-2 #8166 GRADE 3-4 #8167

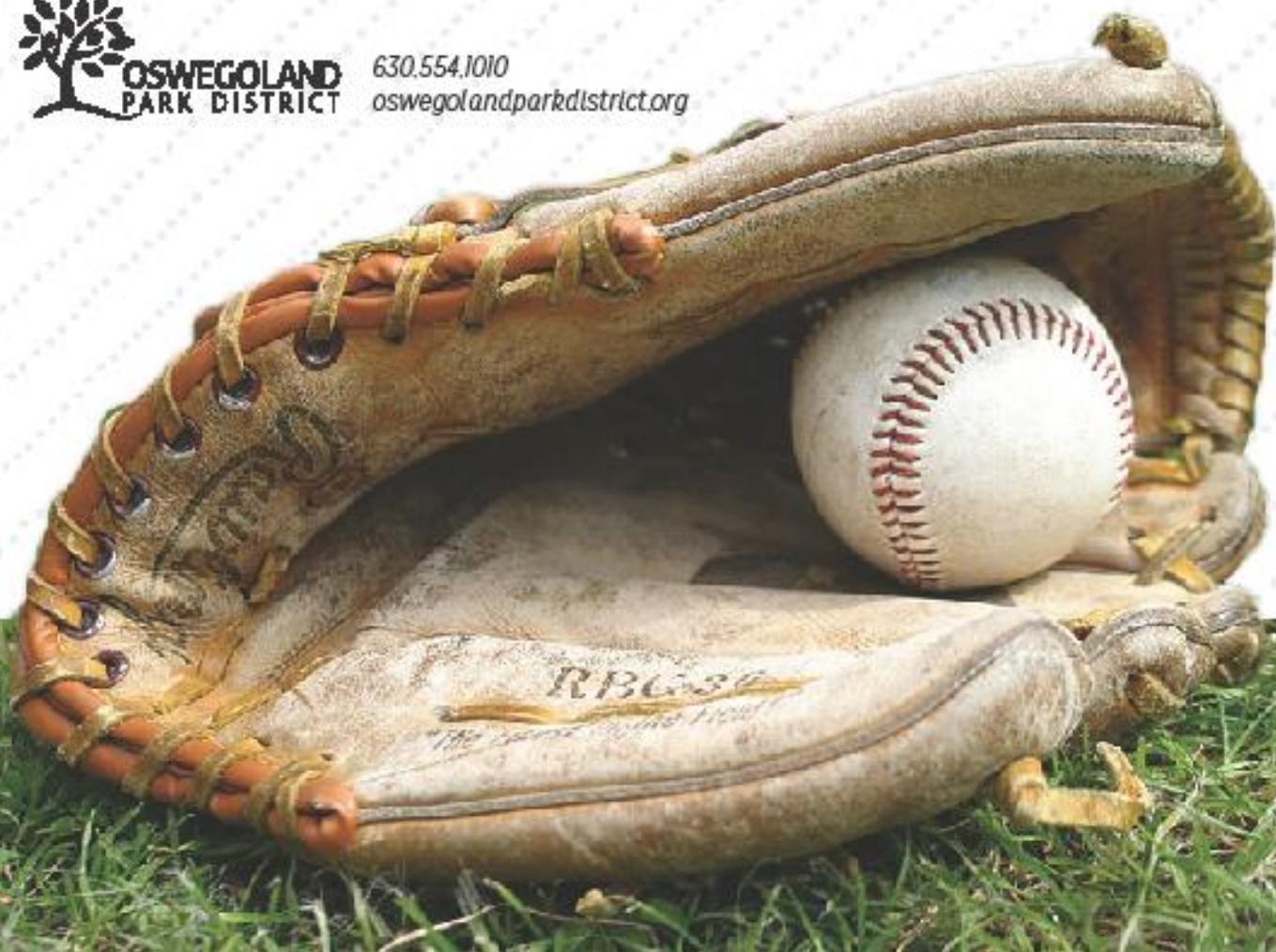
Saturdays • Jan 14-Jan 21 • 11:00am-1:00pm • \$40 (R)/(N) • Oswego High School

GRADE 5-6 #8168 GRADE 7-8 #8169

Register online or in person at any Oswegoland Park District facility.



630.554.1010
oswegolandparkdistrict.org



CHANGE 4

CHANGE



During the month of December, Grande Park Gives Back is collecting change to help raise money to **finish** building a library for Southbury Elementary's sister school in Ghana. **You can help by bringing in loose change and dropping it in the jar outside of Mrs. Hettinger's classroom.**