



## Oriole Park Elementary School

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# Informer

"Oriole Park students will lead the way!"

February 6, 2012

## Principally Speaking...

### **SLOW DOWN AND SMELL THE FLOWERS**

Although it will be a few months before we see the first sign of spring flowers, this article reminded me just how important habit #7, Sharpen the Saw, is in our busy lives.

Do you find yourself rushing with your children – hurrying to get them ready for school, finding time short when you are ferrying them to the next social engagement or extra-curricular activity? You're not alone! In these competitive days we often feel like we have to work 10 hour days just to keep up ... and sometimes we feel our kids have to study equally hard – or learn the piano – or practice a sport – or learn an extra language – or all of these – to compete with their peers. Sometimes it's hard to escape the belief that if we don't push our kids hard, "encourage" them with 101 structured activities, then we are "letting them down." But what about unstructured time? What about the value of a child taking things slow and having the space to think about what they are learning as they go

through their day? How do children really learn? Is incessantly providing new stimulation and new learning experiences truly the best thing we can do for them, or do they need time off – time to assimilate what they have learned, ponder the world around them and draw their own conclusions about life by unhurried observation before launching into the next activity?

Regular rest periods and plenty of unstructured time are essential for the proper growth of a child's mind and body. Children naturally learn through play rather than through lectures and note taking!

Too much TV (and video games!) is another culprit that takes away rest and relaxation from our kids. It teaches them that free time should be spent sitting passively in front of a screen and being entertained without using their brain. Kids who watch too much TV usually have trouble with creative thinking and enjoying their own company – playing on their own for instance. It's just that they are out of practice.

Why not limit TV so that your kids watch it when there is something really special on that interests them. If they complain that they are "bored" without it, you could reply, "That's great! You have some

'me' time to spend with just you. I'm sure you'll find something really nice to do!" Maybe it's time to put aside our "wasting time" mentality and consider for a moment whether there is value for your child in staring out of the window at the clouds ... daydreaming on his bed ... playing quietly in her room with nothing but a doll and her imagination ... doodling abstractly with a crayon ... or creating mud pies in the back yard. Why not give it a try? Give your children more free time and see what happens. Chances are you will find a more relaxed, rounded and happier child on your hands.

*-www.Kidsgoals.com*

Jennifer Debski, Principal

Terri Finkbeiner, Secretary

# P.T.O. NEWS

Hello Oriole Park Families!  
We have lots of exciting things planned for the rest of this school year!

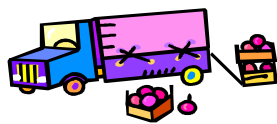
Tuesday, 2/14/12, from 6pm-8pm, there is a skating party at Terry Hall Roller Rink. Students will be able to request songs to be played during our party. On Monday and Tuesday, 2/13 and 2/14, there will be a request box available during lunch. We will need the song name and artist to ensure the requested songs are being played.

Also, we will be having our Spring Bookfair and Read-In starting Tuesday, 2/28/12. The Read-In will be Thursday, 3/1/12 at 4pm.

There will be no Donuts with Dads/ Mornings with Moms in February. The next Donuts with Dads will be Thursday, 3/15.

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful winter!

Judy Schroeder



**Mobile Food Truck**  
**Friday, February 10, 2012**  
**3-5pm**

**A 5,000 lb food truck will be in the church parking lot. Anyone is welcome. No income requirements need to be met so pick up some food for you and your family.**

**Standale Reformed Church**  
**202 Cummings NW**  
**Grand Rapids MI 49534**  
**P: 616-248-1148**

The staff and students have been raising funds for needy families here at OP. Families donated a total of \$87.78 in the months of December and January.

Thank you Mr. Bob! This money will be used for needs of our Oriole Park families!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 6

Q & A with Dr. Reeder and Principal Debski  
6:00-7:30 pm

### February 14

Valentine classroom celebrations  
Skating Party

### February 20 & 21

NO SCHOOL  
Mid-Winter Break

### February 28-March 1

Book Fair

### February 28 & March 1

Parent Teacher Conferences

### March 15

Doughnuts with Dads 8:00 am

### March 20

Math Science Night  
6:30- 8:00 pm

## LOST AND FOUND

Please come and check out our lost and found in the short hallway. It is collecting quite an assortment of items. Take a few minutes when you are in the building to see if there are any items that belong to your family. Also on my desk I have a basket with small items that have been found including 5 pairs of glasses. You may be surprised at what you find!



Are you looking for a job? Wyoming Public School District is hiring bus drivers. Training is provided. Please contact the transportation office at 530-7545.



Field Trips: When students are invited to attend a field trip, a permission slip is sent home with students. For your child to attend the trip, the permission slip must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to school. Thank you!