Greetings Oak Hill Community!

I hope everyone is staying safe and dry in this snowy, wet weather! Thanks to all the parents and caregivers who supported your young learners with online learning for our first Flexible Learning Day! Students who log in and do their online work get credit for attendance. If your child was unsuccessful with getting online, the other option is the Choice Boards that went home with all students in November. Everyone has five days from the Flexible Learning Day to submit online or paper choice boards to the classroom teacher to receive credit for attendance for a Flex Learning Day.

As we all know after this latest storm, Minnesota weather has a mind of its own. Please continue to watch the temperatures and snow cover/wet and dress your child appropriately. Cold, wet children do not concentrate the best, and we have much learning to do this last trimester!

If you did not receive the weather-related communications from our district, please check Skyward; the numbers and emails listed are linked to the system that sends those communications. If you have changed your phone number, you can call the main office and they can update your information in the Skyward system.

Please save the date for our next Family Night on April 22nd, Earth Day! Last year we had a huge turnout, and we are hoping for a repeat! There will be many fun activities, food for everyone free of charge and a great chance for students and families to learn together.

Our PTSA has yearbooks for sale with profits coming back for the benefit of our school. This is a wonderful keepsake to remember your child’s elementary years. Orders can be placed online or via the paper orders that came home earlier.

I hope everyone in the Oak Hill Community enjoyed a snow day safe and snug at home.

Deb Jokela
Principal
Oak Hill Community School
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Throughout the month of April, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be participating in the statewide MCA tests. Students will be assessed in the areas of math and reading, with 5th graders also being tested in the area of science. These test results are just one of a number of ways we learn more about your child, and what they have learned throughout the year.

**Here are a few ways you can help get them ready for testing.**

**GET PREPARED FOR SUCCESS!**

- Make sure they get a good night’s sleep.
- Have them eat a protein-based breakfast. Students who do so will have increased attention spans.
- Send them to school with their water bottle and ensure they are hydrated. Research shows the brain requires hydration to function well.
- Be sure your child has taken any needed medications.
- Be sure they bring their glasses, headphones, and any other assistive materials needed.
- Have them dress comfortably.
- Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Avoid any unnecessary conflicts or stress that day.

**BE SURE TO ATTEND SCHOOL, PROMPTLY.**

- Make sure your child is present during testing and on time that day. Students typically perform better when taking tests in their groups rather than at a make-up time.
- Avoid making appointments where you can, during the month of April, especially in the morning.
- Try not to miss school the day before the test either. Their teacher may be reviewing important information.

**BE ENCOURAGING**

- Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child you believe in them!
- Remind them the test is important and encourage them to do their best.
- Tell them not to stress, and to remember what they’ve learned in class.
- If they’re disappointed after the test, reassure him or her that there will be plenty of opportunities to improve and succeed.
OTHER TEST TIPS. REMIND THEM...
To participate in any practice sessions at school.
To listen carefully to instructions from the teacher, as well as to read the directions and each question, carefully. This includes all answer choices too. Tell them to think about their answer before they choose.
If they get stuck on a question, tell them to make their best guess and move on.
Encourage them to use their scratch paper too. They are more likely to make a mistake when doing a problem in their head. They can also use their written work, to help check their answers.
Encourage them to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.

TEST ANXIETY
Tell your child some anxiety is normal during testing.
Practice taking deep breaths with them (breath in through the nose, hold for 5 seconds and out through the mouth...all...the...WAY!) The brain needs oxygen to think clearly, and this helps keep their “green thinking brain” working well. ...and calms down that anxiety too!! It might be helpful to take deep breaths before school, before they start the test, as well as during the test.
Encourage your child to use positive self-talk like, “I know I can do this,” “I will do my best, or “I’ve got this!”
Tell them to take their time, concentrate and not to rush. ...That the most important thing is that they do their best!
If your child is experiencing a significant amount of anxiety, please don’t hesitate to reach out to their teacher or school counselor.
You can reach school counselors Ms. Shettel (K-3) or Ms. Brown (4/5 grade), at 320-370-6000.
Second Grade Field Trip

to St. John’s Maple Syrup Production:

Did you know that St. John’s is one of Minnesota’s oldest maple syrup operations? It is! The monks started making syrup in 1942! It is currently ran by the Abbey and St. John’s Arboretum.

“In spring, sugar maple trees are tapped, sap is collected, and then it is boiled in the sugar house to produce syrup. Historically speaking, each year St. John’s installs about 1400 taps, collects more than 10,000 gallons of sap, and makes about 250 gallons of syrup. The best sap flow occurs from mid-March to mid-April. On average, the trees produce sap for a period of 22.5 days with a sugar content of 2.2%.” *from “Maple syrup: St. John’s sweetest springtime tradition” by Stephen Saupe, faculty of St. John’s*

The kids had so much fun learning how the process works and they even got a chance to tap some trees whilst there! They also got to sample the syrup as well!

Thank you to St. John’s, the teachers and all the parents who helped make this field trip happen!
The kindergarten students had a VERY busy month of March! They were able to celebrate Black History Month with guest readers from the community. They performed in their first music concert to a gym full of family members, and they celebrated dental health month with 3 dentists visits!

A very special thank you to - Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Bogle for all their hard work and preparation for the concert. Ayan Omar for setting up our community guest readers, and Dr. Dave at North Benton Dental, along with Dr. Bethany and Dr. Sarah from Northway Dental for coming in to teach us about keeping our teeth healthy!
**2023-2024 Yearbooks:**
Place your orders!
Please go to [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com)
ID code: 10160124

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**Last Blast Picnic (updates and support needed)**

The PTSA is still looking for **baskets (any size!!)** for our Last Blast Picnic! If you have any that are new or gently used and you would be willing to donate it to the Last Blast Picnic, please drop it off at the office in April!

We are also looking for **volunteers** who are able to help during the event (any amount of time that you are able to help is greatly appreciated!) We will send out sign-up links for the picnic next month.

Please contact Danielle Wickline 320-309-2534 if you have **any donations or corporate sponsors** for Last Blast that you would like to discuss further. We are ever thankful of each donation and each minute that our families so generously contribute! Thank you for your continued support of our students and our school!