



Ocee Elementary School Otter Outlook

August 13, 2009

Deborah Pernice, Principal
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Ocee Elementary School
4375 Kimball Bridge Road
Johns Creek, GA 30022
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www2.fultonschools.org/school/ocee

MISSION STATEMENT: *In the Ocee Otter Community, we maximize our potential every day.*



IMPORTANT DATES

August

8/17	PTA Executive Meeting	9:30am
8/17	PTA Comm. Chair Meeting	11:00am
8/18	Kdg & New Parent Panel Mtg.	8:00am
8/18	Ashley Widener Comm. Mtg.	1:00pm
	State Bridge Elem. School	
8/18	Curriculum Night	6:00-8:00pm
	(Grades PK, 1, 3, 4)	
	Mtg. for current TAG Parents	5:15pm
	(Media Center)	
8/20	Curriculum Night	6:00-8:00pm
	(Grades K, 2, 4)	
	Mtg. for current TAG Parents	5:15pm
	(Media Center)	
8/27	Room Parent Meeting	9:00am

September

9/1	Spirit Day
9/1	Hearing/Vision Screening (Gr. 1, 3 5)

Ocee Elementary would like to recognize our Business Partners and thank them for their support. Please remember to visit our partners and support our school:

Barnes and Noble, Carmine's Restaurant, Castle Guard, Chick-Fil-A, Cotton Creek Carwash, Dr. Malone's Orthodontics Office, Elite Martial Arts, Emory Johns Creek Hospital, Jason's Deli, KidChess, Kroger, McDonald's Math Monkey, Music Matters, Primo Activewear, Publix, Shane's Rib Shack, and Target.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL....

Welcome back! We are thrilled to have our students return after the long hot summer, and we're looking forward to another exciting year of learning. If your child is new to Ocee ES, please plan on coming to our **New Parent Panel Discussion** on Tuesday, August 18th, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. We'll have lots of information to share with you and several people available to answer all of your questions. We look forward to meeting you!

Ocee ES is **GOING GREEN!** No, we haven't changed our school colors, but we are trying to do our part to protect the environment. Starting next week, we are using a web-based e-mail contact system called *Constant Contact*. To receive our newsletter, you will have to register by entering your e-mail address on the school website and selecting the groups from which you'd like to receive e-mails. Then we will use this list to send you news, updates, and, if necessary, emergency information. Here's how to register:

- Go to the Ocee ES website: www.oceeotters.com.
- On the right-hand side, you'll see a box, under *Upcoming Events*, that prompts you to sign up for the Otter Outlook newsletter. Enter your complete e-mail address, and click the *Submit* button.
- You will then arrive at a new web page that will ask you to select from which areas you'd like to receive e-mail updates and newsletters. Please select any that apply to you. You will be able to receive both the school and grade level newsletters.

Finally, click on the *Save Profile Changes* button.

You can always remove yourself from any of the lists or change the groups you have selected. To do this, simply go back to the Ocee website (www.oceeotters.com) and enter the same e-mail address you used when you signed up initially. You will receive an e-mail from Ocee ES entitled, *Update Your Profile*. (Hint: If this does not show up in your inbox, check your Spam folder.) The e-mail will include a link that will open a new webpage with the list of groups for which you've registered. Simply check or uncheck the groups you want to update, and click the *Save Profile Changes* button.

We hope you find this easy and convenient - and we'll save money, paper, and energy, too! If you do not have access to e-mail, please send a note to your child's teacher, and we'll be happy to send you hard copies of any newsletters on Thursdays. We're off to a great start for the new school year!

Sincerely,
Debbie Pernice

Morning Child Care Available at Ocee

Parents, this is a reminder that childcare is available at Ocee Elementary each morning, Monday through Friday, and is provided through the YMCA Prime Time program. Students can be supervised at Ocee from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. for a reasonable fee. Supervision is provided by YMCA Prime Time employees, who are often Ocee staff members as well. Students can play games and have an enjoyable start to their day while you get to work on time. Please call Ocee and ask to speak to Marva Daugherty if you are interested in enrolling your elementary-aged child or children in the before school program.

Equal opportunity employer and service provider. Reasonable accommodations and modifications made for the disabled.

404-763-4585 TTY 1-800-255-0135

Notification To Parents of the Screening and Referral Process for Gifted Services

The Fulton County School System screens students for eligibility for gifted services twice a year.

I. Automatic Screening- At the beginning of the school year, TAG teachers review previous year's test scores.

Standardized Tests—Students must have a minimum of an 85th percentile and a 90th percentile in two of the three areas: Total Reading, Total Math, and Complete Battery.

Criterion-Referenced Competency Test—Students must score in the top 20 percent on the reading or mathematics section when compared to all other students in the system.

Grades (high school only)—Students must have an overall cumulative average of 95 or greater.

II. Classroom Screening- Local schools select a two-week period from January 5 -February 26, 2010, to review **all** students in their school.

- Classroom teachers use the *Characteristics Instrument for Screening Students* (CISS) to identify students with superior abilities in five or more of the following areas: motivation, interests, communications skills, problem-solving abilities, memory, inquiry, insight, reasoning, creativity, and humor. Parents may request to view their child's screening results.

Students who meet either the automatic screening OR classroom screening criteria AND who have supporting data gathered from test history, products, and/or advanced content levels are **referred** for gifted placement testing. Once referred to testing:

- Parents receive the *Parent Notification for Testing Consent Form*.
- Student is tested for the gifted program.
- **Parents receive test results.**
- If state eligibility is determined, students are placed in the TAG program.

For more complete information regarding Fulton County Schools Gifted Services, please visit <http://www.fultonschools.org/k12/TalentedandGifted/>. There you will find our Talented and Gifted Brochure and Q&A documents. You may also contact Ann Scott Hanks or Betsy Kutz, or teachers of gifted students at Ocee or call 404-763-6811.

New Parent Panel Discussion

Are you new to the Ocee community? Has your oldest or only child just entered kindergarten? Do you have hundreds of questions running through your head? If so, please join us for Ocee's New Parent Panel Discussion, on Tuesday, August 18th, from 8:00-9:00am in the Ocee Media Center. A panel of school employees and PTA representatives will be there to answer your questions and to welcome you to the Ocee community. Mark your calendars today!

PTA Contact Information & Volunteer Selection

If you did not get a chance to enter your information for the PTA on the classroom computers at Open House, it's not too late! Go to: www.ocepta.org > Forms > Contact Information & Volunteer.

New this year! A contest! Those classrooms that reach 100% participation in signup will receive a popcorn party courtesy of PTA. This is your opportunity to volunteer and/ or opt to receive school newsletters.

Attention Ocee 5th Graders

Look for a flyer regarding the "Class Theme and T-Shirt Design Contest." Contact Tia Downum at tia@downum.com for more information. Thank you!

PTA Membership and Spiritwear

Are you an Otter Hero? A BIG THANK YOU goes out to everyone who has taken the small step of joining Ocee PTA. Ocee's goal is to have 100% PTA membership by August 31st. After the first week, 40% of Ocee's Otters have joined. We are off to a great start, but there's still a long way to go.

Ocee PTA funds many programs for the students that would not be possible without your support. Your membership enables us to continue to offer enriching programs like Accelerated Reader, Science Zone, Young Authors, and more. Get more details on these programs at www.ocepta.org.

PTA representatives will be on hand to accept your membership forms and answer any questions you have about PTA beginning at 5pm on Curriculum Night. If you can't make it to see us next week, just send your completed form into school with your student. Do your part—be an Otter Hero and help Ocee by joining PTA today!

Missed us at Open House? Spiritwear tables will be set up beginning at 5pm on Curriculum Night. Come by and make your selection before time runs out. This year's sale only lasts through August 31st, so don't delay!

From the Art Department

Calling all parents of kindergartners and first graders! Ms. Collier and Ms. Cessna are looking for parent volunteers to be helpers during their child's art class. Please contact Pam Cessna (cessnap@fultonschools.org) or Sharon Collier (colliers@fultonschool.org) if you can help.

Message from the Media Center

Students can access the list of Ocee Media Center's holdings any time from a computer with internet access.

- 1) login : <http://fcsdestiny.fultonschools.org>.
- 2) Click on catalog.
- 3) Make sure the location is set to "Ocee School."
- 4) To find Accelerated Reader books by point level or reading level, choose "Accelerated Reader" from the drop down menu for "Reading Programs."

For more information about building and printing a list of wanted books, please email Ms. J, at jaksicv@fultonschools.org.

Student book check out has begun. Students in grades 1-5 may have 2 books out for a period of 2 weeks. Students in K may have only 1 book checked out at a time for a period of 2 weeks. We do not charge fines for overdue books; however, if a book is lost or damaged, students will be charged a replacement fee.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouting is for girls in kindergarten through 12th grades. Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc., is filling existing troops as well as forming new troops as needed in our neighborhood. If you would like to enroll your daughter or become a Girl Scout volunteer, please contact Dawn Dickey at oceegirlscout@yahoo.com or by phone: 678-520-0390.