



The Panther Press

Oak Park School

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Sarasota, FL 34241

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Administration

Principal

Jamie Lowicz

Assistant Principal

Maureen Bassett

Assistant Principal

Nicole Meo

Principal's Secretary

Joanne Berry

For the Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff & Community
of Oak Park School - Sarasota County, Florida

Principal's Message

On behalf of the Oak Park Administrative Team, thank you for a wonderful year of learning and growing. Best Wishes for a fun-filled summer - we look forward to seeing each of you in August!



June
2019



Teacher Spotlight

Leadership Team

Principal

Jamie Lowicz

Assistant Principals

Maureen Bassett

Nicole Meo

Principal's Secretary

Joanne Berry

SRO

Deputy Reynolds

BCBA

Mark Marsh

Gloria DeCoursey

Guidance Counselor

Denise McNair

School Psychologist

Robert Lees

School Social Worker

Monica Perry

ESE Liaisons

Stacey Holmes

Peter Febinger

Testing Coordinator/Master Scheduler

Serenity Ruscoe

ESE Teacher

Heather Regan

Music Teacher

Shane Swezey

Team Leaders

DAT

Brian Rauh

Spectrum

Joe Craycraft

Action

Krysta Quattlebaum

Elementary and Middle School Transition

Stefanie Peters

High School and Extended Transition

Maria Gradin

Specialists

Robyn Sadlo

Teacher Of The Year

On May 8, 2019, Oak Park's very own music teacher, Shane Swezey, was selected as a state Teacher of the Year finalist. Jacob Oliva, Chancellor of Public Schools, Paul Burns, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality and their team from the Florida Department of Education, joined school district staff and administration at Oak Park School to surprise Mr. Swezey. He is one of five finalists to compete for the 2020 statewide Teacher of the Year.



Clinic Corner

As we start wrapping up another great year at the Oak Park Clinic, we are asking parents to help us with a few administrative matters.

First, if your student currently has daily, emergency, or as needed medications in the clinic, they need to be signed out no later than 4:00PM on May 28th. Any medications not signed out by May 28th will be discarded.

Second, if your student will be taking medications at Oak Park next year, we will need medical authorization forms signed by the student's physician for each medication your student will be taking at school. Medical authorization forms expire at the end of each school year, so we need new medical authorization forms for each medication your child will take during the 2019-2020 school year. Next year's forms may be returned to the clinic starting now. You may send the forms in with your child, drop them off at the front office, or mail them to the school.

Third, if your student will be receiving treatments (tube feeding, nebulizer, inhaler, blood sugar monitoring) at Oak Park next year, we will need treatment authorization forms signed by the student's physician for each treatment your student will be receiving at school as well as a notarized release signed by the parent/guardian. Treatment authorization and release forms expire at the end of each school year, so we need new treatment authorization and release forms for each treatment your child will be receiving during the 2019-2020 school year. Next year's forms may be returned to the clinic starting now. You may send the forms in with your child, drop them off at the front office, or mail them to the school.

Speaking of next school year, the 2019-2020 school year starts August 12, 2019. You may begin signing in your child's medications in the clinic as early as August 5, 2019, between the hours of 9:00AM and 4:00PM.

Did you know? We are permitted to give your student certain over-the-counter medications (Vaseline, insect spray, diaper cream, and certain pain relievers) provided that we have an authorization form signed by a parent/guardian and the parent/guardian hand carries the medication to the clinic in an unopened, original store-issued container.

Please feel free to contact us at 941-361-6428 if you have any questions about clinic forms or over-the-counter medications. Thank you for cooperation and support!

Spectrum Team Spotlight



Spectrum High School and Extended Transition spent the day at Sarasota Jungle Gardens. We got to learn about some awesome animals, pet some goats and a pig and have a picnic lunch. We also took a stroll through the beautiful gardens. Thank you, Sarasota Jungle Gardens, for giving us the VIP treatment!

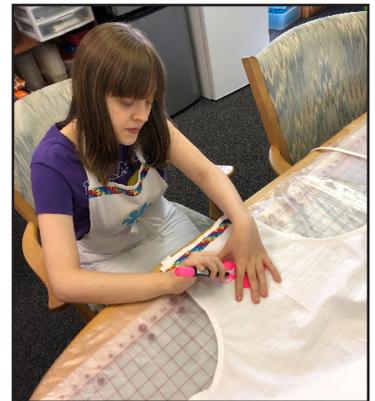
The spectrum wing of Oak Park has been mixing things up this semester. The three middle school classes of Mrs. Duckworth, Mrs. Falconer, and Mrs. Reiter, have been experiencing fantastic educational and life skill changes. The students are split into three different groups, and Math, Science and Social Studies are being held in respective classrooms four afternoons a week. They have been successfully learning how to work together in class and in the hall as they transition from class to class the Panther Way. They have RESPECT for others space. They are RESPONSIBLE for their own actions. They are STAYING ON TASK by walking on the right, in a straight line and listening to their teacher's instructions. Finally, they are ACCEPTING that in life, schedules and routines can change.

Bringing the middle school experience of traveling from subject to subject, as well as getting to know and work with different classmates, helps develop social skills for everyone. This approach has opened the door to a wonderful new world at the middle school level for Spectrum students at Oak Park School.

Kate Walthall's class has been increasing their employability skills

all year by working VERY hard on MANY different pre-job tasks and skills! They started off the year exploring jobs, job skills and other pre-employment tasks students might be interested in doing one day as paid employees. The students used symbol pictures, wrote down what jobs and tasks they preferred, and then started

learning small parts of the job/tasks by using a structured task box system that they can implement independently. Once those skills are mastered, the students are given the opportunity to expand that task to a broader job skill! Some of the job skills the students have been working on are making/packaging/selling dog biscuits (including collecting and logging pre-orders), making greeting cards to sell, prepping/sewing Autism Awareness aprons, creating visual communication boards for our district ESE trainer/parent make-n-take night/50 summer school classes, classroom recycling pick-up, prep paper for shredding, Shredding paper, making paper, filling bean bags with shredded paper, making campfire starters with shredded paper, Personal "Panther" Shopping at Wal-Mart, rolling silverware, sweeping floors, wiping tables, washing/drying/putting dishes away, counting money and rolling coins, flyer prep, envelope stuffing, packing/unpacking boxes, using a stapler, hole puncher, laminator, paper cutter, ironing (supervised), photo copy machine (supervised), 400 pencils sharpened for FSA testing, sorting office supplies, cutting/pasting/counting BoxTops, watering plants, washing and folding laundry and scanning/bagging at Wal-Mart!!!



Summer Safety Tips

- Learn to swim
- Always put on plenty of sunscreen before you go outside
- Drink plenty of water and fluids when you're outside swimming and playing so you don't become dehydrated
- Stop swimming or boating as soon as you see or hear a storm or see lightning
- Don't swim in the dark

As far as hydration is concerned, it is important to follow the 8 X 8 Rule; make sure you drink at least 8, 8-ounce glasses of water per day if you are swimming or playing outside in the heat. Have a safe and fun-filled summer!





Volunteer Spotlight

Our much loved Pet Therapy duo, Mr. Irwin Kaplan and Baxter, are now in retirement. For the past nine years, they have been making weekly visits to classrooms and were even named Oak Park School Volunteers of the Year. They started working their magic of connecting with our students when Baxter was just starting out - loving our students as only he could.

The amount of joy Mr. Kaplan and Baxter gave to our students is immense. As much as they are missed, we are so grateful for the memories that are now ours to keep. We wish them both the very, very best!



Sensory Make And Take Night

Oak Park's 1st Annual Sensory Make and Take Night on April 16th was a huge success! Thank you to our leadership team and all our staff members who helped put this together.



Oak Park Intramurals

Our final intramural for the year is cheerleading! Several of our Oak Park Panthers are participating in our cheerleading program with Coach Holliday. They have been working hard on floor cheers and formations. Our students have been showing their school spirit with their new pom-poms and working out the motions for our new pep song "Go Big Blue."



Practical Arts

Our talented Practical Arts duo, teacher Mrs. Lloyd and paraprofessional Megan Van Dyke, and their students, were commissioned by House Representative Margaret Good to create two mosaics of the Florida Seal. These beautiful mosaics will be hung in her offices in Tallahassee and Sarasota.





Oak Park Choir

On May 4, 2019, the Oak Park Choir traveled to Orlando to perform at Walt Disney World, as part of Festival Disney. Under the direction of our Teacher of the Year, Mr. Swezey, the choir ROARed for their families, friends, school staff, distinguished judges and all the Festival Disney staff. During this exciting and fun-filled weekend, students not only sang but also visited Disney's Animal Kingdom, enjoyed swimming, and made memories that will last a lifetime.

Important Dates

- 5/24/19- Last Day for Students
- 5/27/19- Memorial Day
- 8/12/19- School Starts



Community Spotlight

One of Oak Park's amazing paraprofessionals, Diane Gibson, is a member of the Thrivent Company, which is a non-profit Christian based organization that carries life insurance policies. Being a member has given her the opportunity to have Action Team Projects where she can give back to her community twice a year. This year, her project included sponsoring a breakfast for the Miller sisters and for three local churches; New Beginnings Church, Bayside Community Church and Sarasota Baptist Church, all of which have donated many volunteer hours for Oak Park staff and students. This was a way for Mrs. Gibson and Oak Park staff members to say THANK YOU, and to show these amazing volunteers how much we APPRECIATE ALL that they have done and continue to do for Oak Park.





Muffins With Moms

On May 8th, Oak Park hosted Muffins with Mom to celebrate Mothers' Day! Thank you to our students and staff that helped baked over 100 muffins for the event!



Tips To Prevent The Summer Slide

Studies show that reading four to five books over the summer has a positive impact comparable to summer school enrolment. Plus, this gives your child a chance to choose books that he or she is interested in, keeping the activity fun and interesting too!

Source: www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-statistics/

Disguised Learning Opportunities:

- Visit the zoo (read about the animals)
- Turn the captions on the TV, but limit TV time and trade for preferred activities
- Read and Listen to music (talk about the meaning of the song)
- Have your child cook (when appropriate of course)
- Reading a recipe takes careful steps
- Have your child read or use their communication device to explain or describe what they would like to eat for dinner or order from a menu
- Read the back of the cereal box or play the games with your child
- Check out an audio book
- Google: Virtual Fieldtrips-Visit everywhere their heart takes them (With Parental Supervision)

Reading for Incentives Programs:

- Barnes and Noble- Earn a book for reading 5 books and receive a pencil case and pencil.
- Sylvan Learning Book Adventure- This is a free program offered by Sylvan Learning. Prizes include chocolate bars, temporary tattoos, Highlights magazine and more.
- Pizza Hut Book It! Program- Win a free pizza
- Chuck E Cheese- 10 free tokens as a reward

Online Reading Opportunities:

- <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml>
- www.biguniverse.com/
- www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-adventure-packs-families
- <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml> <https://www.biguniverse.com/html>



Prom

This year's Oak Park Prom theme was Wizard of OZ. Our students, families, and staff danced the night away with the help of our resident DJ ShaNie ShaNe. A big THANK YOU to our leadership team, students, and staff who donated their time and skills to help make decorations and props. It was a wonderful evening had by all! There's no place like Oak Park.



Spirit Week

This Spring's Spirit Week was a fun-filled week for our students and staff to wear crazy socks, dress up like tacky tourists, represent their favorite sports teams, and ROAR their doors!





Sarasota County District Schools
Oak Park School

7285 Proctor Road
Sarasota, FL 34241

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Young Athletes Program

Oak Park Students between the ages of 5 and 7 have been participating in the Young Athletes Program (YAP) through Special Olympics over the course of the school year. The students have been practicing the skills of running, balancing, jumping, catching, throwing, striking and kicking. During our fourth quarter awards ceremony these students will receive a certificate of completion, ribbon and t-shirt. Thank you to all the students who participated and a special thanks to Coach Baier and Coach DeCiantis for facilitating the program this year.

Class of 2019 Graduates

Congratulations to our 2019 Oak Park Graduates!

*Pending students meet all graduation requirements

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Christopher Apfelbaum | Gillian Flood | Luke Matyk |
| Georges Assiff | Caleb Ford | Zachary Mikarts |
| Matthew Baker | Marcos Garcia-Salas | Noah Petrowsky |
| Justin Blake | Hristiyan Georgiev | Liana Porath |
| Dale Bonser | Hayley Kilbride | Tyler Powers |
| Zachary Bowman | Andrew Lebin | |
| John Carallo | Morgan Leslie | |
| Bella Cid-Navarro | Yesenia Lopez | |
| Karla DePaula | | |
| Madison Drew | | |

