



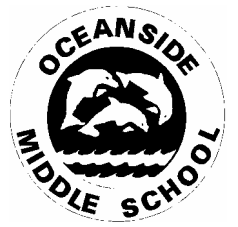
# OMS WAVE/QUARTERLY

A BRIDGE TO TOMORROW

MARCH 2005

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

---



Dear Parents: In an effort to foster communication I am sending you this note to inform you of some actions you can take to make our school a better place. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and support for these efforts.

- P** Drop off and pick up your children in the back of the school at both arrival and dismissal. Your children will be better supervised and safer by following this procedure.
- L** Remind your child that the school bus is an extension of their educational program. It is essential that they demonstrate appropriate behavior. Additionally, under no circumstances may a student ride a bus other than his/her assigned bus.
- E** Stay clear of fire lanes when dropping off your children or attending a school function. **It's the law!**
- A** Remind your children to respect the Board of Education's policy regarding cell phones. According to the policy, cell phones are disruptive to the educational environment and, therefore, may not be used on school grounds either before, during or after school.
- S** Check the school website on a regular basis. This site has weekly updated information as to the happenings in the middle school. Also, check our staff directory to see if your child's teachers have posted individual homepages.
- E** Check your child's agenda book on a regular basis, even if he or she has no trouble with homework. Checking keeps you informed about what your child is learning.
- S** Ask your child to show you their notebooks for their different classes. At that time you will know how well your child is doing classwork and homework. The notebook is a very important source of information for you.
- E** Post the "Extra Help Schedule" (available on the web page) on the refrigerator.
- E** Take advantage of our Team Meetings. We will arrange to have most of your child's teachers together for a meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and development. Call 678-8523 to arrange a meeting.
- E** Call to order a yearbook - 1-800-953-5550 (Jostens Direct Yearbook Ordering).

Do you have suggestions for us?  
Please e-mail me at [RFENTER@OCEANSIDE.K12.NY.US](mailto:RFENTER@OCEANSIDE.K12.NY.US)

# OMS

## HELPING HANDS

---



“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”

*Winston Churchill*

### **THE INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND**

Each year, Oceanside Middle School includes community service as a vital part of its program. Over the past few years, our students and staff have worked to help organizations such as the Special Olympics and Schneider Children’s Hospital. This school year our students and staff are working with “The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.” This fund is supported entirely by donation without any deduction for administrative costs. The fund helps families of military personnel who have given their lives in defense of our country. Financial gifts are given without fanfare to help meet these families' needs. Often money is given for children’s educational needs and even basic housing for a family. The NFL is one of the main contributing organizations. In fact, last year’s Super Bowl was dedicated to this organization and the efforts of the NFL.

Our OMS Idol’s show donated all profits to this important organization. Other clubs and groups in our school are also donating money to this group. Our Team Spirit fundraising this spring will be for “The Fallen Heroes Fund.” This will give all students in our school the opportunity to participate in our efforts directly.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT**

Our students and staff also spent ten days in January raising money to help in the relief effort for the victims of the tsunami disaster. Each day light blue ribbons and bracelets were sold. We also held "Wear Light Blue Day" to demonstrate our support for the victims of this disaster. After school each day, bake sales were held sponsored by our various clubs. The first two bake sales were sponsored by our staff sharing their culinary specialties. We raised \$1600 through our efforts, including our final activity, donate a dollar and “Wear a Hat to School Day.” Our donation has been sent to the UNICEF's Tsunami Water and Sanitation Fund, a joint initiative between Former President Bill Clinton and UNICEF to bring safe drinking water and sanitation systems to children and families affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **MY SOLDIER CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF!**

In February, students participated in the Manhattanville College program to adopt a soldier serving a "hardship tour" by doing one (or all) of the following:

- Writing a letter (PRIMARY GOAL)
- Donating an item for a care package
- Donating \$1 to help defray the cost of shipping care packages

Students who participated received a red "Manhattanville...My Soldier" band-bracelet.

# LOOK AHEAD: CYCLE III/IV

## 2004/05

The following are some events scheduled for Cycle III and IV. Please see your district calendar for districtwide events.

MARCH	
21	Board of Education meeting @ 7:30 p.m., #3
24,25,28	School closed

APRIL	
4	Special Bd. Of Ed. meeting @ 7:30 p.m., #6
11	Grade 7 Spring Concert @ 7:30 p.m., #7
12	9M/7 Jazz Night @ #7
18	Bd. Of Ed. meeting @ 7:30 p.m., #6
21	Coffee & Conversation/PTA meeting @ 9M, 7:00 p.m.
25-29	Spring Recess – school closed

MAY	
4	Honor Roll 7 breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.
5	Honor Roll 8 breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.
6	Staff Recognition Luncheon
9	Bd. Of Ed. meeting @ 7:30 p.m., #6
10	#7/9M Joint PTA Installation @ 7:30 p.m., OHS Library
17	Budget Vote, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
18	Grade 8 Spring Concert @ 7:30 p.m., OHS auditorium
23	Bd. Of Ed. meeting @ 7:30 p.m., #7
30	School closed – Memorial Day
31	Honors Night @ 7:00 p.m., OHS auditorium

### SPORTS

**What is the schedule? Where is the game? How do I get there?**

**Please refer to the athletic website:**

**<http://WWW.OCEANSIDE.K12.NY.US/SPORTS/INDEX.HTM>.**

**You can also access this site by clicking on the "sports" link on our district homepage.**

# From the Principal's Desk....

Dear Parents,

The spring is coming and the snow is melting. (We hope!) I take great pride in the academic program of our school as well as the many efforts to make the daily experiences for our students a special one. The very talented staff at the middle school and our supportive PTA are working hard to make the middle school years special and memorable.

The middle school staff and students continue to demonstrate a generosity of spirit in the many activities that benefit their community. In addition to raising monies for tsunami victims, the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, and Island Harvest, the students of our school have made the lives of our soldiers risking their lives overseas better by adopting them and shipping items to make them more comfortable during their time of service.

We are currently running our Team Spirit program, an effort to promote friendly competition between the teams while raising money for an important cause. Thanks to Nancy Morris and all of the parents and teachers who have assisted us in the coordination of the Team Spirit events.

The move to the high school for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is coming near. We have been working diligently to make the transition to the high school one that will be smooth and productive. Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students should have received a listing of courses for your children for their high school program. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

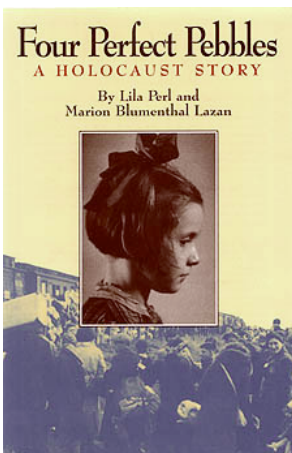
Thank you to all parents for their assistance in the many events that take place in our school. The letter from the PTA presidents is a celebration of just some of the wonderful efforts our PTA makes on behalf of our students and program.

Wishing you a happy and healthy remainder of the school year.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Fenter

Yearbook orders can be placed with Mrs. Mamais in Room 112. Checks in the amount of \$38 are to be made payable to Oceanside Middle School.



Welcome to Marian Blumenthal-Lazan,  
author of Four Perfect Pebbles!

For the past several years, Mrs. Lazan has graced us with her presence as a speaker on the topic of the Holocaust. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are studying the World War II era in their social studies classes as well as reading Holocaust-related literature in their ELA classes as a means of preparing for this even. Mrs. Lazan will share her personal recollections of this historic and tragic event, tied into an inspiring and true story of survival.

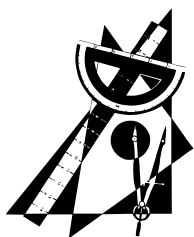
Thank you to Kathy Cicerani, Chris Bertram, Cathie Dato and all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teachers for organizing this event.

# Tips for Parents:

---

## How to Help 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Prepare for the NYS Grade 8 Math Assessment

From Dr. Wayne, Math Supervisor



Since September, eighth graders have been working from a teacher prepared booklet on assessment-type problems. You can periodically spend some time with your child reviewing previously done problems in the book and asking him/her to explain the solution. If you see an illegible or unclear explanation, help your child formulate one that is brief and to the point. (Neatness and good communication skills will help prevent losing valuable points.) Please remember that some topics have yet to be completed in class.

You can find prior editions of the State Assessment at the website whose address is <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintmath.html>. Work with your child on those problems that you feel comfortable helping him/her with. If you diagnose a weakness in a particular area, contact your child's math teacher to discuss ways to remedy the situation.

Inspect your child's math binder and homework every night for complete solutions to problems and for a readable set of notes. You can help train your child to view mathematics as being more than numbers, symbols and equations. Help your child make the homework and notes complete until you feel that he/she is doing it on his/her own. Each time the child explains the work, he/she internalizes it and clarity sets in.

Thank you to all of our math and math lab teachers for their hard work in preparing your children for this upcoming assessment.

## How to Handle Bus Problems

From Mrs. Rockwin, Social Worker

When asked what advice we should give to parents and students regarding issues of bullying, particularly on the school bus, the following tips were given:

For the student:

- Report the problem to the bus driver.
- Report to another adult at home and/or at school.
- Write a note to your counselor describing the problem.
- Request permission to change your seat.
- Give a direct message (request they stop behavior) in an assertive, but non-confrontational manner.

Parents need to be alert to signs such as:

- Reluctance/refusal to ride the bus and/or go to school.
- Withdrawn behavior
- Avoidant behavior
- Radical change in child's "normal" behavior.
- Change in eating/sleeping patterns.

By working together, we can ensure that the bus ride for your child is an uneventful one with an opportunity to talk with friends as they travel to and from school. If you have questions or concerns about a specific bus situation you can call the following numbers:

- Mrs. Bhatt: 678-8523 to report bus safety issues.
- Guidance: 678-8523 to report specific issues regarding your child on the bus.

### How to be assertive:

- Think before you speak.
- Use "I" in your sentences.
- Use a confident tone.
- Do this without criticizing or hurting others. (This makes the difference between being assertive and aggressive.)

# Team Spirit Begins March 14<sup>th</sup>

Each year students and staff participate in Team Spirit. At the heart of this program are our fundraising activities offering all students the opportunity to help make a difference for others in need. This year all teams will be working with “The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.” This organization offers unrestricted grants to families of military personnel who have given their lives in the current operations in defense of our country.



Our kickoff assembly for Team Spirit will take place on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. This year’s theme and competitions will be announced at this assembly. Students are encouraged to be involved in the various activities and will be able to sign up during advisory on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be sports competitions, PowerPoint, hall decorating, dance, presentations, Goofy Sports, fundraising, team banners, team plaques, scrapbooks, as well as classroom competitions. This is an opportunity for our students to work together cooperatively and develop new friendships.

There will be three theme dress-up days during Team Spirit. Our eighth graders will vote for the themes in February. The final day for Team Spirit is Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Teams will perform and Goofy Sports will take place during the day. It is an exciting time of the year at O.M.S.