



OCKLEY GREEN FAMILY & COMMUNITY BULLETIN

December 11, 2017



Principal's Message

Hello Ockley Green Families and Community,

Winter weather is upon us and winter break starts at the end of this week. Where does the time go? At OG, we have been busy preparing for Spirit Week, the School Dance on Friday and our Student Government elections that will take place when students return in January. More information about the elections will be in the first newsletter of 2018.

With academics, teachers have been preparing for mid-term progress notes that will go out this week. Please be on the lookout for this important information and reach out to your student's teachers with any questions you might have. Also, please see the link below to the important survey from our Ockley Green Site Council. We need to hear from you about your needs, concerns and feedback as we move forward. Students will be taking a survey at school and copies of the survey will be sent home to families in Spanish.

Have a wonderful winter break and enjoy the time you have with family and friends. I am looking forward to the new year and all that it has to bring for our students, families and OG community.

Paula

Calendar

Dec 11

6:00 pm
TAG Family Night @ OMSI

Dec 11 - 15

Spirit Week

Dec 13 - Wednesday

6:00 pm
Site Council Meeting
(OGMS Library)

Dec 15

School Dance

Dec 18 - Jan 2

Winter Break - No School

Jan 11 - Friday

6:30 pm
PTA Meeting
(OGMS Library)

Jan 15 - Monday

MLK Day - No School

Jan 17 - Wednesday

Late Start

Jan 18 - Tuesday

6:00 pm
OG Music Performance
(OGMS Auditorium)

Need to plan ahead?

**[Check out the OGMS
Family Monthly Calendar](#)**

OGMS Site Council Survey

Parents and caregivers: we need your feedback.

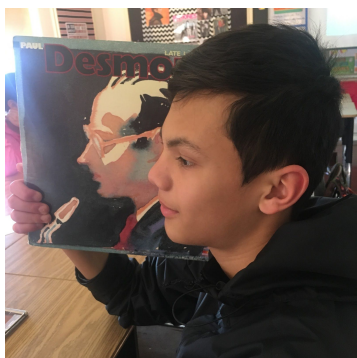
Please click here to take a short, 7-8 minute survey

designed by the OGMS Site Council to collect parent and caregiver voices related to school climate and family involvement.

The Site Council provides leadership, direction, and support to the school community to support school improvement. Results from this survey, combined with survey results from staff and students, will help shape improvement plans and inform what we should focus on. All results will be shared with the community in January. We hope to get 100% of families to take this survey so that we are all represented. Your input matters!

Jazz in the Schools

Jazz in the Schools visited our 7th grade Language Arts classrooms last week!



between the students and the greater Portland Jazz and business community.

Jazz in the Schools introduces students to jazz through presentations and activities designed to demonstrate the influence of jazz on American culture, and builds connections



It takes a village to make a great middle school! Ockley Green has many volunteer opportunities. Our staff can always use help in the office, assisting with class projects, improving the building, or attending PTA or Site Council meetings.

Here are some current needs, can you help?

On December 12th, 13th and 14th with various times between 9:25 - 2:25 we need volunteers to help us with our OG "Student Binder Check-in." Volunteers needed to serve hot chocolate (shh, it's a surprise!) to students while they clean-up, repair and organize student binders. Student binders, which all students carry during school are an integral part to their success. If you can help, please sign up for a time slot on this document, or contact Ms. Harold jharold@pps.net



During the classroom presentation, students discovered how the visual art, associated with jazz was influenced by the music, and how it played an important role in shaping the culture and events of 20th Century America. Following the presentation, students created their own original art, interpreting the music and culture of jazz by using their newfound understanding of the connection between the music and art. Here are some examples of their interpretations!



Health Sciences Information

This week our students will learn about degrees and career paths in the health sciences. Volunteers from the program **On Track OHSU** will visit science classes at OG to introduce students to the field of bio-medical engineering. In this initial fall session, OHSU volunteers will lead small groups of student through a stethoscope building challenge, with the help of Jefferson high school student volunteers.

Parenting Class

Black Parenting Initiative (BPI) is offering FREE winter parenting classes at Matt Dishman Community Center. Classes started in November, but it's not too late to enroll.

[Visit the website for more information.](#)

Volunteers are needed over Winter Break to help prime fifty lockers in the main hall upstairs. Our 6th grade OG students will be working collaboratively on an art project to repaint the lockers using geometric forms and designs. If you can help, please contact Ms. McCullough at pmccull@pps.net or 503-916-5660.



The PTA still has a few wreaths for sale! There are three 18" wreaths and two swags left - \$26 each and proceeds go to the PTA.

***Contact Jen Greensted
jen@mamarunswithscissors.com***

Library News

Parents, are you getting district generated emails saying your student has late/missing library books?



Winter Break is a great time to search the house to find late/missing books and turn them in when school starts again. The OG library can also take any library books to return to other PPS schools. If a book is truly lost and gone forever, the office takes payments, or have your student come and talk to me about any special circumstances. The most important thing is that your student has access to books!



If you're interested in updated book reviews and other library happenings, follow [@ockleygreenreads](#) on Instagram!

Public Comments to PPS Board from a Parent

The letter below is from Jefferson cluster parent Gabrielle Mercedes Bolivar, these are her comments to the PPS Board of Education at their meeting on 12/5/17. Thank you, Ms. Bolivar, for recognizing the efforts that OG staff, teachers, and families are making to become a better school that meets the educational needs of ALL its students!

Good evening Superintendent, PPS Board of Education and Student Rep,

We are a Jefferson Cluster family with three kids attending our neighborhood schools at Chief Joseph, Ockley Green and Jefferson. After years of inequities, we are finally getting glimmers of hope. Middle schools are being restored, efforts to provide culturally responsive inclusive student practices are being pushed, and student success at Jefferson is to be celebrated. Tonight, I want to share the collaborative efforts of key staff working to support our Ockley Green Middle School Community and specifically our students receiving special education services. We know we still have a lot of work to do and this work will be on-going. It is my hope that we can capture meaningful data that is student centered and continue to invest in our middle school students.

This school year Ms. Terri Sing was brought into Ockley Green as the Instructional Support Principal. She has been transforming our Special Education services for our students and working to increase inclusive practices that provide greater access to direct instruction in the general education setting. Last year exclusive practices became the accepted norm with students often pushed out of gen ed, sitting in isolation and or segregated from their gen ed peers. We know from PPS data that our students on IEPs have the lowest graduation rate. Terri Sing together with our 8th grade Special Education teacher Ms. Brenna Sheridan, have been working to identify high risk 8th grade students that are failing at least 2 core subjects. Ms. Sing and Ms. Sheridan created a Saturday School and called to invite each student personally, including my student. For each student identified they worked with each core teacher to create an academic folder for each student and a list of work to be completed to reach grade level. Ms. Sing is scheduling one Saturday School a month through the rest of this school year for identified 8th graders to provide opportunities for individualized direct instruction, to assist students in reaching grade level in core content subjects, and to help prepare students for transition into High School.

It truly takes a village. This year Ockley has a new addition to our custodial Team, Marvin. Marvin has been a critical addition to our community often sitting with our students when they are escalated and need trusted adult support. Marvin is fluently bilingual and came to Saturday School to support our students. He seamlessly worked to support our Spanish speakers in science, math and language arts. This is how you start to create an inclusive and welcoming community where every student belongs and is supported to reach their full academic Potential.

As a community, we asked for culturally relevant multi-tiered systems of support for all students in our middle school as an evidence based best practice model. We know we have work to do, but these glimmers of hope that are student centered and the staff supporting them should be recognized. I appreciate Ms. Sing, Ms. Sheridan and Mr. Marvin for their efforts to center our students, their social-emotional and academic needs. They should be shadowed by other staff as models of effective student centered work.

Lastly, I would like to thank Ms. Brenda Fox and Ms. Kathleen Ellwood from the PPS Middle School Planning committee. Our community had been asking for this past year for a listening session to address the challenges we experienced with our middle school implementation. As part of their assessment, Ms. Fox and Ms. Ellwood held listening sessions during Parent Teacher conferences to capture voices from our staff, parent/caregiver and student communities. Our Site Council has shared our work with them and we are looking forward to a copy of their assessment in hopes that this is the beginning of an open and transparent engagement to collaborate on the success of Ockley Green and all middle schools. We also look forward to the hiring of a permanent principal at Ockley Green soon.

Thank you.