



# Orchard Avenue Elementary

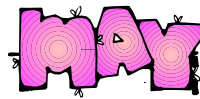
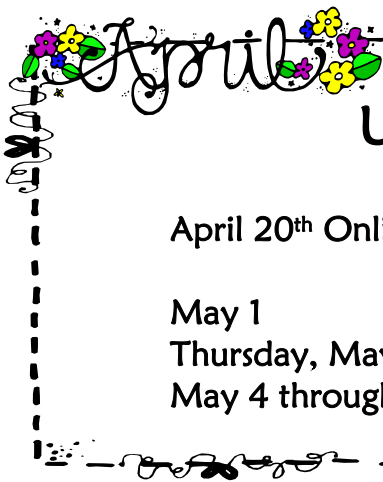
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Si usted necesita una traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5484. Estamos para servirles.

**Orchard Avenue Elementary Mission Statement: We are curious, confident, capable learners empowered to be compassionate world citizens.**

## April & May 2020 Newsletter



### Upcoming Events

April 20<sup>th</sup> Online

Kindergarten Round-Up Begins Online

May 1

Walk A Thon / Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, May 7

Family Game Night

May 4 through May 8

Teacher Appreciation Week



Because of Covid-19 changes, our calendar looks pretty bleak right now, but we are looking at some fun ways virtually offer community activities with your family. When you dig into this newsletter, you will see some fun ways to experience connection with the Orchard Avenue family. So look inside this newsletter and add to your calendar these activities with the knowledge that other Orchard Avenue families are doing the activities at the same time!

Teachers and Staff at Orchard Avenue miss seeing you all and we are hopeful that we will all be able to be back together soon. Until that day comes, **BE SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY!!**



## PLEASE UPDATE PARENTVUE!

It is more important than ever that we have updated addresses, phone numbers, and emails for every student. If your information has changed since you registered or last updated your ParentVue account, please log on and make the necessary changes. If you are needing help you can email Janet.Neil@d51schools.org.

## KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Starting April 20, parents and guardians of students who will be enrolling in a D51 kindergarten program for the 2020-21 school year can begin online registration through ParentVUE.

It's important to note that families can begin the kindergarten registration process online, but it will not be complete until certain documents are brought to the school office in person sometime after school buildings reopen. These necessary documents include:

- \* Child's birth certificate
- \* Child's immunization records
- \* Proof of address, such as a utility bill or mortgage statement

### If you have a child already in school

Use your ParentVUE login information to access Kindergarten Registration. Forgot your username or password? Contact your child's school (leave a message) or request this information through ParentVUE. Be sure to log in to your account before the Kindergarten Registration window opens to confirm you have correct login information.

If you have an existing D51 student, but you do not have a ParentVUE account, please email helpdesk@d51schools.org.

### If you are new to District 51

Create a ParentVUE account. To do this, go to d51schools.org, select the Parents tab and click on Parent Information. Select Enrollment and go to the Kindergarten Registration button, which will go live April 20. From there, click More Options (bottom right) and select "Create a New Account". Follow the prompts to create an account.

An email will be sent to you - if you do not receive an email, check your junk folder or spam folder. If you still don't see an email, contact your child's school and leave a message.

### Birthdate Requirements

Starting with the 2020-21 school year, children must turn 5 on or before Aug. 31, 2020 to enroll in kindergarten. This is a change from the previous cutoff date of July 15.

## FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Get your family together and enjoy Family Game Night on Thursday evening, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information from our PTA, and plan to find your favorite board game and have some fun family time, knowing that other Orchard Ave. families are having the same fun at the same time!



## CLASS PICTURES

Sadly, class pictures are cancelled until further notice.

### Walk A Thon is Coming!

Originally our Walk A Thon was scheduled for Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> on the Audubon Trail near Connected Lakes. As we are social distancing, it will look quite bit different this year. We encourage you to do your own Walk A Thon between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will also be including a scavenger hunt to add some fun to the activity, and maybe even a little competition! More information will be sent through School Messenger detailing how this will work. Use this time to get out and enjoy the beautiful spring weather and get some exercise. We welcome you to post pictures of your family's adventures to the Orchard Ave. Facebook page. Remember to practice physical distancing when interacting with other people so we all remain healthy.



### Pep Talks and Friday Reflection

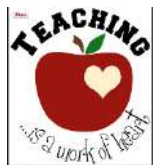
We strongly urge you to watch the weekly pep talks and Friday reflection messages, included in all teachers' Google Classrooms. These talks provide excellent opportunities to have meaningful conversations and fun with your child, while encouraging them to do a bit of self-reflection.

### OAE Facebook Page

A great way to stay connected to the Orchard Avenue community is our new [Facebook Page](#). We love seeing your comments and photos! <https://www.facebook.com/orchardaveD51>

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation 2020 is the week of May 4 – 8. With the physical barriers we are now experiencing, it will take some imagination to come up with ideas to convey our deep appreciation for the teachers who have and continue to engage students in learning – in the classroom and remotely. Be sure to encourage your child's teacher this week. And be encouraged yourself for the part you are playing in your child's education. Together, as a team, we work together to educate kids!



### 2020-2021 School Calendar

The 2020-2021 school calendar is on the SD51 Website. Feel free to access it and print off a copy for your planning in the next school year.

### A note regarding Classroom Placement for 2020-2021

Towards the end of the year we begin making plans for classroom placements for the 2020-2021 school year. Many thoughtful hours and careful consideration is given to placing our learners into classrooms for the upcoming school year. There are many components in developing a balanced academic and social classroom experience to benefit all students. Orchard Avenue is fortunate to have highly qualified teachers to give your child an excellent education. Because of shifting teaching assignments and a change of leadership in the year to come, teacher's names will not be released until approximately two weeks before the first day of school, which is August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to provide input regarding your child's educational needs, please direct your thoughts in letter form to the school office ([Janet.Neil@d51schools.org](mailto:Janet.Neil@d51schools.org)) no later than **April 30th**. In that letter provide information about the learning environment that you believe would best fit your child, rather than requesting a specific teacher. We always consider your child's learning attributes when making classroom placements for next year. Also, if you know that you will NOT be returning to Orchard Avenue next year, we would appreciate knowing that as well so we can plan accordingly.



## We're Listening...

### Our response to your feedback on the parent/guardian remote learning survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete the parent survey so that we can better understand what is and is not working for you and your children. We appreciate all the kind words and feedback, and we are equally grateful for the honest feedback you gave us. We are making the efforts in response around the following areas:

1. **Clarity around what children *must* do:** Parents and guardians are on the “front line” of their children’s learning right now. We are providing resources and support, but *you* decide what and how much is right for your child/ren. We will be prepared to meet our students next year, ready to help them get back on track with live learning.
2. **Access to School WiFi:** In order to make a more comfortable access to our school wifi available, we will be opening our parking lot gate each day. Working from your car will now be more of an option.
3. **Increased empathy and understanding around just how hard this is for you:** We are reading through your comments and trying to understand just how much we cannot understand about each individual family’s dynamic through this pandemic. Our expectations are around what we can provide and how we will support. We encourage you to communicate with your child’s teachers about what you need (or cannot manage.) That is all.
4. **Increased clarity around assignments:** Our teachers are working to streamline more of what they offer students, lessen in some cases how much is assigned, and provide simplified instructions through our special education and interventions teachers for those students who need this. (Please just let your child’s teacher or an administrator know if you need that for your child.)
5. **Support for children and families:** If your child is feeling behind and overwhelmed, or if there is anything you need as a family, please reach out to the classroom teacher. We have a multi-tiered system of support process, which your child’s teacher can help you access. We want to ensure that every child finishes this year with confidence and a sense of accomplishment and excitement about returning to school in August.

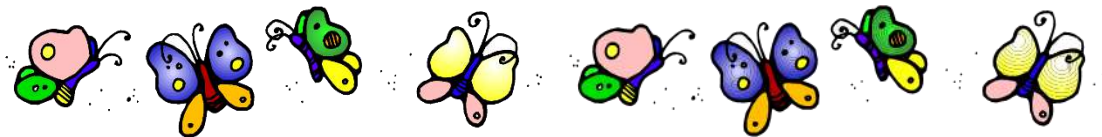
## Final thoughts...

**WE ALL have questions** about what life looks like for the remainder of the school year. So much is dependent on events that we have no control over, on a timeline that seems to change every day.

Here’s what we DO know:

- We will not return to in-person learning this year. Instead, we will continue remote learning until the last day of school, May 20.
- Learning still continues! Keep in touch with your child’s teacher and keep up with class work. This will help in staying connected and with as much learning as possible;
- We are still planning for school to start on August 10<sup>th</sup>; and we are looking forward to an amazing year.
- Even though there is no one in the office, phone messages are checked frequently during the week day. We will try our best to have someone get in touch with you regarding an issue you may be having. Please be as detailed as possible when leaving a message so we can connect you with the right person to solve the problem. Don’t forget to leave a phone number for a return call!!

One resource to always check to be updated is the [D51 Home Page](#). Information is updated often and links to other resources can be found there too. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, and know that we all miss each other. Keep smiling and know that this will not last forever.



### **A note from our Counselor...**

(NOTE: Sadly, we said farewell to our Counselor, Ray Cardenas, in March. We are thrilled to announce that Kirk Golba has taken on the Counselor position for the remainder of the year. He gives great advice as we navigate through the challenges of connecting with those we care about during the current pandemic.)

### **Here is a message from our interim counselor, Kirk Golba:**

#### Social Distancing vs Physical Distancing

Humans are social creatures. We thrive on human contact and social connections. Even during turbulent times, human interaction is critical.



The Coronavirus Pandemic has altered our daily existence. Most of our community outlets for social contact have been closed because of the “social distancing” requirement. We are all impacted and as a counselor who has spent his adult life meeting and working with students, families, and staff in one-on-one and group settings, I can tell you my work and life is completely off balance.

But the term “social distancing” is inaccurate. How a term is used can steer a population in the wrong direction. To be “social” does not mean that one has to be physical close to you. There is no governmental directive to suspend relationships during this isolation period. What has actually been prescribed is “physical distancing”. You can still be social with your neighbors, just don’t stand close to them. We can, and should, check on each other from across the fence or from the bottom of the steps. Most people sitting around a campfire are being social and practicing physical distancing.

This is NOT the time to be socially distant. It IS the time to be physically distant. But distant does not mean absent. We all still need emotional support. We all still need a sympathetic ear or assistance or motivation. Don’t isolate yourself from your family, friends, teachers, or other you know. Preserving connections is important, more now than ever! It is essential for your mental health. You don’t need to be tech savvy to do this. You can make a phone call (remember those?) or you can text. My teenage daughter even sat down the other day and wrote a letter to her friend! Imagine that?

I know it’s hard. Just as we have been ramping up the idea of “looking up” from our phones or not having our kiddos spend so much time in front of a screen, we are asking you to log on to virtual classrooms or read a steady stream of emails and texts. But changing the intent and focus of the interaction can help you and your student stay connected in a time of mandatory isolation.

So please don’t hesitate to reach out (virtually) and connect with your people. It can make the world of difference. You can grow closer together while being further apart.

## A Message from our Principal

### Dear Families and Community Members,



It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Orchard Avenue Elementary school community for the second semester of this 2019-2020 school year. I have so enjoyed working with our amazing students, staff and parents. I am deeply disappointed not to be spending my last months physically with our wonderful students. At the same time, I am equally grateful to have had this opportunity to be a member of this amazing school and team as we implement remote learning.

I feel such confidence and excitement about the possibilities for OAE beginning the 2020-2021 school year. Our students will have a dedicated, thoughtful, and caring principal in Mrs. Richards. They will have an equally caring and dedicated group of educators who have learned new and creative ways to support student learning and social emotional needs. And, most importantly, our students will come back to us, empowered with an experience unique to any group of learners in the past. This is truly a time of growth and new possibilities. As Dr. Seuss said, "Oh, the places you'll go!"

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments you may have.

Grateful to be serving you,

Anna E. Goetz

