

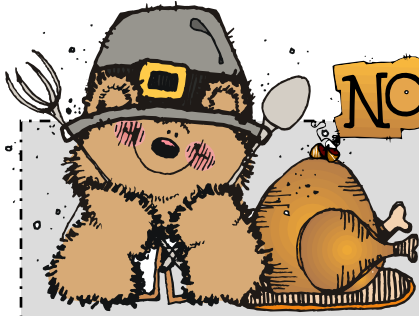


**ORCHARD
AVENUE**
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1800 Orchard Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: 970-254-7560
www.orchardave.mesa.k12.co.us

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

November/December 2020 Newsletter



November

2020 Calendar (and early 2021 Planner)

December



Sunday, November 1		Daylight Saving Time Ends
Wednesday, November 4		Picture Retakes
Thursday, November 12	4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	PTA Art Show
November 23 – 27	NO SCHOOL	Thanksgiving Holiday Break
Wednesday, December 2	All Day	Barnes & Noble Fundraiser
Friday, December 18		End of 2 nd Quarter
December 21 – January 4, 2021	NO SCHOOL	Winter Break
Tuesday, January 5, 2021	NO SCHOOL	Teacher Workday – All Schools
Wednesday, January 6, 2021		School Resumes
Monday, January 18, 2021	NO SCHOOL	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Tuesday, January 19, 2021	NO SCHOOL	Elementary Planning Day

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

Parents/Guardians – We need your help!

Our students need the cooperation of our Parents/Guardians who drop them off in the morning and/or pick them up in the afternoon. Please review our safety protocols regarding parking lot safety:

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

Student safety is a priority at Orchard Avenue. You can help keep students safe by following these drop-off and pick-up procedures.

- **19th Street Alley:** If you would like to drop-off/pick-up your child without exiting your vehicle please use the 19th Street alley. This is accessed by traveling east on Walnut Avenue, turning right on 19th Street and proceeding to the drop off/pick up sidewalk area. Thank you for your patience during pick-up as students will only be loading toward the front of the line where the adult on duty is present.

- **West Parking Lot:** The west parking lot is intended for families to park their car and walk to the child's classroom door. **Please do not ask your child to cross this parking lot to meet you in your car or drop off in this area without parking and exiting your car.**

We appreciate your cooperation with this more than we can say. Thank you!

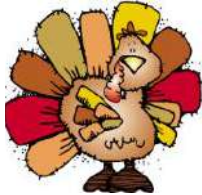


From the Desk of our Principal, Dr. Teal Richards...

Dear Orchard Avenue Families,

We hope you are enjoying fall in the Grand Valley! Here at school we are staying busy with lots

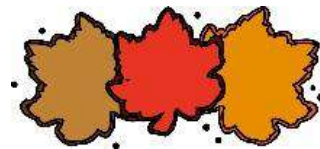
Give
Thanks



of learning. In addition to our academic work, our students engage in important learning about personal and social responsibility. At Orchard Avenue, we strongly believe that social learning is equally important to academic learning. One way that we support this social learning is by utilizing discipline practices across our school that are based on restorative justice principles instead of punishment. These principles aim to build a culture of connectivity within classroom communities supported by clear agreements, authentic communication, social responsibility, and shared accountability. As a staff, we provide ways for children to repair harm done by bringing together those who are affected in a dialogue to address concerns, achieve understanding, and come to an agreement about how to repair relationships going forward. In the majority of childhood conflicts, harm done is a result of one or both parties wanting their basic needs fulfilled - to feel welcomed and to be a part of a community. When this does not happen, conflict often arises. We are committed to helping your children learn from these conflicts that include restorative practices. Please know that this does not mean that children will be allowed to hurt others or that children will not be held accountable when needed. Restorative Practices help students learn how to deal with normal conflicts in a way that does not cause harm to themselves, others, the school, and their community.

If you would like to hear more about how Restorative Practices work at Orchard Avenue, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher or contact me. Thank you for partnering with us to help all learners become curious, confident, capable and empowered to be compassionate world citizens!

Sincerely,
Teal Richards



Fall Conferences

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences have come and gone, and the staff at Orchard Avenue would like to thank all of the parents who attended this important time of connecting with you about your student. The virtual platform provided a unique way too connect with families for conferences. We would also like to thank our Orchard Avenue PTA for providing such a delicious dinner to our teachers on the long conference day.

November 11th is Veteran's Day and we thank all Veterans for their service to our country.





REMINDER...

There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, November 30th. This is an Elementary Teacher Planning day.



Barnes and Noble Fundraiser

The annual Barnes and Noble Fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at Barnes & Noble. A percentage of your total purchase will go directly to our school to support equipment for our Music program. A voucher must accompany your purchase. These vouchers will be sent home in Thursday Folders or you may pick them up that evening at Barnes & Noble. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we will not be able to present a music program as we have in the past, yet we are grateful we are still able to have this fundraiser. Plan now to shop all day this day for the book lovers on your Christmas list!



Salvation Army Christmas Food Box Program

Every year we are asked to help support the Salvation Army with their canned food drive for the Grand Valley and Mesa County. Orchard Avenue will have boxes in the foyer to collect non-perishable food donations from **October 26th through December 9th**. If you are able, please join us by donating non-perishable food items to assist the Salvation Army with their Christmas Food Box Program. All food donated goes to families in need in the Grand Valley.



DOING THE MOST GOOD



PTA Art Show

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted many of the fun activities that PTA has sponsored in the past to enjoy the beautiful fall season. In an effort to bring some fun and connection to Orchard Avenue families, our PTA has scheduled an **Art Show for Thursday, November 12th from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

More information with the details of what this will look like and protocols that will need to be followed are forthcoming. Basically, Orchard Avenue students will create various works of art to be displayed for public viewing prior to the event. On November 12th families are invited Orchard Avenue from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. to an outside venue of viewing the artwork and to grab a snack. We may even have some music to enjoy if something can be worked out. It sounds like lots of fun, as long as the weather cooperates!

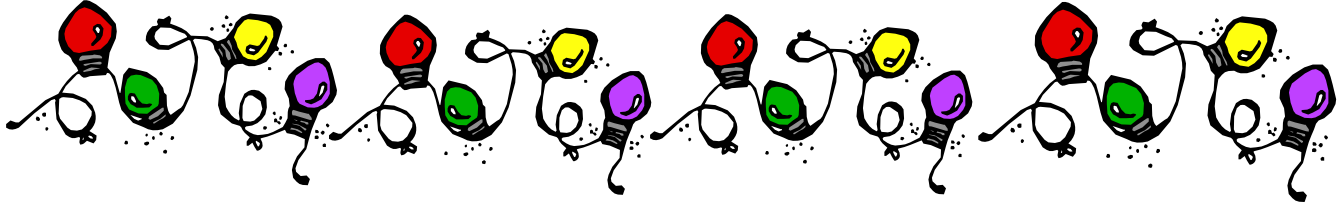


So block out this date and time on your social calendar and look for more information in a future Thursday Folder. And if you would be interested in volunteering for this event (set up, break down) please contact our office and we will get you in touch with someone from PTA!



Notes about Attendance

When calling in to report an absence on the attendance reporting line, please be sure to include a reason for your child's absence, especially if the absence is illness related. In these cases, we must have illness details to relay to our school RN or the Health Department to determine if additional next steps are necessary. Also keep in mind that absences need to be called in daily unless prior communication about the length of absence has already been communicated. It is always good practice to call the office to report an absence, even if you have notified the classroom teacher. When a specific reason is not stated the absence is recorded "unexcused but parent called to verify absence". Another thing to keep in mind is that our automated dialing system (also known as the "robo-caller") begins calling families whose student's absence has not been verified at 10:00 a.m. To avoid being called, be sure to call the office by 9:30 a.m. or leave a message on the attendance reporting line: 254-7560, Ext.1.



Labels on Clothing and Lost & Found

We are so lucky to live where we live because the weather in the fall is so beautiful! The downside to that is the jackets worn to school in the cool of the morning get taken off and left on the playground when the day warms in the afternoon and the jackets and coats end up in our Lost and Found bin. **Please check our Lost and Found** for items that are missing from home. Items not claimed by December 18th will be bagged up and donated to charity. As a gentle reminder, it is helpful to put your child's name on all school items. We try to return items marked to their rightful owner when found. Smaller lost and found items, such as jewelry, glasses, phones, etc. can be retrieved from the office.



Winter is Coming!

We have been enjoying beautiful fall weather so far, but we are expecting winter weather very soon! When those cooler temperatures arrive, students will be going outside at some point daily for recess. Students will need to be dressed for cold conditions with coat, hat, and mittens. When there is snow on the ground students must have boots on to be out in the field. Plan now for those days by locating their winter gear, and don't forget to label them so they can be returned to their rightful owner!



Counselor's Corner...

Hello OAE Families and Learners,

Happy Fall to everyone. I hope the cooler weather and changing leaves brings opportunities to enjoy the beautiful western slope and create some memories. I am excited to include my new website in this month's newsletter. Please take a moment to [CHECK IT OUT](#) and let me know how I can support you and your learner(s) this month. The parent resources page has numerous links to offer support to you and your family. Please reach out to me if you have questions or want to chat further.



Also, here again is information regarding the Free Meals and Kids Aid food bag program...

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the Free Meals for Kids program through the end of December 2020, or until available funding runs out.

That means breakfast AND lunch are FREE to ALL students. The students can access the cafeteria for breakfast through the front doors at the main entrance of the building starting at 8:40am.

We understand these are challenging times for many families. If you would like your child to bring home a bag of food on Fridays from the KidsAid Backpack Program, please fill out the attached form and return it to the office. We keep this information very confidential.

Lastly, here is a list of resources of community groups providing food assistance.

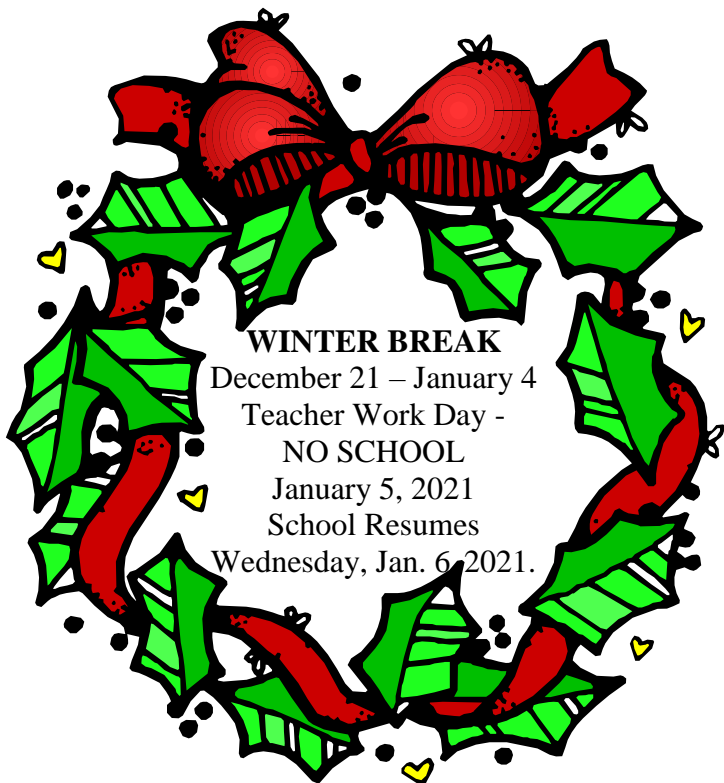
Community Food Bank-<https://foodbankgj.org/>
Hilltop Family Resource Center-<https://www.htop.org/>
United Way - <https://www.unitedwaymesacounty.org/>
Catholic Outreach- <http://www.catholicoutreach.org/>
Food for your critters: <https://rhhumanesociety.org/>

KidsAid Backpack Program <https://kidsaidcolorado.org/>

[Kids Aid.pdf](#)

Please contact me if you are in need of further assistance or support.

Kayla Fox



From all of the staff at
Orchard Avenue
Elementary School....

