

THE ORION OAKS ACORN



Cherene Ahlborn, Facilitator
Pam Moran, Treasurer
Heidi Anderson, Secretary

DEDICATED TO ENRICHING EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN

JANUARY 2012

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We have a model and quote for our playground revitalization, as well as other suggestions on how we might develop the grounds of Orion Oaks. Come with your questions, concerns, and ideas as we enter the second half of our school year. (Can you believe it??) Join Ken Nuss and Family Network on Wednesday, **February 1, at 7 pm in our café.** Child care will be provided for school-age children, and little ones are welcome to attend. Information on next school year, as well as upcoming events, will be discussed. See you then! *Cherene Ahlborn, queencherene@att.net* ♦

www.lakeorion.k12.mi.us/orionoaks

Dine to Donate!

On **Monday, January 23** we'll meet at **Chili's on Baldwin Road**, near Great Lakes Crossing, for Dine to Donate. Always a great time, kids enjoy seeing their friends and school staff eating out like "regular people" ☺ **Parent Network will receive a 10% of funds spent, which goes directing into our playground fund!** Take a night off from cooking and support our playground refurbishment. *Fliers are on the Orion Oaks website and available in the main office; contact Amy McCaffrey with any questions, gideon1011@yahoo.com.* ♦



WHAT'S HAPPENING!

January 23	Dine-to-Donate, Chili's, 11am- 11pm
January 27	No School
January 26	Lunch tote orders due
February 1	Parent Meeting 7 pm
February 7	Market Day, 3:45 – 4:45
February 7	Kindergarten Information Night
February 20 – 21	No School

Campaign for a Climber

Imagine over 600 children climbing, pulling, twisting, and scrambling day after day over bars that get pummeled by typical Michigan snow, ice, and rain. Our playground equipment, original to Orion Oaks, is showing its wear and tear! Over the summer, several pieces of equipment on our upper playground were removed for safety concerns. We've replaced some swings, and the swinging bridge; now we're focusing on the monkey bars.

Our "Campaign for a Climber" is going beyond Dine-to-Donate and Green Bags with an opportunity to replace your child's lunch tote that might be showing its own wear and tear. **Now through January 26, any purchase of a thermal lunch tote from this campaign will donate \$5 toward a new climber. The overall cost of the climber is just over \$3000.00, excluding installation. We have currently raised about \$900.00; we have a long way to go.**

Look for your flier in your child's backpack and keep your child's lunch cold and fresh, get yourself a tote to take lunch in style, or carry snacks in the car when you're on the go. Know that your contribution helps get that climber at Orion Oaks sooner! *Contact Stephanie Benedict for more information, s_l_benedict@yahoo.com for more info.* ♦

Eat Your Soup! It's Campbell's Labels Rewards!

Send in your UPC's from Campbell's Foods, Pepperidge Farm products, and select Market Day items, and Orion Oaks Family Network will earn even more points to redeem on educational products to enrich the experience of our children. **Cut out the UPC's and send them in a baggie to the main office** for additional buying power for us. Better yet, **register your Kroger Shoppers Card with Campbell's at www.elabelsforeducation.com** and receive even more bonus labels. Thank you for your support! ♦

Green Bags

Dragon Go Green Bags support our playground fund. Only \$6 each or 2/\$10, the heavy duty canvas bags are durable while showing your Dragon Pride! We're selling bags at **LOHS conferences on Feb. 28 from 4-8.** *If you can give an hour of your time, contact Jewel at houlihan5@att.net.* ♦

CHANGING OF THE GUARD 😊

Orion Oaks Parent Network has a new Treasurer. **Please welcome Neighborhood B parent, Pam Moran, to the position of money-keeper ☺.** Pam has been hard at work gathering the reigns of the role and is excited to take a more active part in parent leadership at Orion Oaks. Her son is in lower-el, and another little Moran will join Orion Oaks in a few years. **Please direct all of your money questions to Pam and join me in saying “welcome to the board!”** Pam can be reached at pdgmoran@hotmail.com

Welcome our new **Holiday Team Leader! Jen Ritz**, of Neighborhood D, is happy to take over that position, and is busily planning an **upcoming Movie Night and winter party** to warm up the winter, and provide fun activities across our neighborhoods. *To volunteer for either event, please contact Jen at jenniferritz@hotmail.com*

We also welcome **Kari Clawson**, of Neighborhood A, who has volunteered as our **Publicity Coordinator**. With our new Facebook page, School Messenger, school and district websites, lots of information is coming and going from a myriad of sources. Kari is now the “go to person” when an **Action Team or Event Coordinator needs to get information to our parents or the community**. Kari will channel the info to the various outlets and help keep us all informed in a timely manner. *If you have some news to spread to the Orion Oaks family, there is a Google document link on our FB page. Contact Kari at famnetworkpr@gmail.com.*

Family Network and Orion Oaks give a heartfelt thanks to Heidi Anderson who has passionately served multiple roles. Much appreciation is given for Heidi’s turn as Holiday Team Leader and Fun Run Coordinator, both positions to which Heidi brought unbridled enthusiasm. An increasingly busy home life leads Heidi to need to hand over the duties of **Secretary for Family Network. Volunteering to be our “note-taker” at Family Net meetings, is a great way to get involved without a big time commitment.** Our Secretary takes the notes of the monthly meeting and emails them to archive for future reference. *Questions? Contact Cherene, queencherene@att.net ♦*

GOT QUESTIONS?? WE’VE GOT ANSWERS!

If you have questions about the way something works around school, how you can be more involved in your neighborhood, or just about anything else, the following **Neighborhood Contacts** can answer your queries, or at least tell you who can!

A Donna Blue 248.393.2435 donna.blue@comcast.net
B Melanie Dobson 248.693.9132 amsd547@comcast.net
C Angela Bergeron 248.3937362 abergeron95@aol.com
D Heather Daisy 248.814.7532 chrisd14@mac.com ♦

Orion Oaks Family Network resolves to continue making a positive difference in our children’s school experience in 2011.

Happy New Year!

WHAT’S FAMILY NETWORK BEEN UP TO?

❄️ We created a **standardized permission slip** for ALL Family Network events. This not only helps parents and staff readily find the information they need, it keeps **student safety at the forefront**.

❄️ At our January meeting, we were joined by LOCS School Board Member, Melissa Miller, who wants our parents to know that **LOCS’ Board of Education is committed to a more active and present role in our schools**. Melissa also attended the school’s recent assembly on cyberbullying and is scheduled to be a **regular volunteer at Orion Oaks**. Family Network is thrilled to see this personal involvement from our guiding force. Welcome Melissa!

❄️ 5th grade parents are working together to **build connections across our neighborhoods**. This goes a long way to **easing the transition to middle school** in the fall. On Tuesday, January 24, from 4-5:15pm, Connections hosts “Minute to Win It!” A nacho snack bar will be provided as **5th grade students try to beat the clock while making friends and having fun. More hands are still needed for future events!** Email Amy at gideon1011@yahoo.com for more info or to volunteer. Thanks! ♦

👉 **Don’t forget! We are always collecting batteries, old cell phones, and printer cartridges!**

🚗 **Parking Lot Safety!** ♀ ♂

Cars and kids don’t mix! We’ve had some near misses in the past; nothing in worth a compromise in the students’ well-being. It is vital to the safety of our children that the north parking lot not be used as a drop off or pick up lane. **Parents using either parking lot must park their car in a parking space, get out, and meet their children near the appropriate neighborhood exit doors.** Parents who wish to remain inside of their vehicle during pick-up, as well as drop-off, must absolutely be confined to circular drive in the south parking lot. **Please exercise patience in the pick-up lane, and wait your turn to approach the school.** Your child will meet your vehicle when it is safe to do so. Thank you for your cooperation and for making a difference in the level of safety Orion Oaks maintains for our children. ♦



Orion Oaks Family Network