

OPAC – Oswego Parent Advisory Council

OPAC's mission is to establish two-way communication between the district and parents.

The district doesn't want parents to be uninformed or in regards to their child's education. The district wants to know what is working and what they need to re-work.

Next OPAC meeting date is March 2, 2011. Please email me with any questions, feedback or suggestions for me to present to the district representatives and superintendent.

Communicate 308

An excellent tool to stay connected to District 308 news is to register your email address at oswego308.org.

You can click to receive information specifically for Homestead by checking the box next to Homestead Elementary. You will receive information not only for Homestead, but also the 308 newsletter via email, district news, events, and emergency bulletins.

50th Anniversary

The district is celebrating its 50th anniversary with special events all year long. Click on the special website logo for a list of events.

\$10 calendars created by Oswego 308 students can be purchased at each school to offset the cost of the anniversary festivities. The flags at each school were donated to the school at no cost to the schools.

Please consider attending the 50th anniversary Blue and White Ball to be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, 6-11 pm. The district would like to see each school have a table at the ball. The tickets are \$60 per person. The ball will be held at the Gaslite Manor in Aurora. Please contact Crystal Alperin if you would like to sit at the Homestead Elementary table.

Elections

Board of Education elections are April 5. 10 candidates are running for 3 positions, and 2 of the candidates are current incumbents. A complete list of candidates is posted on the oswego308.org website. Last day to register to vote in the election is March 8, 2011. Two years ago, only 8% of registered voters actually voted. BOE makes all the decisions that directly impact your children. Model for your children the true gift of citizenship. Research the candidates and VOTE!

OPAC is in the process of compiling a list of questions to be sent to ALL candidates. Once the candidates have filled it out, we will distribute it to parents at our schools. Please email me or talk to me about questions that you would like to see addressed.

Check the Oswego Ledger on January 20, 2011 for all the names of the students in attendance on the first 50 days of school.

Please join Oswego Police, Kendall County States Attorney and Oswego 308 on February 7, 2011 at 6:30 at OEHS for a presentation on Cyberbullying.

Students in our district were polled about topics of concerns. The most popular amongst students was cyberbullying. If you cannot make the presentation, it will be recorded and offered as a podcast.

Full day Kindergarten

Full day Kindergarten will be offered in four centers 2011-2012 at Southbury, East View, Grande Park and Hunt Club. District is trying to get a half day program in every school.

Please register before March 4, so district can arrange the staffing and transportation needed for next year. The sooner parents register, the sooner the district can provide these answers.

Parents can attend any kindergarten meeting, not just your home school's meeting. The Churchill meeting was recorded and is available as a podcast.

Full day Kindergarten will be paid for in federal stimulus funds to hire the teachers. The \$250 fee offsets the start up costs. Students receiving free or reduced lunches can apply for a fee waiver. The following year, it will be paid for by state aid.

Full day Kindergarten students will be kept with other students from their designated home school in the same Kindergarten center.

3rd High School

BOE voted to purchase land at the Southwest corner of Plainfield and Ridge Roads. They will keep the property at 126th, which is currently leased to a farmer, until it is needed for future use.

The District will be redistricting in 2012.

Larry Martinez, the Director of Transportation:

- The district provides ½ of all transportation for its students.
- The other ½ is contracted out to Illinois Central.
- The transportation department is comprised of the director, Larry Martinez, 3 supervisors, 3 secretaries/clerical people, 101 drivers, 50 monitors (mostly for special needs students, but also used to monitor problem buses or drivers), crossing guards, 4 mechanics and 104 buses.
- The State of Illinois requires all driver training. Our district also requires 48 hours of training behind the wheel, student management training, first aid training and driver attendance at safety meetings, which are held 5 times a school year.
- Drivers run dry runs the week before school begins. Drivers report to dispatcher with any problems to work out. Also, drivers run a mock school day route before school begins.
- Parents are NEVER allowed to step on the bus as mandated by state law. It is a safety issue.
- Buses are equipped with 2 way radios. All Illinois Central buses have a GPS system on the bus, which reports driver's speed, stops and time of stops. GPS was not working until the second week of school.
- All regular ed. buses and 30% of special ed. buses have cameras.
- Please call transportation if any of your information changes, so they can enter it into their system.
- Please call transportation if your bus is 15 minutes late. They will use Connect Ed to contact parents. After 15 minutes late, driver should call it in, but often cannot.
- If there is a tornado warning, the driver will deliver the students to the closest building of refuge.
- Drivers cannot discipline students, except to assign seats. They report disciplinary issues to the principal. It is the principal's responsibility to discipline the students and contact parents.
- If you have additional questions, please contact Larry Martinez or send your questions to Crystal Alperin.