

PTA NEWSLETTER

Hello Oakwood,

We are SO excited for this school year! We would really like to focus on the theme, "Higher, Better, Stronger... UNITED WE SOAR" all year long. Our school is just like a family. Families look out for each other, they help build one another up, and they try to better the other members.

We as parents and faculty all share the same common goal: Making Oakwood the very best environment for learning, improving our test scores, and having happy and safe kids. We strongly feel that if we all unite in this goal our school will soar. We have the best students, the best teachers, and the best parent volunteers so we should be flying!

If we keep in mind our common goal, our ideas can blend together to make this year amazing! We love all of your help and support, keep it coming!

Lots of Love,

Holly Fairbanks & Kimi Tanner
PTA Co-Presidents

Meet the 2014-15 PTA Executive Board!

Co-Presidents	Kimi Tanner Holly Fairbanks
Presidents Elect	Heather Ellefsen Teresa Larsen
Legislative VP	Ashley Roach
Leadership VP	Rebekah Oliphant
Secretary	Kari Sikorski
Treasurer	Ramona Bailey
Historian	Heather Gay

Oakwood parents, guardians and staff, please join us at our monthly PTA meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1pm, we look forward to meeting and working with you!

Fridays are UNIFY-day!
Wear your Oakwood spirit gear!

CALENDAR

9/29-10/3	Meet the Masters Assembly & Art Projects
10/8	PTA Meeting 1:00pm
10/15	Short Day
10/16-17	No School ~ Fall Recess
10/24	Books and Bagels
10/27-30	Anti-Bullying Week
10/30	Short Day
9:00	Owl Chorale Concert
9:30	Halloween Parade
10/31	No School ~ Halloween



OAKWOOD EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Sign into the Parent Portal at www.graniteschools.org and set up your Portal Account if you haven't already done so. **Please check your email address in the Portal Account to verify it is correct.**

This is the email address that Oakwood Elementary will be using to communicate important news and information with you.



We would like to thank and recognize Megan Golightly for all of her hard work with registration, Amy Driggs for her dedicated work compiling the directory, Susan Gedge for setting up a fantastic volunteer tea, SueEllen Cummings for bringing everything together for a wonderful Grandparents Day, and Rebekah Oliphant for organizing a great Book Fair!

Thank you to ALL of our wonderful chairpersons, volunteers and members. We appreciate everything you are doing to make this school year a great one!

Principal's Message

Oakwood Elementary

Holladay, UT

October 2014

Whenever I visit Hawaii, I catch myself wishing I could live there. I love the beautiful weather, the tropical plant life, the warm sand and soothing sounds of the ocean as well as the relaxed culture. However, when I return home, I also recognize how much I love the change of seasons, the spectrum of color exhibited across our magnificent mountains and canyons, and the excitement of beginning another school year.

We have had a busy first few weeks at Oakwood. Between Grandparent's Day, the Book Fair, Parent Teacher Conferences, Books and Bagels, the No Sales Fundraiser, and Community Council elections, our days and weeks have been full. Each one of these activities has been very successful due to your participation and support. Thank you for helping to make our school so successful.

We have a lot of good news to share.

- Our fundraiser was very successful. We earned approximately \$10,000 through your generous support and donations. Our students are excited about the additional fieldtrips, assemblies, incentive programs, and increased classroom technology these funds will help make available to them. I can't thank you enough for supporting your children's education through the fundraising event.
- We are excited to announce that Mrs. Petersen has been approved to teach fourth grade full-time for the remainder of this school year. The change will take place on Monday, September 29. We know our fourth grade students will benefit from the lower class sizes this will allow.
- School Community Council elections were held during SEPs; with the four new council members taking their place on the council beginning in October. As a reminder, the School Community Council helps determine how Oakwood's State Trust Land Funds will be used to enhance student learning. This is an important responsibility and I appreciate your investment in the process by voting to fill the vacancies with dedicated parents. Check the website for a complete roster of SCC membership.
- As an FYI – The Parking Lot Rules and Procedures were distributed at SEP Conferences and are posted on our school website. I've noticed that things have been moving much more efficiently and most importantly, SAFELY. I want to acknowledge and thank Kari Sikorski for the planning and direction of our parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times. Parents, thank you for helping to keep our children safe – we appreciate your efforts.

Last week I attended a Principal's Literacy Seminar where we made site visits to other elementary schools in the valley. These schools were selected for principal's observation as models of literacy instruction. I came away from the conference and site visit with deep appreciation for our teachers at Oakwood. First of all, we are already doing everything that was demonstrated – small group instruction, interventions for struggling students, re-teaching sessions for those who need additional time and support for certain concepts, differentiated teaching, assessing formally and informally, and using data to target instruction. We are providing top instruction and carefully watching student progress.

In closing, I want to thank you again for your generous donations. These funds go to supporting teachers, classrooms, and students. We could not provide the literacy programs and interventions we have in place at Oakwood without your financial support.

Sincerely,

Dianne Phillips
Principal