

Oakfield Elementary School

JANUARY IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION



Kicking off the new year means reflecting on the past and setting goals for the new year. Going along with our school theme, **Let Your MIND-SET the Stage**, a great

New Year's Resolution for parents would be to support your child in maintaining a growth mindset. Below are ways to help your child maintain their growth mindset during the long winter months.

TALK ABOUT IT - Talk with your child about his or her day, but guide the discussion by asking questions like:

- What did you learn today?
- Did you make a mistake today?
- How did you make a difference for someone else today?
- What did you do that was difficult today?

PRAISE THE PROCESS - Instead of saying, "You're so smart!" praise effort, goal setting, persisting through challenges, or being creative. You can say something like: "Wow! You must have worked really hard on this!"

ENCOURAGE FAILURE (say what?!) - Your child needs to know that failure can (and often does) happen and it is okay! Remind him/her that each time he/she fails and tries again, their brain is growing stronger! Don't step in to prevent your child's failure - this is how they learn to persevere in the face of challenges.

THE BRAIN CAN GROW - Remind your child that his/her intelligence is not fixed. Reminder him/her brain grows if he/she persists through the challenge. Each time they learn something new, his/her brain is making new connections. Your child needs to know this is possible! Their brain may hurt from all the new knowledge.

HELP THEM CHANGE THEIR DIALOGUE - The way your child talks to himself makes a huge impact on his/her mindset. If he says, "This is too hard!" help him/her change that to "I can't do this yet, but I will keep trying." Give him/her the words to say when he/she is feeling defeated by modeling it yourself! The BEST way to support your child is to develop and maintain your own growth mindset! Model the behaviors described above. *Resource: Sarah Gardner*

<u>DATES</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
Tues., Jan. 3	Welcome Back Students, Staff, and Families!
Mon., Jan. 9	Winter Benchmark Testing Begin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See classroom newsletters testing type and dates 5:30 Committee of the Whole School Board Meeting - ES IMC (Library)
Fri., Jan. 13	12:30 Wall of Fame Assembly - ES Gymnasium 1:15 Early Dismissal PTO Fruit Sale Begins
Mon., Jan. 16	Bridging Brighter Smiles Dental Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See flier sent home on 1/6 6:00 PTO Meeting - ES IMC (Library)
Tues., Jan. 17	Bridging Brighter Smiles Dental Program continues
Fri., Jan 20	5:00 - 7:00 Grades 4K - 5 PTO Roller Skating - Spectrum
Mon., Jan. 23	5:30 School Board Meeting - ES IMC (Library)
Wed., Jan. 25	PTO Fruit Sale Ends
Thurs., Jan. 26	8:15 1st Grade Breakfast and a Good Book
Fri., Jan. 27	1:15 Early Dismissal

Important Dates Ahead

- **Mon., Feb. 13th** - No School
- **Tues., Feb. 21st and Thurs., Feb. 23rd** - Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences from 4:00-7:00 PM.
- **Tues., Feb. 28th** - Future Oaks Night for 2 ½ to 4 year olds

Winter Benchmark Assessments

January is the time for Winter Benchmark Assessments in reading and math for students in grades 4K - 5. This gives staff a chance to monitor the growth students have made since the beginning of the school year. This information collected will be shared with you at the February Parent/Teacher Conferences as well as sent home with students. Staff will also analyze the assessment scores to determine the next steps in your child's learning and support their continual growth at their level. Thank you for your support as a parent to help your child to be ready to learn each and every day!