

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to February! All three buildings are holding a Penny War to raise money for the families of Haiti. Katie Baldwin, our 5th grade Spanish teacher, worked in Haiti this past summer. She helped build schools, develop curriculum, and procure school materials for the children. She saw and felt first-hand the needs of these people. Hearts for Haiti is the theme. The Penny War will run until March 2. Ask your student how it works.

This year we have 13 students who will be traveling to Spain to attend the University of Salamanca for one week. Ms. Davila and Mrs. Yoggerst will be chaperoning these students and have planned out their itinerary. This plan of study will be ongoing. Each year students in grade 8 will apply for this opportunity in spring and notified of acceptance before the end of school. This lead time will allow the students to raise the money needed for the trip. Some of this year's participating students need scholarships to offset the cost of this trip. A Multi-Cultural Dinner is planned on the 24th to raise money for these students. More information will be forthcoming.

Students in grades 5 and 8 will be taking the Direct Writing Assessment. Students are given a topic to write about. They are required to develop their persuasive argument during the class period. All writing is done on the computers and sent off for evaluation. Results are usually returned in June.

February

- 7 OPAPO Meeting, 4:30 p.m. Secondary library
- 9 Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. Students dismissed at 12:45 p.m.
- 10 Parent Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. No school for students.
- 15 Parents of students in K-6 notified if their student is reading below grade level based on Dibels results
- 17 Literacy Night at Elementary
- 20 President's Day – No School
- 22 Direct Writing Assessment – 5th Grade
- 23 Direct Writing Assessment – 6th Grade
- 24 Intermediate Stomp, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. \$1.00
Multi-cultural Dinner, Secondary, 6 p.m. Families invited to fund raising dinner hosted by students traveling to Spain
- 28 Science Fair at Secondary, Grades 6-9
3rd Grade to Storytelling Festival, 11:30 a.m.
- 29 WSU Storyteller, Grades 5-9, at Secondary Gym, 1:55 – 3:00 p.m.
4th Grade to Storytelling Festival, 11:30 a.m.

Our lottery is open and we are accepting students for next year, 2012-13. If you know any family who would like to come to OPA, please have them get on to our website and fill out the Enrollment form. We do have openings in the upper grades. The younger grades are fairly set, but please understand that families move and openings occur at all grade levels.

Wow is the only way to describe the amount of reading being done by students at the elementary using RAZ Kids. This online program allows students to read at their own level, take comprehension tests, receive immediate results in the forms of stars, and record themselves. Students are actually tallying up thousands of minutes for their classes. Thank you participating families!!

-Kathy Thornburg-

