

Orchard Avenue Elementary



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www.orchardave.mesa.k12.co.us



Si usted necesita una traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5484. Estamos para servirles.

Orchard Avenue Elementary Mission Statement: We are curious, confident, capable learners empowered to be compassionate world citizens.

March 2020 Newsletter



MARCH



Upcoming Events



Wednesday, March 4	New Principal Introduction at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 5	PTA General Meeting
Sunday, March 8	Daylight Savings Time begins (spring forward)
Monday, March 9	School of Choice window opens at 10:00 am
Tuesday, March 10	Orchard Ave. Talent Show & Dessert (PTA sponsored)
Wednesday, March 11	Orchard Ave. Talent Show (for students)
Wednesday, March 11	End of Third Quarter
Thursday, March 12	NO SCHOOL – Teacher Workday (All D51 schools)
Friday, March 13	NO SCHOOL – Elementary Planning Day
March 16 – March 20	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Thursday, March 22	Report Cards go home
Tuesday, March 24	School Accountability Committee Meeting
Friday, March 27	School of Choice window closes at 4:00



Dress Code Reminders

Students are allowed to wear shorts to school after Spring Break. It is often too cold prior to that date. **Please, no bike shorts, tank tops, “spaghetti straps”, or tops that show the stomach.** Shorts need to be fingertip length (short shorts are not allowed). We also ask that students wear tennis shoes instead of sandals because it is safer for play in P.E. and on the playground. Please keep abreast of weather reports before sending your child in shorts to school. Colorado is notorious for quick changes in the weather at springtime.



School of Choice

The SOC window for application will open at 10:00 am on March 9, 2020 and will close at 4:00 pm on March 27, 2020. **All SOC applications are submitted online through ParentVUE.** Students who are currently attending OAE under the SOC policy do not need to re-apply; **however**, students who are currently attending as a **Student Transfer** must apply and be accepted for School of Choice if you wish to remain at Orchard Avenue after the end of the school year. Student Transfer requests expire at the end of the school year. If you are unsure whether your student is attending as a School of Choice or Transfer student, please don't hesitate to call the office.



Kindergarten Round-Up

Dates for Kindergarten Round-up Day are pending. Eligibility parameters for incoming Kindergartners may be changing as well. We will keep you posted when more information is available.

Meanwhile, in preparation for Kindergarten Roundup registration, begin by insuring you have an active ParentVUE account. The documents required for registration are a copy of birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, and important phone numbers (day care providers, work numbers, emergency contact names and phone numbers). For more information feel free to contact the office at 970-254-7560.



Pre-School Open House

The Pre-School will have their annual Open House on Thursday, March 5th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This will take place at the pre-school building located at 21st & Elm Ave. For more detailed information about the Pre-School program, contact the Early Childhood Department at 970-254-5429.

Don't Forget!

We return to Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 8th. Set clocks forward one hour this day!



Orchard Avenue has Talent!



The Orchard Avenue Talent Show is coming! Auditions were held in February to showcase the talents of 4th & 5th graders at Orchard Avenue. OAE students will view the Talent Show on Wednesday, March 11th during the school day. The families of Talent Show participants may join us in celebrating our student talent at the Talent Show & Dessert on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

SPRING BREAK!

There is NO SCHOOL on Thursday, March 12th (Teacher Work Day) or Friday, March 13th (Elementary Planning Day). Spring Break 2020 is from Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 20th. Students return to school on Monday, March 23rd. Enjoy the break!



Lost & Found

Our box of Lost and Found clothing is overflowing!!! There are lots and lots of very nice unclaimed jackets, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, lunch boxes, etc. that need to find their owner. Please have your child check our lost and found to reclaim their items. We really hate to dispose of articles of clothing that your family may need in the days ahead, and especially over the Spring Break.



Keeping Students Safe Before & After School

Please read this memo from our Principals regarding before school drop off and after school pick up. We are grateful to our parents for honoring our guidelines for keeping OAE kiddos safe coming to and leaving the school grounds:

February 2020

Dear Orchard Avenue Families,

Student safety is a priority at Orchard Avenue. You can help keep students safe by following these drop-off and pick-up procedures.

- **19th Street Alley:** If you would like to drop-off/pick-up your child without exiting your vehicle please use the 19th Street alley. This is accessed by traveling east on Walnut Avenue, turning right on 19th Street and proceeding to the drop off/pick up sidewalk area. Thank you for your patience during pick-up as students will only be loading toward the front of the line where the adult on duty is present.
- **West Parking Lot:** The west parking lot is intended for families to park their car and walk to the child's classroom door. Please do not ask your child to cross this parking lot to meet you in your car. Parents may not pick up along the sidewalk areas.
- Please do not park your vehicle along Walnut St.
- Please do not pick-up or drop off along Orchard Avenue or in the bus lanes on the south side of the school (front of Orchard Ave. building).

If you have any questions please contact Teal Richards or Anna Goetz. Thank you for helping keep our students safe!

Teal Richards
Assistant Principal



School Accountability Meeting

Parents, community members, and staff members are always welcome to join the School Accountability meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th, at 8:15 am in the Room 23. We will be looking at current Orchard Avenue data and will discuss goals for the year ahead. Join us if you are able.



Some final words...

Our school counselor, Ray Cardenas, has accepted a position at the VA hospital as a mental health counselor. We regret to report that he is resigning from his position as Orchard Avenue's school counselor on March 13th – the Friday before Spring Break. Although we are sad that Mr. Cardenas will be leaving our school, we wish him well in this new position serving veterans.

We will let the Orchard Avenue community know when a new placement has been made to fill his position. Meanwhile, when you see Mr. Ray please wish him farewell and good luck.

New Principal Meet and Greet!

We are pleased to report that, pending Board of Education approval, our new principal has been selected. Our current Assistant Principal, Teal Maxwell-Richards, will begin her duties as Principal at Orchard Avenue Elementary in July 2020.

We are inviting Orchard Avenue families to a “Meet and Greet” to introduce and welcome Mrs. Richards to the Orchard Avenue community. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. We hope that you can join us.



Board approval will occur at the next Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd. We are excited to have Mrs. Richards move Orchard Avenue Elementary forward in the years ahead. We are also grateful to Mrs. Anna Goetz who will finish out the current school year as our Principal.