

August 2010

**Our mission is to create a learning community that prepares all students to be productive, responsible, and successful.**

## **Community Forums**

It doesn't seem possible but it is time to turn the calendar to August and begin the annual back to school routines. Hopefully you have found time to enjoy the summer and to get some rest and relaxation.

As has been the case the past two years, we will continue to focus on the School District Goals and Objectives. One of the main focuses has been on improving and increasing communication between the schools and the community. In an effort to continue to improve in this area, we will be having periodic community forums throughout the school year. The purpose of the forums will be to get your thoughts, input, and suggestions on the best way to achieve the district goals.

The first community forum will be on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Okaw Valley Middle School gymnasium. A specific topic of discussion at the meeting will be short and long-term facility usage and needs.

In addition to the forums, I welcome your input and suggestions throughout the year. Please use the opinions and ideas link on our website at [www.okawvalley.org](http://www.okawvalley.org) to share any ideas or concerns.

We are truly blessed as a school district to have such dedicated parents, students, staff, and community members. Thank you for your continued support for our schools and our students.

## **Tips for a Successful School Year**

With the time off during the summer months, it is sometimes difficult for students and sometimes parents to get back into the school routine. Below are some simple, yet effective, tips for helping to smooth the transition and to aiding in a successful school year.

- Have the students eat a good breakfast. Research has shown that students that eat a good breakfast in the morning have increased attention and focus in their morning classes.
- Wake them up early enough to get to school on time and have them prepare all of their things the night before. Being rushed or late in the morning can cause stress on a student which adversely affects their performance at school.
- Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- Praise your children, encourage them, and use positive reinforcement. When students are subjected to positive reinforcement both at school and at home, they tend to have a better attitude towards school and improved academic performance.
- Create a study routine for your child. A good rule of thumb is to have them do their homework right when they get home.
- Have your child read to you often and regularly.

-Encourage your child to ask questions at school and at home when they don't understand something. The saying that the only dumb question is the one you don't ask certainly holds true when a student is having trouble understanding a concept.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>**-Registration at OVHS-11:00-7:00

**August 6<sup>th</sup>**-Registration at OVMS-11:00-4:00

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**-Teachers' Institute

**August 19<sup>th</sup>**-Half Day Student Attendance-11:20 Dismissal (No Breakfast or Lunch Served)

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** -Half Day Student Attendance-11:20 Dismissal (No Breakfast or Lunch Served)

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>**-First Full Day of Student Attendance