

November 2010

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

## **School Board Members Day**

November 15, 2010 has been designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois and Okaw Valley is joining other districts across the state to thank our Board members for their commitment and contributions to our public schools. School board members are ordinary people who wear many different hats in their everyday lives but all put on the same hat when they get to the Board room. It's a hat that represents an extraordinary dedication to our public schools and it's time we thanked them for their untiring efforts.

The time school board members spend in board meetings represents just a fraction of the actual hours they devote to leading their districts. They attend meetings and seminars to learn how to be better board members. They attend extracurricular events to support their schools and are often involved in other community activities representing themselves, their community, and their district. Although the tireless work of our board members often times goes unnoticed and unrecognized, I encourage you to make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work is noticed and very much appreciated.

School board members are charged with a unique job. They must listen to the voices of their community and then craft a vision, mission, and goals for their district that accurately reflect those voices in the design. They must guard two of the community's most precious resources-their children and their tax dollars-while they create the best educational environment possible with the money available. Statewide more than 6,000 men and women serve on local public school boards in Illinois, guiding the education of 2,070,125 students in 866 districts and overseeing a combined budget of more than \$21 billion.

Thank you to all of our school board members for everything you do for our school district and students!!

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**-No School-Veterans' Day

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**-Midterm

**November 19<sup>th</sup>** Midterm Reports Sent Home

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**-School Improvement Day-12:17 Dismissal

**November 25<sup>th</sup>**-Thanksgiving Day-No School

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**-No School

*"Children may be 20 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future."  
-David B. Tyack*