

Oradell Parent Teacher Association

August 1, 2011

Dear OPS Parents:

The Oradell PTA is pleased to welcome you back to school! Come join us at our first meeting of the year on **Thursday, September 8th at 7:30PM** in the auditorium. Our PTA has more than 1,000 members working hard to enhance the educational experience of each child. If you are not currently a member of the PTA, feel free to e-mail me at jane.kiernan94@gmail.com and I will forward you a membership form. As members, we encourage you to volunteer for PTA committees. There are over 40 committees to choose from, so no matter what your talents and strengths are, there is something for you. And we can always use your help!

We are also pleased to offer the Family Mentoring program. If your family is new to OPS, we can connect you to a veteran OPS family who can answer your questions both big and small. Please contact Michelle Esler at 201-576-0570 if you are interested.

The Oradell PTA sponsors many great programs that foster academic excellence, including:

- **Grade Level Grants:** Allows faculty in each grade to host programs that enhance the educational experience. This includes visits from Liberty Science Center, High Touch High Tech of NJ, and more.
- **Student Programming:** Last year we brought the hugely popular Raptor project – the largest collection of travelling birds of prey in the world. This year, Bubblemania (the science of bubbles) is coming to OPS in October!
- **Community Health and Safety:** Last year the PTA provided pedometers to every child in the school. This year we're looking to make Walk to School Day not an event... but the norm.
- **After School Book Clubs:** Offered three times a year for grades K-3. Check www.oradellpta.org for a schedule of the first meetings this fall. Our very successful upper grades book club will once again take place during lunch period for any interested students in grades 4-6.
- **Reading is Fundamental:** Provides two free books each year for every OPS student.
- **Science Fair:** Children in grades K-6 can participate in our spring fair. Also, look for special after school science workshops throughout the year and our annual Science Day.
- **Reflections Arts Program:** Encourages students in the areas of choreography, visual arts, writing, musical composition and more.
- **Community Outreach:** Coordinates service projects to help those in need, including coat drives, food drives and much more.

The PTA also provides several key services to the school including: class photo day, the student directory, the PTA "OPTA-Mist" newsletter, beautification of the grounds, activities during the long winter months of indoor lunch and babysitting training for our sixth graders.

PTA programs would not be possible without our fundraisers – lunches, Box Tops, Spirit Wear, Thanksgiving pie sale, In-Store Promotions and so much more. This year we are offering twice as many lunches as in years past. We are also adding a new Holiday Boutique for the children in December. Be sure to check out our website at www.oradellpta.org for the latest forms, flyers and notices.

I look forward to seeing you at our first PTA meeting of the year. If you have any questions before then, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jane Kiernan
Oradell PTA President