

OLYMPIA BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

A Message From Dr. Goggins

Happy 2021! 2020 certainly presented all of us with challenges and obstacles. I look forward to 2021 allowing us to get back to some sense of normalcy, especially as related to school. We are actively planning as a staff for students to return. As we move into the second semester, we anticipate the district welcoming students back into the buildings. In the meantime, I want to thank our Olympia Brown families for all of their support this school year. You have rearranged your schedules to accommodate your children during remote learning and gone out of your way to communicate with our teachers and support the process. We could not be more fortunate as a staff to partner with such amazing families and for that we are grateful.

The school board approved the changing of some school start times for the 2020-2021 school year to accommodate a more staggered bus schedule. Olympia Brown is one of the schools that will have an adjusted start time once students return to the building for in person learning. ***Our school day will be from 9:05am - 3:56pm. This change will not go into effect until students return to the building.***

My School My Choice January 1 - February 28th

5th grade families, please take time to explore your middle school options by visiting the district website. If you are interested in a school other than your boundary school for 6th grade, please complete the My School, My Choice form. Information related to the district transportation policy can also be found on the website. If you have questions, please contact the main office at 262-664-6650 or talk with our School Counselor, Mrs. Moe sam.moe@rusd.org.

Important Dates

Monday January 18th - No School (MLK DAY)
Friday January 22nd - Last Day of 2nd Quarter
Friday January 22nd - No School (Teacher PD Day)
Monday January 25th - First Day of 3rd Quarter
Monday February 15th - No School (Mid Winter Break)
Thursday March 11th - No School (Conferences)
Friday March 12th - No School (Conferences)
Friday March 26th - Last Day of 3rd Quarter
Monday March 29th - First Day of 4th Quarter
Friday April 2nd - Friday April 9th - Spring Break
Monday May 31st - No School (Memorial Day)
Tuesday June 8th - Last Day of 4th Quarter
Tuesday June 8th - Last Day of School

Meet Ms. Kamm



Our School Social Worker, Mrs. Burrows welcomed a new addition to her family over break. She will be out on maternity leave for the next couple of months. We are lucky to have Ms. Kamm here with us in her absence. Check out the message below from Ms. Kamm.

Alissa is a tough act to follow but I will do my best to support the staff here at O'Brown Elementary! I am a recently retired School Social Worker, having retired from Gilmore Fine Arts and North Park Elementary this past August. It is such a confusing and exhausting time for all of you, so I hope I can advocate for our students and support you in every way possible, during Alissa's absence.

I also work part time as a Licensed Clinical Therapist at Ascension on weekends, working with ages 10-18. These kiddos are inpatient due to depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation or attempts. Prior to joining Racine Unified 22 years ago, I worked in a private practice setting doing therapy. I enjoy working with individuals, couples and families. Please feel free to email me at any time at, jill.kamm@rusd.org My cell number is 262-498-1013. hope to put names with faces soon!

Olympia Brown Support Staff Contact Information

Mrs. Moe - School Counselor samantha.moe@rusd.org
Mrs. Kamm - School Social Worker jill.kamm@rusd.org
Mr. Todd - School Psychologist robert.todd@rusd.org
Ms. Paige - Youth Advocate paige.kiesler@rusd.org
Mr. Tom - Youth Advocate tom.nelson@rusd.org

Art News From Ms. Stephan

I use Artsonia, because it gives a space for students to post and reflect on their artwork. It also serves as an online art portfolio for your student's work. My children are in high school and I can still look back at work they did in kindergarten. You and your friends and family can also be supportive of your child's creativity by becoming "fans" and by commenting on their work. Comments are not posted unless you have approved them. When there is a comment to approve, Artsonia will send you an email. If you have not yet attached your email address to your child's account, please email me what address you would like used and you will receive an email from Artsonia to complete your registration. After that is complete you will receive emails from Artsonia alerting you when a new artwork has been posted. If your child doesn't have an Artsonia account, please let me know so that I can take care of it.

STUDENT LOGIN

All students are able to login in by clicking on the Artsonia link that is posted next to their assignment. They may need to wait a moment for the "sign in with google" to be clickable. It looks just like the image below.



Sign in with Google

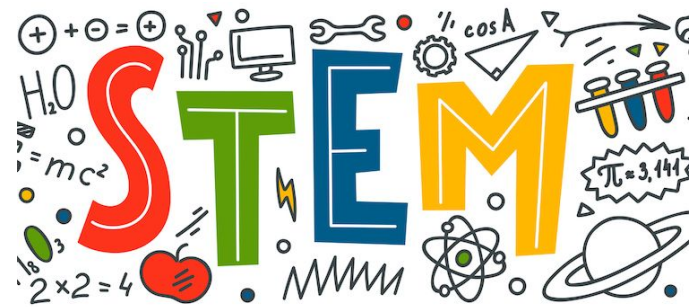
Students with Google Classroom accounts

The "school access code" has been updated. If you need the access code, please email me and I will send it to you. Please do not share it with your children or anyone else. A while back I posted a gold frame quick reference slide that has guidance

for picture taking, links and information about Artsonia. It can be found in the art section of your child's google classroom and in the announcement section of seesaw. Please email me with any questions or concerns.
brenda.stephan@rusd.org

Science News From Mrs. Margis

Science is alive and well at Olympia Brown! Every grade level has been working on Mystery Science units as well as working with Mrs. Margis on coding, engineering challenges, and even virtual field trips. This month we are adding At Home STEM Challenges! These are optional challenges that students can work on at home and send in pictures of their finished projects that can then be shared with the entire school. Here is the At Home STEM Challenge for this week! Challenges will be posted in all Google Classrooms or Seesaws on the first day of every week.



Library News From Ms. Churchill

I would like to encourage students and parents to explore and use **SORA**, the wonderful new ebook/audiobook resource. It can be found on ClassLink, in the green "Grades All" folder. SORA has thousands of ebooks and audiobooks and is very user-friendly. In late November I showed all 2nd through 5th grade O. Brown students how to access and use SORA to read ebooks and listen to audiobooks. I have been using SORA myself to read aloud to students during library class. Parents - SORA is a great resource for you to use to read to your children. It has ebooks at many different levels and you will also find books for your children to learn to read and improve their reading skills. Please email to me if you have any questions about how to access and/or use SORA.

Learning Cycles

Our teachers' work with your children is driven by four questions.

- What do we want all students to know and be able to do?
- How will we know if they learned it?
- How will we respond when some students do not learn?
- How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

As we strategically plan lessons for your child we take into account what each child already knows, and what they need to know next.

How do we do that you may ask? Teachers learn about your child by looking at their classwork, listening to their discussions, assessing quizzes/tests, working with them one on one, etc. This teaches us a lot about your child and informs us of what we need to do next for them.

For this reason, when your child is completing classwork, online computer work, a test and/or any other work assigned by the teacher, it is best to let the child do their own work. This way we can accurately assess the child's understanding.

The saying goes... **“The one who does the work does the learning.”**

Many times a teacher will give a pretest to see what a child already knows. In this case, you may hear your child say, “I don't know this?” or you may think the work is too hard for your child. That is ok. Pretests are not graded. They are a means for the teacher to understand what children already know/don't know. After studying the results of the pretest they can hand craft lessons for the good of the students and class.

The next step is for children to learn and practice. Then, when the time is right, they will take a post test to see if they learned the material. Post tests are graded since they happen after the opportunity to learn and practice. Post tests are graded keeping in mind the Common Core State Standards. All that means is, “Can your child demonstrate learning that is the expectation of other children his/her age.” Essentially, “If they are a 3rd grader, can they do ___ like a 3rd grader?”

Lastly, the teacher will talk to the students about their learning. They may ask the student

- How did you learn best?
- What strategies helped you learn?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What went well?

Both the teachers and students learn about the material and themselves in the process.

We hope this brings you clarity around best teaching practices and what you see your child doing in school. Our teachers come with lots of teaching and learning experience and are here to give your child an all encompassing educational experience.

As always, we welcome questions around instruction. Do not hesitate to call or email your child's teacher and/or the school with questions.

