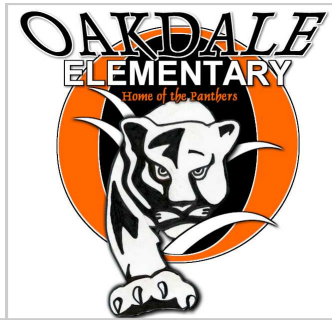


Oakdale Elementary School  
601 S. Adelaide  
Normal, IL 61761  
(309) 452-4439  
Attendance Hotline  
(309) 862-3958



# Panther Pride

## It's a Great Day to be a Panther!

### Oakdale Expectations

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Here and Ready
- Be Safe

\*Please review these expectations with your child. They should be able to tell you examples of all four of these expectations for use in the classroom, lunchroom, bathroom, hallway, playground, and the bus.

Dear Oakdale Families,

Welcome to the beginning of what is already a great school year! Let me take a moment to introduce myself. I am Darrin Cooper the new principal here at Oakdale. Last year, I was the Associate Principal at Parkside Jr. High. Prior to that, I taught at Northpoint Elementary and Chiddix Jr. High. I have had the chance to meet many of you already and look forward to meeting those of you that I have not. I am proud and excited to be a part of the Oakdale team! We have many other additions to our staff and I hope you will help welcome them to Oakdale. A list of our new staff appears next to this article.

We are looking forward to working with you to ensure that your child has the best school year possible. Throughout the year, please feel free to contact us at 452-4439 with any questions you might have. Also, the Oakdale website can be reached through the district website at [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org). The website may be able to provide answers to some of your questions. We hope you will all have an excellent school year!

Sincerely,  
Darrin Cooper  
Principal  
[cooperdm@unit5.org](mailto:cooperdm@unit5.org)

### 2009-2010

#### New Oakdale Staff

- Tracy Hitchins – Pre-K
- Stephanie Schroeder – Pre-K TA
- Paula Johnson – TA (KF)
- Kathy Sekiguchi – TA (KG)
- Angela Armbrust – 1A
- Michelle Gramley – TA (2B)
- Martney Stickling – TA (2R)
- Elizabeth Fuechsl – TA (3T)
- Cara Johnson – TA (3T)
- Kathy Carey – 5C
- Sara Stickling – LBS1 KDG
- Isoke Pridgen – LBS1 (3T & 5th)
- Carol Burger – Reading Specialist
- Matt Sterrett – IMC (Tues. AM)
- Laura Yost - Speech
- Jennifer Riley – Psychologist
- Hillary Tanner – Social Worker

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### Non-Custodial Parent Forms

Non-custodial parent forms are available in the office. These forms, when completed and signed, allow us to send copies of report cards, progress reports, etc... To parents who do not have custody of their child but want to take an active interest/role in their child's education.

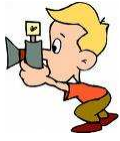
### Open House/V.I.P. Night—Sept. 24, 2009

The PTO Open House/V.I.P. Night will take place on Thursday, September 24th from 6:30-8:00 P.M. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to visit the school, see your child's classroom, and meet all of your child's teachers. This year we are

again inviting grandparents and other very important people to Open House. Refreshments will be served, courtesy of the PTO. Please make plans to join us for this special evening! Please look in your child's room for sign up sheets to

[www.unit5.org/oakdale](http://www.unit5.org/oakdale)





## School Pictures - Tuesday, September 15, 2009

School pictures will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. All students will have their picture taken that day, as these are the pictures that will appear in the yearbook.

Picture packet information will be coming home soon. If you would like to order pic-

tures, please complete the order form, enclose your check, and return it to school prior to picture day. There are a variety of packages to choose from. If you order a class composite picture, please remember that you will not receive this until later this fall. This allows the picture company to add in new students'

pictures, the pictures from re-take day, and the names of all of the students in the class. It makes for a very nice keepsake for your child. Information about picture retake day will be sent home later this fall.

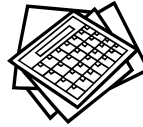
### Breakfast at Oakdale

Once again, we will offer breakfast each morning to all students who would like to participate. Breakfast is served most school days from 8:10-8:25 A.M. in the east gym. The cost of breakfast is \$1.05. Students who qualify for reduced price meals pay \$0.40. Students who qualify for free lunch may also eat breakfast free of charge. The menu remains fairly consistent. Students receive milk, juice, a choice of cereal, and one other item such as a biscuit, breakfast bar, etc...

## Important Dates

### September 2009

- 7 - Labor Day - *No School*
- 8 - PTO Meeting 6:30
- 9 -11 DIBELS
- 14 - Market Day Pick Up
- 14-18 - SAT 10 Testing (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>)
- 15 - School Pictures
- 24 - Open House 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



### October 2009

- 2 - NCWHS Homecoming  
1:45 Dismissal  
2:15 Parade
- 12 - Columbus Day - *No School*  
*TBA - Market Day Pick-Up*
- 13 - PTO Meeting 6:30
- 23 - Parent-Teacher Conference Day - *No School*
- 30 - Fall Parties 2:15-3:15

### Volunteer Screening

Anyone who volunteers at Oakdale during the school day or would work with our students after school must complete a background check. There are two options to accomplish this:

1. Send an email requesting the volunteer screening to: [reedsm@unit5.org](mailto:reedsm@unit5.org) Please include your full first and last name. We will then enter your information and generate an email to you which includes a link to securely enter all of your information.
2. Contact the office to set up a time to come into Oakdale and use one of our computers to enter the needed information. We will have computers set up at Open House for this purpose.

### Student Drop Off and Pick Up

For the safety of our students, only buses and daycare vans may drop students off in the Oakdale parking lot. Please plan to drop off and pick up your child(ren) on Adelaide or one of the side streets off of Adelaide. A crossing guard is available to assist students in safely crossing the street at the intersection of Adelaide and Dale streets. You are always welcome to walk your child(ren) across the street, as well. If your child is walking independently to the school, please remind him/her to use the sidewalk that leads directly to the front of the building. This is also for the safety of the children, as cars may be backing out and may not be watching for small children. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

## Morning Line-Up: 8:10 - 8:25 A.M.

Just a reminder that students should not arrive to school prior to 8:10 a.m. There is no supervision until this time. During the months of August, September, April, and May we will line-up outside as weather permits.

Once again this year, we will be using inside morning time to read silently. Students should come prepared with a book in their backpack to read during the 8:10 - 8:25 A.M. morning duty time on all morn-

ings from October 1st through March 31st and also on rainy mornings during the months of August, September, April, and May. This is a great opportunity for students increase their independent reading time by 15 minutes each day. Research shows that students who read are more successful in life. We want all of our students to be successful



**Photo/Media Opportunities**

Throughout the school year, opportunities may arise where the newspaper or other forms of media may visit the school to cover events or write educational stories. Students are sometimes photographed/ videotaped during these times. If you would prefer for your child **NOT** to be photographed/videotaped by the newspaper or other media, please fill out the following information and send it to the school by Friday, September 25th, 2009.

Child's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Room Code:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer that my child NOT be photographed/videotaped by the newspaper or other media.

Parent Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**PTO CORNER**

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We're off to a great start and have a busy year ahead of us!

The new PTO Board would like to invite you to join us at the first PTO meeting on Tuesday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the gym. We would love for everyone to come to meet other parents and support Oakdale!

We will be trying a few new things this year (and lots of old things too)! You will be receiving information on the new Scrip program soon. This is a great way to earn money for Oakdale by purchasing gift cards for places you already shop at! We also have a new fundraiser starting in September for Crayola Fun Kits. We are once again going to have a Fannie May fundraiser before Valentine's Day. We are also still participating in the Box Tops for Education program - be sure to clip Box Tops from Betty Crocker, Ziploc, General Mills, and many other products - they are each worth \$0.10 for Oakdale! We are also participating in Market Day once again - you should have received information about this program already. We are also planning on replacing some playground equipment this year!

Here are a few dates to add to your calendar:

September 14<sup>th</sup> - Market Day pick up

September 15<sup>th</sup> - School Picture Day

September 24<sup>th</sup> - Open House 6-8pm \*NOTE - **this date was incorrect on the volunteer form**

Many student groups and PTO committees will have tables set up at this event so you can learn about the various programs that are offered at Oakdale.

September 30<sup>th</sup> - Directory forms due at school. Only fill these out if you do NOT want to be in the directory.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Homecoming

Keep an eye open for details on walking in the Homecoming parade!

October 13<sup>th</sup> - PTO meeting 6:30 pm

October 30<sup>th</sup> - Fall parties

You can also find information regarding PTO happenings on the new PTO bulletin board by the water fountain in the lobby at school. We will be updating this about once a month to keep the information current.

**DIBELS**

Students will again be taking DIBELS, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, which is a universal reading skills screener. This will help us to better diagnose the specific strengths and weakness in our students' individual reading skills. This screener will be administered to all students September 8th - 11th. Results from this screener will allow us to provide the best interventions, supports, and enrichment to meet your child's literacy needs.

**SAT10**

During the week of September 21-25, all 1st through 5th grade students will take part in the Stanford Achievement Test - Form 10. Second grade students will take the Otis Lennon School Ability Index (OLSAT). Please help your child(ren) to be better prepared for these tests by having them get plenty of sleep and by serving them a healthy breakfast each morning that week. Thanks for your help and encouragement!

# Meet your PTO Board

The new PTO board will like to take this time to introduce ourselves to you! Feel free to contact any board member via phone, email, or in person if you questions. You can also send an email to the general PTO account at [Oakdalepto@hotmail.com](mailto:Oakdalepto@hotmail.com). We are **YOUR** PTO board!!

## Jennifer Hill

### President

Hi! I am a busy mom to three young children. My son is in Mrs. Janusch's first grade class at Oakdale. I also have a 4 year old and a 1 year old. This will be my third year involved in the PTO at Oakdale. I have been the chairperson for Hospitality and Box Tops for Education (still currently holding this position), as well as a Vice President in the past. I'm excited to be the PTO President this year and am looking forward to a successful year with lots of parent involvement! Feel free to ask any questions you may have - I'm around the school often.

## Angie Ehrmantraut Pontius

### Vice President

As a lifelong townie, I am mom to two amazing children! My son is in 8th grade at Kingsley and my daughter is a 1st grader at Oakdale. I grew up with parents who were very involved in the PTA and the Booster Club. Having grown up in that environment, I knew that I would follow in their footsteps. When my son started Kindergarten at Oakdale, I was there for the first PTO meeting and said yes to every opportunity to volunteer, chair a committee, or be on the board that came my way. Many years later, I continue to do the same!

As one of your Oakdale Elementary PTO Vice Presidents, I welcome you to this new school year! I am excited for what lies ahead and am optimistic that in working together as a team, we will accomplish great things. As a parent, you are a part of the team - this is **your** PTO. Your feedback and involvement is crucial, and very much appreciated. The events that I will be involved in the planning of are: the fall Open House and the spring Fun Fair. In addition to this, I am the Market Day and Scrip Coordinator.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions - please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope to see you at our monthly PTO meetings!

## Kim Yates

### Vice President

Hello my name is Kim Yates. My husband, Mitch, and I have 3 children attending Oakdale - a daughter in 3rd grade, a son in Kindergarten, and a daughter in Pre- K. We have 2 dogs also. We have been at Oakdale for 4 yrs. I have been involved with PTO 3 yrs. We've had a great time and are very happy here. This year I am on the board as a Vice President. I am happy to help you out in any way. I hope you have a great year!

## Britney House

### Vice President

I currently have two children attending Oakdale, a fifth grader and one in pre-k. I have been involved and held a position within the PTO for the last 6 years. I personally enjoy being involved in the PTO and have found it to be a rewarding experience. The expression on my children's faces when I attend room parties is priceless. They enjoy my presence just as much as I enjoy being able to contribute. I would like to invite each and every parent to join in and help support the PTO. Anything you have to offer is greatly appreciated.

## Leanne Adcock

### Secretary

Hello! My name is Leanne Adcock and I am gearing up for my second term as your PTO Secretary. I am the proud mother of a 2nd grader at Oakdale. I was born & raised in Bloomington/Normal and attended Unit 5 schools as a child. I chose to become an involved parent by serving on the PTO board and volunteering for events & activities. It has been a wonderful experience building relationships with other Oakdale parents, as well as teachers & staff members.

I am grateful to be a State Farm employee where my volunteer hours assist in raising funds for the Oakdale PTO through the Good Neighbor Grant Program. Last year our PTO received a \$500 grant due to my personal commitment to serving Oakdale and the PTO! If you are also a State Farm employee, please ask me for further details regarding this wonderful program!

I look forward to an exciting school year and challenge you to demonstrate your leadership and creativity by becoming involved in Oakdale PTO - where many exciting opportunities await!

## Tamara Ahrens

### Treasurer

Hello! I have two children at Oakdale. I am currently the PTO Treasurer. When I first attended a PTO meeting, I had no idea what to expect. Over the past few years I've learned so much about what's happening at Oakdale and in Unit 5. By attending the PTO meeting, I get to hear it straight from the teachers, principal, and other school officials. I encourage you to attend the PTO meetings to find out more about the happenings at Oakdale and to learn about any areas where volunteers are needed. There is a HUGE need for volunteers in our school. Volunteer a little or a lot, at home or at the school. Every parent can help Oakdale in some way. See you soon!

Hope to meet you all in person at the PTO meetings!

Oakdale PTO