

Oceanside Union Free School District

Oaks School #3

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Oceanside Schools... Anchored Together by Purpose, Passion & People.

August 2016

Dear Families:

Greetings! I want to officially welcome all of you to the 2016-17 school year! For those of you who are new to our school, I want you to know that you are coming to an absolutely wonderful place. Our teachers and staff are passionate, caring, hardworking, and always learning something new for the benefit of your children. We are a collaborative and driven group of people who take learning seriously while also making personal connections that help kids succeed.

I had the pleasure of spending my summer with my husband, Neil and son, Sebastian. We had a fun-filled "staycation", or as the Urban Dictionary defines it, "A vacation that is spent at one's home enjoying all that home and one's environment has to offer." From a crazy amount of time in the stands watching Sebastian play baseball to late night swims and long bicycle rides, our summer was spent enjoying family and all the wonderful aspects of Long Island! I hope you had the opportunity to reconnect with your family and friends and truly enjoy the warm summer days.

Please join me in welcoming to our team and extended family Brooke DeSanto, second grade teacher, Dominique Andruszkiewicz, second grade ICT teacher, Victoria Schoen, third grade teacher, Olivia Cariddi, social worker, Jenna Witterman, band teacher, Jackie Huges, ICT teaching assistant, and Kelly George, FLES teacher. We are also thrilled to welcome some additional veteran traveling teachers from throughout the district including, Jennifer Bonilla, art, Jennifer McGrath, PE, Maria Anisansel, art and Maria Ruggiano, aide.

Last year, our Oaks School #3 Twitter page became an excellent means to connect and communicate with our families. We will continue to use this account to celebrate successes, share school and classroom news, answer questions, as well as share educational articles. Please take some time a register for a [Twitter](#) account (if you don't already have one) and follow Oaks School #3 at [@OaksSchool3](#).

School will begin on **Thursday, September 1st**. A new school year is always exciting. Our focus this year will be to continue to provide each child with new challenges that result in a rewarding school experience. Academic emphasis on the common core learning standards in content areas of reading, language arts, science, social studies, and math will remain a priority. Our continued goal is to promote healthy development in every aspect of each student's life, we also strive to develop a student body of good character; students who make good choices and decisions, resulting in successful and healthy outcomes. It is our belief that to achieve success students must follow our School #3 rules:

Be Safe – Be Respectful – Be Responsible

As you already know, Oaks School #3 is a community of learners dedicated to the academic, social, and emotional success of all our students. The guiding principles of our school include a rigorous curriculum, critical thinking, and a safe, nurturing environment where students are encouraged to take educational risks. Our teachers utilize a wide range of instructional practices and opportunities for differentiation to meet the individual needs of all students.

Parents are an integral part of our school community. Our staff works diligently to communicate with families and maintain on-going, two-way communication regarding our instructional programs, student progress, and opportunities for parents to be actively engaged in our school. I encourage you to maintain this open line of communication with your child's teachers, support staff, and administration. It takes a village to raise a child and we are all part of the School #3 "village." We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and go on to college

I have included a copy of our mission statement at the end of this letter. This mission statement was created through our Site-Based team, including parents, teachers, and administration.

It is also important to get involved with our wonderful PTA. Our two new co-presidents, Kelly Pallentino and Jackie Schramm, are eager to work with the parents to provide our students with the best possible school year. **Please come to our PTA Bring Your Own Coffee on Thursday, September 1st at 8:30 a.m.**, immediately following drop-off. You will have the opportunity to stop in and meet our PTA presidents and other School #3 parents. Our first official PTA Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 p.m. in our cafeteria.

The custodial staff has been working very hard to ensure that your children will start school in a building, which is clean and attractive, making the atmosphere conducive for learning. The office staff has also spent a great deal of time attending to the many tasks necessary for a smooth start to the school year.

As we prepare for a new school year, I would like to offer you information that will help provide a successful September school opening. In addition, I would like to remind you of routine building procedures. Please read this carefully as it explains policies and procedures.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Our school hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. Students may enter the building at 8:05 a.m., after the first bell. A second bell at 8:15 a.m. will signify that instruction will begin with morning announcements and any student who enters the classroom after this bell will be marked late. **It is imperative for students to be in their classrooms and ready to learn at 8:15 a.m. I strongly urge all parents to make sure your child is on time each day.** Not only are late student arrivals disruptive to the whole class, it is disruptive for your own child. Just imagine what it must feel like for your child to arrive late each morning. Additionally, he/she loses important instructional time as well as the directions a teacher has given for morning activities.

Any questions regarding dismissal procedures should be directed to your child's teacher.

Students will be dismissed at 3:05 p.m. Please make arrangements to be here promptly at dismissal. If on rare occasions you will be late, you must notify the office.

It is acceptable during the first week of school to escort your child to their classroom. Please say goodbye promptly upon arrival to insure a smooth transition into the start of the school day.

Traffic & Parking

Please be aware that pedestrian and automobile traffic surrounding School #3 can be difficult during drop-off and dismissal. Our PTA provides an amazing valet service in the front and rear of the building. This service will begin on the morning of September 12th. Following all traffic and parking rules is essential for our students' safety. We ask that you continue to instill in your children the importance of crossing the streets in designated crosswalks with the assistance of our crossing guards.

Early Pick-Up

If you need to pick your child up from school early at any time, you must provide us with a note in the morning stating the time of pick-up. Classroom teachers will have the student ready for you when you arrive in the main office. We are looking to avoid constant interruptions into the classroom that are disruptive to the education process.

Meals Procedures

Breakfast: Our before-school breakfast program is available to students in our cafeteria from 7:30 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. the cost is \$2.25 per day, which must be prepaid. Forms will be available in the cafeteria. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Jane Blackburn, Operations Manager, at 678-7548. **Please be advised that the cafeteria will NOT be supervised before 7:30 a.m., children will not be permitted to enter prior to that time. Any child who attends the breakfast program MUST be purchasing breakfast. It is not an early morning drop-off service.**

Lunch Price: Lunch will cost **\$2.60** this year.

Free and reduces price meals: Children from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible for free or reduced price meals. To apply for free or reduced price meals, you must complete an application. These applications will be distributed on the first day of school and are also available in the main office. Completed, signed applications are to be returned to the main office.

Reporting Student Absences

In the event your child is going to be absent from school, please call Mrs. Kelly Driggers, our nurse, on the day of the absence at 678-7566. If your child is going to be absent for several days and you are requesting class work or homework to be sent home, please call the office in the morning so that this can be arranged. Please do not call in the afternoon requesting homework; it is important we provide the classroom teachers enough time to gather the necessary materials.

Allergies

We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all of the children in our school. With this in mind, we have some classrooms designated as having students with Food Allergies. These rooms are delineated with signs hung directly outside the classroom. Each student in these classes should have received a letter from their classroom teacher informing them of the specific allergies so parents appropriately plan for snacks and lunch. In order to insure every child's safety, please adhere to the letter sent to your child's specific class. If you are unsure if your child's class has been designated for having food allergies you can speak directly with the classroom teacher.

Back to School Night

Elementary Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 22nd. You will receive a detailed letter highlighting the time for each grade level. Please mark your calendars.

Parents/Visitors to the Building

Parents/visitors to School #3 must enter through the main entrance and ring the buzzer. **Parents/visitors must be prepared to identify themselves and the purpose for the visit before entering the building. Once entered, parents/visitors must sign-in and leave identification with the monitor.** Each visitor will receive a pass. After the completion of business, parents/visitors must sign-out, retrieve identification, and exit through the front doors only.

The staff and I are excited about the beginning of the new school year. The first full day of school will be Thursday, September 1st. We look forward to working with you toward a successful and rewarding school year.

Very truly yours,

Beth Castiello

Beth Castiello
Principal

Teacher Room Assignments

Grade 1:

Mrs. Combs- A2
Mrs. Pekor- A6
Mrs. Sellitto- A12
Mrs. Welner- A13

Grade 2:

Mrs. Capone- A15
Mrs. DeSanto- A3
Mrs. Diamond- A14
Mrs. Phua- A4
Mrs. Rossberg- A9

Grade 3:

Mrs. DeStefano-18
Mrs. Pedowitz- 13
Mrs. Reilly- 12
Ms. Schoen- 15
Ms. Sharpe- 17

Grade 4:

Ms. Goldstein- 11
Ms. Stark- 10
Mrs. Weinstein- 14

Grade 5:

Mrs. Greenfield- 6
Ms. Marzocchi- 5
Ms. Oliviero- 3
Mrs. Stubbs- 2

Grade 6:

Mrs. Levine- A7
Mr. Palermo- A11
Ms. Ryan- A8



Oaks School #3

Mission Statement

At Oaks School #3, we believe that each child is a valued and unique individual. We believe that our educational process is student-centered and best achieved by an active partnership involving the entire School #3 educational community.

We believe that each child has the right to be respected for their differences and celebrated for their individuality. Our students are expected to value and respect themselves, while learning to understand, appreciate and accept the differences in others.

We are responsible for providing a rigorous educational experience for all students, while meeting their individual learning needs and maximizing their potential. It is also our responsibility to challenge students to recognize their endless possibilities.

We want each child to be physically, emotionally and socially safe. We want them to embrace the love, joy, and value of education. We envision a school that is positive and purposeful, which promotes a caring and productive environment for all. We believe that each child can develop the confidence, skills, and interests to become a responsible citizens and life-long learner.

We believe all nurtured tiny acorns can become mighty Oaks!