



### **Dates to Remember...**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

School Resumes

**January 6<sup>th</sup>**

Americorps Volunteers  
begin work at Oak Ridge for  
Winter 2011

**January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Family Art Night  
5:30-7:00 Multipurpose Rm

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Martin Luther King Holiday  
(No School)

**January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Oak Ridge Community  
Meeting 8:00 AM  
Refreshments will be served

### **From the Principal...**

Happy New Year! Hello again to our Oak Ridge families. We hope that each of you had a pleasant Winter Break. Your students are happy to be back at school again. They are eager to be back in their classroom learning again. They enjoy their friends, their teachers, and learning. Students thrive on structure, and school provides a structured environment where our students can take risks as learners, stretch their minds, and become the problem solvers of tomorrow. As a school, we continue to work on providing our students with a learning experience that promotes deep thinking, reflection, and making connections between ideas, topics, and concepts. We will share more about this at our community meeting on January 19, 2011 at 8:00 AM. You are all invited and we hope that you will join us at this meeting.

Our students continue to amaze us. We are very impressed with the 24 students that ran for student council. They did an amazing job with their speeches, posters, and courage to speak their mind. Hats off to Yolanda Aguila (secretary), Connie Aguila (treasurer), Emma Guerrero (vice president), and Jose Duenas (president).

We are also very proud of our students that were recognized for the character education theme of "caring." The following students were selected by their teachers in the month of October for showing that a little bit of character goes a long way. Kudos to Ruby CCazarez, Isaiah Thomas, Jesse Castillo, Giovanni Hulsey, Tyler Chanh, Kaylani Fonseca, Adam Adana, Lieth Guerrero, Demaria Hodges, Anthony Vargas, Kylie Chao, Laila Saavedra-Barajas, Nadia Ramirez, Lasyaly Cisco, Isiah Salomon, Samramt Belete, Ignacio Martinez, Tao Khang, Miguel Franco, Laney Saechao, Xavier Medina, Jesus Vega, Jessica Lee, Frank Cruz-Maritinez, Wendy Saephan, Eternity Hernandez, Tristan Martinez, Lai Saeterun, Maria Hernandez, Tyler Thammavong, Desiree Aldana, Andre Warren, Imil Hudson-Johnson, Yesenia Cano, and Aarmon Euwing.

Finally, we thank you for getting your students to school on time every day. At the end of November, we honored and celebrated with 104 students that have had perfect attendance since the first day of school. Please remember that every child should arrive at school by 7:55 AM (7:45 if eating breakfast).

Doug Huscher, Principal Oak Ridge Elementary

### **Come Join Us at Our Next Oak Ridge Community Meeting**

Our next meeting will be January 19, 2011 at 8:00 AM. We encourage you to get involved in your school and join us. There will be tasty eats provided by the Broadway Café. You will learn what our school is doing to engage all students with our Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning practices. We will also talk about how to support reading at home and more. Come join us, meet other parents, and be a part of what Oak Ridge has to offer.

### **Oak Ridge Website Goes**

**Live... Check out our new website...you'll find school forms, newsletters, menus, email addresses, and more. Be one of the first to visit...**

<http://schools.scusd.edu/oakridge/>

### **Every Day Counts in Learning**

The National Center for Children in Poverty found in 2008 that on average, students who missed 10% or more of school in kindergarten scored significantly lower in reading, math and general knowledge tests at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade than did students who missed 3% or fewer days. Moreover, the researchers found chronic absenteeism in kindergarten predicted continuing absences in later grades. A study released this year by the Baltimore Education Research Consortium showed that high school dropouts show steadily increasing chronic absenteeism for years before they actually leave school.

Please make sure that your child is at school every day. We will continue to honor and reward classes that have the most days of perfect attendance. Congratulations to Ms. Sakakihara and Ms. Quinn's students (intermediate) and Ms. Stadell, Ms. Villegas, and Ms. Newell's classes (primary) that had highest attendance numbers last month. We remind our families that travel should happen when school is not in session...students that leave school for extended periods during the year will be disenrolled.

**Thank You Parent Volunteers...**We are very excited by the number of parents that have been pitching in to do their part in their child's learning. We thank our fabulous team of Monday morning copiers, library assistants, and parking lot helpers. Your willingness to pitch in is highly appreciated. If you're curious about how to get involved, please see your child's teacher. Ms. Meighan will also assist with paperwork for volunteer clearance. Our parents and other partners in learning are an important piece of our work. Thank you for your commitment to our school.