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January Monthly Update

Good Morning Orchard School Families!

Today marks the first day of February, and we are ready for a busy month! Read below on the wonderful happenings at Orchard School.

Community Outreach Programs: Our next program is tonight at 7 PM at GWMS! Jessica Lahey will be speaking on her book, [The Gift of Failure](#). It promises to be a rich discussion. From her website:

“Modern parenting is defined by an unprecedented level of overprotectiveness: parents who rush to school at the whim of a phone call to deliver forgotten assignments, who challenge teachers on report card disappointments, mastermind children’s friendships, and interfere on the playing field. As teacher and writer Jessica Lahey explains, even though these parents see themselves as being highly responsive to their children’s well being, they aren’t giving them the chance to experience failure—or the opportunity to learn to solve their own problems.

Overparenting has the potential to ruin a child’s confidence and undermine their education, Lahey reminds us. Teachers don’t just teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. They teach responsibility, organization, manners, restraint, and foresight—important life skills children carry with them long after they leave the classroom.”

Upcoming events include “Life Beyond Your Eating Disorder” on 3/14 and “Least Restrictive Environment (Special Education)” on 4/4/17. For more information, please visit the [RPS website](#) to view the folder for the 2016-17 Well-Being series. Hope to see you there!

Thank You HSA! Over the holiday break, the HSA purchased and installed new signs to brighten our hallways and help designate each classroom. They look great and were so appreciated by our students and staff. We love our custom Orchard sign, complete with our

colors and an apple. If you haven't seen them yet, stop in at our next CBA or the Talent Show and check them out!

Thank You Fifth Grade! On Friday, 1/20, the fifth graders hosted and ran a very successful Bingo Night! It was wonderful to see so many students and families enjoying a night together at Orchard School. Our fifth graders took on many important roles that night and did a fabulous job handling their responsibilities. They organized games, helped with prizes, announced numbers, took and delivered food orders...basically, they did it all! I was so proud of their efforts. Special thanks to our fifth grade parents (and other parents!) for their volunteering efforts and to Josephine Grana and Carla Sullivan for coordinating.

An FYI on e-News and the e-Bulletin: In order to help streamline information going out, we have decided to pilot a consolidated, once a week, e-news. It will contain important HSA updates as well as the traditional e-news information. We will also be adding due date reminders for any "must-do" events. It is our hope that this will make it easier for parents to have one stop shopping for their news. Every Tuesday, it will be emailed out. You can search your inbox for ORCHARD HSA E-NEWS. Please keep us posted with your comments and feedback!

Lunch Ordering is open for February: [Village Fresh](#). All orders are placed online. Orders must be in by 8:00 AM, otherwise, they will not be delivered on that day. A note and a reminder: if you are ordering school lunch for your child, please check in with them to be sure that they like it and enjoy it. Many times a student will tell us that they don't like what has been ordered for them. Our staff does work hard to encourage students to try new things and to eat some of their lunch, but it would be helpful for you to follow up at home as well. Thank you!

As with every monthly update, we need some short reminders. Please read below on items of note:

- Spirit Day is Thursday, 2/2!
- Valentines may be sent into school for Valentine's Day. Please do not send in any candy or food valentines or additional candy to be distributed. Thank you.
- School is CLOSED for students on Friday, February 17. Staff members have a professional development day. School will remain closed through Friday, 2/24 for winter recess.
- Please remember to follow all regular traffic rules and regulations in and around the Orchard School area. This includes parking in designated spaces, and not double parking

in the lot. Everyone is busy, everyone has things to do - please be smart and safe - and follow the rules!

- Link and follow our Google Calendar for HSA events! [Go to this link](#) and click on the +Google Calendar in the right bottom corner.
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-18 school year is coming up soon! We will start on 2/7 and 2/9. More information to follow.
- Our Long Range Planning Team meeting was held on 1/19, at 7:30 PM. The annotated agenda can be viewed [here](#).
- The Talent Show is Sunday, 2/5, at 1:00 PM!
- Our Black History Month celebration will be held at our 2/16 CBA at 8:45 AM.

Please review the list of dates below for upcoming events at our school.

Warmly,

Mrs. Ferreri

Upcoming events:

- 2/2: Spirit Day! Wear your Orchard Wear!
- 2/5: Talent Show, 1 PM
- 2/7: Kindergarten Registration, 3:30 PM
- 2/9: Kindergarten Registration, 3:30 PM
- 2/14: Valentine's Day; Jump Rope for Heart
- 2/16: BHM Celebration, 8:45 AM
- 3/2: Spirit Day; Orchard Science Fair
- 3/4: Super Science Saturday