

School News

“Friday Blast”

Principal's Corner

A LOOK AHEAD:

Greetings, fellow Otters! Today is a splendid day, and the week ahead holds promise.

Allow me to extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, staff, and students who enthusiastically participated in this week's field trips. I missed the Museum of Flight excursion due to taking a personal day. Even a principal deserves a break now and then!

Something truly special is happening this weekend. My wife Tina and I are celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary. Forty years—a substantial span of time, yet it feels as though it has whisked by. Albert Einstein once eloquently explained the concept of relative time in his Special Theory of Relativity.

Essentially, time's passage depends on your perspective. When you're having a blast, time seems to sprint ahead, while during challenging moments, it drags its feet. Remarkably, the actual rate of time remains constant. So, for me, these four decades have flown by, but my wife's experience might offer a different frame of reference and perspective.

As spring break approaches, many students, families, and staff members express how time crawls. Fatigue sets in, and we yearn for a well-deserved respite. However, after spring break, a curious shift occurs—time suddenly soars. Regardless of our individual perspectives, the school year is swiftly drawing to a close.

Despite having three months remaining in the current school year, it's essential that we proactively plan for the next academic cycle. Waiting until the last moment won't serve us well. Behind the scenes, we're diligently preparing for our upcoming MAPS testing and scheduling our Smarter Balanced Assessments. Conversations buzz about next year's enrollments, building schedules, end-of-year field trips, and the joyous ceremonies that mark student graduations and promotions.

By now, you should have received an email from LeAnn Parker regarding OPA school enrollment for the upcoming year. Keep an eye out for another announcement concerning OPA/DVS high school registration, which will be released shortly.

Start your preparations with us! We eagerly anticipate having each of you back at OPA in September. If you're considering alternative enrollment options beyond OPA, please inform us as soon as possible. Your input matters!

So, dear Otters, let's embrace the passage of time, whether it feels like a leisurely stroll or a thrilling sprint. May this year's memories linger and may the future hold even more delightful moments. Together we can keep OPA a great place for kids to learn and to grow.

Best Regards,

Ned

March 25th– 3rd Gr. Mission to Mars (See page 2 for more details)

March 28th 6th-8th Salmon Release

March 30th– PTO Spring Bazaar

April 1st-5th- Spring Break

April 17th– PTO: Sweet Spot Takeover 3-6pm

May 9th-Burke Museum in OPA Gym

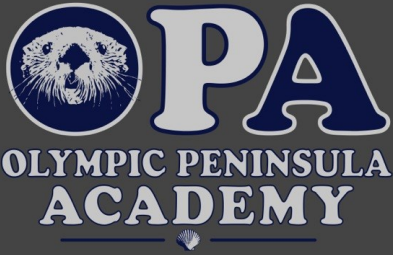
May 10th-Snow Make-up Day



Here is the [link](#) for SDS (School Data Solutions). Make sure to submit your monthly parent feedback by

Mar. 25th, 2024

Go Otters!

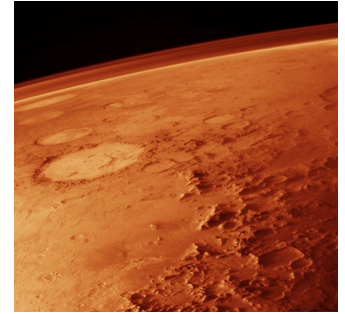


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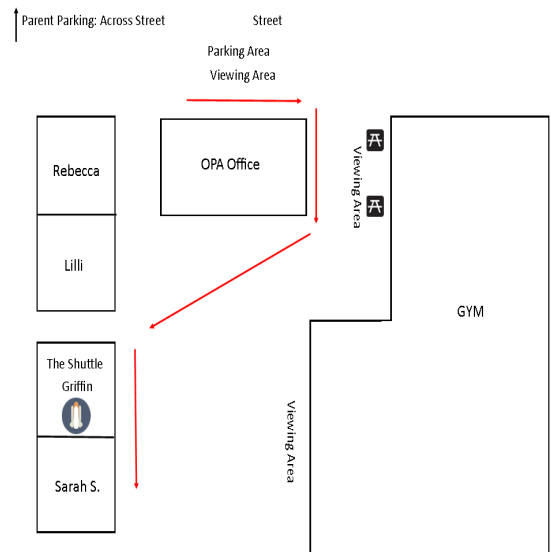
3rd Grade Mission to Mars

On Monday, March 25th, at approximately 9:15am., our third-grade astronauts will begin their long journey to Mars. I am hoping that you will be there to cheer them on as they walk to their shuttle, The Griffin. A map of our walk path and the viewing areas are below. I know they will be excited to hear the otter cheers!



Thank you for all you do to support all of our OPA Otters!

Here is our [link](#) to our Mission to Mars Trailer.



Health Update:

Is it seasonal allergies or a cold?

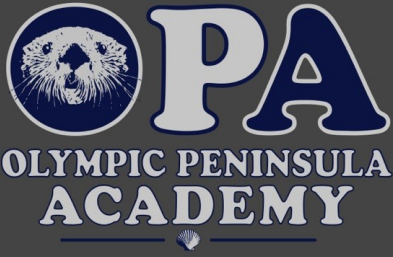
Allergies can cause a cough or a sore throat, but they don't cause fevers or aches and pains like a cold can. Persistent congestion, sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, and a runny nose are all symptoms that would indicate sensitivities to allergens, especially when they appear with season changes/sporadically throughout the year. Right now, we are noticing many students with these complaints. Trees [typically produce](#) the most pollen between the months of March and May, whereas grass pollen season runs from April through June.

People's allergies change over time. As a child gets older, they can potentially gain sensitivity to new allergens. Allergies can make your student feel "sick", be accompanied by [asthma](#), and cause disruptions in sleep patterns affecting their ability to focus. Simple things like closing windows, vacuuming/dusting, frequent face washing and showering, and washing bedding every week can reduce symptoms. Families should speak with their child's doctor before deciding if an allergy medicine can help.

As we all continue to recover and reengage after the COVID pandemic, awareness of the health issues that affect our students' ability to learn can help families seek the medical support needed to reduce the impact of those issues on student health, learning and chronic absenteeism.

[Seasonal Allergies or Something More? Seattle Children's Helps Parents Distinguish the Difference - On the Pulse \(seattlechildrens.org\)](#)

Go Otters!



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OPA PTO Happenings!

FUNDRAISER ALERT!!!

We are helping at the Sequim Irrigation Festival’s Crazy Callen Weekend **May 4th and 5th** at Carrie Blake Park.

[SIGN UP TODAY BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

This will earn a donation to the PTO!!!

These hours count towards volunteer time!



~ PTO Meeting ~

Join us for the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, 4/16 at 5pm in Room /6B.

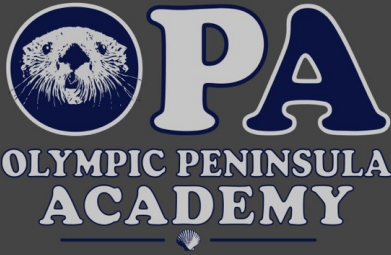
The meeting counts for volunteer hours, you’ll learn about other volunteer opportunities, and much more!



We are TAKING OVER Sweet Spot Frozen Yogurt on **April 17th** 3-6pm!

— **Stay Connected** —
Sign up for newsletter, find us on FB, etc. at:

[OPA PTO Linktree](#)



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OPA PTO Happenings!

Olympic Peninsula Academy
Parent Teacher Organization

Spring Bazaar



Saturday, March 30, 2024
Sequim High School Cafeteria
601 N. Sequim Ave
9:30 am- 4:30pm

“Every Holiday”

Crafts & Gifts • Fashion & Jewelry • Homemade
Decor • Direct Sales • Food & Drinks •
Live Entertainment • Easter Bunny Visit

For more info or to apply to be a vendor,
contact Dede Bessey 360-670-1320



Our Spring
Bazaar will host
the following
food vendors:

- ◆ Southern Nibble
- ◆ Benny B's Fair Bites
- ◆ Diamond Coffee

**Want to be a
vendor?**

Contact Dede
Bessey at

360-670-1320