

Oak Chan Elementary



Principal's Weekly Message
April 9, 2021

Good Day OC Families!

Highlights:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break and enjoyed the beautiful weather. We are in the beginning stages of organizing Oak Chan's Extended (Summer) School. Your classroom teacher is sending out an important survey regarding your interest in this opportunity. We would greatly appreciate it if you could respond to the survey by this Sunday, April 11th. I know some of you may have further questions regarding our Extended (Summer) School opportunity. As this is a new format for us, we are providing information to you as it comes our way. Some general information that may provide some clarification:

1. Teachers are disaggregating collected student data to create priority lists of student names;
2. Invitations will be sent out by end of April/beginning of May, and we will begin to fill classes from there;
3. As spots open up, we will continue to send out invites;
4. An Oak Chan teacher will be conducting the class, however our staffing for each grade level is still being confirmed;
5. No Asynchronous or Distance Learning work: only what is completed during school hours;
6. Specific curriculum will be used that covers the grade level standards and previews the next grade level;
7. Consistent attendance is expected; however, we know that situations may arise.

On another note: We are aware there may be some issues with families receiving their school pictures. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working with Life Touch on the situation.

District Updates Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the most recent update from the district.

Weekly SKORR Challenge: The SKORR challenge for the week of April 12th is to share your thoughts about **Equal vs Fair** Click [here](#) for the activity.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) ~Excerpts from EmbraceRace

The following are tips to provide support for families committed to building acceptance, racial equity, and a social culture where all kids and families can thrive!

1) **Start early.**

By 6 months of age babies are noticing racial differences; by age 4, children have begun to show signs of racial bias. Let your child know that it is perfectly okay to notice skin color and talk about race. Start talking about what racial differences mean and do not mean.

2) Encourage your child.

Encourage your child to ask questions, share observations and experiences, and be respectfully curious about race. Expose your child to different cultural opportunities – photographs, films, books, or cultural events, for example – and discuss the experience afterwards. You do not have to be an expert on race to talk with our child. Be honest about what you do not know and work with your child to find accurate information.

3) Be mindful.

What kids hear from us is less important than what they see us do. You are a role model to your child. What you say is important, but what you do - the diversity of your friendship circle, for example - is likely to have a bigger impact. If your child does not attend a diverse school, consider enrolling them in weekend activities such as sports leagues that are diverse if you're able. Choose books and toys that include persons of different races and ethnicities. Visit museums with exhibits about a range of cultures and religions.

4) Face and know your own bias.

Let your child see you acknowledge and face your own biases. We're less likely to pass on the biases we identify and work to overcome. Give your child an example of a bias, racial or otherwise, that you hold or have held. Share with your child things you do to confront and overcome that bias.

5) Know and love who you are.

Talk about the histories and experiences of the racial, ethnic, and cultural groups you and your family identify with. Talk about their contributions and acknowledge the less flattering parts of those histories as well. Tell stories about the challenges your family (your child's parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents and great grandparents, others) has faced and overcome.

6) Develop racial cultural literacy.

Develop racial cultural literacy by learning about and respecting others. Study and talk about the histories and experiences of groups we call African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and whites, among others. Be sure your child understands that every racial and ethnic group includes people who believe different things and behave in different ways. There is as much diversity within racial groups as across them.

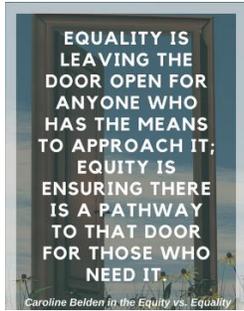
7) Be honest.

Be honest with your child, in age-appropriate ways, about bigotry and oppression. Children are amazing at noticing patterns, including racial patterns (who lives in their neighborhood versus their friends' neighborhoods, for example). Help them make sense of those patterns and recognize that bigotry and oppression are sometimes a big part of those explanations. Be sure your child knows that the struggle for racial fairness is still happening and that your family can take part in that struggle.

8) Be active.

Help your child understand what it means to be, and how to be, a change agent. Whenever possible, connect the conversations you are having to the change you and your child want to see, and to ways to bring about that change.

Food for Thought



On the Horizon:

Keep tracking your child's Reading and Math Fact practice minutes. The Principal's PRC and PMC are underway! [Challenges](#)

Stay Connected! Bookmark our [website](#) - which we update often, and follow us on our **Oak Chan PTO Facebook** page. Visit [MrsBahrysOffice](#) Take your 'mouse' and wherever the 'hand' lands on a picture, such as the Squirrel, click and you will find something fun.

And stay strong by focusing on *Relationships, Routines, and Resilience.*

*“Children are great imitators,
so, give them something great to imitate.”*

As always, please call or email us if there is anything you need.

Sincerely,

Principal Bahry