



# Great Oaks Gazette



32900 24 Mile Rd Chesterfield Twp., MI

Volume 1, Issue 3

Phone: 586-725-2038

Fax: 586-725-4014

November, 2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 3 - NO SCHOOL-**  
Prof.Devel.Day/Election Day
- Nov. 3** -Market Day pick up
- Nov. 5** -2<sup>nd</sup> gr music concert -6:15pm
- Nov. 5** -4<sup>th</sup> gr music concert- 7:30pm
- Nov. 6** - End of 1st Marking Period
- Nov. 12** - PTO meeting-4:15pm
- Nov. 13**-Assembly-Gratitude Steel Band/ 1:45pm & 2:45pm
- Nov. 16** - Picture Retakes –  
Lifetouch Photography
- Nov. 17** -Report Cards sent home
- Nov. 18** - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
4:30pm-6:30pm
- Nov. 18** –Strawberry Fields family night
- Nov. 19** - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
5:00pm-7:00pm
- Nov. 19**- Cookie Dough fundraiser  
delivered 3pm-6pm
- Nov. 19-Nov.24**- Book Fair
- Nov. 20- 1/2 DAY**– Parent/Teacher  
Conferences-1pm-3pm  
(AM kdg attends)
- Nov. 24**- Thanksgiving Recess begins at  
end of school day
- Nov. 24** 3<sup>rd</sup> gr assembly –  
Pollution Solution
- Nov.25-27- NO SCHOOL-**  
Thanksgiving Recess
- Nov. 30**- School Resumes

Dear Great Oaks families,  
We have completed our first quarter of the school year! I look forward to seeing you all as you come in to meet with your child's teacher for parent teacher conferences. The information that is shared at these conferences can help to build a partnership between home and school that can increase your child's success.

Unbelievably, the end of the month will bring our Thanksgiving break. As I reflect, I am so grateful each day that I am here at Great Oaks and have the chance to watch your wonderful children grow and learn. I thought I would share a simple message that I found to be a great reminder for me at this time of year. I hope you all have a peaceful and Happy Thanksgiving!

### Kathy Elias

This is the time of year, when we're reminded to give thanks. Instead of waiting until next year, to be reminded – Let's make every day one of thanksgiving! After all, each day is a unique gift...

~~ So ~~

Give a hug – For no reason;  
Say I love you – Just because;  
Share a smile with a stranger;  
Take time – Count your blessings;  
Don't take anything or anyone  
for granted;  
End each day with no regrets.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE HINI VACCINE**

***"The Macomb County Health Department has cancelled the school vaccination clinic.***

***For further information please visit the Macomb County Health Department website at:***

***http://  
www.macombcountymi.gov/  
PUBLICHEALTH/.***

Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie  
Dough Fundraiser  
Delivered:  
NOV. 19th

Please make checks payable  
to Great Oaks Elementary

### **Parent / Teacher Conferences**

**Conferences will be held on  
November 18, 19 & 20.**

**Please make sure you are prompt for  
your scheduled conference time.**

**Thank you in advance for your participa-  
tion in this valuable sharing time.**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to make you aware of head lice so that you may take steps at home to help prevent your child from becoming infested. Any time children come together, particularly at the start of the school year or any social grouping like Scouts, Little Leagues, etc., head lice cases commonly increase. Please encourage your child not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, barrettes, as well as helmets or headphones with foam ear protectors. Direct, physical and/or head-to-head contact is the usual method transmission. Lice do not jump, fly, or swim. They are, however, good crawlers. Check your child's head weekly for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice, which are no bigger than a sesame seed, avoid light and are hard to see. Lice eggs or "nits" are usually found close to the scalp-usually within 1/4 inch. They appear as tiny whitish ovals that are "glued" to the hair shaft. They cannot easily be flicked away as dandruff can. Head lice do not transmit disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on your pets. If you find head lice on your child, please notify the school and keep him or her home until properly treated. Continue to examine all family members for 3 weeks and treat if live lice or nits are found.



*Cold weather is upon us. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather every day. Students go outside for recess every day unless it is raining or the wind-chill is below 15°.*



### Frequently used phone numbers:

**Absence Line:** Please call in your child before 9:30 a.m. if they are going to be absent at: 586-725-2038 ex. 1101

**Transportation:** 586-725-4220

**School aged child care:** 586-716-7862



### Late arrivals and lunch orders

If your child will be late for school and needs to order a lunch, **please call the school before 9:30 a.m.** and let us know. Our lunch counts are called in to the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. so we need the total count by this time to ensure that every child who orders receives a lunch.

### SPECIAL NOTE TO VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers to our schools are vital to our successful operation. We thank all of those individuals who have and continue to devote their time and energy to making our schools a better place for all. In an effort to insure security for our children and provide liability protection for the volunteers and the school district, a Board Policy has been created. We are required to have a "Volunteer Registration Form" on file. This must be renewed every year. After you have filled out this registration and have been approved, we ask that you sign in and out of the school offices when you are helping out in the building. This policy is designed to protect our children and offer a measure of protection to our more frequent volunteers. Thank you for your cooperation and for all of your help.

### Anchor Bay Wrestling Club

This is a youth based organization which teaches fundamental wrestling skills to athletes between the ages of 4 -14 years old. Along with producing great wrestlers, the wrestling club also teaches qualities such as dedication, work ethic, discipline, teamwork and respect. We encourage a fun learning environment for beginning wrestlers and a tougher, more discipline workout for the more experienced athletes. Any age and skill level can benefit from the structured workouts that are offered.

Registration will be at Anchor Bay Middle School South up to the first day of practice, Nov. 12th. Practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from November 12th until April 22nd at Middle School South. There will be weekend tournaments from January through April. Please contact Desiree Burke @ 586-365-9387 or by email at [abwrestlingclub@comcast.net](mailto:abwrestlingclub@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

### Anchor Bay School District Pesticide Program Notice

In accordance with Public Act 131, school administration must advise parents of this right to be notified prior to the application of pesticide at their child's school. As a result of this regulation, you are being advised that a routine application of pesticide will take place the last Friday of every month. These applications will take place after school hours in the cafeteria, kitchen, multipurpose room and kitchen storage areas.

### Meijer Community Rewards

**Currently many of our families are participating in the Meijer Community Reward Program. Our school receives a percentage of money spent by families who use their Meijer Community Reward card. The money is used for supplies, assemblies, etc.**

**Parents, friends, grandparents or neighbors who wish to sign up can ask for an application at school, Meijers, or go to [www.Meijer.com/rewards](http://www.Meijer.com/rewards) and register online. Please use our school code **610993** so that Great Oaks Elementary gets the credit. You will receive a card that you show to the cashier every time you make a purchase. There is **NO** cost to you for this program. Thank you for all your support.**



### **PE POINTERS**

BY: Ms. Stoppa  
Remember to call to set up an appointment if you'd like to meet with Ms. Stoppa for parent teacher conferences.

The Student Health Team members-Chloe Fournier, Jordyn Kelly, Vaughn Voth, Rachel Gann, Cindy Nguyen, Emma Streveler, and Sydney Cooper will be holding a Canned Food Drive during the month of November. They will place a box for each grade level in the front lobby and you or your child can drop off non-perishable goods. The grade level that brings in the most items will be rewarded with extra PE time.

Each month for the next few months, students can purchase raffle tickets to have lunch with a friend and Ms. Stoppa, lunch with a friend and Mrs. Elias, to be Ms. Stoppa and Mrs. Elias' assistant for a day, and more, for 25 cents per ticket. The students can purchase the tickets during their lunch recess times and during PE classes. The raffle will last 2 weeks during each month. Friday October 30th will be the drawing for this months winner to have lunch with a friend and Ms. Stoppa. Winning student gets to pick the food that they would like to eat from local restaurants. Next month the tickets will be for lunch with a friend and Mrs. Elias.

We will be **selling water bottles** starting in November. These water bottles are **stainless steel, aluminum, and BPA free**. They are great for the environment, convenient for students, economical, and made with high quality. Because they have the **Anchor Bay Schools logo** on them, they make great gifts for Christmas. There are 3 different bottles, styles, and colors to choose from. The price for the bottles will be: \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. The order forms with further information will be coming home very soon. Thanks for supporting Great Oaks.

Stay Active, Live Well, Be Fit

**The Student Congress representative for this year**

**is:**

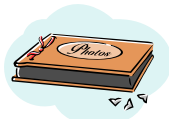
**Chad Novak**

*Chad will be representing all the students at Great Oaks for monthly meetings at the administration building.*

*Congratulations !!!*

### YEARBOOKS.....

This year no yearbooks are included in the students picture packages. All yearbooks will be purchased separately. An order form has been sent home and are due back by picture retake day, Nov. 16th.



MUSIC NOTES By: Mrs. Rodgers

**THIRD GRADE** has just finished watching the musical "Mary Poppins". We discussed the differences between three forms that tell stories: play, musical and opera. In the next couple of weeks we will be concentrating on the instruments and their families. Our final instrument activity will come home in about 2 weeks, the "Instrument Mini Book".

**FOURTH GRADE** is concentrating completely on their concert music. Our concert will be Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. It is about Jazz music and just a great source of information about the jazz style. Watch for the recorder order form to come home, I need payment back by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**FIFTH GRADE** was working on a band/orchestra unit in October and finished with a "3D Orchestra Project". Now, we are reviewing clapping rhythms, writing rhythms and using notation. Also, using musical terms to describe different forms and symbols in music.

**BAND!** Wow! The Great Oaks Beginning Band is doing a great job! I am so very proud of all of the instrumentalists. PLEASE encourage them to practice at least 10 minutes every other day. Starting on Thursday, Oct. 29, I will need the entire band on both Tuesdays and Thursdays!

**HONORS CHOIR** An informational letter will be coming home explaining the Honors Choir audition process. This is an all district choir for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be singing the Star Spangled Banner to me as a grade in November. For those interested in the Honors Choir, this will act as their audition also.

### **AFTER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS AND MESSAGES FOR YOUR CHILD**

After school arrangements for your child, such as going to a classmate's house, staying after for school activities, going to SAC, walking home, taking the bus, etc., **should be taken care of in the morning before your child leaves for school.**

**Please discuss after school arrangements with your child in advance. Try not to call the office to give children directions during instruction time (9:06—4:02).**

This can be very confusing to your child, especially younger students. **It is also very disrupting to the teacher and the other students in your child's classroom.**

A note from a parent is needed to ride another bus, or be dropped off at another stop from the bus. Thank you for your help in this matter.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

November 19th—24th

Book lists will be coming home with student's soon.

You can also see what's available by visiting <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/greatoaks>  
The website will also list classroom shopping times and evening hours for family shopping.

The book fair will be open during evening conferences.



### DON'T LOSE YOUR BUS RIDING PRIVILEGE!

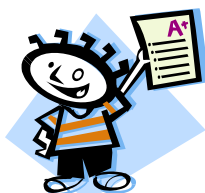
Follow these bus rules:

- \*Observe the same conduct as in the classroom
- \*Stay seated at all times. Remain seated until the bus STOPS COMPLETELY
- \*Cooperate with the driver. Driver can assign seats.
- \*Fighting and horseplay will not be tolerated. Hands off policy.
- \*Be courteous to all, use no inappropriate language or gestures.
- \*You will be financially responsible for any damage you do to the bus.
- \*Keep head, hands, feet and other objects in the seat, NOT in the aisle or out the window.
- \*Do not touch any bus mechanisms, switches, or supplies including the emergency door.
- \*No eating, drinking, or smoking.
- \*Bus conduct reports can be issued for any infraction to these rules.

### Conferences for Speech .....

Mrs. Shovan, our speech therapist, will be available on November 18th, from 4:30 pm—6:30 pm for parent conferences.

No appointments are needed, just drop by!



## A Parents Guide to Making Parent-Teacher Conference a Partnership

### Before Conferences:

\*Make a list of things you want to tell the teacher or to leave with the teacher about your child such as:

- \*Health
- \*Attitude toward school
- \*Family relationships
- \*Emotional relationships

### \*Cooperation at home

- \*Activities after school
- \*Hobbies and interests
- \*Friendships
- \*Attitude of responsibility
- \*Successes and failures
- \*Strengths and weaknesses

### \*Make a list of what to ask the teacher about your child or classroom procedures such as:

- \*Questions on discipline, grading policies, daily schedule or homework policies.
- \*How is my child doing in class?
- \*Is she/he consistent about turning in class work / homework?
- \*Does she/he use time well? What are his/her work habits like?
- \*Does he/she pay attention? How is his/her behavior in class?
- \*How well does he/she get along with other children?
- \*Does he/she have friends? Does he/she seem happy?
- \*What can be done at home to reinforce or support what you are doing here at school?
- \*Are there any learning activities you can suggest to be done at home?

### During Conference:

- \*Be on time
- \*Do not bring the child, unless requested
- \*Both parents attend if possible. If only one can attend, ask the other for suggestions
- \*Share your information so the teacher sees your child through your eyes.
- \*Listen to recommendations and ideas.
- \*Honor the 15-minute time period. If more time is needed, make another appointment.

### After the Conference:

- \*Act on the suggestions given
- \*Talk it over with your spouse (if not present at the conference)
- \*Work on problems together.
- \*Discuss the conference with your child, stressing the positive strong points brought out by the teacher. Go over teacher's suggestions for improvement
- \*Praise the child as much as possible; however make sure that you do not "gloss" over areas that need improvement

## Attendance Policy

*The Board of Education recognizes that a student who attends class on time and regularly derives maximum benefit from instructional programs. Attendance helps develop the habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. The interactions, dialogues, and experiences which take place daily in the classroom provide an enriched environment for learning which cannot be experienced by “making up” missed assignments. There is no way to completely duplicate or replace the classroom experience for a student who is tardy or absent. Regular attendance has been proven to be a key factor in the attainment of good education. Active participation in class is an integral part of a student’s total education. A student’s success in the classroom, on proficiency examinations, in future activities and career performance can hinge on positive habits developed through good attendance patterns.*

A new school year beginning. Students are enthused about their classes and teachers are busy planning exciting lessons for their students. Please emphasize to your children the importance of being in school, as daily attendance is essential in order for a student to benefit from his/her educational experience. If a student is not in school on a regular basis, it is not possible for maximum learning to occur. Excessive tardies are a concern because important announcements and classroom instruction are given at the beginning of the day. Good attendance patterns, which include punctuality, are developed at an early age. They must be emphasized in kindergarten and reaffirmed at every grade level. It is the responsibility of the parent to instill in his/her child the importance of attending school. All students in the Anchor Bay School District are expected to be in school on a regular day-to-day basis. Absences should occur only for legitimate, excusable reasons, generally illness. It is the responsibility of school personnel, according to the State of Michigan Compulsory School Attendance Law, to monitor all students’ attendance. Parents will be notified in writing, following the seventh, fourteenth and twentieth absence/tardy accumulated within a school year. Excessive absences must be reported to the Macomb County Independent School District Attendance Office. According to the Michigan Compulsory Attendance Law students are expected to be in school except in cases of emergency or for the following reasons:

Personal illness – The school may require verification by a doctor.

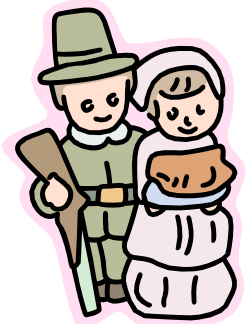
- Illness in the family – Work with your child’s teacher to keep schoolwork current.
- Death of a relative – Absence arising from a family death. Please notify your child’s teacher should you feel your child might need support when they return to school.
- Religious holiday – Children will be excused from class if the absence is for the purpose of observing a religious holiday that is part of the child’s creed or belief.
- Medical Appointments – Parents should schedule their child’s regular medical and dental appointments for times after school or on weekends.

**Tardiness** – Punctuality is a lifetime habit that students should develop. Students are expected to arrive on time each day and be prepared to learn. If a student is late in arriving to school, he/she must report to the office and check in. Elementary students late to school will be recorded as “tardy” for the first thirty (30) minutes of the day. Reporting more than thirty minutes late to school or leaving 30 minutes prior to dismissal will result in one-half day absence.



### **Congratulations to the following students who are this years Student Council members:**

Mrs. Eovaldi- Xavier Reed & Erica Chesney  
Mrs. Dalia- Anthony Giordano & Alexis Maxwell  
Mrs. Gazdick- Ana Avouris & Thomas Shipley  
Mr. Hayden- Brandon Siedlik & Madison Stabnik  
Mrs. Froberger- Tyler Both & Olivia Zidzik  
Mrs. Sroka- Lea Brenz & Brian Smith  
Mrs. Smith- Avieri Ludwig & Angeli8na Licari  
Mr. Ogden- Emma Wargo & Justin Duby  
Mr. Vandermeer- Makenzie Holzman & Rachel Russo  
Mrs. Youngert- Kaitlin Arena & Nathan Marr



Anchor Bay Community Foundation presents  
**The 5th Annual Singing Christmas Tree Concert**  
as we celebrate an "Old-fashioned Christmas"  
featuring the  
**New Baltimore Interfaith Choir**  
and the premier of an original production

**"T'was Sort of The Night Before Christmas"**  
with special guests

**7 p.m. - Saturday, November 28, 2009**  
**Anchor Bay High School Performing Arts Center**  
County Line Road South of 26 Mile Road

Doors open at 6:30

**ADMISSION IS FREE**

**Donations will be gratefully accepted**

Be prepared to be wowed. This evening of music and family-friendly fun promises to be memorable. The 20 foot Singing Christmas Tree a truly amazing sight! What a great way to ring in the holidays and improve your community at the same time.

Contributions to the Anchor Bay Community Foundation are used to establish, administer, and award grants and scholarships. To date, more than \$100,000 in grants have been awarded for cultural and educational seminars and conferences, music, dance and drama programs, safety and health programs, youth and senior wellness programs and equipment.

**BANKING DAY.....**

Our first banking day is scheduled for  
NOVEMBER 18th

Children should only bring money to  
school on banking day. We cannot be re-  
sponsible for holding  
money sent in prior to  
banking day.



*COMING SOON.....*

*.WATCH FOR FLYERS FOR NEW GREAT OAKS GRIZ-  
ZLIES APPAREL AND ANCHOR BAY STAINLESS STEEL  
WATER BOTTLES. THEY WOULD MAKE GREAT  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!!*



**FEDERAL AID CARDS**

*Federal Aid Cards have been sent home. If you have not yet returned yours, please fill it out and have your child bring it back to school a.s.a.p. We need one card for each child and we really appreciate your effort to return these.*

**GREAT OAKS ELEMENTARY  
CALENDAR  
2009-10**

Nov. 3	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Prof.Devel.Day/Election Day
Nov. 3	Market Day pick up
Nov. 4	4th gr field trip ( Hayden & Froberger)
Nov. 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> gr music concert -6:15pm
Nov. 5	4 <sup>th</sup> gr music concert- 7:30pm
Nov. 6	End of 1st Marking Period
Nov. 11	4th gr field trip ( Smith & Sroka)
Nov. 12	PTO meeting-4:15pm
Nov. 13	Assembly-Gratitude Steel Band/ 1:45pm & 2:45pm
Nov. 16	Picture Retakes – Lifetouch Photography
Nov. 17	Report Cards sent home
Nov. 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30pm-6:30pm
Nov. 19	Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:00pm-7:00pm
Nov. 19	Cookie Dough fundraiser delivered 3pm-6pm
Nov. 19-Nov.24	Book Fair
Nov. 20	<b>1/2 DAY</b> – Parent/Teacher Conferences-1pm-3pm (AM kdg attends)
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Recess begins at end of school day
Nov. 24	Book fair ends
Nov. 24	3 <sup>rd</sup> gr assembly – Pollution Solution
Nov.25-27	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> -Thanksgiving Recess
Nov. 30	School Resumes
Dec. 1	Market Day pick up
Dec. 7-11	Santa Shop
Dec. 8	2nd gr. field trip—Macomb Performing Arts
Dec. 11	Pizza with Santa
Dec. 16	Assembly- Beth Stanton
Dec. 18	Progress Reports Sent Home
Dec. 18	Christmas Break begins at end of school day
Dec. 21 – Jan. 1	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> -Christmas Break
Jan. 4	School Resumes
Jan.15	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> —Records Day
Jan.15	End of 2nd Marking Period
Jan.18	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> -Prof. Devel. Day/ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 20	Assembly-Young Author’s Day
Jan. 26	Report Cards Sent Home
Feb. 9	5 <sup>th</sup> gr concert & band concert-6:30 pm
Feb. 12-15	<b>No School</b> -Mid-Winter Break
Feb. 24	Spring Portraits
Feb. 26	Progress Reports Sent Home

Cont.....

Mar. 3	Assembly- Author Kevin Kammeraad-Ideas are Everywhere
Mar. 8-12	Book Fair
Mar. 11	International Festival
Mar. 19	End of 3rd Marking Period
Mar. 30	Report Cards Sent Home
April 2-9	<b>No School</b> – Easter Break
April 12	School Resumes
April 21	Mrs. Scarcelli’s Class-Field trip to Big Stone School
April 22	<b>No School</b> —Prof. Devel. Day
April 23	Ms. Cusimano’s Class-Field trip to Big Stone School
April 28	Mrs. Stephenson’s Class-Field trip to Big Stone School
April 29	Art Festival
April 30	Mrs. McCormick’s Class-Field trip to Big Stone School
May 6	1 <sup>st</sup> gr. Music concert-6:15pm
May 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> gr music concert-7:30pm
May 7	Progress Reports Sent Home
May 7	Walk to School Day
May 14	Staff Fitness Day
May 18	Talent Show-6:30 pm
May 19	<b>No School</b> - Prof. Devel. Day
May 24	Kdg field trip-Upland Hills Farm
May 27	3rd gr. field trip—Lansing
May 28	Field Day
May 31	<b>No School</b> – Memorial Day
June 1	School Resumes
June 10	<b>1/2 Day</b> —Records Day– (PM kdg attends)
June 11	<b>1/2 Day</b> —End of 4th Marking Period
June 11	Last Day of School for students (AM kdg attends)
June 11	Report Cards Sent Home

ALL CALENDAR DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE