

BULLDOG BULLETIN

Olympus Jr. High

December 2008 / January 2009

Dear Parents,

In February, 2009, parents will once again have an opportunity to cast their vote regarding the Dress Code at Olympus Jr. High. The State School Board requires that every three years a revote be taken regarding this issue. Many students are new to Olympus Jr., therefore we thought it would be a good idea to give parents and students some background on why the student dress code was adopted several years ago.

In 1998, a professional learning team -- made up of parents, students, and staff -- took a close look at adopting a student dress code at the school. The team made an in depth study of various school dress codes in Utah and throughout the country, and considered the pros and cons of implementing a dress code at Olympus Jr. High School. Several public forums were held where studies were presented, and parents and students could ask questions and express opinions. After months of study and discussion, parents were given an opportunity to cast their vote. Seventy five percent of all parents voted, with 68% of those voting to adopt a dress code. A few years later the dress code standard was again voted on, passing with the same margin of support.

The first year the dress code went into effect, the school principal and faculty noted there was a greater feeling of discipline and respect in the classroom. Dress issues, such as gang attire, gothic styles, low riding pants, and immodest clothing, no longer became a distraction. There was a greater sense of school community throughout the campus.

Parents have given the dress code positive reviews. Many have said their child is less likely to compare themselves with what other kids are wearing, and that their overall general appearance and attitude is better.

Many teachers have commented how much they appreciate the dress code. Their comments include: "It adds a sense of professionalism to the classroom. The students concentrate more on school rather than on clothes." -- "The school is a nicer place." -- "The students look great! Classroom disruptions have diminished. Local business people have commented about having a better perception of Olympus Jr." -- "There doesn't seem to be as much aggression in the halls. Students are dressed to succeed." Faculty members who have children going to other schools have said how grateful they are for the dress code at Olympus Jr. High.

We, as a Community Council, feel strongly that a school dress code at Olympus Jr. High has been positive for students, parents, and faculty. We feel it enhances the learning environment at our school. In our February, 2009, school newsletter, we will review the details of the school dress code standards. A public forum will be held for parents and students to express their opinions and ask questions. Before the end of February, all parents will have the opportunity to vote whether to renew the dress code or not. Stay tuned for when and where this will take place. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Janene Davis, Community Council chair. Her phone number is 272-0779 or e-mail is janenedavis10@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Olympus Jr. High Community Council



If you haven't received your PTSA membership card, they are available in the office. You will need to sign for your card when you pick it up.



The Olympus Jr. High Community Council meets the second Monday of each month at 3:15 in the library. All are welcome to attend. Meeting minutes and a copy of the school's SSAP are in the main office for public viewing.



Dear Olympus Jr. High Parents:

I hope all of you are beginning to enjoy the holiday season. Students are working hard evidenced by over 500 of them receiving honor roll status with a grade point average at 3.5 or above. These students were honored with *Jamba Juices* at the end of school on November 13, 2008 thanks to parents Becky Diederich and Karalyn Diederich. We're so fortunate to have parents who continually support students in such immeasurable ways. For instance, this year's Red Ribbon Week was extraordinary thanks to parents Holly Burton, Tessa Reinemer and their committee. In last month's newsletter, I said "Reality Town" was the best I've seen. I feel the same way about this year's Red Ribbon Week. The effort and planning that went into this helped our students learn and reinforce their views on the dangers of using drugs and alcohol.

Our PTSA Movie Night on November 13th was a lot of fun for the showing of *Kung Fu Panda*. Parents Michele Van Leeuwen and Anne Monsen did a wonderful job of putting this entertaining activity together. Our student body officer advisor, Mrs. Fraidenburg, and her officers sold candy and water for the movie. Thanks to all those involved.

I'm excited about our new parent center under development. Kaylene White has been instrumental in getting this off the ground. Mrs. White is a former public school teacher and is currently a professor at Brigham Young University. She has experience establishing an award winning parent center that I was able to see on a video. I know how valuable a parent center can be due to my experience with one at Kennedy Junior High in 2006-08.

Thanks again for all you do making OJH the great place that it is. Please call me any time if you have a question, comment or concern. My number is 646-5224.



Howard Sagers, Principal

The word is out that **parent volunteers** are wanted and needed at Olympus Junior High. Our goal, as a PTSA board, is to communicate to teachers that parents are here, willing and ready to **help** in any way to enhance the learning environment. With the support of Dr. Sagers and the expertise of Kaylene White, a **parent center** is being set up. She set one up over fourteen years ago and has all the materials ready to go. More information will be coming on this and just know we want parents to feel welcome in the school and teachers to know there will be a place to go and ask for help.

This month was very busy for parents from helping in the classroom for the mock elections to Red Ribbon week, helping assist students in writing letters to soldiers during lunch, handing out Jamba Juice to over 500 students for the Bulldog Bonus and our first movie night. Mr. Peters, who set the movie up was pleasantly pleased with how many came and the behavior of the audience. Don't be surprised if you hear we will be doing another movie night especially with our new sound system. "I felt like I was actually in a theatre" said Alec Brown, a 7th grader who attended with his family.

Remember there is still time to put in your 3 hours of volunteer time for this year. Please contact Carolyn Bitner 'carolynbitner@gmail.com' and she can assist you with where you can volunteer. Also, if you would like to help with the Bulldog Bonus contact Becky Diederich 'becky@diederichfamily.net' and there is the Bulldog Bistro and you can contact Sharon Baker sharonb@familytv.com. Remember you can "make a difference" without using up all your time. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at kkamm@sisna.com. Hope you have an enjoyable Holiday season and see you next year.

Anne D. Monsen
PTSA president



Olympus Junior High students participate in a mock election

Thanks to our wonderful Social Studies Department where most students had a chance to cast their vote for the President of the United States through a mock election. Here is an article from one of Mrs. Miller's students.

My Voting Experience
By Sarah Sloan



My experience in voting in the District's mock election was somewhat like a real voter's experience. We (my classmates and I) had to wait for our turn to vote in class as if we were voting for real.

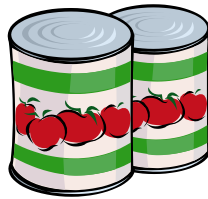
One thing that I noticed though, was peer pressure during voting. When one person was done casting their ballot, another would walk down the aisles of desks to get to the laptop we were voting with. While they passed, students at their desks would say "Vote for McCain" or "Go Obama". It was not meant in a bad way though, the students were just expressing who they thought their friends should vote for, and most others didn't even pay attention to them, but I definitely noticed, if just in a teasing way, peer pressure.

All in all, I thought that this was a fun thing to do. We got to cast our vote for who we thought should be president of the United States of America.



MOVIE NIGHT A SUCCESS

PTSA, along with the support of Dr. Sagers, put on a “free” movie night showing Kung Fu Panda. Over 100 students came with their parents and enjoyed goodies sold by the SBO’s. Also, students were asked to bring cans for the food drive and Ben Hopes was excited to see the contributions. Mr. Peters, our Technical Advisor, was pleasantly pleased and felt this was like being in a theatre and the behavior of the crowd was great.



Michele Van Leeuwen, the PTSA Vice president in charge was hoping to start a new tradition where either a movie night or matinee was offered with different clubs from the school sponsoring the event. “That would be great!” said Dr. Sagers. If you would like to help or have suggestions please contact Michele at 'michelevl@earthlink.net'.

WOW-WOW-WOW

The PTA and the administration challenged the student body in the fall to be JAMMIN on their grades! We are honored to announce over 500 students received a 3.5 or higher this last term!!! This is amazing.....The students were treated to Jamba Juices at the end of day last week and were able to celebrate with the other honor bulldogs! This was a huge hit and we will be "honored" to bring back the Jambas at the end of the term again—It is never too late—so start CRAMMIN so your name can be on the list to celebrate your success! Way to go BULLDOGS!



Red Ribbon Week!

The red carpet was laid out this year for OJH 's Red Ribbon Week during the first week of November. Many of you may have noticed the balloons decorating the school and the cheerleaders and SBOs greeting the students on Monday, November 4. It was a fun week filled with many activities. On Monday, the students wrote a few sentences about what inspires them to be drug free. The three winners received Skull Candy headphones. Tuesday, we had "Don't Drive Stupid" day and were visited by the Jazz Bear and had volunteers help students participate with the fatal vision goggles and try to "walk the line". The goggles showed how impaired you are by drinking alcohol. On Wednesday, we had 29 students wear black t-shirts that said, "every 15 minutes" on them and during the assembly they came up on stage. The statistic was read that every 15 minutes a teen between the ages of 15 and 18 is killed in a drug or alcohol related accident. The 29 students represented the number of teens that would have died that day since school started. It was very sobering. We also had the band, "Mesa Drive" play for us and the Director of Lifeline, Jim Smith, speak to the students. The main message was to choose your friends carefully and make wise decisions. On Thursday, the students had teams of five that participated in the "No Brainer Game Show" led by Dr. Sagers. He may have a second profession! Thank you Dr. Sagers! Finally, on Friday, we had a spirit day and "Chief" from The Blaze came and kept the students busy with sit-up and push-up contests for our "Stay Clean-Stay Fit" day. Whew!! What a great week!

Red Ribbon Week would not have happened without the following volunteers, generous business donations and faculty help. A special thank you to the Committee: Etienne Brasher, Amy Burbidge, Kristin Longson, Holly Wright, Amy Lunt, Keri Bengtzen, Melissa Rideout, Dawna Rasmussen and Amy Jeffries. Thank you to the following businesses who made very generous donations to the week: Great Harvest Bread, Skull Candy, Utah Jazz, Fortis Group LLC, Utah Blaze, Holladay 6 Cinemas, Penna, Powers, Brian and Haynes Advertising Agency and the various state agencies (who gave us great posters!). Thank you to the faculty for letting us disrupt their week with many activities, especially Dr. Sagers, Mr. Keeley, Mr. Harline, Mr. Peters and the office staff. Finally, a big thank you to Anne Monsen and the PTSA for supporting this important week!

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 Olympus Jr. High School
 Granite School District
 2500 South State Street
 Salt Lake City, UT 84115

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December / January Calendar

12/3	Dance Concert, 7 pm Girls' Volleyball @ Bonneville Wrestling vs. Bonneville Midterm	
12/8	Girls' Volleyball vs. Wasatch Wrestling @ Wasatch	
12/10	Choir Performance, 7 pm Wrestling vs. Westlake	
12/11	Girls' Volleyball Quarterfinals	
12/15,16	Mulan singing auditions, 3-6 pm	
12/17	Band / Orchestra Concert, 7 pm	
12/18	Girls' Volleyball Championships Mulan movement reading, 3-6 pm	
12/20-1/4	Winter Recess	
1/5	School reconvenes	
1/10	Wrestling JV Tournament	
1/13	Basketball begins	
1/16	End of Term, No School	
1/17	Wrestling Division Championships	
1/19	Martin Luther King Day, No School	
1/24	Wrestling Championships Model UN Field Trip 8 am—6:30 pm	



The Spook Alley

Ben Hopes (Student Body Historian) decided to do a spook alley this year to raise cans or money for the canned food drive. Ben and the 9th grade class officers planned it out and got a whole bunch of students to volunteer and help. It took a lot of work but it was a success. We had been planning this for a long time and when it was finally finished it was really cool to see that it turned out pretty well. It was two cans or any dollar donation to get in. We raised a good amount of cans. We got a lot of people to come out and support the canned food drive. Thanks for all those who came and helped out, came through the spook alley, and the moms who helped out too!!! Thanks Ms. Fraidenburg for getting us all that candy and pizza!

- Denali Hale, 9th Grade Class Vice President

PTSA wishes OJH families and faculty a wonderful holiday season!

