

Board of Education:

Denise Aquino
 Frank Bednard
 Henry Chiodini
 Andy Patzert
 Ken Pearl
 Tammy Reynolds
 George Sobah
Superintendent
 Mark Deldin
Principal
 John Rose



JIBBER JABBER

OJIBWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

46950 HEYDENREICH

MACOMB, MI 48044

Main: (586) 723-6400 / Absentee: (586) 723-6499

Fax: (586) 723-6401 / Latchkey: (586) 723-6473

Web Address: www.cvs.k12.mi.us



OCTOBER 2009

Our mission is to instill in all students a desire to reach their highest potential and to prepare them for a productive future as responsible, contributing citizens. We will accomplish this through a dynamic, comprehensive curriculum provided in a nurturing environment by staff and community that is committed to excellence.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

We are off and running! I would like to thank the PTO and all the parent volunteers who assisted the staff at Ojibwa with the arrival and dismissal of school during the first week of school. Your efforts and spirits made the start of our school year very successful. We are very pleased with the attitude and effort that our students have displayed since the beginning of school. Good job on guiding your children with such care and concern.

The colder temperatures are here, the leaves are starting to show their brilliant colors, and the morning temperatures are crisp! According to the calendar we are well on our way to fall. By this time, the students have established their daily classroom routines. Hopefully, at home you have done the same. It is extremely important to have a consistent daily study time in a quiet setting after school or in the early evening. Your child should use this time to do their homework or review with you their lessons of that day. This serves two purposes: it shows your child that you care about what they are studying, and it reinforces learning that has occurred in school. A nightly "study time" will help your child succeed in obtaining a productive, enjoyable, and positive educational experience this year.

Ojibwa is geared up and ready for the Michigan Educational Assessment Program also known as "MEAP". MEAP tests measure the level of competency reached by our students. The results of the test are used to report learning to parents, assist the schools in identifying strengths and weaknesses, and to indicate areas of the curriculum needing revision. MEAP tests assess the learner's ability to apply knowledge and solve problems. Each test is aligned to the state's core curriculum.

Shortly, our third, fourth and fifth graders will take the Mathematics and Reading Test. In addition, fourth graders will take a writing test and fifth graders will take the Science Test. The testing window for all third, fourth and fifth grade students will take place over four days this year. These dates are: October 13th, 15th, 20th, and the 22nd. Please do not schedule appointments or have your child miss school. There is a very limited amount of designated make-up days. **All schools in Michigan are required to follow the same schedule. Please be respectful of this state requirement.** A letter will be forthcoming with specific dates and details. You can help your child do his/her best by:

- *Making sure that your child attends school on the days of testing.
- *Making sure that your child has a peaceful evening and a good night sleep prior to testing days.
- *Providing a breakfast on the morning of testing.
- *Reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he/she doesn't understand test directions.
- *Letting your child know that you are confident in his/her ability to do their best.
- *Being aware that the test is not timed. Please encourage your child to work carefully and to take his/her time.

October is Red Ribbon Month. There are some special events planned for the month here at Ojibwa. As parents, please encourage your students to participate in the following activities:

- *Friday, October 9th "Shade out drugs day" Students can wear sunglasses
- *Friday, October 16th "Give drugs the slip" Students can wear slippers
- *Friday, October 23rd "Sock it to drugs day" Students can wear silly socks
- *Monday, October 26th "Red Ribbon Day" Students can wear their ribbons that day

All students and staff will be given red ribbons to wear.

Additional events that we are gearing up for during the month of October are Bus Safety Week, PEN, and Halloween.

Have a great October!

John Rose, Principal

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Chippewa Valley Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight or marital status in its programs, services, activities or employment.

Inquiries related to nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:
 Civil Rights Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
 Chippewa Valley Schools Administration
 19120 Cass Avenue, Clinton Township, MI 48038 Phone: (586) 723-2090

Nondiscrimination inquiries related to disability should be directed to:
 Section 504 Coordinator, Director of Special Services
 Chippewa Valley Schools Administration
 19120 Cass Avenue, Clinton Township, MI 48038 Phone: (586) 723-2180

PARENT PICK-UP PROCEDURE

If there is a change in how your child will be going home (being picked up instead of taking the bus or taking the bus instead of being picked up) a note must be turned into your child's teacher and the office. **Any request via the telephone or in person will not be honored after 2:50pm. Teachers begin reviewing homework and dismissal instructions for the day at 3:00pm. It is very difficult to release your student during this time.** Just a reminder according to your student code of conduct, Section IV, page 13: If students leave less than an hour before dismissal this will be recorded as a tardy on their attendance record.

ABSENCE REPORTING PROCEDURE -

ALL absences, including hospital stays and vacations should be reported to the office either by phone or note. **ABSENCES** should be called in before 8:30 a.m. to (586)723-6499. Please leave the students name, teacher name, reason for absence and length of absence on the answering machine



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Parents who wish to have a student released to an adult at dismissal, who is listed as an emergency contact, must send a signed and dated note to school. Please be sure to update your child's emergency card in the office if you change a phone number or place of employment. It is very important that we are able to contact you in case of an emergency or illness.



STUDENT MESSAGES AND DELIVERIES

If your child has called home because they have forgotten their lunch money or any other item needed for the day, please bring it to the main office. Please encourage your child to leave a message as to why they are calling if you are not available to answer their call. The office staff is not always aware of why a student is calling home and we are not able to interrupt classrooms during class time. When delivering lunches, notebooks, money, etc., **PLEASE** make sure your child's name and teacher name are clearly marked on the item. This helps to avoid mistakes. Lunches brought to the office will be delivered directly to the lunch room as soon as they are received.



ATTENTION

Calling all tree huggers, earth lovers, environmentalist and recyclers. Now is your chance to help Mother Nature AND Ojibwa School.

There is a recycling receiver at the front of the main parking lot that is waiting to collect all newspapers and those pesky catalogs that keep piling up and cluttering your homes. The bin is emptied monthly and all monies collected go directly to purchases for students. The students will be involved in the purchasing decisions.

The bin is ready and waiting. Please think of us as you bundle your papers. WE love getting your catalogs.

Thanks for your support,
Ms. Strizic



FROM THE OJIBWA KITCHEN

Please be aware that snacks are sold as CASH only. The snack prices are as follows:

Ice Cream	\$0.75
Cookies	\$0.40 each or 2/\$0.75
Chips	
(Doritos, Funyuns, Ruffles)	\$0.50
Fruit by the Foot	\$0.50
Rice Krispie Treats	\$0.50

We do sell snacks everyday, including pizza day.

Debit cards are used for lunch, milk and juice **ONLY**. The lunch price is \$2.50, and milk is now 50 cents.

Also, if you are depositing money to your students account via LunchDeposit.com, please be aware that it takes 7-10 business days to show up on your child's account.

Please consider using the debit card system while purchasing lunches. Depositing money into your students account is fast and easy, and makes the lunch line move much efficiently. Each student has a debit card with an I.D. number. Low balance reminder slips are sent home with the child, when their account gets below \$5.00.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the Ojibwa Kitchen at 723-6419. Thank you!

OCTOBER IS RED RIBBON MONTH

Red Ribbon is the national celebration of efforts for a drug free America.



Research proves that parents NOT peers have the most influence over their child's decision whether or not to use drugs or alcohol. Taking charge of your parent power regarding this decision requires educating yourself and talking to your children often and at an early age about the risks of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Some questions to ask your children during this week are: Why do you think it is important to keep your body drug free? Do you think you will always be able to come to me and tell me if something is bothering you? Why is it important not to smoke, drink or use other drugs?

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, October 9th "Shade out drugs day" Students may wear sunglasses

Friday, October 16th "Give drugs the slip" Students may wear slippers

Friday, October 23rd "Sock it to drugs day" Students may wear silly socks

Monday, October 26th "Red Ribbon Day" Students will be given red ribbons to wear and as well encouraged to wear red to celebrate being drug free



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Students that require medication at school, must have a completed district form on file. Prescription medication, including inhalers, require both parent and doctor authorization. Any changes in dosage, frequency or type require a new medication form before the school can abide. Non-prescription medication requires a parent only to fill out a medication statement form. This includes all over the counter medications including pain relievers and cough drops.

All medication MUST be in the original container. An adult **MUST** bring the medication to the school office. New forms must be filled out each year. If you have any questions, please contact the health aide at 586-723-6493.

ATTENTION KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

We are still experiencing kindergarten students not getting on the correct bus, not getting off at the correct stop, sitting in the back of the bus, etc. We feel that it is important that the kindergarten students carry with them in their backpacks the identification cards that were given to them at the beginning of the school year. Please make sure that this card is filled out completely and that your child carries it in their backpack at all times. If you are in need of another card, please stop by the office and pick one up.



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK - OCTOBER 19th - 23rd

Throughout the school year, drivers, parents and educators are concerned about keeping kids safe on the bus. National School Bus Safety Week gives you the perfect opportunity to teach students key safety rules they should follow when traveling to and from school.

National School Bus Safety Week is also a great time to recognize your bus drivers for their dedication during the school year.



HALLOWEEN INFORMATION

Even though Halloween is still a few weeks away, many of you are already making costume plans for your children. We would like to suggest that parents choose costumes with a positive role model. We recommend book characters, cartoon characters, great people in history, period costumes or traditional Halloween characters. At Ojibwa, we teach students to solve problems in a non-violent way. Halloween should be an exciting and fun time for our children. Items that resemble weapons will not be allowed. Students **MAY NOT** wear costumes or masks on the bus. They should be brought in a bag and be put on before the parade starts. There will not be time to apply makeup, use colored hair spray, etc., so please do not send those items to school.

LATCHKEY INFORMATION

If your child is attending latchkey after school, please make sure that you send a note to their teacher. Also, you should call latchkey directly at 586-723-6473. This applies to ALL Ojibwa students. Verbal instructions from a parent many times are misconstrued by the end of the school day.

Therefore, a written note to the teacher is the best way to guarantee that your child is sent in the right direction at the end of the school day.

OJIBWA IS ON THE WEB!

Did you know that Ojibwa Elementary has a web site? You can get up to date information regarding events for students, PTO, the Jibber Jabber and the school calendar. The web site will also publish Accelerated Reader student status. Please review the page when students should stay home from school due to illness and how to report the illness. The web address is www.cvs.k12.mi.us then click on Ojibwa!



BOOK FAIR NEWS

The Book Fair will be in the LGI. We will do a student preview on Monday and Tuesday November 30th and December 1st. Students will not be shopping during that time. The fair will be open for sales on Wednesday and Thursday December 2nd and 3rd during conferences. The fair will be torn down Friday morning December 4th. Pre-order forms for the soon to be released 4th edition of "Wimpy Kid" will be going home the first week of October. The book arrives around October 12th.



ART NEWS

Ms. Ciccone asks that all parents send in an old shirt that your student can wear while in art class, to help protect their clothing.



FAST FOOD LUNCHES

This is a reminder that fast food lunch deliveries to students are not allowed. If you wish to celebrate a special occasion, please sign your student out for lunch. They should return to school by the end of their lunch period.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Just a reminder that Thursday, November 12th is our picture retake day. If your child was absent on picture day or if you are not satisfied with your child's picture and want it retaken, please send in the entire package on retake day for the photographer. Forms are available in the office if your child was not photographed on Picture Day.

MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO...

When writing a check for school purposes, please follow these guidelines:

- Lunch - **Chippewa Valley Food Service**
- Field Trips - **Ojibwa Elementary**
- Latchkey - **Chippewa Valley Schools**
- PTO Fundraisers & Events - **Ojibwa PTO**
- Book orders & subscription - **The Organization**

QUICK TIPS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD

- *Build on your child's strong points
- *Show your appreciation
- *Be friendly
- *Show affection
- *Spend time with your child
- *Use humor
- *Notice their efforts
- *Don't emphasize their weaknesses

LISTEN BETTER WHEN YOUR KIDS TALK

Why don't you and your kids communicate better? If you've asked this question more than once, you may want to take a look at your own listening skills. Good communication is mostly listening.

Don't interrupt. Kids, especially younger children, may need more time to find the words they need. Be patient. You don't like being cut off by others in mid-sentence, and your children don't enjoy being interrupted either.

Ask good questions. Grown-ups may see a yes-or-no question as an opportunity to expound at length on a subject. Children are more likely to take the query literally and respond with a one-word answer. Structure questions that encourage full answers-- what did you do? Why did that happen?

Be empathetic. You don't have to agree with what your child says to understand how he or she feels. Before giving advice, share your own feelings honestly and succinctly: "I get angry when that happens to me, too. What do you think you could have done differently?"

SCHOOL MAIL-OUT

Chippewa Valley Schools Mail-Out is a district-wide service that gives you up-to-date information about not only Ojibwa but other schools (that you choose) and the district. PLEASE go to www.chippewavalleyschools.org and sign up today! In an effort to save on paper we will be sending our building newsletter out via Mail-out. Our newsletter and other important information will still be available on our building website, at <http://www.cvs.k12.mi.us/ojibwa>.

BOX TOPS & LABELS FOR EDUCATION UPDATE

Attention Ojibwa Families! It is already time for the fall Box Top classroom contest. Please send in the Box Tops you've collected over the summer to your child's teacher so that they can be deposited into their classroom bag. Like last year, the classroom with the highest total of Box Tops will earn a Pizza Party!! In addition, please send in Campbell's Soup Labels which can be found on a variety of products. There is a Campbell's Soup "can" in each pod where your child can drop in the point coupons. Last year, with the labels we submitted, we were able to redeem them for tons of new playground equipment for each grade level to use at outdoor recess. In addition, we earned over \$3,000 with our Box Tops point redemptions. Please support our school and visit the Ojibwa PTO website for additional point collection sheets. Thank You!

LOOKING AHEAD AT OJIBWA ELEMENTARY:

November 3 - No School - All Students
November 6 - End of First Quarter - Secondary
November 24 - End of First Trimester - Elementary
November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break
December 2 - Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences - Evening Only
Elementary Students Attend All Day
December 3 - Parent/Teacher Conferences PM/Evening
December 4 - Students Attend in AM Only
December 18 - Holiday Break Starts at the End of the Day
January 4 - Classes Resume
January 18 - Martin Luther King Birthday - No School for Students
February 12 - Mid-Winter Break begins at the End of the Day
February 22 - Classes Resume
March 17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Evening

Only

Elementary Students Attend All Day
March 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - PM/Evening
Elementary Students Attend in AM Only
March 19 - Elementary Students Attend AM Only,
April 1 - Spring Break begins at the End of the Day
April 12 - Classes Resume
May 20 - No School - All Students
May 31 - Memorial Day - No School - All Students
June 15 - Elementary Students Attend in AM Only,
June 16 - Last Day of School for Students
All Students Attend in the AM Only