Thank You OAC Parents
Thank you to all the parents/guardians that donated for our upcoming Staff Appreciation Week!

This month we celebrate our substitutes, our school nurses and our teachers.

Thank you OAC Bus Drivers
Thank you to our Dean Transportation Bus Drivers and Staff for keeping our students safe. We celebrated our bus drivers last month with a breakfast burrito bar!

Tulip Time Parade
We will be participating in the annual Holland Tulip Time Kinderparade on Thursday, May 9, 2019. Important notes to remember:

- Students marching in the parade will unload at DeVos Fieldhouse at approximately 1:00-1:15 PM.
- Parents sitting in the bleachers need to be at 10th and VanRaalte. We will be sitting in sections Q-R-S.
- We are in the last division and will board the busses immediately after marching (approximately 3:30 PM)
- Listen to the weather forecast and dress your son/daughter accordingly.
- We will NOT march on Friday (May 10) if the parade is cancelled.
- Busses will be leaving for home directly from Holland. Your student will arrive home either earlier or later than usual depending on how close you live to the Holland area.

You will be receiving additional details from your student’s teacher.

Commencement
Commencement for the Ottawa Area Center class of 2019 will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at the Ottawa Area ISD, in the Educational Service Building (ESB), 13565 Port Sheldon Street, Holland, MI 49424. Commencement will begin at 7:00 PM.

Early Dismissal
On Wednesday, May 15, students will be dismissed early and arrive home 1 ½ hours earlier than normal. Be sure to mark your calendars.
Wear Orange
Our curriculum color theme for May is Orange. We will celebrate this color by encouraging students and staff to wear something orange on Thursday, May 16.

Half Day
On Friday, May 24, students will be dismissed at 11:50 AM for Staff Inservice. Please plan accordingly.

No School Memorial Day
The Ottawa Area Center will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. Please remember and appreciate those who have sacrificed for our country.

Half Days
Students will be dismissed at 11:50 AM on Wednesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 6. Please plan accordingly.

Medication Notice
If your son/daughter is scheduled to attend the summer school program, their medications will NOT be sent home at the end of the school year. If you need to have your son/daughter’s medications sent home, you will need to contact the school nurse and ask them to do so.

Emergency/Enrollment Paperwork
The first day of school is tentatively Monday, August 26. We will be sending home forms for you to update and return in the next couple weeks. We are asking these forms be returned to school by Monday, May 27, 2019 (before the end of the school year). If you are planning a move, a change of address, phone numbers, or email addresses during the summer months, please inform the office.

Speech Department
Communication Across the Lifespan – Better Hearing & Speech
Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders. For 2019, the theme is "Communication Across the Lifespan." ASHA (American Speech-Language Hearing Association) has provided some tips for encouraging language development in children. These suggestions include:

- Talk, read, and play with your child.
- Listen and respond to what your child says.
- Talk with your child in the language that you are most comfortable using.
- Teach your child to speak another language, if you speak one.
- Talk about what you do and what your child does during the day.
- Use a lot of different words with your child.
- Use longer sentences as your child gets older.
- Have your child play with other children.
We would also like to introduce Lindsey Anderson, who joined our speech team in August. Lindsey is from Jenison and is a graduate of Michigan State University and Ohio University. She previously worked at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. She lives in Grand Rapids with her husband, 2-year-old daughter, and dog. Lindsey enjoys hiking, biking, and crocheting. She has loved her first year at OAC and has been enjoying working with all the students. We are excited to have her as part of the team! ~Chelsea, Lindsey, and Nicole

Activities Outside of OAC
This section is reserved for parents, staff or other agencies.
The Ottawa Area Center does not endorse or promote these activities/services.

VIP Vulnerable or Impaired (VIP)
The goal of this initiative is to assist law enforcement in returning a Vulnerable or Impaired Person (VIP) to a safe environment with minimal trauma and loss of dignity. For more information on VIP visit the following website www.mi.gov/MSP-VIP

Respite
If you are looking for respite care over the summer months, feel free to contact Rachel Brunink-Morlock at 616-566-6423.