



SPARTAN NEWS - February 2019

Dear Seven Oak Families,

Welcome to the second semester! We are excited about all of the great stuff that is still to come as we move into the second half of the school year. I've had some recent "aha" moments around the "why" of middle school, after hearing more than one disgruntled student express that they didn't care about middle school, because middle school doesn't "count". I recently shared a quote with our staff, sung by Dory in Finding Nemo: "*Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming, Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming. What do we do? We swim, swim.*" Middle school is not the waiting room before high school, this is not a time for treading water - we need to be sure that our students KEEP SWIMMING towards becoming fully functioning adults who are prepared for high school, post secondary opportunities and eventually, their careers and life. Middle school is a vital piece of a K-12 education and it's our job to be sure this bridge between elementary school and high school is a time of learning for all of our students - not only learning the academic content, but also learning about who they are AND where they are going. We are thankful to be in partnership with you, our Seven Oak families, as we all keep swimming together!

Some of this learning happened recently for our 7th graders, who took part in our Career Education Experience at the end of January, spending a morning hearing from fire-fighters, attorneys, welders, entrepreneurs, cosmetologists, and more, about the skills and training necessary for those various occupations. This month we also have our annual Science Fair, which is a wonderful opportunity to engage with your students, visit our campus, and see all of the great experiments and projects they've been working on. And next month, our entire 6th grade class heads to Outdoor School at Camp Tadmor - a chance to engage in some experiential learning in a beautiful outdoor setting. Also in March, our 8th graders will be headed to LHS to learn about all of the electives and Career and Technical Education programs offered at the high school, as they begin the course selection classes for their freshman year! Finally, we are exploring opportunities to take groups of students out to our district's Land Lab this spring - another occasion to engage in experiential learning and career exploration in the areas of agriculture, horticulture and forestry - all of these are wonderful experiences for our students as they continue to grow and learn.

The Seven Oak PTC Color Run is coming!! On Saturday, April 6th, our Parent Teacher Committee is coordinating our 1st annual Color Run. This is a fun event for all ages and an important fundraising activity for our PTC and it's ongoing support of all of our programs here at Seven Oak. Please check our website for more details!!

Counselors' corner

- February 4-8 is National School Counselor Appreciation week! Our students, staff, and administration have been making sure our counseling team has been feeling the love all week.
- Also, in partnership with 10 of Mr. Shearon's leadership students, our counseling team and Co-Principal Mike Hillman will be delivering kind cards to The Oaks Retirement Home, Willamette Manor, and the Veteran's Home on February 13! The cards were made by all students at SOK, and delivering them will be a good example of kindness and community service in action!

-Mrs. Beth Seagrave (last names A-L) & Mrs. Laura Martin (last names M-Z)



SPARTAN NEWS - February 2019

Additional announcements / important dates

- Winter sports continues - Boys Basketball and Wrestling seasons are underway - come out and support your Spartans!
- **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE:** Please remember that the designated student drop-off (a.m.) and pick up (p.m.) area is at the far south end of campus. For the safety of our students and to ease traffic congestion with our buses, please do not enter at the north end of the parking lot. The front side of the building should only be used for parking if you have business to attend to inside. Permits are available for families who need to regularly park in the front of school - please ask at the main office. Thanks for your support!
- **Friday, February 8th - Science Fair, 5p- 7p**
- **Saturday, February 9th** - 8th graders Annual Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction fundraiser for DC/NY trip
- **Monday, February 18th** - No School - Presidents' Day
- Immunization reminder: Tdap vaccine helps boost protection against three diseases: Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Oregon law states that students after the age of 11 or by 7th grade must receive this shot to stay in school. Exclusion day is February 20th. If your student has not received this shot please do so by **February 20, 2019.**
- On **Tuesday, March 5th**, the 8th graders visit LHS to learn about CTE and HS electives.
- Attention parents and guardians of 6th grade students: Outdoor School 2019 is coming!! Our 6th grade class will be attending Outdoor School from **March 13-15, 2019** at Camp Tadmor. We will continue to provide additional information to 6th grade parents as that date approaches.
- State testing will be happening again this spring for all of our students, please check our website to access the 2018-19 Annual Notice for Statewide Tests and Opt Out form from the Oregon Department of Education. We will be sharing more information and specific testing dates as we move towards our testing window - which will be from late April into May.
- **March 25th - March 29th** - No School - Spring Break
- **April 6th** - PTC Color Run @ SOK
- **April 10th** - End of the 3rd quarter
- **April 11th** - No School - Staff Preparation Day
- **April 12th** - No School - Parent / Teacher Conferences

Happy 2nd Semester and Let's go SPARTANS!!