



# Orange City Elementary School

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 2019

Parent-Teacher Conferences for this fall are scheduled for Tuesday, October 22nd and Monday, October 28th from 4:00-8:00 PM.

On these evenings our bells will ring every 15 minutes signaling the end of each conference. Please observe these bells so that all parents have an opportunity for an equal amount of time. If more time is needed with your

child's teacher we will be happy to arrange additional conference time later.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are a time for your child's teacher to share their progress with you. It's also a time for you to ask any questions you may have. Remember that our staff is always willing to talk with you at anytime you have a question or concern. Please don't hesitate to contact us!

Contact Us:

Orange City Elementary  
312 1st Street SW  
Phone: 737-4606  
Fax: 737-8006  
[www.mocfv.org](http://www.mocfv.org)



### Inside this issue:

Child Care during  
Parent-Teacher  
Conferences 2

We Need Your Help! 2

Birthday Book  
Program! 3

Reading Strategy of  
the Month 3

Reading with Your  
Child 3

Encouraging Writing 4

Tips for approaching  
"bad" behavior 4

## Dates to Remember:

October 1st- NWC Play-1st grade

October 3rd- NWC Play -2nd grade

October 8th-NWC Play -3rd grade

October 4th & 18th-Early Dismissals

October 11th- 4th grade to Oak Grove

October 18th- Report Cards home

October 22nd, 28th - Parent/Teacher  
Conferences 4:00-8:00 PM

October 25th - End of 1st Quarter

October 31st- Fall Harvest Parties

November 1st- No School

## Child Care Services Provided During Parent-Teacher Conferences

The high school National Honor Society will provide childcare during Parent-Teacher Conferences if you have children that need it while you attend conferences. This service will take place in the gym and is available for each evening of conferences. Parents are asked to sign their children in and out so we can keep track of everyone. Thanks to the National Honor Society for providing such a great service!

Please remember that this service is provided for those parents that need help with childcare so that they can attend

conferences. Due to limited space we request that you do not bring students just to play that can just as well

stay home on their own. If we continue to have too many of the older kids come we will have to discontinue this service.



## We Need Your Help!

The school can use your help in a variety of ways. We collect Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and BoxTops for Education.

• Please send your BoxTops to school as this program generates a lot of money for our school.

• Pop can tabs are collected for the Ronald McDonald House. These can be brought to your child's teacher.

## Attention, Parents!

We could use your help with our attendance program. If your child is leaving during the school day for an appointment, please have them bring a note to the office **first thing** in the morning. We will sign the note in the office and send it back to your child's teacher. If you would rather notify us by phone (737-4606) or email ([cvanes@mocfv.org](mailto:cvanes@mocfv.org)), please notify the school before 9:00 am. Thank You!



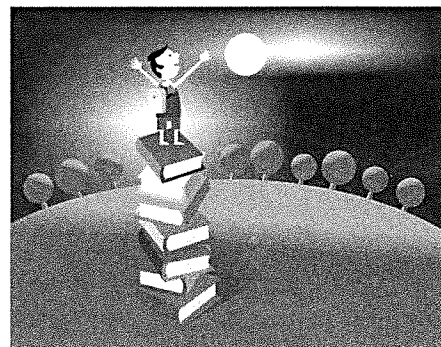
# Orange City Elementary Birthday Book Program

OCE Library Adopt-A-Book Program:

Students can help raise additional funds for the library by simply adopting one of our NEW books. The cost is only \$2.00 per book. What does the child receive? They get to be the first person to check one of these high interest books out of the library. They also get

recognition with their name placed inside the front cover of the book. They may wish to honor someone else by including their name as well or they may simply want their birthday printed inside. What does the library gain? The money collected will be used to purchase more books for the students to enjoy!

Thank you for your generous support of the library!



## Reading Strategy of the Month: Making Inferences While Reading

Inferring is what we used to call "reading between the lines." There are many kinds of inferences we make as we read. As you read the sentence, "While we roared down the tracks, we could feel the bounce and sway." You would make a location inference. You could infer that the characters were on a train from the clues in the sentence. There are many other types of inferences and because each person's experiences are different, the art of inferring

takes the reader beyond the text to a place only he or she can go. To infer, in a pure sense, is to build meaning.

Proficient readers draw inferences, make predictions, and draw conclusions or new ideas from the text. The clues from the author's writing and the reader's prior knowledge (schema) enable the child to make inferences.

We hope as you read with your children this month you will help

them extend their comprehension and understanding by making inferences. Questions to ask your child:

1. Can you infer what is about to happen? Why did you make that inference?
2. What did you already know that helped you make that inference?
3. What words or ideas from the author helped you to know that?

## Reading with your Child

Keep your child learning after you close the book.

Some of the best reading times take place after you've closed the book. Once you've finished your read-aloud time for the day, there are ways you can boost your child's reading skills even more. Following are some tips on what to do after you've closed the cover of the book. Ask your child:

- To tell you the story in his own words
- What would he do if he were in the story. In *Tom Sawyer*, would he want to be Tom or Huck? What would he do in *Crispin's* place in the *Newberry*

Award book, *Crispin, The Cross of Lead*?

- To make connections to his own life. Has he ever felt like one of the characters in the book he's reading?
- To think about different points of view. How would *Little Red Riding Hood* be different if it were told from the wolf's side?
- What did he like and what he didn't like, Why? You might even challenge him to write a review of the book.
- To talk about lessons he has learned from the book. For example, what did he learn about managing his temper

from the story of Daren McCall in *Center Court Sting*?

- To find locations where books were set. Get out maps or a globe. Find the countries or cities mentioned in favorite books.

# Encouraging Writing

Don't point out every error when helping with writing.

Make sure the way you respond to your child's writing motivates improvement. Avoid simply looking for mistakes. And never fix errors for your child.

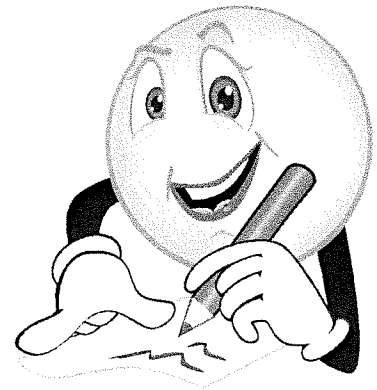
First look for something specific to praise. Say, for instance, "The beginning really grabs my attention." "I like the way you organized your thoughts." "This phrase is very lively!" "Your spelling really has improved."

Then comment on the message your child is trying to convey. Does it make sense and does your child support what she be-

lieves or feels? How does it sound if she reads it aloud?

Ask questions that will help clarify or bring more detail to her message:

- "What are you trying to say here?" "Do you think this logically follows that?"
- "Can you give some reasons why you think that?" "Do you have an example of this?"



## Tips for approaching changing "bad" behaviors

We have all tried to communicate with a child that is not behaving in a positive way. What are some things that we, as adults, sometimes do that are not exactly helpful in these situations? Things like yelling, criticizing, or insulting do not work when we are trying to correct a child's behavior. Instead, we should try to keep the following tips in mind.

1. Make comments about the behavior itself, not the child.

- This will help the child to realize that it is the behavior that is making you angry, and not the child.

2. Avoid using criticizing language.

- Using criticism will only serve to destroy a child's confidence and motivation. They will eventually think that they cannot do anything right, so why even try anymore?

For example, instead of saying "Stop being lazy", say something like, "I would like you to make your homework a priority."

3. Avoid giving a "you" message ("You are lazy") and instead give an "I" message ("I am upset about...").

- Once again, the words you decide to use will determine how your child reacts to what you are trying to say. If it comes across in a condescending way, they will most likely be less likely to listen and change the behavior.

So, these are a few of the things that do not work to change an unwanted behavior, what are some things that do?

1. Praise them for the good behavior you see instead of always focusing on the bad. Examples of this are:

- Saying how you feel: "I love the way you..." or "I appreciate..."

- Describing what you see: "I can see you put a lot of effort into your school project."

- Praising progress: "You spelled every word correctly on your spelling test this week!"

2. Make comments that encourage your child to conclude something positive about themselves.

- "I appreciate how you are being so kind to your sister"

- Child concludes: "I am capable of being kind."

By no means is this section meant to be taken as a flawless model for changing undesirable behaviors. We are simply sharing with you some of the methods we have found to be effective.

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Sept	30 Sept Day 1	1 Day 2  1st Grade NWC Play	2 Day 3	3 Day 4  2nd Grade NWC Play	4 Day 5  Early Dismissal 1:15 PM	5
6	7 Day 6	8 Day 1  3rd Grade NWC Play	9 Day 2	10 Day 3	11 Day 4  4th Gr. Oak Grove Field Trip  Mrs. Kate Boersma's Birthday	12   Mrs. Schmit's Birthday
13  Vi De Jong's Birthday	14 Day 5  Jason Kleinhesselink's Birthday	15 Day 6	16 Day 1  Mrs. Alsum's Birthday	17 Day 2	18 Day 3  Report Cards Home  Early Dismissal 1:15 PM	19   Mr. Andersen's Birthday
20	21 Day 4	22 Day 5  Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 PM	23 Day 6	24 Day 1	25 Day 2  End of 1st Quarter	26
27  Mrs. Van Wyk's Birthday	28 Day 3  Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 PM	29 Day 4	30 Day 5	31 Day 6  Fall Harvest Parties 2 PM	1 Nov  No School	2