



Oak Elementary's January Newsletter



Just Keep Swimming...

5th grade students will have their swimming session Feb 6 - 17 (no swimming on Wednesdays). Please help remind your students to bring a towel and suit daily.

Just Keep Swimming...

iSwim is February 25th! Pledge sheets will be available in the office the beginning of February.



What is Dibels?

Dibels are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. A student will sit one-on-one with a staff member and the student will read to the staff member.

How can you help? Have your student read out loud to you, then have them summarize what they read. Make sure your student gets enough rest and a good breakfast/lunch.

Smarter Balance Testing

How will Smarter Balanced assessments contribute to student success?

All students deserve an education that prepares them for their next steps in life—whether that's going on to college or starting a career. Smarter Balanced is guided by the belief that a balanced, high-quality assessment system can improve teaching and learning by providing information and tools for teachers and schools to help students succeed. Timely and meaningful assessment data can offer specific information about areas of performance so that teachers can follow up with targeted instruction, students can better focus their own efforts, and administrators and policy-makers can more fully understand what students know and can do, in order to guide curriculum and professional development decisions. Importantly, educators will be able to easily compare student achievement between schools, districts, and states to ensure that students are making progress.

What do I do if I don't want my student to take the Smarter Balance assessment?

If you decide it is in your child's best interest to not take the Smarter Balance assessment, the district will need an Opt-Out Form. This can be found on the district website (Albany.k12.or.us), in the PARENTS tab, under RESOURCES. Please print and fill out the form, then return it to the office. We will make note of the Opt-Out and forward the form to the district office.

How would my child earn the E Award? And what is it?

The E Award is an award students can earn by showing EXTRA effort around the school. Each classroom teacher watches their class closely to see who is going above and beyond the "normal" effort given. This does not mean the child who reads the best, or is really good at math... This award goes to the students that are showing that they are trying really hard to learn something new, helping classmates, or by going above and beyond the general expectations.

OAK STINGERS LETS SHOW SOME EFFORT!

Important Dates to Remember:

1/2	No School
1/7	Hiking Club at Ankeny Hill
1/9-13	Dibels Reading Assesment
1/16	No School
1/20	PTA All School Read In
1/21	Snowman Stumble Fun Run
1/30-31	No School