



Open Classroom Community News

Volume 11, Number 8

December 1, 2010



Counselors Corner

Hello OC Community,

It's been so great to see and hear about the learning that's happening in the kids' relationships with each other. We're fortunate, because overall, our students treat each other really respectfully. But like with everything, there's so much to be learned about how to get along with others and how to have your voices heard and how to problem solve. What's been really impressive is that I've had more and more students share with me that they have asked kids who looked alone to play with them on the playground, or have stood up for another student who may have had their feelings hurt. Our kids are making sure that our school norm is that everyone is included and that no one has the right to hurt another's feelings or body. I wish I could list all the kids who have helped a classmate out, but it would be a huge list. So, ask your children if they have had the opportunity to help a classmate or friend in need, or stood up for someone who has been picked on, or included new people to play with them. I'm sure many of you will be proud of your children. Please thank them for me and the OC.

I recently realized I need to let you, the co-ops and parents, know the steps that I've been teaching

the kids for dealing with situations that they don't like because you are part of the solution.

If students feel that they have been picked on/harassed/or bullied they might try any or all of the following steps: (Steps 3 and 4 are the ones we strongly encourage our students to use)

1. Avoid contact with the person.
2. Ignore the bad behavior (this may not work).
3. Communicate with the person in a calm and assertive voice:
 - Tell the person to STOP the unwanted behavior immediately. Be very specific about naming the behavior you want to stop.
 - Communicate that you dislike the behavior.
 - State that you will have to report the behavior if the person does not stop it. Tell the person to whom you will report it to as well.
 - If the problem behavior continues, repeat the above. Remain calm and assertive in your comments.

4. If the behavior does not stop, you may report this behavior as a violation of our school and district policy about harassment. Report the behavior to any/all of the following as you feel is appropriate:

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- Your teacher or any teacher.
- Your school counselor or any school counselor.
- The Principal
- Any co-oper
- Your parent/guardian

So what should you do if a student reports hurtful behavior to you??

If you are an adult bystander (parent, teacher, co-oper) you should:

- Always intervene when you see harassment, making an effort to stop it. E.g. you might try asking, "Can you tell me what's going on here?"
- Let all children and teens know that harassment is never okay.
- Model good relationships that demonstrate mutual respect.
- Encourage all young people to participate in positive activities.
- Help young people

understand what it feels like to be harassed, thereby creating empathy for victims of harassment. This may also help the harassers understand the hurt they are causing.

- Involve other adults in helping prevent harassment before it even starts by emphasizing RESPECT for ALL.
- Make yourself available as a resource for young people.
- Report students involved and the situation to classroom teacher, administrator or counselor.

Thank you for helping our children learn to respond to unwanted behavior by using their words to stand up for themselves and getting help from you or another adult if the behavior continues. It's what we as adults do and it's never too early to teach our children this

life skill.

Thankfully yours (in this season of thanks),

Rose Evans
OC Counselor

P.S. A special thank you to Patty Martinez for teaching us Parenting with Love and Logic starting this Thursday. We have over 35 parents joining us for this amazing opportunity. Thank you also to Jaziarra Mathis for providing the loving care for our children

Sub for Santa

The OC is sponsoring two families from a nearby school. Keep your eye out for more information about what you can donate to make some families' holidays a little brighter.

Co-oper Challenge

Cold weather has arrived. Unfortunately, with all of us indoors more, comes the inevitable germs that seem to come and go from classroom to our homes. Most of us will at some point or another this school year need to find a sub for our co-oping time.

The Co-oper Challenge for the month: Create an "in case of emergency" plan for your co-opping time.

What will you do when something comes up last minute to fill your time? Knowing ahead of time will help ease that last minute scramble no one particularly enjoys after being up with a sick kid all night (or being up sick ourselves). Consider

having a standing arrangement with another co-oper or friend. Is there someone you could call first to fill your time, knowing you will be available in their time of need? Know where your sub list is. There is usually one posted on a parent board at school, but that won't help you in a last minute scramble. If you need a copy to keep at home, let your co-op rep know. Also, try making personal phone calls vs. emailing the list. It is easy to think someone else will cover the spot when we see it in our in box. One last reminder, please do not call Barb in the office to let her know you won't make your co-op time or to find a sub.

On the Web

Introductory Video About the Open Classroom

You can share an excellent video about the Open Classroom with friends and others that might be interested. It presents a nice overall view of activities at the Open Classroom as well as highlights our schools educational philosophy and community involvement. <http://ocslc.org/ochome/about/videos/>



Recycling

Did you know that recycling at the OC saves space in the Salt Lake County landfill and keeps our taxes low?

The Deseret News interviewed the recycling coordinator at the Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Facility on September 30th, and here are some of the things they learned:

- 75 percent of the trash sent to the landfill is recyclable metal, glass, plastic, cardboard and plant waste.
- Salt Lake County's landfill will be full in less than 50 years. After that, trash will have to be shipped out of state, which could cost 10 times as much.
- Salt Lake City residents currently pay \$200 per year for trash disposal. 10 x this amount would be \$2,000 per household!

Ashley Yoder of the Salt Lake County landfill said "If we just recycled our plastic and paper we would have 50 percent more space."

Thanks to everyone at the OC for supporting our efforts to recycle paper, plastic metal and cardboard at school!

- Rachel White



Salt Lake City Corporation Recycling and Waste Program Glass Recycling Drop-Off Locations

NORTHWEST

- Rosewood Park**
1200 West 1300 North
- Westpointe Park** - North parking lot
1100 North 2000 West
- Northwest Recreation Center**
1300 West 300 North
- Park and Ride Lot**
974 North 900 West
- Fresh Market North Temple**
140 North 900 West
- Old Children's Museum**
840 North Beck Street

NORTHEAST

- Popperton Park** - East parking lot
1350 East 11th Avenue
- Rotary Glen Park**
2270 East 800 South
- Steiner Aquatic Center** - East
645 South Guardsman Way

SOUTHWEST

- Sherwood Park**
1500 West 300 South
- Jordan Park**
1060 South 900 West
- The Beer Store**
Clear, green and brown glass
1763 South 300 West

DOWNTOWN

- Fresh Market 2nd South**
370 East 200 South
- Trolley Square**
Overflow parking lot, south side of 600 South
- 650 East 600 South
- SLC Facilities Division Parking Lot**
248 East 600 South
- Liberty Park** - SW corner of Park, near tennis courts
600 East 900 South

SUGARHOUSE/EAST SUGARHOUSE

- Fresh Market 17th South**
1638 South 900 East
- Fresh Market 21st South**
2040 South 2300 East
- ShopKo**
South side of lot, near delivery area

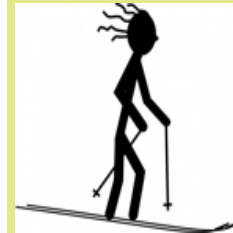
2290 South 1300 East

Forest Dale Golf Course
2375 South 900 East

For more information,
visit www.slcgreen.com



Ski and Snowboard



Have your kids learn to Ski or Snowboard! (OR improve your current skills) Parti-

cipants are picked up from school on early release Fridays, during February and March, and travel up to Snowbird Mountain, where they receive six lessons from Snowbird Mountain Ski School Instructors. This is a great opportunity for children to learn to ski or snowboard and have fun with friends. **Age:** 3rd-6th Grade

Fee: \$240 Registration

For more information and to register please visit

<http://www.recreation.slco.org/northwest/youthSports/skiSnowboard.html>



Parent to Parent



My kids and I had so much fun doing summer care for some O.C. kids that I would like to offer holiday care. Any day of the week \$30.00 all day and \$15.00 1/2 day. We will do crafts, activities, cooking and more.

Email me or call: fleabunn1@yahoo.com or #801-604-3086

References on request

Felecia - Mom of Merek (Amanda 1/2), Bailey (Denny Jo 7/8), Porter, O.C. graduate now attending Wasatch Jr. and Chloe, Olympus High



Gunter Family BLANKET DRIVE

donations accepted:

TODAY thru DECEMBER 17th
We are looking for new or gently used blankets to donate to local organizations in need:

Homeless Shelters
Nursing Homes
Hospitals

Help us keep Salt Lake City warm
Please drop donations off in Kirsten's classroom #2

Holiday Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle [It's a SWAP]

Saturday, December 4, 2010, 10 am – 2 pm
Elliot Hall, First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, SLC, UT

Purpose: Share what we have with each other, our neighboring community, families being resettled in Salt Lake City by the International Rescue Committee, and others in need.

How this works:

- bring what you don't need (working items only) & put them on a table – no furniture please;
- take what you need from what others have brought;
- no money is exchanged;
- bring only what you don't need, take only what you do need;
- what is not taken will be donated to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) & others in need;
- ALL are welcome;

We especially encourage you to start your holiday "shopping" here - reuse what others no longer need before you buy new for the holidays – maybe you'll find everything you need!

Open Classroom Community News

The OCCN is a newsletter produced, approximately every two weeks, by and for the entire OC community of students, parents and teachers. Please consider submitting any written articles or artwork about OC life and happenings.

Submissions will be accepted at any time, but deadlines for each edition will be the Monday before publication at 7:00 PM

The upcoming deadlines are Mondays, December 13, January 3, January 17, and January 31.

Please send any submissions to oc.communitynews@gmail.com