

# "ARRR" NEWS

October 2, 2009  
Issue 110



## Congrats to Top Fundraisers

Thanks to all Plank families for supporting the Entertainment Book Fundraiser. This fundraising event raised \$5,000 for the Plank Home & School Teacher Grant Program. A special congratulations goes out to our three top sellers: Jenna Coglan, Terry Mathis, and Christopher Santana. Each of these students were awarded \$50 gift card from the business of their choice within the local area.



## Boys Basketball Tryouts Soon



All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys interested in trying out for basketball need to have (1) a 2009 physical turned into the Nurse's Office and (2) a completed Waiver Form turned into Coach Baker or Coach Mosley. Tryouts start Tuesday, Oct. 13. Any questions, see Coach Baker in F217 or Coach Mosley in D126.

## Pirate Sports

All contests are scheduled to begin at 4:15 PM unless otherwise noted. Students who would like to support our teams must leave school grounds at the end of the school day but may return at 4 PM.



Mon., 10/5 Girls Volleyball v. Traughber, 8<sup>th</sup> Home, 7<sup>th</sup> Away  
Boys Soccer @ Traughber  
Cross Country @ Thompson

Thurs., 10/8 Girls Volleyball v. Yorkville, 8<sup>th</sup> Away, 7<sup>th</sup> Home  
Boys Soccer v. Yorkville @ Home

## Congratulations, Top Pirates!

The following students were selected as this week's Top Pirates for displaying the qualities of Character Counts!<sup>sm</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Matt Ashton  
Roshini Mudunuru  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jessica James  
Shahmir Shaida  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nick Robles  
John Woodfork



**Keep it up, Pirates!**

## Poms Try-Outs – October 9

All 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls interested in trying out for Poms must have a current sports physical on file with the nurse by October 2.

Clinics will be held in the cafeteria Tuesday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 7 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Tryouts will begin at 3:15 on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Girls must attend all three days in order to be considered for the squad.

Pom handouts are available in the Main Office and are due to Ms. Postlewaite in Room E108 no later than Wednesday, September 30.



## Book Drive for Hesed House

The Plank Junior Optimist Club and Churchill Elementary are co-hosting a new and used book drive for children who live at Hesed House, a homeless shelter, in Aurora. The book drive will run from October 1-15. You can donate two ways: send used books to F123 during homeroom OR



have your child donate change to their homeroom's jar at lunch. We will use the change to purchase new books. Thank you for your support!

## Cookie Sale Starts Today

Cookie dough order forms were sent home with students today. There are 11 yummy cookies, 2 brownies and scrumptious pretzels to choose from. Orders are due October 16 and will be delivered November 9...in plenty of time for holiday baking. Please call Diane Cabiness @ 630-554-3513 if you have any questions or need more forms. Proceeds support the teacher grant program, which buys books and equipment to ensure the success of our children's educational experience.



Quote of the week...

**Diversity is the one true thing  
we all have in common.  
Celebrate it every day.**

Author Unknown

## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OFEE?

OFEE, Oswego Foundation for Educational Excellence, is a community-based organization of interested citizens committed to the goal of enriching and enhancing educational opportunities for the students of Oswego School district 308. Foundation funds come from individual and corporate charitable contributions, as well as other fund raisers such as a fall golf outing for district vendors, Cents for Kids, a District 308 staff payroll deduction plan, theater presentations, etc.

The Foundation was incorporated in November of 1995 as a vehicle to enhance the educational program of the district by providing materials, equipment and funding for initiatives that cannot be supplied through limited public resources. A not-for-profit organization, the Oswego Foundation for Educational Excellence is chartered by the State of Illinois as a qualified 501 © charitable deduction.

Since 1995 the Foundation has funded mini-grants through a committee process that requires board of director approval. In addition, the Foundation has established an endowment fund and administers several Scholarship Funds. Items such as additional baggy books, Science materials and Oswego High School's Weatherbug program are only a few of the contributions OFEE supplied in years past.

The current OFEE board looks forward to expanding the quality of education within District 308. Beginning last year, OFEE began a Community Arts program. This offers students interested in the Fine Arts an opportunity to work with professional artists onstage by aiding with the show production and attending master classes. In addition, the Students and the Arts program also serves as a fundraiser for OFEE.

This year, to celebrate OFEE's 15th anniversary, a wonderful stage production entitled The Piano Men will come to Oswego East High School Performing Arts Center November 7 at 7:00pm. Through the artistry of Dove nominee Jim Witter, an amazing all inclusive tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel is paid. Enhanced by back stage projection, the show fills an entire evening with nostalgic pleasure. Tickets may be purchased at the door or ordered through the Oswego East Performing Arts Web site. ([www.oepac.org](http://www.oepac.org)) Prices begin at \$29 individually or \$23 for groups of 10. Students may enjoy limited seating in the balcony for only \$10.

The Oswego East Performing Arts Center is a state of the arts facility with free parking. OFEE presents The Piano Men, an exciting show in a beautiful facility. All proceeds go directly to the Oswego Foundation for Educational Excellence and help in awarding grants requested by 308 members next spring. Come join us to celebrate the arts and help to enhance our students' education!

## NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS

**Schools, organizations, and communities are raising awareness of bullying prevention and teaching students how to respond effectively to bullying situations. October 5-9<sup>th</sup> is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week but we will be addressing different Bully Topics during homeroom throughout the months of October and November (we are expanding the recognition due to already scheduled Character Counts activities).**

Our main goals are to educate our students, staff and parents on how to identify the different types of bullying, the effects of bullying, and gain skills to know what to do if they are being bullied. Listed below are the topics and activities that will be addressed throughout upcoming weeks:

**Student education:** A Thursday morning announcement starting Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> to kick off bully prevention awareness. Mr. Buck will then do a flip video during homeroom to educate our students on the new bully process at Plank. Students will be hearing a weekly morning announcement on Thursdays. In homeroom, a lesson plan on bullying awareness will follow each announcement. Counselors will be providing the weekly lesson plans. Announcements and lesson plans during homeroom will be given on the following dates: **October 8th (flip video), October 15<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and November 19<sup>th</sup>.** Counselors will also be visiting 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classrooms to teach and reinforce bullying prevention.

**Staff education:** Staff will be educated on new bullying prevention awareness process.

**Parent education:** To enhance the awareness of this serious problem within schools today, parents will be receiving several helpful articles (tip sheets) on bullying prevention awareness through the Connect Ed email as well as on the school website under the parent link.