



October 2009 ~ Volume 9, Issue 1

# THE WHEATLANDS WOLF TRACKS

A PTA Publication for the Wheatlands Elementary School of Oswego School District 308



## From the Desk of Janet DeMont...

As I am writing this month's message I am sitting in my darkened office using the light from the window because during this hour The Wheatlands is "Unplugged". This is one of the activities we are using this year to highlight ways to reduce energy consumption. So, each classroom is turning out as many lights as practical and using tried and true teaching techniques that do not rely on as much electricity, at least for one hour. We will have an "unplugged" hour once a month and then on Earth Day, in April, it will be a challenge to see how much of the day can be spent electricity free!

You may be asking yourself "How can I help support this Earth friendly initiative?" I am so glad you asked! Here are several ways you can help us help the world.

**Recycling:** During the year we will be designating an item to recycle. If you would like to participate, save the items until the appropriate week then send them in with your child. In **October** we will be collecting aluminum pop tops (not the whole can, please) to donate to Ronald McDonald House. As you are doing

your holiday shopping, save your plastic bags and we will recycle them in **November** and **December**. And, when you are decorating and find a string of burnt out holiday lights don't throw them away! We are partnering with the Oswego ECO Commission and they will recycle Christmas lights in **January**. When you get your new phonebooks in **February**, bring the old ones to our Community Paper Recycling receptacle at the far end of the parking lot. This bin is available **all year long** for the community to recycle paper only (newspaper, junk mail, magazines etc.) and our school makes money for every ton we recycle. In **March** we will collect batteries, cell phones/chargers, etc. so hang onto any old ones you have or come across between now and then. Our student council will recycle our old crayons to send them in to make new ones for handicapped children again in **April**, and in **May** we are recycling glue bottles and glue stick containers.

**Lunch/Snacks:** Send your child to school with a reusable water bottle, snack containers, and lunch boxes to reduce the amount of waste generated for our landfills.

**Go Paperless:** This will be the only newsletter printed on paper and distributed through Friday Folders.

Please go to [www.oswego308.org](http://www.oswego308.org) and sign up for Communicate 308 to get the newsletter sent to your e-mail address. It will also be available on our school website. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a paper copy, we would be glad to provide one upon request, just call the front office.

You may not realize it, but we are in close contact with Mother Nature. She has already been in to visit once this year and has agreed to lead our Halloween costume parade. She will be very proud of all of us for the effort we are making on her behalf!



Janet DeMont  
Principal  
jdemont@oswego308.org  
630.636.3500



## A Note from Lori Lockhart...

Welcome to another exciting year at The Wheatlands! I hope you have had a great summer!

The Fall Fundraiser just ended in September, but the "opt out" option will be available throughout the year. The gift card sales will start up in October and will also be available throughout the year. As always, the money raised allows us to support the classrooms and run all our events for the year. Please keep sending in those box tops and soup labels!

There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer for our events this year. Our main need right

now is for coordinators for the Go Green Initiative and the Fun Fair.

The last thing I'd like to mention is the upcoming event for October. We will be sponsoring a Movie Night for K-2 at 6:30 on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This event is free for paid PTA members and \$1.00 per person for non-members (\$5.00 per family) An adult must stay with the child(ren) they brought. This event is only for the grades listed, please no siblings. If siblings are brought, they will not be allowed entry.

Our next PTA meeting is October 13th at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

All of our forms and documents are available on the website. Here is that site: <http://www.oswego308.org/schools/thewheatlands/parents/pta.aspx> Please check here often to keep informed!

As always, feel free to contact me or any other board member with any questions or concerns!

Lori Lockhart  
PTA President  
Lori\_lockhart@comcast.net



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 5th Author Visit
- October 6th *School Improvement Day*  
Early Dismissal @ 11:55 AM  
NO KINDERGARTEN
- October 12th *Columbus Day*—NO SCHOOL
- October 13th PTA Meeting
- October 14th Market Day Pick Up 6:30 PM—7:30 PM
- October 16th PTA Movie Night K-2 6:30 PM—8:00 PM
- October 20th Market Day Brochure Fundraiser Pick Up  
3:30 PM—7:30 PM
- October 29th End 1st Quarter  
Halloween Parade 1:45 PM  
Halloween Parties 2:00 PM—3:00 PM  
AM Kindergarten Parties 10:00 AM
- October 30th *Institute Day*—NO SCHOOL



Check out the Wheatlands PTA website often for updated information, monthly PTA minutes, committee and member information and to see view the Wolf Tracks newsletter!

<http://www.oswego308.org/schools/thewheatlands/parents/pta.aspx>



## IMPORTANT STUFF TO REMEMBER

### Student Daily Absences

Student absences should be called in to the Attendance Line (630.636.3501) by 9:00 AM the day/days of their absences. Any absences not reported will be marked as an unexcused absence. Truancy letters are sent out at 10+ unexcused/excused absences per quarter.

### Extended Absence Form

An Extended Absence Form will need to be filled out by parents or guardians and approved by the student's teacher and principal for extended absences of three or more days. These absences do apply towards truancy.

### Student Information Changes

Please keep your student's teacher and the office up-to-date on any changes to phone numbers, contact names and transportation.



## THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY

Many thanks to those who helped with the September Hospitality Breakfast for the teachers. I know the staff enjoyed the food, and is especially grateful for this special treat each month. With your continued support, we'll be able to provide the teachers and staff with breakfast each month, and dinner

during conferences in November. During these tough economic times, I understand that it's difficult to help out each time something comes up. If you're able to help once or twice this year, it would be greatly appreciated.

help by donating paper goods, juice, yogurt, granola, fruit, bagels, cream cheese, donuts, or baked goods.

I really appreciate your support, and I know the staff appreciates your continued generosity.

Please let me know if you're able to

*Cher Vlach*  
Hospitality Coordinator  
abctutor1@sbcglobal.net



Thank you so much for your support of the Wheatland's first Market Day sale of the school year. We raised an outstanding \$349.08 and had 50 customers ~ and we have only just begun!

In October, there will be two great offers and one big thank you! Purchase \$40 or more before tax in October and receive a FREE 1-lb package of Ground Beef. You can also qualify to receive a FREE 1-lb package of Large Shrimp when you order \$90 at marketday.com and enter the

promo code listed in the October Order Guide during online checkout.

Order forms are due back to school by Friday, October 9th or place your order on-line by Saturday, October 10th at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Remember, you now have until 11:00 PM to order on-line!

The pick up for the October sale will be Wednesday, October 14th from 6:30—7:30 PM in the cafeteria.

Thank you, also, for your support of the Market Day Brochure Fundraiser. The pick up for that will be on Tuesday, October 20th from 3:30—7:30 PM at the school.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer at the customer pick ups.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Wheatlands!

Laura Perillo  
Market Day Coordinator  
[sweetp9802@comcast.net](mailto:sweetp9802@comcast.net)  
630.978.8527

In an effort to "Go Green", this will be the only Wolf Tracks sent home in Friday Folders this year. Please go to [www.Oswego308.org](http://www.Oswego308.org) to sign up for Communicate 308 and have the newsletter emailed to you. It will also be available on the school website.

If you would like to request a paper copy of the Wolf Tracks, please contact the front office.

Questions or ideas for the Wheatlands Wolf Tracks?

Contact Laura Perillo at 630.978.8527 or [sweetp9802@comcast.net](mailto:sweetp9802@comcast.net)



## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OFEE?

OFEF, 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<sup>th</sup> 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!



Oswego CUSD 308 presents

Judy Freedman, MSW, LCSW

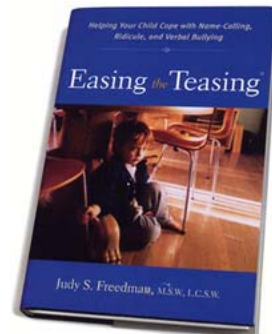
Celebrated author and practicing School Social Worker

# Easing the Teasing

Teasing is a universal and widespread problem and it cannot be completely prevented. Although children are unable to control what others say or the actions of the teasers, they can learn to control their own responses and reactions, which will “ease the tease”.

This *FREE* program is being offered to *ALL* district parents and will include:

- Types of teasing
- Reactions and effects of teasing
- Why children tease
- The 10 “easing” strategies
- The importance of bystanders
- Tips for parents of teasers, victims and targets



Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Oswego East High School

1525 Harvey Road

7:00 – 8:30 PM

*In the Auditorium*

*(We are unable to provide childcare at this event.)*

*For more information contact your School Social Worker*