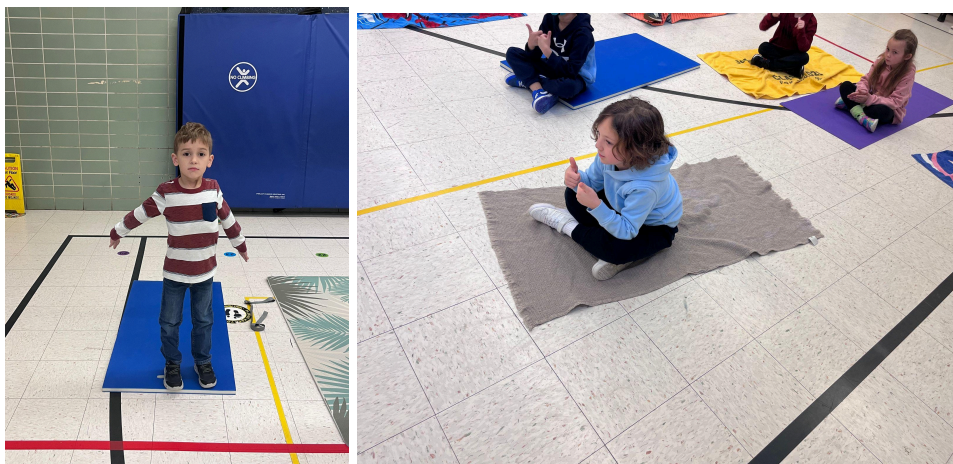


Click [here](#) for a printable version

My Fellow Lions -

Great week here at OAS. Our week began with some sessions of mindfulness as part of our Mindfulness in Residence program sponsored by the PTA and led by Melissa Andersen of "Just Be Yoga". Mindfulness is non-judgmental present moment awareness. It is meant to help us regulate our emotions, not by controlling them, but by noticing and accepting them. The word mindfulness is used to describe both the practice and the goal of the practice. [Here is a link to some of the movements that were used in the past few weeks.](#)



PTA News:

- **Fifth Grade Valentine's Day Fundraiser- Today is the last day!**
 - Here's a SWEET way to support the 5th Grade at OAS.
 - https://www.yumraising.com/secure/orangeas_oas_th_grade_send_off27/SopOxe2517/
 - Shipping is free with orders of \$65.00 & over.
 - Thank you to the people that have placed orders so far
 - The online shop will be open until 1/27/23 so there's still time to get those orders in!!!
 - Please consider supporting the 5th Grade at OAS with an order. Thank you for your support!
- **After School Activities-Spring Session Begins the week of 2/13**
 - **Peace, Love and Crafts- 8 weeks- \$100 Thursdays 3:30-4:30**
 - 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20
 - E-mail Nicki to sign up peacelovecrafts1155@gmail.com
 - Check out instagram @peace.lovecrafts
 - **Giggling Pig Tuesdays 3:30-4:30** - Join The Giggling Pig Milford for a 8-week after school enrichment program where we will work together in a range of media, fostering open-ended thinking, emotional intelligence, creativity and curiosity while strengthening focus and attention and boosting self-esteem. Plus, it's a whole lot of fun! Sign up with the link below:
<https://www.care.com/connect/thegigglingpigmilford/dashboard/invites/Wpt26uMAMLXdTjKno4KbT8g9>
 - **Knitting Class- 8 weeks \$ 100 Mondays 3:30-4:30** - If you are interested in learning a new skill, knitting is something fun and different that you can learn in less than 20 minutes. In this class you will learn to knit, purl, and even make something you can wear or give as a gift. Do you want to make a hat or a scarf, then come try this activity. It will be fun and you will have

something to show for it by the end of the program. Needles and yarn are provided. [Sign up Here](#)

- **Chess Club- 8 Weeks Fridays 3:30-4:30** - Welcome to our after-school chess program! This is a rare opportunity to have your child coached in chess by a local resident and Chess Olympiad participant. Our program is designed for kids of all skill levels, from beginner to advanced. We'll help your child learn the basics of the game and develop strategic thinking skills that will last a lifetime. Our program is convenient, and it's a great way for your child to develop deeper relationships with friends (new and old) and have fun while learning an important skill. Sign up for our program today! Space is limited.

<https://keap.page/fu903/after-school-chess-program-feb-2023.html>

- **PTA Meeting-** Tuesday, February 7th 6:00-7:00 OAS Media Center. Childcare available.
- **Website-** Keep up to date with any PTA news and info on our [OAS PTA website](#)
- **Facebook** Like us on facebook for reminders and news on exciting events. [Orange Avenue School PTA](#)

News and Updates

- **Paying for Meals resumed on Monday, Jan. 9th** - Students now must pay for breakfasts and lunches. Families who have already qualified for Free/Reduced Price meals have been notified of their status and their child's meal service will not be interrupted. If you did not receive a letter and wish to apply for reduced-price or free meals going forward, you must complete the Free/Reduced-Price Application as soon as possible. Please check out our information on the district website [HERE](#). **One of the things we want you to know is that NO CHILD will ever be denied a meal, nor shamed in any way, based on a negative school meal account.**
 - All families should set up an account with Titan to pay for school lunches. Create an account [here](#)
 - BREAKFAST - Elementary: \$1.75, LUNCH - Elementary: \$3.35
 - At all levels, reduced-price breakfasts for qualifying families are 30¢.
 - At all levels, reduced-price lunches for qualifying families are 40¢.
- **Black History Month** - Throughout the year, there are many celebrations focused on acknowledging the history and contributions of different groups. Black History Month begins on February 1. Milford Public Schools continues our commitment to celebrating diversity and the unique gifts and experiences of our Milford Public Schools students, families and staff that make our community so special. Our ongoing goal is to provide opportunities for all learners to see themselves within our curriculum. If you would like to explore some of the Black History Events events happening across the state you can visit: <https://www.ctvisit.com/articles/black-history-month-activities-connecticut>
- **Community Connection Weekly News** - This week's Community Connection Center's Newsletter ([CCC News](#)) has links for a FAVORS WORKSHOP, The Recreations Department's TOP SHOT program and Ct. Mobile Food Pantry. Each week information about Milford's providers & their programs are listed. You will also find ideas for family friendly activities & places to visit. And don't forget that the [CCC website](#) is also updated with links to community resources. Have a great week!

- **Families of Students in the grade 4 & 5 Strings program** - On Monday, January 22, your child's string teacher e-mailed an [important communication](#) about an upcoming concert with musician, Mark Wood. Please be sure to review the letter and complete the t-shirt order form by February 3. As a reminder, parents are able to order tickets for this event ahead of the public (link is included in the letter). It is encouraged that tickets are ordered early as we anticipate a large response for this event once it is opened to the public. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's string teacher.

Important Dates:

- [Printable MPS full year calendar can be found here.](#)
- **Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00pm:** PTA meeting in Media Center
- **Friday, February 17th & Monday, February 20th:** NO SCHOOL - Winter Recess
- **Wednesday, February 22nd:** Early Release Day - students released at 1:25 for teacher professional learning.