

OMS-PTSO News

Volume 24

October 2004

Join us on Oct. 12, 7PM for PTSO Guest Speaker Mike Jackman from the Norfolk DA's Office

FROM THE DESK OF MR. HESTER

As many of you know, OMS was declared 'A school in need of improvement' due to MCAS scores. However, there is another side to the sores. The result of the MCAS for 6th grade in math saw OMS score 86% passing while the state average was 75%. In 8th grade Language Arts, OMS had a 97% passing rate while the state average was 93%. In 8th grade Math, the area we need improvement in, we were able to have 8% less failures this year and had 76% passing compared to the state average of 71%. Our MCAS scores are broken down into 8 sub-groups of students, Limited English Proficiency, Special Education, Free Lunch, African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American and White. If any one of these categories does not meet state standard improvement, we are declared, 'In need of Improvement'. As a school, we are doing very well and we are working to improve scores of all students, with a goal of 100% passing.

OCTOBER EVENTS:

10/12 PTSO 7p; 10/28 Early Release & Parent Teacher Conferences; 10/29 No School, Professional Teacher Development Day; 11/9 ODMS PTSO Meeting 7p; 11/11 No School – Veterans Day; 11/12 Term 1 ends; 11/23 Report Cards Distributed

Remember to utilize <http://www.baseclasstech.com/> it contains dates, events, agenda's, subcommittee information and much more. Our website has a new look...ODMS & SHS news is available on ONE site. Be sure to watch channel 6 & 98 for ODMS announcements as well.

ODMS School Improvement Council would like to **WELCOME** Victoria Burgess & Marc Shores to the committee. Thank you to the Parents who took part in the voting process

A Note from the ODMS PTSO President:

I would like to thank the many families who have signed up with the ODMS-PTSO already this school year. Your membership helps us fund many programs for students & staff alike. You may still join by going to our website to download the membership form or see us on 10/28/04, during conferences.

With that, I wanted to assure you that the email addresses you have given the PTSO are for the SOLE use of ODMS PTSO; they are kept confidential; all our information must be approved by the Administrative Principal first. We do our very best to be accurate and keep you as up to date as possible. Finally, our website is a PTSO site; it is not apart of the main Stoughton Public School Site. It is manned and updated by PTSO volunteers trying to provide a service not a hindrance. We value and welcome your comments. Please contact either Wayne Hester, Administrative Principal, directly, or utilize the PTSO Contact Icon via our website: www.baseclasstech.com

Continued Success to all during this 2004-2005 school year,
Sincerely,

Julie-Leah J. Harding

OMS-PTSO News

**We're Collecting BOX TOPS and CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS!!!
SEND THEM INTO THE OFFICE!!!!**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOUR SCHOOL NURSE:

What you should know to protect your family from EEE

(Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus)

By: Mrs. DeNapoli, School Nurse

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEEV) is a rare form of viral encephalitis. (The word encephalitis is a medical term for swelling of the brain.) EEE was first recognized in the state in 1938. Since 1938 75 human cases have occurred in Massachusetts, 43 of them have died. The human mortality rate is approximately 50-70% with survivors frequently left with disabling mental and physical problems. In most years less than a dozen human cases are reported nationally. Human cases may occur from late July through October, or generally through the first real frost.

The state of Massachusetts has EEE monitoring and control program that are designed to assess the level of risk and dictate proper action for both health agencies and the general population. They set out traps each year, test mosquitoes, and keep officials apprised of the results.

In light of the recent local cases, and due to the multitude of outdoor activities in the evenings in the fall months, please look over the Department of Health recommendations below to help educate yourself and your family regarding EEE prevention:

- Wear and dress your children in long sleeve clothing and long pants when plans involve outdoor activities in the evening. Use mosquito repellent that contains DEET and follow the directions on the label carefully (as it can be toxic if overused.) Avoid using repellents with DEET concentrations above 10-15% for children, or above 30-35% for adults.
- Avoid standing water or swampy areas if at all possible. These areas have higher concentrations of mosquitoes. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby carriage with mosquito netting.
- Fix holes in any screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all doors and windows.
- Mosquitoes can breed in water that collects in ditches, clogged gutters, old tires, wheelbarrows, and wading pools. Don't let stagnant water collect around your home.

Symptoms of infected persons range from flu like symptoms to encephalitis which can result in coma or death. There is research to support that many can fight the infection off with a strong immune system. Persons over the age of 50 and under the age of 15 seem to be most susceptible. Human cases are very rare, largely because the primary transmission cycle takes place in swamp areas where populations tend to be limited.

**ODMS-PTSO School Store will be open on the following days:
10/4 Monday; 10/13 Wednesday; 10/18 Monday; 10/25 Monday;
11/3 Wednesday; 11/8 Monday; 11/22 Monday; 12/1 Monday;
12/8 Wednesday (during all lunch periods)**

T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, General School Supplies & even Halloween Fun are available. A new price list is available on-line with new items being offered too! Thank you Vicki Burgess for your assistance & to the many volunteers willing to man the ODMS PTSO Cart for our students to enjoy ☺

This year we are happy to announce that the PTSO will sponsor two **Scholastic Book Fairs**. The first is coming up this month and is scheduled to *run during Parent / Teacher Conferences* on **Thursday October 28th**. The Fair will begin at **12 noon** and the first session will go until 3 in the **Media Center**. We will begin again around **6:30** until the end of conferences at 8:30. We are looking for volunteers to help out by giving an hour or two to help with us in the Media Center. If you are free and available to help please call either Elsie Gaydar or Vicki Burgess or use the Contact PTSO Icon on the web-site: www.baseclasstech.com