

Is It Spring Yet???

FROM THE DESK OF MR. WELSTER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and students of the O'Donnell Middle School for their generosity. As a school we recently raised \$527 for the Tsunami relief efforts. Our coat drive collected well over 100 jackets for the second consecutive year. A toy drive recently collected 118 new toys for children. These as well as other fund raising drives held here at school shows the interest of the community in helping those in need. The staff of OMS greatly appreciates your help in these activities.

A reminder that February 10 is our last Parent/Teacher conference and March 10th is our Day of Excellence.

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

February: 2/2 6th gr. Band Winter Concert @ SHS Auditorium 7:30p; **2/8** ODMS SIC meets at 3:30pm & ODMS PTSO Meeting 7p in the Media Center with Guest Speaker Josh Gannon – topic: **"SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS GRANT & PROJECT ALERT DIRECTOR DISCUSSION"** Also **REPORT CARDS will be distributed**; **2/9 -7th gr.** Band Winter Concert @ SHS Auditorium 7:30p; **2/10** Parent Teacher Conferences & Early Thursday; ***February Vacation*** begins the end of school day 2/18/05 – *School Reopens on Monday 2/28/05*

ODMS - PTSO COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER!

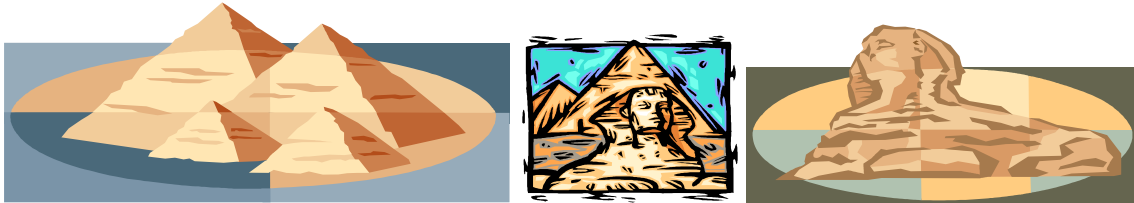
Slightly delayed because of our snow days, but this fundraiser has an amazing PRIZE PROGRAM. Any student selling at least 12 items will have their name entered into a drawing for a \$50.00 mall gift certificate. One winner per grade.

ON FEB. 10TH BE SURE TO STOP BY THE PTSO TABLE...

Be sure to stop by the PTSO table during conferences...We will have T-shirts and Sweatshirts available as well as Gym Shorts that are perfect for basketball. (Special Orders will not be taken as we are having difficulties with our current vendor- sorry). Our AVON Representative for our mid February AVON Fundraiser will be present too, with many of the fabulous Avon products we all enjoy.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Will be set up in the Media Center during Conferences (2/10/05),
be sure to stop by!!



HAVING FUN WITH PYRAMIDS AND PHARAOHS

On January 14, 2005, the sixth grade classes were treated to a special presentation on the history and geography of ancient Egypt. This presentation augments current school curricula while specifically focusing on areas of particular interest to the students.

Ms. Paulette Morin presented a unique educational museum-style program which explored ancient Egyptian life. Special focus was given to such items as jewelry, clothing, wigs, and the process of mummification. Ms. Morin had a multimedia presentation using PowerPoint and storytelling.

This interactive program allowed for the students to participate by wearing some of the jewelry that Ms. Morin had on display. They also were able to examine reproductions of Egyptian artifacts.

This program, which has been presented to the sixth grade for many years, is always a highlight for the students.

A Note From the Clinic:

To update everyone on happenings in the clinic....although kids have been sick, it has been fairly consistent with typical January clinic visit numbers. There has been a small amount of flu cases; the stomach bug continues to be the biggest culprit; and viral sore throats are finally slowing down a bit. We are seeing approximately 70 kids daily in the clinic.

We are currently working on Body Mass Index letters that the state has now required for all grade 7 students to receive. If you have a 7th grade student, expect a letter with the height/weight and BMI of your child. There is also an informative nutrition letter attached from the Director of Food Services, as well as "healthy lunch box tips" and "healthy lifestyle tips" for all to look at. The State has much concern re: what they are calling an "obesity epidemic" in the youth of today. Please share the fact sheets, or the ideas presented with your child. We can all use reminders on healthy living!

Lastly, I am currently assisting the physical education teachers with the scoliosis screening of the 6th and 8th grade students. Grade 7 does not participate, as they should have received this screening at the mandatory grade 7 physical. You will hear from us only if there is a problem detected. Please be advised that this is a very simple procedure for the kids, but do not hesitate to call me if you would like your child excluded from the screening. As always, feel free to contact me with any concerns re: your child!

*Stay Healthy,
Mrs. DeNapoli, OMS School Nurse*