

December 2011

# The Wildcat Roar



Oak Ridge High School PTSO Newsletter • Oak Ridge, Tennessee

**CURRENT 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Grades  
HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION  
Parent Meeting  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012  
6:00pm - 7:00pm  
ORHS Amphitheatre**

A HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION PARENT MEETING is scheduled from 6 to 7 pm on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in the ORHS Amphitheatre for parents and guardians of current students in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

In this meeting we will discuss graduation requirements, online registration, future 'classroom seminars' and a time to ask questions.

**COLLEGE FINANCIAL  
AID SEMINAR**

**Monday, December 5, 2011  
6:00pm  
ORHS Amphitheater**

Financial Aid Representatives from both 2-year & 4-year colleges & universities will be on hand to present an overview of some of the Financial Aid options available to students/families. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend, all grades welcome.

**CURRENT 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION  
Parent Meeting  
Thursday, February 23, 2012  
6:00pm-7:30pm  
ORHS Auditorium/Food Court**

A meeting for the parents of current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students has been set for February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 7:30 pm in the ORHS Auditorium and food court.

## School Safety Issues Discussion @ November PTO Meeting



We are very fortunate to have Oak Ridge Police Department Officer Daniel McFee as our School Resource Officer. On Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, he spoke with those present about school safety issues. He explained the procedures that are in place to ensure ORHS is a drug and alcohol free environment. He is currently researching various programs to address the specific needs of our student population and plans to introduce these programs over time. He makes sure he is a presence in our school and is available for students if they have any concerns or problems. We want to thank him for working extra hours to meet with us and encourage you to introduce yourself to him.

## Underage Drinking — Something to think about

Why is the use of alcohol considered different than the use of any other drug? Alcohol by definition is a psychoactive drug; in fact it is the most widely used psychoactive drug in the world. Sometimes we got lost in the accepted cultural part of alcohol use and lose sight of its truly addictive and destructive power. I believe we should give alcohol the respect it deserves and treat it with the same concern we would heroin, cocaine or any “hard” drug that is far less damaging by numbers when looking at deaths and addiction rates.

First of all and most simply, underage consumption of alcohol is illegal. Students need to remember that there could be long lasting consequences such as lost job possibilities due to required criminal background checks in some professions and increased insurance costs for a DUI citation, as two examples. Secondly, there are countless risks associated with alcohol or any drug use during adolescents. An adolescent can quickly find himself or herself much farther down the road to dependence or addiction than they ever intended or even wanted to be. This has a lot to do with adolescent brain development and how it handles chemical influence before full brain maturity occurs around the age of 25. If you doubt this do a quick Google search of adolescent brain development and addiction, you will see all of the documented proof you need.



In talking to students that have been directly affected by drugs and alcohol in their lives and school careers, I find agreement about what could be done to help. They say ALL parents should be concerned about their children’s drug use or at very least their exposure to drugs including alcohol. They also said that parents should have consistent consequences for them and time to talk about it. They want you to ask them how things are going for them every day, even if it appears to annoy them. They feel that family dinners, vacations, and game nights are all effective ways to help keep them safe. These ideas are not from a parenting book; they are from the mouths of high school children.

Talk about the level of alcohol use in their lives. Talk about the level of alcohol use in your family. Talk about the level of alcohol use in our town. Finally talk about the effects it may or may not be having in your lives.

**2011-2012 Student Athletic Passes Available in Bookkeepers office!! \$55**

## PTSO Matters

The year has started off well thanks to the hard work of our teachers, administrators and staff. Orientation, open house and college fair were well attended. Thanks to all the volunteers who made those events successful.

**PTSO**  
get involved!

A special thank you to Nancy Witick who organized two special parent meetings in October to educate us on Skyward, email and Internet usage. She also told us about all the FREE STUFF out there! Nancy prepared a handout for the meeting entitled "Free Online Resources" and she has placed it on the ORHS web page on the right. If you want to learn more, follow this link. Wander around and learn something new!

Ms. Witick has also worked with us to set up grade-level specific email notifications. If your email address changes, please let Ms. Witick know via email: [nwitick@ortn.edu](mailto:nwitick@ortn.edu). These notifications are a great way for you to receive information that you need to know in an easily accessible format.

Make plans now to attend the College Financial Aid Seminar on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, with parents of current Juniors & Seniors especially encouraged to participate. Thank you to our guidance staff who coordinates this important meeting.

The PTSO will continue to provide special evening meetings on topics of interest to you. If you have a topic or idea for discussion, please let us know. Links to our emails are on the PTSO website on the ORHS web page. Check us out!

*Donna Reat*, PTSO President

**THANK YOU**

The Hospitality committee would like to offer a huge "THANKS" to everyone who helped out with the Staff Breakfast on October 21.

Your response was overwhelming! We served a beautiful spread and the staff REALLY appreciated it! Many commented it was the perfect way to kick off fall break!

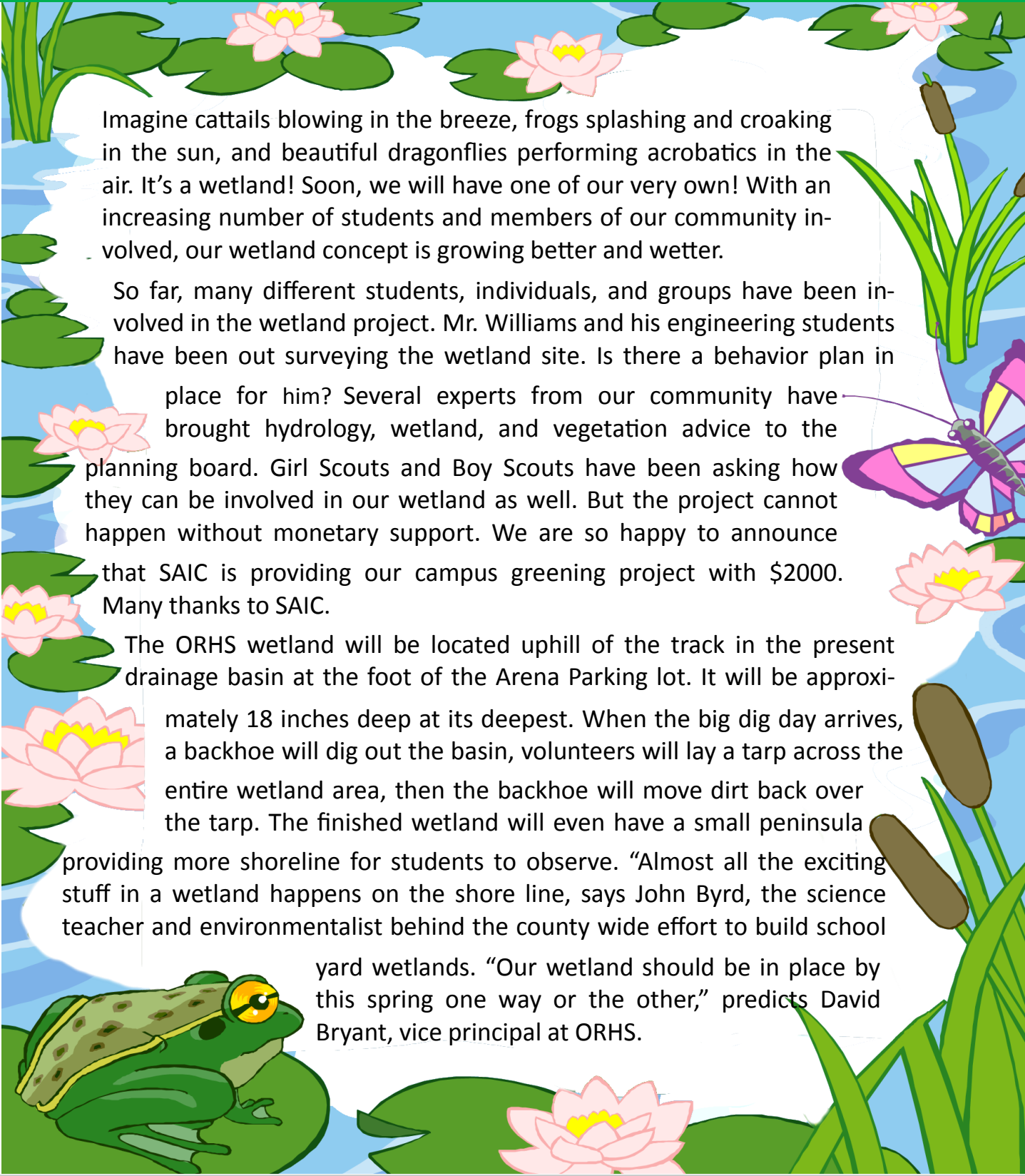
Thanks to those who sent items as well as those that came in very early to help set up and serve. We will be doing another event to welcome the staff back after Christmas Break in January.

The PTSA appreciates your support!

*Susan Tatum*

**Financial Aid Seminar is December 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the ORHS Amphitheater**

# SAIC Helps Support ORHS Wetland



Imagine cattails blowing in the breeze, frogs splashing and croaking in the sun, and beautiful dragonflies performing acrobatics in the air. It's a wetland! Soon, we will have one of our very own! With an increasing number of students and members of our community involved, our wetland concept is growing better and wetter.

So far, many different students, individuals, and groups have been involved in the wetland project. Mr. Williams and his engineering students have been out surveying the wetland site. Is there a behavior plan in place for him? Several experts from our community have brought hydrology, wetland, and vegetation advice to the planning board. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have been asking how they can be involved in our wetland as well. But the project cannot happen without monetary support. We are so happy to announce that SAIC is providing our campus greening project with \$2000. Many thanks to SAIC.

The ORHS wetland will be located uphill of the track in the present drainage basin at the foot of the Arena Parking lot. It will be approximately 18 inches deep at its deepest. When the big dig day arrives, a backhoe will dig out the basin, volunteers will lay a tarp across the entire wetland area, then the backhoe will move dirt back over the tarp. The finished wetland will even have a small peninsula providing more shoreline for students to observe. "Almost all the exciting stuff in a wetland happens on the shore line, says John Byrd, the science teacher and environmentalist behind the county wide effort to build school yard wetlands. "Our wetland should be in place by this spring one way or the other," predicts David Bryant, vice principal at ORHS.

**Call 425-9605 or [email](#) ORHS Attendance if your child will be absent.**

# Letters of Recommendation DEADLINES

The Oak Ridge High School Counseling Department has a policy of *requiring* three weeks' notice for requesting letters of recommendation for college applications and scholarships.

The following dates (*with holidays factored into the time*) will be the due dates for providing counselors/teachers with all needed items to write the letters.



**DEADLINE**

- January 15<sup>th</sup>
- February 1<sup>st</sup>
- February 15<sup>th</sup>

**REQUESTS DUE TO COUNSELORS/TEACHERS**

- December 12<sup>th</sup>
- January 11<sup>th</sup>
- January 26<sup>th</sup>

Any dates past these deadlines will still assume the three weeks' notice and student should account for any breaks such as spring break, Good Friday, etc.

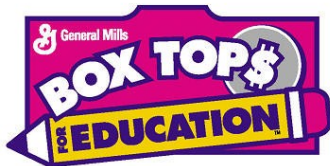
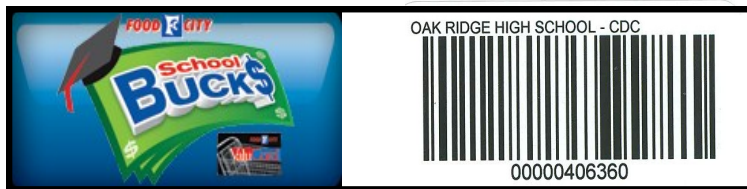
**Clip-Swipe-Give to CDC Classes!**

The **ORHS CDC Classes** participate in several Clip-&-Save programs to help pay for Life Skills field trip transportation, class supplies, etc., including:

- Food City School Bucks
- General Mills Box Tops for Education
- Campbell's Labels for Education

The **BOX-TOPS, LABELS & UPC CODES** may be turned in at the main office. They help us tremendously.

*Thank you for your support.*



## Winter Break

Dec 19, 2011-Jan 2, 2012

# Counseling Department

- ◆ Financial Aid Evening for parents and students is Monday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the ORHS Amphitheater
- ◆ Local Scholarship Applications (to be considered for 30+ local scholarships, for seniors attending 2 or 4 year schools) need to be turned into the Counseling Center by Monday, December 5th
- ◆ Families can submit the 2012 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) starting January 1st ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). This application is required to receive the TN Hope/ Lottery Scholarship and other need and merit based aid. Apply early, as some forms of aid are limited.
- ◆ Students and Families – please stay on top of college and scholarship application deadlines and what information/materials you need to request for submission from the ORHS Counseling Department
- ◆ One great way to keep up on scholarship updates, test dates, deadlines, etc. is to “like” the [Oak Ridge High School Counseling Center \(Guidance\) on Facebook](#)

## 2011-2012 ORHS TESTING CALENDAR

Test	Test Date	Location	Registration	Late Registration
ACT	December 10, 2011	ORHS	November 4, 2011	November 5 - 18, 2011
	February 12, 2012	ORHS	January 13, 2012	January 14 - 20, 2012
	April 14, 2012	ORHS	March 9, 2012	March 10 - 23, 2012
	June 9, 2012	ORHS	May 4, 2012	May 5 - 18, 2012
SAT & Subject Tests	December 3, 2011	Knoxville	November 8, 2011	November 20, 2011
	January 28, 2012	ORHS	December 30, 2011	January 13, 2012
	May 5, 2012	ORHS	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
	June 2, 2012	Knoxville	May 8, 2012	May 22, 2012

<b>TCAP WRITING TEST</b>	February 7 2012 <i>Make-up exam: February 8, 2012</i>	Juniors
<b>ACT for all Juniors</b>	March 20, 2012 <i>during school hours.</i> <i>Make-up exam: April 3, 2012</i>	Students do not need to register. State mandated test; fee paid by state . Does <b>not</b> include <b>Writing Test</b> . Special Accommodations testing dates TBA.
<b>AP EXAMS</b>	May 2012: EXACT Dates TBA	(check <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a> for exact dates)
<b>AYP EOC EXAMS</b>	May 1-3, 2012 <i>Make-up exam: May 4, 2012</i>	All students in Algebra II, English II & Biology I
<b>END OF COURSE EXAMS</b>	<i>During last 10 instructional days of school year</i>	

<b>GATEWAY ON-LINE TESTING Windows</b>	<b>Spring 1</b> Feb. 27-March 9, 2012	<b>Summer 1</b> June 11-22, 2012
	<b>Spring 2</b> April 30-May 18, 2012	<b>Summer 2</b> July 9-20, 2012
	<b>Fall 2</b> December 5-16, 2011	

# 2011-2012 ORHS BASKETBALL Schedule

Game Times (unless otherwise noted): JV @ 5:00 Girls Varsity @ 6:30 Boys Varsity @ 8:00

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TEAMS
12/2	Clinton	Away	BJV; GV; BV
12/3	Dobyns-Bennett	Away	GV @ 2:00; BV @ 3:30
12/6	Central	Away	BJV; GV; BV
12/9	Campbell County	Home	BJV; GV; BV
12/13	Karns	Home	BJV; GV; BV
12/16	Powell	Away	GJV; GV; BV
12/21-23	Sevier Co Tournament	Away	GV—TBA
12/27-29	Smyrna Christmas Tournament	Away	BV—TBA
1/3	Hardin Valley	Away	GJV; GV; BV
1/6	Fulton	Home	BJV; GV; BV
1/10	Halls	Home	BJV; GV; BV
1/13	Clinton	Home	BJV; GV; BV
1/17	Anderson County	Away	BJV; GV; BV
1/20	Karns	Away	GJV; GV; BV
1/24	Central	Home	BJV; GV; BV
1/27	Campbell County	Away	GJV; GV; BV
1/31	Hardin Valley	Home	BJV; GV; BV
2/2	Morristown West	Away	GV @ 6:00; BV @ 7:30
2/7	Halls	Away	GJV; GV; BV
2/10	Powell	Home	BJV; GV; BV
2/13	Maryville	Away	BJV; GV; BV

## 2012 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT DATES

District: Feb 13-16	Regions Semi's: Feb 27-28	Sub-State; Girls: Mar 3
District Semi's & Finals: Feb 17-21	Region Championship: Girls-Feb 29	Sub-State; Boys: Mar 5 State; Girls: Mar 7-10
Region: Feb 24-25	Region Championship: Boys-Mar 1	State; Boys: Mar 14-17

2011-2012 Student Athletic Passes Available in Bookkeepers office!!



**Oak Ridge High School  
PTSO**

1450 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**ORHS SCHOOLS 2011-2012 CALENDAR**

<b>Dec 19, 2011-Jan 2, 2012</b>	Winter Break
<b>January 2, 2012</b>	Students Return to School
<b>January 16, 2012</b>	ML King Holiday
<b>January 25, 2012</b>	Parent Conferences
<b>March 12-16, 2012</b>	Spring Break
<b>April 6, 2012</b>	Good Friday Holiday
<b>May 27, 2012</b>	Convocation
<b>May 28, 2012</b>	Memorial Day Holiday
<b>May 31, 2012</b>	Commencement
<b>June 1, 2012</b>	Last Day of School

<b>Oak Ridge Schools Phone Contacts</b>	
<u>Superintendent</u>	425-9001
<u>Assistant Superintendent</u>	425-9002
<u>Business Office.</u>	425-9003
<u>Food Services</u>	425-9006
<u>Maintenance</u>	425-3171
<u>Transportation</u>	425-3191
<u>Human Resources</u>	425-9008
<u>Pupil Services</u>	425-9026
<u>Special Education</u>	425-9027
<u>Technology</u>	425-9015
<b><u>Oak Ridge High School</u></b>	<b>425-9600</b>
<u>Athletics</u>	425-9603
<u>Attendance</u>	425-9605
<u>Guidance</u>	425-9607
<u>Registrar</u>	425-9524
<u>Tech/Vocational Ed</u>	425-9608
<u>Alternative Program</u>	425-3151

**Call 425-9605 or email ORHS Attendance if your child will be absent.**