Osage City Elementary School Newsletter

November 2026

Dear Osage City Elementary Families,

November is a wonderful time to reflect on the people who make our school community special. I am grateful for our students, who bring curiosity and enthusiasm to each day; our staff, who work hard to help every child succeed; and our families, whose support makes such a difference.

Thank you for partnering with us during our October parent-teacher conferences. These conversations provide an opportunity to celebrate progress, discuss concerns, and set goals together. Please continue to reach out throughout the year. Your insight helps us better understand and support your child.

At home, small moments can make a meaningful difference. Reading together, asking your child to explain something they learned, and talking about acts of kindness are simple ways to reinforce learning and connection. Consistent attendance and daily routines also help students make the most of their school day.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I hope your family finds time to rest, connect, and enjoy moments together. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for being an important part of Osage City Elementary.

Warmly,
Melinda Patterson, Principal
Osage City Elementary School



Important Dates:

November 3 - 5th Grade to STARBASE

November 6 - 5th Grade to STARBASE

November 11 - BOE Meeting 6:30pm

November 13 - 5th Grade to STARBASE

November 18 - PTA meeting 6:30pm in Elementary School Library

November 20 - 5th Grade to STARBASE

November 23-27 - Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL

November 30 - OCES K-2 Vocal Music and Art Show 6:30pm - 7:30pm





SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF!

Name: Michelle Martin

How many years have you worked in education?: Been a secretary here for 30 years.

Where did you go to college? Flint Hills Vocational School Emporia

Where did you go to Elementary School? Belle Plaine KS

If you could be a student in any grade again for one day, which grade would you choose? Senior

What is something you were really good at as a kid? "Being a good kid"

What is your favorite restaurant? Casa in Topeka (not there any longer)

What is your favorite movie? Pretty Woman

Dogs or cats? Dogs

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received? Always give 110%

What do you love most about being part of our school family? The friendships

Name: Melinda Patterson

Grade Level(s) Taught: Principal. Have taught 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Science and Math.

How many years have you worked in education?: 28 years

Where did you go to college? Kansas State University and Emporia State University

Where did you go to Elementary School? Edna Elementary, Edna Kansas

If you could be a student in any grade again for one day, which grade would you choose? 6th Grade

What is something you were really good at as a kid? Softball

What is your favorite restaurant? Texas Roadhouse

What is your favorite movie? Forrest Gump

Dogs or cats? Dogs

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received? If someone can do it, then you can do it.

What do you love most about being part of our school family? I love that it is like a huge family that is all connected under one big roof!

Name: Jessica Lickteig

How many years have you worked in education?: 11 Years

Where did you go to college? Pittstate

Where did you go to Elementary School? Osage City Elementary

If you could be a student in any grade again for one day, which grade would you choose? Freshman

What is something you were really good at as a kid? Math

What is your favorite restaurant? Olive Garden

What is your favorite movie? Ten Things I Hate About You

Dogs or cats? Dogs

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received? Always Tell The Truth!

What do you love most about being part of our school family? Our Students!

Osage City Elementary School

School Nurse Newsletter

November

November Health Reminders

- Cold and flu season is here.
- Keep hands clean.
- Dress for changing weather (layers, coats, hats, gloves).
- Get plenty of rest.
- Stay hydrated with water.
- Eat healthy, nutritious foods.

When to Stay Home from School

Keep your student home if they have:

- A fever of 100.0°F or higher (with or without other symptoms)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- A new, persistent cough (especially with fever)
- A sore throat with fever or feeling too sick to participate in school
- A contagious illness (such as strep, flu, or stomach virus)

Students should be fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine), and free from vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

Germ Prevention Tips for Kids

- Wash your hands often (with soap and water) for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- Keep personal items to yourself (water bottles, lip balm, etc.).

Stomach Virus Watch

Common Symptoms:

- Nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, and diarrhea.

Home Care:

- Rest, offer clear fluids, and slowly return to bland foods (such as crackers, toast, rice, bananas, or applesauce).

Healthy November Foods

Apple Fact:

Apples are full of vitamin C, which helps keep your immune system strong!

Sweet Potato Fact:

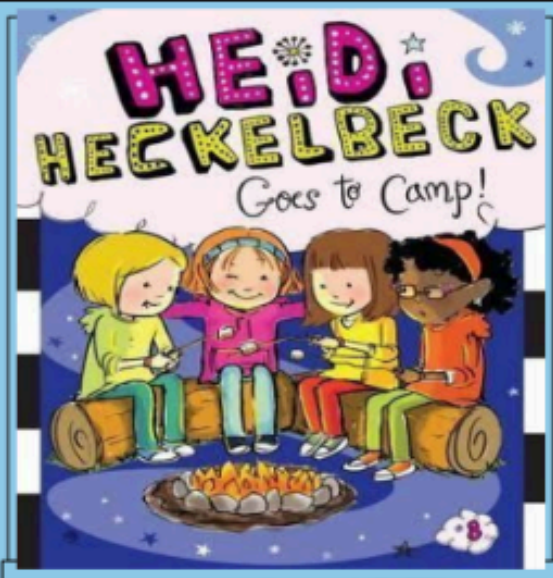
Sweet potatoes are full of vitamin A, which helps keep your eyes, skin, and immune system healthy!

5th Grade Book Reviews

Title Heidi Heckelbeck Goes to Camp
Author: Wanda Coven
AR Level:3.4
AR Points:1
I rate this book:five stars



Heidi can't wait to go to camp with her best friend Lucy. But when they get there, Lucy's camp friends from last year make Heidi feel unwelcome. My favorite part is when they are by the campfire and Heidi has two new friends and Heidi feels more welcome.







PICK
of the month



From the Counselor's Corner



Gratitude

Gratitude means noticing the good — in ourselves, in others, and in everyday life!

Positive Reinforcement

Positive reinforcement is showing someone they matter by offering kind words, encouragement, or appreciation.

Why It Matters:

- ✔ It builds confidence.
- ✔ It encourages more kind and helpful choices.
- ✔ It creates a positive, supportive community!

Simple Ways to Show Appreciation:

- ☆ Say, "Great job!"
- ☆ Give a compliment.
- ☆ Show a smile.
- ☆ Say, "Thank you!"
- ☆ Notice effort, not just results.

A little gratitude and positive reinforcement go a long way!

LEAD WITH KINDNESS

Live with gratitude

OUT AND ABOUT!





KB's SpecialTees
October 19 at 7:02 AM ·

Second Grade Is BANANAS!!! 🍌🍌🍌
A couple of weeks ago we got to have my favorite day at KB's! The OCES 2nd Graders got to come and learn about our store and make their very own shirt to take home! How cute are they!!?!?!? The place was bananas, B-A-N-A-N-A-S!🍌🍌🍌













HALLOWEEN 2026