

December

2011

# Bulldog Banner

## Toys For Tots

Can you believe it! Our 18<sup>th</sup> year of Toys for Tots here at OMS!!! The dates for this year's toy drive are Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. To those of you new to OMS, we are one of the top 5 contributors to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive here in Collier County and we take great pride in our ability to help out our community! Last year we donated \$5279 dollars worth of toys! Donations are made in HR....either NEW toys or monetary donations. Your child will receive a ticket for every dollar they donate. Toys need to have a receipt attached in order to award

the cost of the toy in tickets.

### Items of interest for your child:

Winning Grade level attends the Toy Parade on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm. 7<sup>th</sup> grade has won 8 years in a row!!!!

Top HR at each grade level gets Donut and Juice Party!

Icee Pops for filling HR "Give a Dog a Bone" Poster

2 \$50 dollar mall gift certificates given away the day of the Toy Parade

A huge "Thanks!" needs to go out To Mrs. Polanco for her efforts!

## Upcoming Events

Dec 1st—INTERIM ENDS

Scholar Bowl Practice (3-107)

Dec 2nd— Academic World Quest

Builder's Club Meeting

Dec 5th—FCA (Brenco) (Gym)

Dec 7th—NJHS Meeting (4-101)

OMS girls Basketball practice

Dec 8th—Scholar Bowl Practice (3-107)

Dec 9th—Academic World Quest Practice

Student council meeting (6-101)

Scholar Bowl Match

Dec 12th—INTERIMS GO HOME

Dec 14th—Photos with Santa (during lunch)

Dec 14th—OMS girls Basketball practice (gym)

Dec 15th—Scholar Bowl Practice (3-107)

Band members to Prisim concert GGH

Photos with Santa (during lunch)

Dec 16th—Academic World Quest Practice

Builder's Club Meeting (5-112)

Dec 19th—FCA (Brenco) (Gym)

Beg. Band Concert (Cafe)

Dec 20th—OMS Boys Basketball practice

Dec 21st—OMS girls Basketball practice

Math Counts Practice (3-107)

Winter Break!!!

December 22nd—January 4th

Winter  
Break

# Experiment of the Month - Borax Snowflake

## Concept:

Minerals from the earth sometimes grow into specific three-dimensional geometric shapes called a crystal. Borax is an example of a crystal. A crystal is a solid with flat sides and a symmetrical shape. It takes this form because its molecules are arranged in a unique, repeating pattern. Crystallization is a separation of solids and liquids when molecules cluster together in a repeated pattern. As the molecules group together, they try to become stable or solid. This process is also known as nucleation and is the beginning of crystal formation. As long as the temperature is consistent and the molecules outnumber the liquid, crystals will form. If the molecules cannot join the group, they are reabsorbed back into the liquid. Stalactites and stalagmites are great examples of natural crystal formations.

## Objective:

To explore the formation of crystals and to observe the crystalline shape displayed by borax.

## Materials:

String

Wide mouth jar, pint size

White pipe cleaners

Pencil

Boiling water

Food coloring (optional)

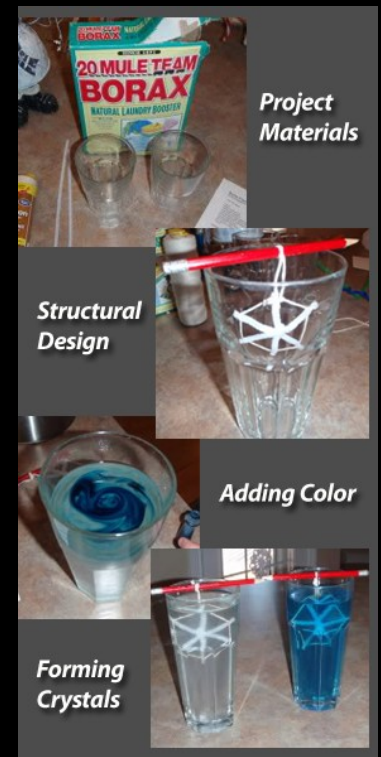
Scissors

Borax (Borax is available at grocery stores in the laundry soap section.



## Procedure:

- Cut a pipe cleaner into three equal sections.
- Twist the sections together at their centers to form a six-sided snowflake shape (or a heart shape, or a flower, butterfly, you get the idea!). The ends do not have to be even, you can trim them to get the shape you want. Make sure your snowflake fits inside the jar.
- Tie the string to the end of one of the snowflake arms. Tie the other end of the string to the pencil. The string length should be such that the pencil just hangs the snowflake into the jar when resting on the top of the jar.
- Fill the wide mouth pint jar with boiling water. Add borax one tablespoon at a time to the boiling water, stirring to dissolve after each addition. The total amount used is 3 tablespoons borax per 1 cup of water. It is okay if some un-dissolved borax settles to the bottom of the jar.
- You may tint the mixture with food color if you wish.
- Hang the pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil rests on top of the jar and the snowflake is completely covered with liquid. The snowflake should hang freely and not touch the bottom of the jar.
- Allow the jar to sit undisturbed overnight.
- Wow!!
- Place it to dry over two layers of paper towels. Your snowflake can be used in a window to catch the sunlight, for decoration or as an ornament.



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Need to get involved! Check out these clubs and activities offered at OMS.

### Activities/Clubs

A number of clubs are available to students who are interested. Clubs are often initiated due to student or teacher interest. The clubs are as active and strong as their members; therefore, some are much more active than others.



**Builders' Club** - Builders Club is a "student-led" community service organization for middle school students sponsored by the Kiwanis. It is the younger version of Key Club for high school students. Students are provided with leadership opportunities through events and programs the club sponsors. The club at Oakridge Middle School meets weekly and hosts events, activities and school-wide recycling program. Fund raising proceeds are donated back into the community to groups such as Laces of Love, Habitat for Humanity, Grace Place of Golden Gate, Relay for Life, Shy Wolf Sanctuary, and Heifer Project. The motto of Builders' Club is building leaders. Students at Oakridge are learning and living the ideals of voluntary service and giving back to their community.

Meetings are held in Mrs. Sullivan's room (5-112) every Friday starting at 8:30 a.m. If you are a bus rider, come as soon as your bus arrives.



**Fellowship of Christian Athletes** - FCA is a non-denominational faith-based organization that is currently active in all high schools in the county as well as in many of the middle schools. Here at Oakridge we are blessed to

have a very active chapter. We meet every Monday after school in the gym from 4:00 until 4:50. We engage in a short Bible study, followed by an activity and snack. The cost for the snack is 75 cents, which includes soda and a snack. All are welcome! You do not have to be an athlete, and you do not have to have any professed faith. It is important to know that we discuss the teachings of the Bible, centered around Jesus Christ. School contacts are Coach Joseph Shumway, Coach Christine Brenco, Dawn Dell and Deputy Suttan. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Brenco via email [brencoch@collier.k12.fl.us](mailto:brencoch@collier.k12.fl.us)

**Media Assistants** - Students complete a job application at the beginning of the school year. Media assistants create bulletin board displays, help plan book fair activities, organize magazines, and shelve books. They receive permanent passes to the media center.

**News Crew** - Students complete a job application at the beginning of the school year. Once accepted, the students produce the morning OMS news show.

**Scholar Bowl** - is an academic contest among Collier County middle schools. All four core areas, as well as fine arts and current events, are the topics for this competitive team. It runs from October to February, consisting of four matches a year. OMS has been the Collier County Northern Division Champions in 2002, 2003, and 2004. Scholar Bowl meets Thursday mornings at 8:30 in room 3-107.



**Math Club/Math-Counts** - Middle school students are welcome to participate in the Math Club. Eight members of the Math Club compete in Math Counts, a regional competition hosted by FGCU in mid-February.



**Student Council** - The purpose of this organization is to help students and staff to cooperate with each other, to encourage good citizenship in the school, to provide fair and efficient student government, to promote Oakridge Middle School in the community, and to promote school spirit. Throughout the year, special days are planned for student involvement and enjoyment. The year's activities will include school colors' day, seasonal dances, special / fun dress up days, and many other activities. Student Council officers have been elected and will be introduced at assemblies in September. Committees will be composed of elected representatives and alternates from each homeroom.

Major functions of the student council are:

- \* To provide meaningful activities and projects for the student body.
- \* To present the views and opinions of students to the school administration.
- \* To represent Oakridge students at city and state Student Council organizations.

### After School Program

Oakridge Middle School offers a wide variety of after school programs. The program will run from 3:50 to 4:50 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, mid September to early June. It is divided into two semesters. You can sign up at any time by filling out the form in the front office. Transportation is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Walker at [WalkerTe@collier.k12.fl.us](mailto:WalkerTe@collier.k12.fl.us)

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

It's happening everywhere. New families, new schools, new communities, and new businesses are rapidly being



built across Collier County. With this new construction, it is extremely important that we all begin to engage in

construction of a different kind as well -- character construction. Our mission is to inspire and support educators, parents and others who touch the lives of youth to instill in them the traits of positive character.

Character education is vital to the future success of today's youth. Florida statute requires that all school districts develop a Character Education Program for students in Kindergarten through Grade Twelve. All schools in Collier County have developed such programs to meet the needs of their unique student populations. A wide variety of activities specifically designed to instill the district's

character education traits are conducted in an ongoing manner to fulfill the goal of "Building a Community of Character in Collier County". The information provided on this website is to assist schools in that mission.

## Character Traits

### Perseverance

# Perseverance

**DEFINITION:** PERSEVERANCE MEANS WORKING HARD TO REACH YOUR GOALS AND HAVING THE DETERMINATION TO NEVER GIVE UP.

**RELATED WORDS:** GOALS, DETERMINATION, DILIGENCE



"PERSEVERANCE IS THE HARD WORK YOU DO WHEN YOU GET TIRED OF DOING THE HARD WORK YOU ALREADY DID."  
-NEWT GINGRICH

# Book Nook

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey

By: Susan Wojciechowski

As one who has been collecting children's Christmas books for 21 years, this is my all time favorite!!! Artwork, for me, really makes or breaks a book and this book's is FABULOUS! Lynch's illustrations are not only warmly and beautifully done, but they correspond perfectly with the story as well. (Unlike some artists whose illustrations betray the fact that they really don't know the story they're illustrating. Pet peeve!)

And the story...wow! It moves me to tears every time as Wojciechowski weaves a simple but powerful story of the nativity within a story of the life-changing and healing power of love. It repeats and builds just enough to endear children and yet not bore adults. A true classic and family favorite! (The 1995 version is my personal favorite as well- best layout for the artwork by far.)

Review by: J. Poole

The Christmas Rat

By: Avi

Who else but creative genius Avi could craft such a spellbinding story with only a very average middle-schooler, an exterminator and a rat? In this harrowing tale, a young boy and an exterminator join forces to hunt down a rat which has been plaguing the child's apartment building. Engaged in a seek and destroy mission, Anjela Gabrail, aka The Angel Gabriel, enlists the boy to help oppose the rat, "or pay the penalty...So help me God." When the boy decides, however, that he would prefer to let the rat live, Anje turns on him. In a dark twist, the hunter becomes the hunted. Anje has a crossbow. Eric's in the dark. And it's Christmas. As an intellectual exercise for adults, The Christmas Rat receives my highest honors. As a lesson for budding adolescents, it is a compelling reminder Never Ever to talk to strangers. This book is recommended for readers ages nine to twelve - rest assured, not one will come away from this book untouched. For me only one aching questions remains: Why couldn't the boy tell his parents?

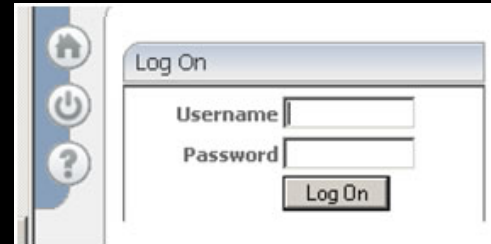
Review by: Rochelle Robin

ANGEL is a Web-based course management and collaboration tool that helps instructors, students and parents communicate and collaborate quickly, easily and effectively. Using ANGEL and a Web browser, teachers can easily distribute course content such as homework assignments, quizzes and tests, lessons and presentations taught during class, and links to articles and web site resources. Instructors can use ANGEL features such as discussion forums, drop boxes for electronic retrieval of assignments, survey tools, and course email to encourage student participation and collaboration.

### Logging into ANGEL

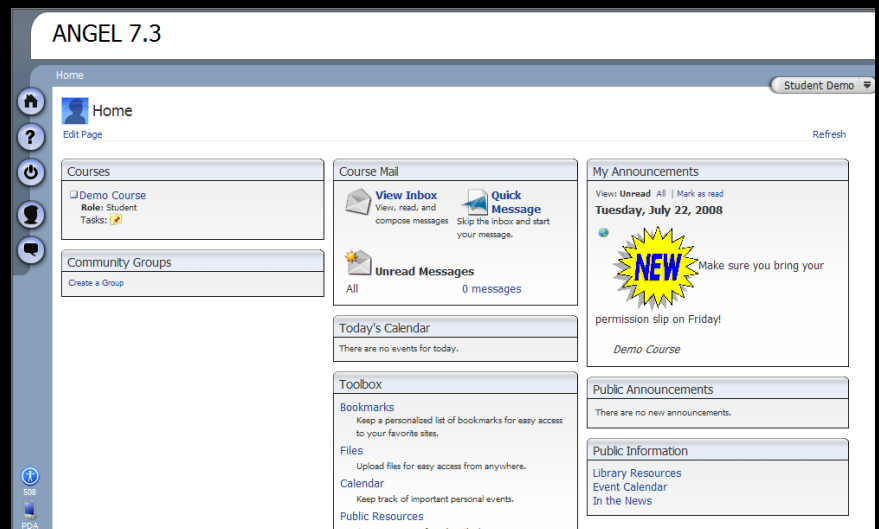
1. Open your Web browser.
2. Go to the following URL:  
<http://angel.collier.k12.fl.us>

3. Enter your Username  
Students—student number
4. Enter your Password
5. Click Log On



### Personal Home Page

After you log into ANGEL, you will be taken to your personal Home page. Home provides you with **access** to all your **courses** and **groups** for which you are enrolled and to a variety of tools to assist you with your coursework. It is here that you can change the way your home page looks by clicking on the **Preferences** button and changing your Theme. To access a course, click the name of the course.



### Courses Home Page

The home page for each course includes access to announcements, new assignments, and course material and a course map. The course includes the following tabs:

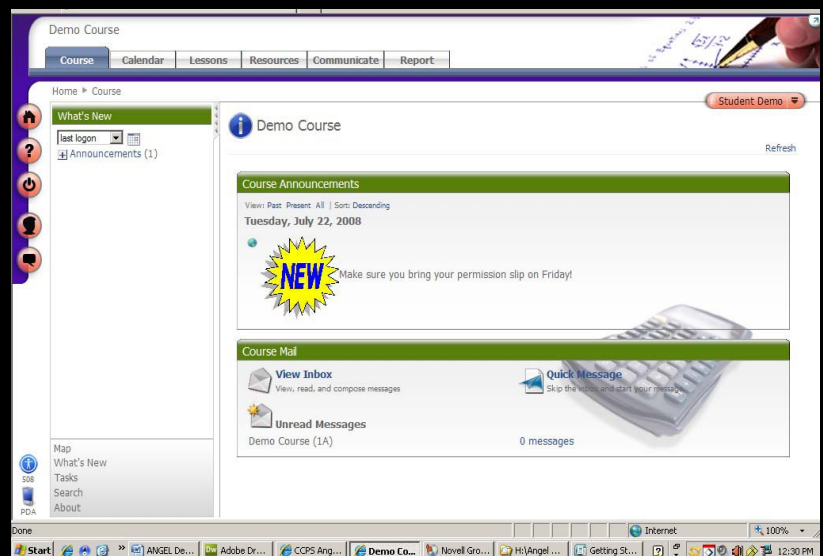
**Calendar**—a personal and course calendar

**Lessons**—access to all course material such as lecture notes, handouts, quizzes and discussion forums

**Resources**—bookmarks, Google search and Syllabus can be added here.

**Communicate**—email your teacher, discussion forums

**Report**—view items completed and grades



# PBS

## Positive Behavior Support

Since 2002, Florida's PBS Project has aimed to increase the capacity of Florida school

districts to address problem behaviors among students. PBS provides a positive and effective alternative to the traditional methods of discipline. Its methods are research based and proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in the school, resulting in a more positive school climate and increased academic performance.

The PBS Project has been recognizing PBS Model Schools since 2005. A PBS Model School is one that has met

### The "is" and "is not's" of PBS.

PBS is not...	PBS is...
A warm and fuzzy television network with antiques and Big Bird	Positive Behavioral Support
Subjective	Has clearly defined procedures
NOT punitive	Preventative
Ignoring disruptive behavior	Understanding why behavior occurs
Ignoring parents	Involving parents
Someone else "taking care of the problem"	A proactive approach to discipline within your classroom.
Another new program	Revitalizing the current system
An individual effort	A school-wide effort for a more positive climate

# PBS

Positive Behavior Support

At OMS, we follow the C.A.R.E. rules of conduct.



When students receive a positive referral they have a chance to spin the “Wheel of Good Fortune.”

## CLASS RULES



Students should behave in a manner that will be a credit to our school.

### Character:

- 🐾 Be considerate to others.
- 🐾 Stay on task.
- 🐾 No gum, candy, or objects in mouth.
- 🐾 Take care of materials.

### Attendance:

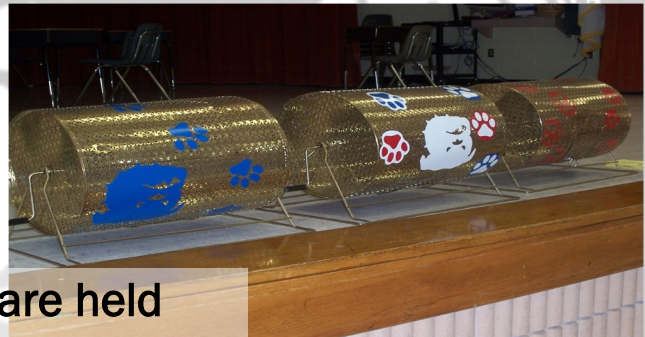
- 🐾 Be in assigned seat before the bell rings.
- 🐾 Bring materials for learning.
- 🐾 Dress for success based on approved dress code.

### Respect:

- 🐾 Be polite and honest with others.
- 🐾 Use appropriate language.

### Effort:

- 🐾 Give attention—listen.
- 🐾 Always do your best.



Student drawings are held every Wednesday and Friday using the tickets distributed for positive behavior.

OAKRIDGE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

Principal Kevin Saba



Kevin Saba has a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in Cultural History from the University of Florida. He also has a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Florida Gulf Coast University.

Kevin has worked almost exclusively with middle school students spending five years as a middle school science and social studies teacher in Collier County.

Kevin has served as principal at Oakridge Middle School since January of 2007. He enjoys playing golf and spending time with his two children.

Asst. Principal Mason Clark



Mason Clark comes to Oakridge from North Naples Middle School, where he has taught Math, Science, and served as the Interim Assistant Principal. Mason's career in education began with a Math assignment in Guinea, West Africa with the United States Peace Corps. He has enjoyed working with students from Grades 5 through 12, primarily in the areas of Mathematics and Science.

Mason received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, and his Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Florida Gulf Coast University. Mason's wife of eight years, Mary Jane Nardulli-Clark, teaches Earth Science at North Naples Middle School.

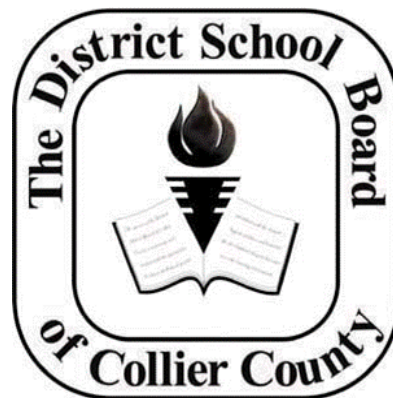
Mason is excited to join the Oakridge team and is looking forward to a great year. Go Bulldogs!

**OMS**

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**CCPS**

[www.collier.k12.fl.us](http://www.collier.k12.fl.us)