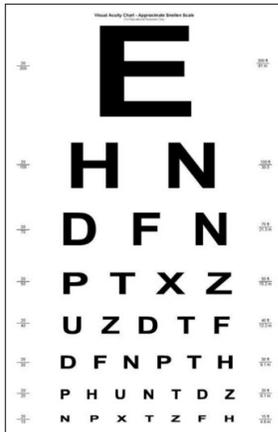


OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2016



The Vision Development Center will be on campus Wednesday, February 3rd to perform a vision screening for all students who register in advance.

The screening will evaluate near and far visual acuity, eye movement control, focusing, eye teaming ability, depth perception and color vision...all of which are critical for academic achievement and reaching one's potential in life.



Vision Screening

Meet the Masters

Featured artist this month is the African American artist, Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000). Lawrence had an abstract contemporary style all of his own. The bright shapes and patterns he used in his series on Black History are very interesting and captivating. His subjects range from Harlem to the Olympics.

Our young artists will be creating a collage which emphasizes patterns, repetition, depth and shape.



February Field Trips

Caspers Wilderness Park is the location of the 2/22 field trip for fifth grade. While there, the students will visit different learning stations and learn about plants, animals, aquatic ecology, water cycles, and seasonal insect activity.

For over 25 years, the Disneyland Resort Salutes the American Bank program has introduced Orange County second grade students to the History of the American Band, and the fundamentals of concert etiquette through annual concerts in the community performed by the Disneyland Band. More than 40,000 students a year attend the concerts. Our second grade will be attending on 2/19.





The school office will be closed on Friday, 2/12 and Monday, 2/15 in observance of Presidents' Day.

NO Preschool classes will be held all week long due to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Mid-January Blog

Is Something Lost When Kindergarten Gets More Academic?

At Our Savior's Lutheran School, I can safely say the answer is no. I'll explain below, but let me first explain where the question is coming from. A study was recently published by the American Educational Research Association entitled "Is Kindergarten the New First Grade?" See full study: <http://www.aera.net/Newsroom/NewsReleasesandStatements/StudySnapshotIsKindergartentheNewFirstGrade/IsKindergartentheNewFirstGrade/tabid/16159/Default.aspx>

The study compared 1998 and 2010 responses from a representative sample of about 2500 kindergarten and first grade teachers. The questions were around topics such as what skills students should have when they enter kindergarten and when they leave kindergarten; and how much time is spent doing science, music, art, small group, and free choice activities. What the study found was that many more teachers believed that students should know the alphabet and know how to hold a pencil, and almost 80% of the teachers polled thought children should read by the end of kindergarten. Additionally the percentage of time students spend on science, music, art, small group, and free choice activities has dropped dramatically in the schools polled.

The study is a little late in coming out, unfortunately, because 2010 was the year Common Core was introduced in the public schools and much has changed in the way instruction is delivered. While it's a little too soon to judge, the early results show test scores dropping with Common Core: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/map-common-core-2015-test-results.html#ca>

The premise of Common Core is fine, in my opinion – give students more opportunity for problem solving and critical thinking. The problem is that those kinds of learning activities take time. The bigger the class, the more time it takes. In large classes those activities then begin to push back the skills instruction to later years. For students to be successful, learning can't be an either/or. It has to be a both/and. That is what we have been doing at OSLS for many years. Our kindergarten and all our grades *are* very academic. Students learn their letters and sounds, numbers and math algorithms, science and history facts. At the same time, we provide opportunities for students to explore and learn by trial and error, and to come up with their own solutions so the facts they learn make sense and are integrated into real world problems. We also provide instruction in Spanish and in coding, and have robust music, art and physical education programs. We can do all that because our classes are small, our teachers are highly skilled and dedicated, and we lovingly hold our students to our high expectations. The proof that it works is in the successful middle schoolers we produce and in our

great test scores. Our test scores remain high and, generally, our test scores continue to rise as a class moves through the grades at OSLS. You can view our scores on this website under About Us/FAQs.

You can see more blogs on our school website under www.oursaviorsschool.net . Click the News button the top left.



Second Quarter Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll: (Requires straight A's in all subject areas)

Grade 4: Vivian P.

Grade 5: Ryan A., Maia B., Dylan J., Grace M., Magnus O., Ashton P., Elle S.

Honor Roll: (Requires 75% A's in major subjects with B's in the rest of the subjects and no C's)

Grade 4: Joey H.

Grade 5: Katie W.