

# Sun Blaze Speedway



**October 2019**

## Principal's Update

Dear Stingray Families,

Thank you for your support of our Sun Blaze Stingray Fun Run and for coming out to cheer on the students. A great day was had by teachers, students and parents alike. The money raised will be used toward the addition of a third playground for the students to use during recess. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the families that joined us this month for the STEAM Family Night. Students and parents got to experience some fun hands-on activities to further their learning of Science, Math and the Arts. Later this month, we will have parent conference night. This is a great opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and how you can partner with our school to ensure success.

Ongoing research shows that family engagement in schools improves student achievement and reduces absenteeism. Students with involved parents earn higher grades and test scores. Additionally, they have better social skills and improved behavior. As we continue through this school year, consider how you can take a more active role in your child's education whether or home or by participating in school events.

As always, thank you for your support and Go Stingrays!

*Christine Szymanski*

Principal

### Upcoming Events

- ☼ **October 1**  
SAC 5:00pm - Media Center  
MPLC 6:00pm - Media Center
- ☼ **October 4**  
In School STEM Challenge  
Popcorn Friday
- ☼ **October 7**  
Boosterthon Pep Rally
- ☼ **October 10**  
STEAM Family Night 6:00-7:30pm
- ☼ **October 16**  
No Early Release Wednesday  
Boosterthon FUN RUN  
Spirit Night Celebration 4:00-8:00pm @ Chipotle on Semoran
- ☼ **October 17**  
Hurricane Make-Up Day
- ☼ **October 18**  
Student Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- ☼ **October 23—31**  
Red Ribbon Week
- ☼ **October 25**  
Trunk or Treat in the Bus Loop  
6:00 - 7:30pm  
(you MUST be ADDitions approved to pass out candy from a decorated vehicle)
- ☼ **October 28**  
Report Cards Go Home
- ☼ **October 28—November 1**  
Conference Week
- ☼ **October 31**  
Grades 3, 4, and 5 attend the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra at the Bob Carr
- ☼ **November 5**  
SAC 5:00pm - Media Center

# HOME OF THE STINGRAYS!



## Media Center - Ms. Boston

I want to thank all of you who participated to make our Arctic Book Fair *SNOW* much fun! It was great to see so many familiar faces, as well as many new ones, shopping during the Sun Blaze Open House. I would like to thank our amazing book fair chair, Illene Marmelojo, who made sure everything ran smooth. I also would like to thank the many volunteers that helped out, Sun Blaze is so lucky to have you!

I've always said I have the best job at Sun Blaze. I get to watch your children grow into amazing readers and help to support them on that journey. I love when they come to visit me and they leave with the perfect book.

### Here are just a few Media Center reminders:

- ✧ The library is open most mornings before school from 8:15am—8:35am
- ✧ Students can take an AR test most mornings in Computer Lab B (across from the Clinic)
- ✧ Students in grades 2-5 may check out 2 books from the Media Center
- ✧ Students in Kindergarten and first-grade may check out 1 book from the Media Center
- ✧ Students may keep their books for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the book is overdue
- ✧ Lost/Damaged books must be paid for through School Pay only, we cannot accept cash or checks.
- ✧ If a student has an overdue book, they cannot check out a book until the overdue book is returned or paid for.

Sun Blaze will participate in Battle of the Books in April. Information will be sent home with students in grades 3-5 soon. Students that are interested in trying out for our team will be given a test with questions that are similar to those asked during the competition. These questions will cover information from all 15 Sunshine State books. The top 6 scores on the assessment will make up the Sun Blaze team. The tryout assessment will be Thursday, October 24.

[jacqueline.boston@ocps.net](mailto:jacqueline.boston@ocps.net).

## Physical Education - Mr. Gagliardi & Mr. Nieves

This month the primary students will continue to work on their throwing and catching skills in addition to reviewing body and spatial awareness. After completion of this unit, we will begin the unit on tag games and striking activities. The Intermediate students will continue working on cooperative/teamwork activities and games that require developing offensive and defensive strategies.

This month Sun Blaze students are building upon the locomotor/movement skills they learned previously and will be working on cooperative activities that require them to work together as a team.

The Intermediate students will continue working on cooperative/teamwork activities and games that require developing offensive and defensive strategies. Lastly, the special area classes (PE, Movement, Art, Music) have introduced a monthly character trait. During October, we will focus on the principle of cooperation; working together through cheering one another to success.

Now that we are in the fall season, we want to remind parents that it is still hot outside. Water bottles are highly encouraged at PE. I just want to remind parents to please write your child's name in their jackets or sweaters. We find several of these items daily and if we can't find an owner we take it to lost and found. However, we recommend that students leave their jackets in the classroom.





## **Movement** - Ms. Szczukowski & Ms. Towle

Great things are happening in dance this fall! The fourth and fifth-grade students have started learning the choreography for their grade level performance. Please save the date!!! The performance will be at the Lake Nona High School Performing Arts Center on Monday, December 9, 2019. The fourth-grade performance will begin at 5:30 pm and the fifth-grade performance will begin at 7:00 pm. We will send more details and a permission slip home with your student soon.

The second and third-grade students are reviewing the B.A.S.T.E. (body, action, space, time and energy) dance elements and how to identify, discuss and demonstrate movements using accurate dance terminology.

The kindergarten and first-grade students are exploring movement possibilities using imagery and imitation. The students are learning movement phrases and then experiencing how changes in tempo, level, and direction can alter the meaning or feeling of that movement.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, all grade levels will be discussing the influence of Hispanic arts and culture. We will be learning about Latin social dances including salsa, mambo, merengue, and bachata. A reminder for all students and parents, please have your student dress for dance the same way your child dresses for P.E. Clothing should allow the student to move and stretch and tennis shoes must be worn. It is not safe to dance or exercise in heels or sandals. Thank you for your help!



## **Art** - Ms. Martz & Ms. Stroshane

Hello Sun Blaze Stingrays! We have had a great start to the year and the students are having fun in art. They have been learning and adding to their knowledge of the first few Elements of Art and creating projects using those Elements. We will be up finishing up the Elements of Art as we move into October. Next, students will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month focusing on Hispanic Artists while creating a piece of art that will be added to a temporary mural. We will also be covering cartooning, then finishing up this nine weeks with a review of what we have learned so far.

If you would ever like to donate to the art classroom, the following supplies are always appreciated: copy paper, pencils, and sensitive skin/unscented baby wipes. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Arts at Sun Blaze!





# School Counselor - Ms. Dobson 407.203.5110 ext.4302309

I have now been in each classroom and have enjoyed getting to see and interact with each student on a more personal level!

We have learned September's character trait (citizenship) and have learned that being a good citizen means that we follow the rules and work to make our school and community a great place. **October's trait is cooperation** – helping others, and acting in a way that helps the group succeed.

Our PTA helped support our anti-bullying efforts by bringing Omega Man to our campus on September 23rd to kick off our Anti – Bullying Week. Further, the same week we, along with other Orange County Public Schools, celebrated "Start With Hello Week." Start With Hello Week was organized by the Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit organization led by several family members who lost loved ones in the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting in 2012. Start With Hello teaches students, grades 2-12, the skills they need to reach out and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or have concerns that you need to discuss with me. My email address is: Valerie.Dobson@ocps.net



## **OCTOBER'S TRAIT = COOPERATION**

### **Partners in Education & Sun Blaze Supporters**

We want to thank the following businesses that support Sun Blaze Elementary. Their partnership and investment are vital in helping the community and school system work and grow together.

We want to thank **NONA Soccer Academy** and **Championship Martial Arts** for teaching our PE classes students during PE , covering PE standards. They both were outstanding and our students loved it!



**Thank you to our current Partners In Education that have already invested in Sun Blaze:**

John Madison Landscape Inc.  
NONA Soccer Academy  
Victory Martial Arts  
Championship Martial Arts

Kendrick Team at Keller Williams  
Dunkin Donuts  
Mathnasium of Lake Nona  
Domino's Pizza

**Website: [SunBlazees.@ocps.net](mailto:SunBlazees.@ocps.net)**

**Facebook: [Sun Blaze Elementary](#) | Twitter: [Sun Blaze Elem](#)**



# Exceptional Student Education

Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Meyers, Ms. Neron, Ms. Nunn, Ms. Parfet, Ms. Roll

**Homework Tips:** Here are some tips to guide the way:

- ✧ **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
- ✧ **Schedule regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- ✧ **Help them make a plan.** Encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary and schedule in breaks.
- ✧ **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
- ✧ **Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.
- ✧ **Praise their work and efforts.** Post an a-ced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.

Ms. Hoffman— [peggylee.hoffman@ocps.net](mailto:peggylee.hoffman@ocps.net)

Ms. Meyers— [mary.meyers@ocps.net](mailto:mary.meyers@ocps.net)

Ms. Neron— [Nichole.NeronKloss@ocps.net](mailto:Nichole.NeronKloss@ocps.net)

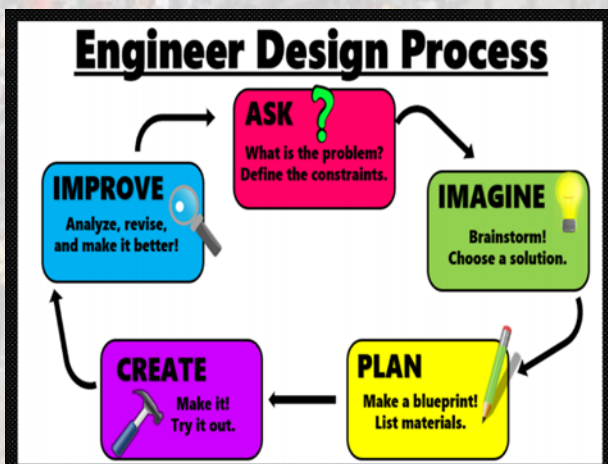
Ms. Parfet— [debbie.parfet@ocps.net](mailto:debbie.parfet@ocps.net)

Ms. Nunn— [dara.nunn@ocps.net](mailto:dara.nunn@ocps.net)

Ms. Roll— [Ashley.Roll@ocps.net](mailto:Ashley.Roll@ocps.net)

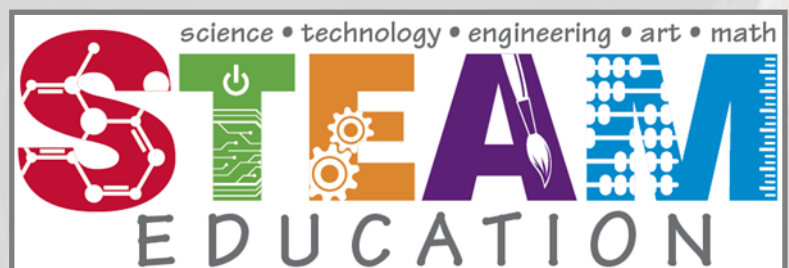
## Science - Ms. Parkes

This month Sun Blaze is all about celebrating STEAM. STEAM stands for Science, Engineering, Art, and Math. Students school-wide have been invited to participate in a STEAM Challenge called “Conveyor Belt Bonanza”. The top 3 Sun Blaze winners will be competing against other area schools. The annual Family STEAM Night will be October 10 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Families are invited to engage in hands-on STEAM stations provided by Orlando Science Centers along with other vendors in the community. There will also be drawings of fun STEAM prizes as well. We hope to see everyone there! If your child enjoys aspects of STEAM, you can bring some of the fun at home as well. Have your child try to build the tallest tower out random materials you give them, or research STEAM ideas and the options are endless!



### Science Joke of the Month:

How did the astronauts serve dinner in outer space?  
(On flying saucers)





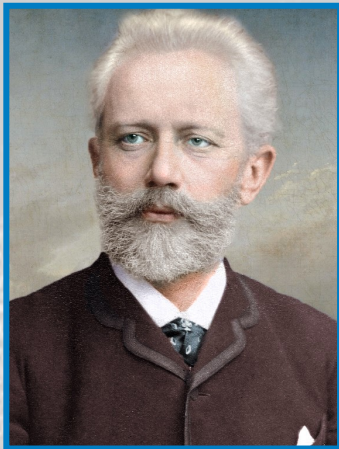
# Music - Ms. Lentz & Ms. Russell

This month, our Kindergarten and First Grade students, are focusing on performance skills such as matching pitch, reading simple rhythms and responding accurately to a variety of sounds.

Our second-grade students are learning how to read music and perform with percussion instruments called Boomwackers. To play these instruments, the students must use their skills of reading music to play at the right moment, creating their very own percussion ensemble.

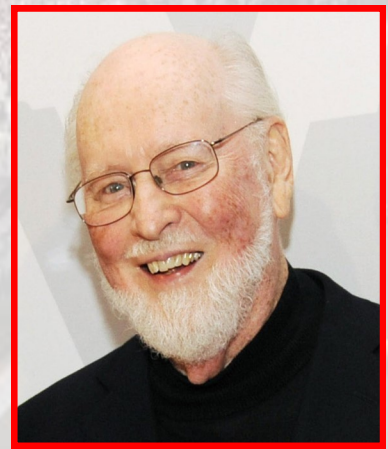
Third, fourth, and fifth-grade students are once again invited to see the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra at the Bob Carr performance hall. The concert will take place during school hours on October 31. We ask that your children dress their best for this formal event and be on their most BRAVO behavior. For your child to participate in this free field trip, they must turn in a signed permission slip, which will be sent home from their homeroom teacher.

Each month we review two famous composers from music history, during October we will review music by Peter Tchaikovsky and John Williams.



Peter Tchaikovsky

John Williams



Ms. Lentz (lori.lentz@ocps.net) ~ Music Teacher & Choir Director

Ms. Russell (lauren.russell@ocps.net) ~ Music Teacher & Orff Ensemble Director



**Website:** [SunBlazees.@ocps.net](mailto:SunBlazees.@ocps.net)

**Facebook:** [Sun Blaze Elementary](#) | **Twitter:** [Sun Blaze Elem](#)



# PARENTS - We Need Your Help

## Car loop safety

We continue to ask for your cooperation as we work to keep our students safe during the afternoon pick up. Children who are designated walkers should be walking to their homes not to a car. If you are picking your child up in a car, you need to use the car loop as it was designed and pick your child up at the curb where it is safe. Adults and safety patrols are prepared to help while keeping the process efficient. On average, we can have all children safely picked up in under 25 minutes.

Parents, please do not park in our overflow parking lot and call your children to walk across the car loop to meet you. This is not safe and against our school policy. **Be advised, should parents continue to do this, the overflow parking lot gate will be locked until the car loop has been cleared.**

## Choose Words Carefully

It is important to know Sun Blaze ES and OCPS take student safety and threats very seriously. Younger students in particular will sometimes use a poor choice of words. They may be playing a game of pretend or get angry with a friend and say things such as, "I'm gonna shoot you," or "I could just kill you." These words are unkind and are considered to be a threat toward another person. Please know that if your child makes a comment such as these, regardless of the context or intention, we will be addressing it with the child and you as a parent. Disciplinary action may occur in a variety of forms upon investigation. We are asking that you have a discussion with your child about words that are appropriate to use at school, how to properly express their feelings, and how to seek assistance from a teacher when needed. We appreciate your assistance with this.