



# Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

*Providing a Setting of  
High Expectations That  
Engage and Motivate all  
Students in a Successful  
Learning Environment*

Volume 3, Issue 3

Friday, 23 SEP 2011



## Student Essay Competitions

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is sponsoring two essay competitions:

### Patriot's Pen Youth Essay

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade type a 300-400 word essay with this year's theme, "Are You Proud of Your Country?" Prizes for the top 46 essays, with first prize winner receiving \$10,000 U.S. savings bond and the 46th place winner receiving a \$1,000 U. S. savings bond.

### National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Students nominate and write an essay about a teacher who regularly teaches and promotes American history, traditions, institutions, citizenship, patriotism, and civic responsibility. The winning teacher and school in which the teacher works both receive \$1,000.

Students may pick up both essay competition forms from the OMS library. **Deadline to turn in essays is November 1, 2011.**

## Representatives Needed for School Advisory Committee

Per DOD Regulation 1342.15, OMS is seeking representatives interested in serving on our School Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is an elected advisory committee composed of an equal number of parents and teachers. The SAC advises the principal on matters within the jurisdiction of the school and DoDDS and meets at least four times per year. If you are interested please contact Stephanie Wolf at [wolfski5@gmail.com](mailto:wolfski5@gmail.com)

Help your child by regularly visiting  
our website:  
[www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu/](http://www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu/)



## Calendar of Events

- 28 SEP: Mid-Quarter Progress Reports
- 04 OCT: PTSO meeting at 5:00 PM in the Osan MS Library
- 07 OCT: Early Release 10:25 AM
- 10 OCT: Columbus Day, no school
- 14 OCT: Picture Day

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## DoDEA Community Strategic Plan Needs Your Feedback and Input

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has embarked on the process of developing a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2012-2016, which will be critical in refining the mission, vision, goals, guiding principles, and initiatives that DoDEA will undertake to deliver a high quality, student-centered education.

DoDEA launched a CSP feedback at <http://cspfeedback.dodea.edu/>. We are interested in the thoughts and opinions of not only parents, teachers, military leadership, and individuals directly supported by DoDEA schools, but of those that support military families and their children that attend non-DoDEA Schools. Please help us distribute this opportunity for feedback.

## DoDEA's New Attendance Policy

Please check out the Department of Defense Education Activity's new attendance policy that went into effect September 1, 2011 at <http://www.dodea.edu/attendance/index.cfm>.



**Here are a few of the highlights of the policy:**

- All students are required to attend school for 180 instructional days per school year.
- Academic penalties will not be imposed for excused absences.
- Whenever a student needs to be out for more than five days, the teacher will provide a Student Educational Monitoring Plan to lessen the impact of a student missing instruction in class.

The policy establishes a balance between the need for military families to spend time together following deployment, while emphasizing the importance of education. Procedures for monitoring daily student attendance and communicating with families are established in this policy as well as specific guidance on attendance, absences and identifies support services for students at-risk for not fulfilling the grade or course requirements.

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## Volunteers needed for Chess Club

The Chess Club needs very skilled adult chess players to coach our chess club members in preparation for the Korea International School's Middle School Chess Tournament in November. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ms. Dunham at [christin.dunham@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:christin.dunham@pac.dodea.edu) or call 784-7375/7256.



## Student Organizations and Clubs

Organization/Club	Meeting Days & Times
Yearbook	MWF 3:15 - 4:15 PM
Video	TuTh 3:15 - 4:15 PM
Chess	WTh 3:15 - 4:15 PM Official meeting times (Extra practice sessions Mon. & Tues. from 3:15 - 4:15 PM for students who can not attend on Wed. or Thur. or just want more practice.)
Crochet/Knitting	MTu 3:15 - 4:15 PM
Girls' Soccer	TuWTh 3:30 - 5:00 PM (Season ends OCT 8)
Boys' Soccer	MThF 3:30 - 5:00 PM
Cross Country	MTuWThF 3:30 - 4:30 PM
MathCounts	Wed in OCT, 3:30 - 4:30 PM WTh in NOV, DEC, and JAN, 3:30 - 4:30 PM



## Math Counts

MathCounts is a challenging academic club that emphasizes high school Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Discrete Math concepts. The purpose is to prepare students for competitions against other middle school students throughout DoDDS, and have fun while doing it. All OMS students are invited to come! Parents are encouraged to help train these mathletes, too!! Last school year's MathCounts Team of Jonas Knudsen, Matthew Burbee, Ben Mauldin, Young Park and Joy Kim placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pacific District and Jonas Knudsen placed 4<sup>th</sup> in DoDDS worldwide.

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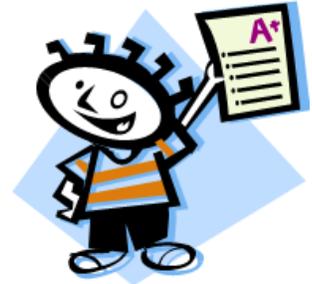
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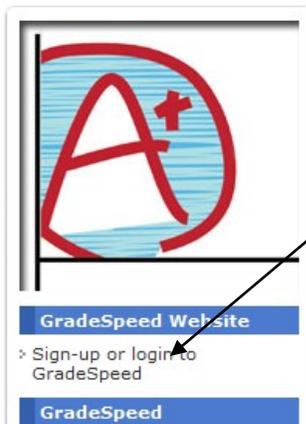
Parents,

If you have not registered for GradeSpeed please do so by going to the Parent Portal on GradeSpeed.

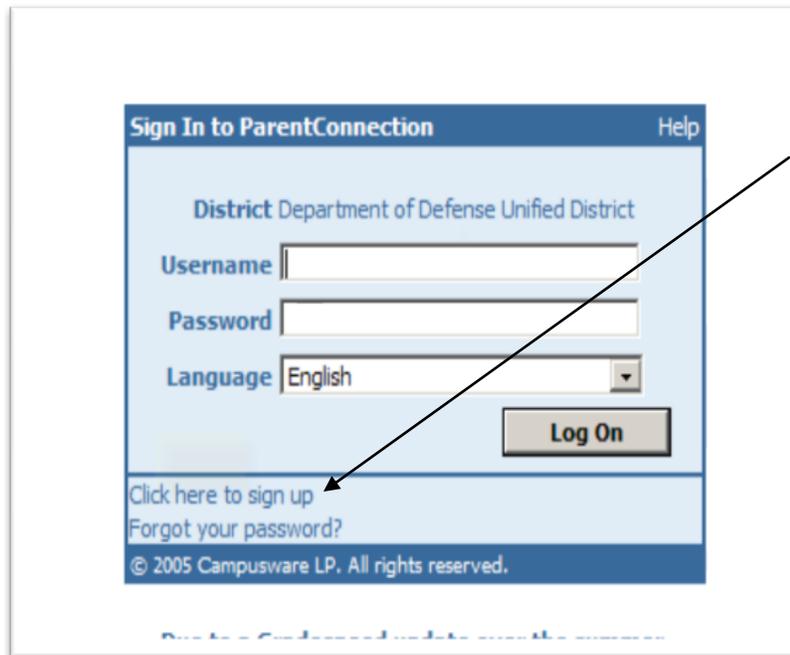


Go to this website:

[http://www.dodea.edu/back\\_to\\_school/gradeSpeed.cfm](http://www.dodea.edu/back_to_school/gradeSpeed.cfm)



Click Here



If you do not have an account **Click Here**. Follow the directions to create an account. Once your account has been verified by school administrators (usually within a few days). You will be able to view your child's grades

Students also now have access to their GradeSpeed under their own accounts so they can check assignments from home. Please ask them to share with you that they know how to get into their accounts.

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