



Orchard Elementary
Ridgewood Public Schools

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Good Morning Orchard School Families,

May is here and spring has sprung! It is hard to believe we are heading into the final stretch of the school year. Our third, fourth, and fifth graders have been working diligently this week on their New Jersey Student Learning Assessments. We are very proud of their hard work!

As we head into May, we have a number of upcoming special events and dates on our calendar. Please be sure to check our website calendar as well as the HSA calendar to keep on top of everything. It is a fun and busy time of year!

Please read below to learn more about many other exciting events in and around Orchard School.

Media Usage & Families: An Orchard Conversation

Last week, a group of Orchard parents met to help craft a revised Acceptable Use Policy for our students. This AUP merged ideas from our existing document with concepts and language borrowed from Common Sense Media's [Family Media Agreement](#).

We invite you to peruse both our previous [Acceptable Use Policy](#) and our [Revised Acceptable Use Policy](#) for 2019-20. Our revised document contains language that extends the concept of media use beyond the basic responsibility, including concepts such as keeping a healthy balance with technology use, and being proud of our online personas. I invite all Orchard families to review our modified policy for 19-20. Please email me directly (mkferreri@ridgewood.k12.nj.us) with any comments, thoughts, or suggestions you may have. We plan to utilize our new document in September of 2019.

And, stay tuned! We plan to create more Orchard Media Nights for next year.

Choose to Be Nice - Family “No Homework” Nights!

Each month at Orchard School, we celebrate our Choose to Be Nice theme at a Community Building Assembly. For the month of May, our theme is patience, and we are reading No Ordinary Apple. We will share on this topic at our May 16th CBA.

Our “Choose to Be Nice Family Night” will be held that day, on May 16. That night, our teachers will not assign any homework. Instead, we are encouraging families to get together and enjoy some quality time with one another. With busy sports schedules and beautiful weather, we hope you can take advantage of this family time in a fun and active way!

Stay tuned for our final No Homework Night on Thursday, June 13!

Wellbeing Speaker Series: Kristi Mraz - May 29.

Our next Wellbeing Speaker Series presentation will be held on Wednesday, May 29th. Kristi has been a frequent presenter at our staff development days, and you will not want to miss her presentation! Kristi’s topic, *Purposeful Play*, is geared toward our elementary parents. You may register online at the [RPS website](#). The flier is included [here](#) for more information. We hope that you will make time for this interesting and informative night!

As with every monthly update, we need reminders about our procedures and policies here at Orchard. Please take note of the following:

- Link and follow our Google Calendar for HSA events! [Go to this link](#) and click on the +Google Calendar in the right bottom corner.
- Lunch Ordering: Just some reminders for ordering lunch through [Village Fresh](#). All orders are placed online. Orders must be in **by 8:00 AM**, otherwise, they will not be delivered on that day. Get your orders in! Thank you!

Please review the list of dates below for upcoming events at our school.

Warmly,



Mrs. Ferreri

Upcoming events:

5/13-5/17: NJSLA Make-Ups

5/16: Spirit Day

5/17: Garage Sale Drop Off Day

5/18: Garage Sale, Orchard School!

5/21-22: Book Fair

5/21: Concert, grades 4-5, 1:30 PM; Orchard Museum of Art, grades K-5, 3 PM

5/23: Incoming Kindergarten Visitation, 1 PM

5/27: No School

5/29: K-2 Officer Phil Assembly, 9 AM; Kristi Mraz Parent Workshop, 7 PM, Ridge School

5/31: Field Day!

6/5: Field Day Raindate

6/6-7: Fifth Grade Finale

6/13: Spirit Day; CBA (Student Recognition Assembly); HSA 9:30 AM

6/20: Fifth Grade Moving Up, 8:50 AM; Step Up Day 10:45 AM; Dismissal 12:45 PM