



ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The mission of the Orlando Science Schools (OSS) is to use proven and innovative instructional methods and exemplary reform-based curricula in a stimulating environment with the result of providing its students a well-rounded middle school and high school education in all subject areas. OSS will provide rigorous college preparatory programs with special emphasis in mathematics, science, technology, and language arts.

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Principal's Corner

Dear Students & Parents,

Thanksgiving break is November 21st-25th and there will be no school for students during this time.

OSS students banded together to raise money for those hit hard by the earthquake in Turkey, as well as collecting canned food for those in need in our own community. We want to thank all our students and parents who participated!

A reminder that **Science Fair projects are due November 28th!**

OCPS board has approved the opening of Orlando Science Elementary School, which will open Fall of 2012!!!

I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday!

Sincerely,
Dr. Akin

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. ~[Master Eckhart](#)



The Story of Thanksgiving



Most stories of Thanksgiving history start with the harvest celebration of the pilgrims and the Native Americans that took place in the autumn of 1621. Although they did have a three-day feast in celebration of a good harvest, and the local natives did participate, this "first thanksgiving" was not a holiday, simply a gathering. There is little evidence that this feast of thanks led directly to our modern Thanksgiving Day holiday. Thanksgiving can, however, be traced back to 1863 when Pres. Lincoln became the first president to proclaim Thanksgiving Day. The holiday has been a fixture of late November ever since.

However, since most school children are taught that the first Thanksgiving was held in 1621 with the Pilgrims and Indians, let us take a closer look at just what took place leading up to that event, and then what happened in the centuries afterward that finally gave us our modern Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims who sailed to this country aboard the *Mayflower* were originally members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect). They had earlier fled their home in England and sailed to Holland (The Netherlands) to escape religious persecution. There, they enjoyed more religious tolerance, but they eventually became disenchanted with the Dutch way of life, thinking it ungodly. Seeking a better life, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. Most of those making the trip aboard the *Mayflower* were non-Separatists, but were hired to protect the company's interests. Only about one-third of the original colonists were Separatists.

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the *Mayflower*. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one. And the remaining colonists decided to celebrate with a feast - including 91 natives who had helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. It is believed that the Pilgrims would not have made it through the year without the help of the natives. The feast was more of a traditional English harvest festival than a true "thanksgiving" observance. It lasted three days.

Governor William Bradford sent "four men fowling" after wild ducks and geese. It is not certain that wild turkey was part of their feast. However, it is certain that they had venison. The term "turkey" was used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl.

Another modern staple at almost every Thanksgiving table is pumpkin pie. But it is unlikely that the first feast included that treat. The supply of flour had been long diminished, so there was no bread or pastries of any kind. However, they did eat boiled pumpkin, and they produced a type of fried bread from their corn crop. There was also no milk, cider, potatoes, or butter. There were no domestic cattle for dairy products, and the newly-discovered potato was still considered by many Europeans to be poisonous. But the feast did include fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums.

This "thanksgiving" feast was not repeated the following year. Many years passed before the event was repeated. It wasn't until June of 1676 that another Day of thanksgiving was proclaimed. On June 20 of that year the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving. It is notable that this thanksgiving celebration probably did not include Native Americans, as the celebration was meant partly to be in recognition of the colonists' recent victory over the "heathen natives." By then, it had become apparent to the settlers that the natives were a hindrance to their quest for more land, so the good will they shared at the first feast had long been lost.

A hundred years later, in October of 1777 all 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. But it was a one-time affair.

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, although some were opposed to it. There was discord among the colonies, many feeling the hardships of a few pilgrims did not warrant a national holiday. And later, President Thomas Jefferson opposed the idea of having a day of thanksgiving.

It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her *Boston Ladies' Magazine*, and later, in *Godey's Lady's Book*. Finally, after a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the *last* Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. The date was changed a couple of times, most recently by Franklin Roosevelt, who set it up one week to the next-to-last Thursday in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later. And in 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the *fourth* Thursday in November.



Science Olympiad Field trip to UCF was a hit! Students were invited by the microbiology department to participate in two labs on two different days. One professor Dr. Borgon specializes in DNA and Professor Weigel is a Microbiology professor at UCF. Students performed labs learning how to micropipette which is a technique to acquire materials under 1 mL, doing DNA spectrophotometry, DNA gels, and streaking agar plates with various bacteria. On the second trip to UCF, students were able to see their plates that were streaked and could actually see the bacteria colonies (even the parents were invited to participate!). Afterwards students looked in the 1000X objective microscopes to see Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria. Both trips ended with a true undergrad dinner in the student union amongst UCF students.



Caleb Spence and Jordan Ferrer learning how to Micropipette.



Cassandra Spence and Austin Kunzler micropipetting



Elizabeth Martin and Daniella Gutierrez using Aseptic techniques to streak their agar plates.



Two weeks later, Isaac Gordon and Carlos Barrea's streaked plates...and yes that is REAL bacteria growing on those plates!

For more pictures of our trip you can go to this link to see the entire album.
<https://picasaweb.google.com/116169093051183156392/UCFFieldTripScienceOlympiad?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCPzVx9yLwu6XQw&feat=directlink>

7TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO SHOWCASE OF CITRUS



On Thursday November 3rd, the 7th grade class went on a field trip to the Showcase of Citrus, a working citrus farm. We left the school at 9:15 with 94 students and 5 teachers on two charter busses.

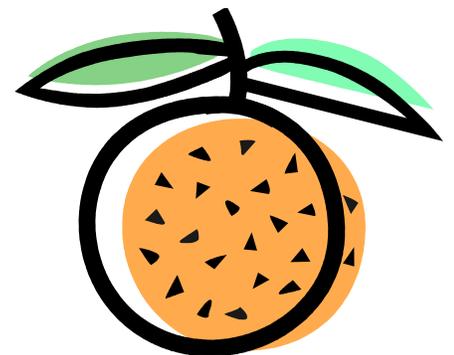
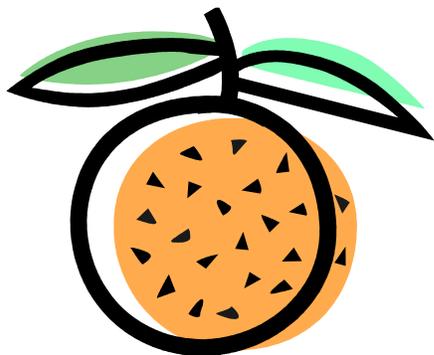
When we arrived at the farm we broke up into groups. Half of the groups picked fruit and the second half went on an eco-tour... on a MONSTER BUS. Each group then switched.

The students were allowed to pick 5 lbs of fruit from the citrus grove. They collected four types of fruit: red navel oranges, yellow navel oranges, grapefruit, and fall glow oranges. We learned that ripe oranges are actually green in color, but stores dye them orange to make them look more attractive.

The eco-tour was the high light of the field trip. The monster put us 12 feet off the ground. Every time the bus hit a bump the passengers would bounce out of their seats. We got to see a variety of animals including banana spiders, cows, and even a baby calf. At one point in the tour the bus stopped and a herd of cows surrounded the bus. We got to feed the cows oranges.

After picking fruit and the eco-tour we ate lunch, played games like tag, and feed chickens. At 1:45 we loaded up the bus and returned to school.

The 7th grade student would like to thank the teachers and parents that help with our field trip.



VETERAN'S DAY DINNER AND PARADE

On Friday November 11, 2011 OSS hosted a Veterans Day assembly honoring Sen. David Simmons. During the events students performed songs and poems to honor the Veterans of the United States armed forces. In the weeks prior, students created projects honoring the different branches of the military and highlighting their accomplishments.

The OSS family came together and shared a wonderful evening filled with food, fun and friendship. We are very thankful to all the participants in the event, and happy to have had the opportunity to share the evening with the families that make OSS so great!

Catherine Cannon

Social Studies Department Chair

On Saturday, November 12th, OSS students participated in the City of Orlando's Veteran's Day parade to honor our brave men and woman who have given of themselves for our country.

The Service Learning Club was asked to carry the City of Orlando banner in the front of the parade!!!

The students had an amazing time while saluting those who have made our country great!



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 15, 1997: THE FIRST AMERICA RECYCLES DAY IS CELEBRATED.

SINCE 1997, COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE COME TOGETHER ON NOVEMBER 15 TO CELEBRATE AMERICA RECYCLES DAY. MORE THAN A CELEBRATION, AMERICA RECYCLES DAY IS THE ONLY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED DAY DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF RECYCLING IN THE UNITED STATES. ONE DAY TO EDUCATE AND MOTIVATE. ONE DAY TO GET OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS EXCITED ABOUT WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER. ONE DAY TO MAKE RECYCLING BIGGER AND BETTER 365 DAYS A YEAR. GET INVOLVED! DO YOUR PART TO RECYCLE! WWW.AMERICARECYCLESDAY.ORG

OSS Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Break, November 21st -25th

Science Fair Projects Due November 28th

Early Dismissal Days- December 7th and 16th

Winter Break December 19th - January 2nd

Always check the OSS website and PVO tab for all events!!!!!!!

Important Events and Dates in Science Olympiad

- 1- 4th Annual Florida Invitational Science Olympiad --- January 21, 2012, Orlando Science Schools – Award Ceremony will be at Orlando Science Center.
- 2- Regional Science Olympiad --- February 11, 2012, Cypress Creek High School
- 3- State Science Olympiad --- March 24, 2012, UCF
- 4- National Science Olympiad --- May 18-19, UCF

