

Everything matters at Linden Elementary

Submitted

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OAK RIDGE, Tenn. —

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the third in a series of submitted stories on the many volunteer opportunities available within the Oak Ridge schools.

With a mission to nurture and guide children in becoming motivated students who actively participate in learning, the faculty and staff at Linden Elementary School are striving to develop students to be positive participants in the diverse and ever-changing world.

Located on the west end of Oak Ridge, Linden Elementary serves approximately 500 students.

"We enjoy working with each and every child and family throughout our school environment," said Roger Ward, the school's principal. "All students in our school will not only learn the much important Tennessee academic standards, but will also be taught to be responsible, respectful, ready, and safe.

"Linden professionals work diligently, using current research as well as collaborative conversations to strengthen our instructional program. Teachers work as a team to provide student-centered learning, using developmentally appropriate curriculum and instructional strategies. We value the process that allows us to make decisions together, while respecting our unique strengths. There is no one right answer, but we strive to find the way that leads to optimal student learning," Ward said.

Linden has several opportunities for businesses, the community and parents to become involved:

- 'Readers and Leaders' Volunteers: According to the U.S. Department of Education, math

and reading achievement test scores are important measures of students' skills in these subject areas, as well as good indicators of overall achievement in school. So how can 30 minutes a week help a child develop a strong foundation in these two fundamental areas?

The Readers and Leaders program is designed to help a child in either reading or math. Volunteers serve as tutors to work with a student to improve his or her skills, serving as both a coach and a mentor for the students.

- **Food for Kids:** If you are hungry, you are not going to be able to focus on your schoolwork. To help eliminate this problem, Second Harvest's Food for Kid's program helps feed approximately 350 students in Oak Ridge's elementary schools and preschool.

The program is in need of volunteers to help pack the food. This is done each month on the second Monday at 6 p.m. and the second Tuesday at 9 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. For more information, or to get involved, contact Nan Shugart at (865) 425-9366.

- **Money Matters:** While it is hard for some to imagine, many children do not beg to watch just five more minutes of TV, instead they worry about whether or not they will have power in the morning to be able to turn the TV on. In order to concentrate on their schoolwork, students need a solid foundation from which to build. Helping families become stable and self-sufficient through education is key to for the children in Oak Ridge's schools.

Money Matters, a budgeting class for families at risk of having their utilities turned off, is looking for qualified instructors to teach classes. Training is provided. Volunteers should call Jo Bruce at (865) 425-3205.

Additionally, Linden is seeking donations to sponsor families for the class. Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties is the fiscal agent of the program, and it is \$75 to sponsor a person for the class.

To get involved, or to discuss other ways you can support Linden Elementary and its students, contact Jo Bruce at (865) 425-3205 or jbruce@ortn.edu.