

Educational Choices and **INNOVATION**



Osceola County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEW THIS MONTH

Earth Day-"Invest in Our Planet"

National Kindergarten Day

**School Spotlight -Mill Creek
Elementary Environmental
Management and Energy**

National Poetry Month

Did you Know?

Autism Awareness Month

Important Dates

EARTH DAY

Every year on April 22, Earth Day is celebrated. This year's theme is "Invest in Our Planet". Recently, there has been more talk about sustainable development. Sustainable development means to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Doesn't it sound great? But, how do we accomplish this when the United States is one of the world's largest consumers of energy?

Approximately 81% of the energy used in the United States comes from fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas. We might not think about it but we use these natural resources daily to heat our homes, run our vehicles and power up our electronic devices. So, how do we invest in our planet and reduce dependency as reserves decline? As global citizens it is important to look at ways to help conserve planet Earth by reducing our carbon footprint. How do we reduce our carbon footprint? Good question. Below are a few things you can do to help invest in our planet and live a more sustainable lifestyle. Small changes make a big impact.

When possible:

- Turn off lights and appliances
- Save water
- Do full loads of laundry
- Set the washing machine to cold
- Walk or ride a bike instead of using a car
- Go paperless - after all, we live in a digital world
- Recycle and reuse items - water bottles, grocery bags, etc.
- Plant a garden
- Volunteer to help with a community cleanup - register for

Tidy Up Toho 2022 at

<https://www.eventeny.com/events/tidyuptoho-2662/>

National Kindergarten Day

Approximately 3.5 million children are enrolled in kindergarten in the United States every year. Kindergarten is a German word that literally means children's garden. German educator, Friedrich Fröbel, founded the first play and activity institute in 1837 in Bad Blankeburg, Germany. Fröbel believed that young children should follow their own interests and explore them. In Florida, children that are 5 years of age by September 1st are eligible to begin their public education in Kindergarten. Visit www.osceolaschools.net/kindergarten to learn more about kindergarten registration, transition tips and more.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY

Home of the Gators



The Mill Creek Gators are a family of learners that is student-centered, working together to ensure every students is safe and has the best opportunity to succeed in our diverse community. Following its Environmental Management and Energy program, students engage in eco-friendly activities focused in understanding the structure and the functioning of the environment, the Earth, and how humans fit in. The goal is to inspire students to be conscientious about their environment, reflect on their every day actions and to develop the ability to make thoughtful decisions to create an environment that allows all to live the best quality of life. The energy and environmental focus promote outdoor learning experiences, project-based enrichment opportunities and increases real-world connections while igniting thinking skills.

Magnet Program

Environmental Management
and Energy

Enrichment Offerings

Battle of the Books Robotics Musical Theatre
Odyssey of the Mind Coding House of Science

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

President Bill Clinton issued a proclamation on April 1, 1996 declaring April as National Poetry Month. Poetry month celebrates past poets but more importantly it celebrates the voices of diversity of today's American poetry such as Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. Poems such as Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" that so eloquently expresses the coming together and healing as a nation and Maya Angelou's, "And Still I Rise" which talks about overcoming anything through self-esteem, self-respect and confidence. From limericks to haiku, there are so many wonderful poems just waiting to be read. Join in on the fun, visit <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poems>.

Sick by Shel Silverstein

"I cannot go to school today," Said little Peggy Ann McKay. "I have the measles and the mumps, A gash, a rash and purple bumps. My mouth is wet, my throat is dry, I'm going blind in my right eye. My tonsils are as big as rocks, I've counted sixteen chicken pox And there's one more-that's seventeen, And don't you think my face looks green? My leg is cut--my eyes are blue-- It might be instamatic flu. I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke, I'm sure that my left leg is broke-- My hip hurts when I move my chin, My belly button's caving in, My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained, My 'pendix pains each time it rains. My nose is cold, my toes are numb. I have a sliver in my thumb. My neck is stiff, my voice is weak, I hardly whisper when I speak. My tongue is filling up my mouth, I think my hair is falling out. My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight, My temperature is one-o-eight. My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear, There is a hole inside my ear. I have a uñero, and my heart is-what? What's that? What's that you say? You say today is...Saturday? G'bye, I'm going out to play!"
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Autism Awareness Month

In 1999, the puzzle-ribbon was adapted as a universal sign for Autism Awareness. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopment disorder that causes a wide range of impairments in social communication and restricted and repetitive behaviors. It is a lifelong condition and is very common. ASD affects all nationalities, all races and both sexes, although boys are diagnosed at a higher rate than girls. Early detection and appropriate services during the child's educational years can help them improve, develop and live successful lives. If you need assistance, visit www.cfl.ucf-card.org for resources available.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

April 5th through 15th- FSA Writing Gr. 4-10
April 5th through 15th- FSA Reading Gr. 3
April - Autism Awareness Month

April 4th - 3rd 9 Weeks Report Cards
April 22nd - Earth Day
April 26th - 4th 9 Weeks Progress Reports