**Hi Oak Knoll Families!**

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! I hope you all have had a wonderful summer.

As you know, one of the things which makes our school and community so very special is the partnership between the incredible teachers and staff at Oak Knoll, and our involved and engaged families like yours. To help keep our school amazing, we ask that you strongly consider to:

1. **Jump into Oak Knoll’s awesome community**
	* **Otter Weekly** - [Sign up](https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/773) for our weekly newsletter. It is FULL of info you want and need.
	* **Back to School Coffee** – **Aug. 24th, 8:15am** in the Gym - Hear from Principal Gracia about the upcoming year as well as learn about all of our [PTO Committees](https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/721) and how you can get involved.
	* **Back to School Night** – **Sept. 7**th **evening**. Meet your child’s teacher, see their classroom, learn about classroom plans, and sign up to help with class parties, field trips, and more.
	* **Spiritwear -** Gear up in all things Ollie at the [Otterwear](https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/782) store.
	* [**Fall Family Picnic**](https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/662)– **Friday, Oct. 6th,** **5pm-7pm**. See old friends and meet new ones while your kids have a blast on the playground, in jumpy houses and on stage singing karaoke.
2. **Please Volunteer**

**Without volunteers we cannot put on all the outstanding programs that everyone loves.**

Whether you work outside or inside the home, we can find a job that fits your schedule and does wonders for our school. Plus, speaking from experience, there’s no better way to get to know Oak Knoll than to get involved on the ground. Want to learn more about specific opportunities? Join me at the Back to School Coffee! Or email me! And, don’t forget to sign up for the many classroom volunteer opportunities at Back to School Night.

1. **Please Donate**

**Without donations we cannot help fund all the outstanding programs, specialty teachers, and innovative learning experiences that everyone loves.** The [PTO](https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/712) and the [MPAEF](https://mpaef.org/donate-now) fund very different things, which is why we ask for two separate donations.

**PTO funds *Stuff*** such as Field trips, community-building events, well-supplied classrooms, and much more. You may donate to the Oak Knoll PTO [here](https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/712).

**MPAEF funds *Staff***  The MPAEF helps put more teachers in our schools – both in the classroom and specialized areas such as art, music, drama, library, and science, across the district as well as funding the technology initiatives, Guidance & Wellness services, teacher professional development, and Jeanie Ritchie Innovation Grants. You may donate to the MPAEF [here](https://mpaef.org/donate-now).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions or simply want to learn more about the PTO. I must say, I’m thrilled to be serving as PTO President and cannot wait for all the great things this school year has in store.

All the best,

Christa West

2017-18 Oak Knoll PTO President

ptopresident@oakknollschool.org

<http://oakknoll.mpcsd.org>