



November 18, 2011

Dear Fourth and Fifth Grade Parents,

The sign up for the PTO Battle of the Books is here! During 4th and 5th grade library time this month, Mrs. Philhower will explain the popular Battle of the Books program sponsored by the Oak Street School PTO that will be taking place at Oak Street again this year.

In 2010-11, more than 140 Oak Street 4th and 5th grade students participated in Battle of the Books which is run by PTO volunteers. Being part of this program is a **commitment** because your child will be part of a five-person reading team. Your child need not be an awesome reader to participate. We are looking for children who LOVE books whether they listen to them on audio, have the story read to them, or read independently.

Here is a timeline of events for this year's PTO Battle of the Books:

- **December 2nd** - Signed PTO Battle of the Books Contracts are due (attached).
- **December 5th, 7th and 9th**- On each of these days, all participating students will meet in the library during their lunch period to eat, form teams, and select books as follows:
 - On the 5th, students will form battle teams of five. Team members can be from different classes within the grade and can be all girl, all boy, or mixed. We assure you that all kids will be able to get a spot on a team!
 - On the 7th, we will introduce this year's ten Battle books. Each book will be briefly described and students will then have two days to think about which books they would like to read for their team.
 - On the 9th, each team member will pick the four books that they will be responsible for reading.
 - At all three meetings, parents and staff members will be on-hand to assist.
- **December 9th**- Battle reading begins! Each child is expected to read 4 books, but they are free to read as many as they'd like. Books will be available through the Oak Street library (in book and audio form); the Bernard's Township Library; and The Bookworm in Bernardsville.
- **January, February, and March**- Parent-organized battle practices occur either in homes or at Oak Street in reserved rooms after school hours.
- **April 2nd** – PTO BOTB for 4th graders at 6pm in the OSS Auditorium.
- **April 4th** - PTO BOTB for 5th graders at 6pm in the OSS Auditorium.

Excitement will be high at the beginning of April when the Battle competition occurs! Parents will be invited to watch the battle and a brief awards presentation afterwards.

Please discuss PTO Battle of the Books with your child. Make sure that they understand the commitment involved and make sure that **they** want to participate. It will not be a pleasant experience if you force them to do it. Again, to commit to Battle of the Books they need to read 4 books by the beginning of April, memorize titles and authors, practice alone or with their group after school hours, and be a responsible member of their team. Once they sign up quitting is not allowed because that is not fair to their team. **As stated before, the contracts are due on December 2nd** .

The PTO BOTB Committee is looking forward to another great year of reading!

*All questions should be directed to oakstreetbotb@yahoo.com



Oak Street School PTO
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS CONTRACT

December 2011 – April 2012

*Return in an envelope marked PTO-BOTB
via backpack mail by December 2nd .

Student's name _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

I would like to participate in the PTO Battle of the Books and I understand that I will be responsible for reading 4 books from the book list. Practicing on my own time and memorizing the author list are other battle requirements. I will do my best to be a good team member.

Student signature _____

I give my child permission to join PTO Battle of the Books for the 2011 – 2012 school years.

Parent signature _____

Parent email _____

(required)