



# The Osprey

O'Connell Drive Elementary School

Volume 22, Issue 6

February, 2020

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## Important Dates

### Dear Parents/ Guardians:

**February is African Heritage Month.** Stay tuned in to our Twitter account to see what our students are learning!  
<https://twitter.com/oconnelldrive>

The 2020 African Heritage Month theme, **The Ties that Bind: Faith, Family and Community**, recognizes the essential traits that sustain the strength, resiliency and togetherness of the African Nova Scotian community.

These ties are the bedrock for the African Nova Scotian community which helped them support and stay connected to each other.

The theme aligns with the "Recognition" pillar of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD). We must recognize the important contributions of people of African descent, while also acknowledging the long-standing prejudices and unfair treatment endured for generations.

**Heritage Day, February 17th, 2020:** Introduced in 2015, each year this holiday honors a different person or event, chosen by Nova Scotian school children. As 2020 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Africville apology, Heritage Day will honor this National Historic Site, which holds great significance to the African Nova Scotian community.

**Online Incident Reporting for Families and Students:**  
<http://antibullying.novascotia.ca>  
As always, we would remind you that the best way to report bullying is to phone the school immediately.

**OCDES Online Clothing Store:**  
Reminder you can now buy OCDES clothing on line!! Please check out the link below which you can also find on OCD website.  
<http://www.pmgpromotions.com/store#!/OCONNELL-SCHOOL/c/32035002/offset=0&sort=normal>

**Inclement Weather:**  
O'Connell Drive Elementary resides in the Eastern Shore (District High) Family of Schools. Therefore it is important to listen carefully to radio broadcasts each morning for cancellations to specific families of schools as the name of our school may not be announced. Detailed information can also be found below:  
<http://www.hrsb.ns.ca>  
PHONE—464-4643 (INFO)

**What if busses are cancelled, but schools are open?**  
There are times when we may decide to keep schools open, but cancel bussing due to poor road conditions. As parents and guardians, you must use your own discretion with regard to sending your child to school. Before dropping students off, please ensure that someone on staff has arrived at the school and can provide supervision.

**Feb 3 - Registration begins for new primaries + Pre-primaries (2020-2021)**

**Feb 4 - Gr. 4 Curling Trip**

**Feb 10 - Coastline Singers - Sing & Swim**

**Feb 11 - Gr. 5 & 6 Ski Trip**

**Feb 15 - Gr.3 Curling Trip**

**Feb 17 - Heritage Day (no school)**

**Feb 19 - SAC - 6PM  
PTA - 7PM**

**Feb 21 -  
Pajama Day for IWK**

**Feb 21 -  
Winter Walk Day (whole school)**

**Feb 25 - Gr. Primary, One, & Two Skating Trip**

**Feb 28 -  
Primary Registration Ends**

**Primary Registration:** Primary registration opens on February 3rd and continues for the month. Students are eligible to register if they turn five before December 31st, 2020. Primary registration packages are available in the main office. Registering families will need to bring proof of residency, (examples are power bill, deed to a house, rental agreement, etc.), a birth certificate and health card information. Primary Orientation is scheduled for **Monday morning, May 25th beginning at 8:30AM.** Vision screening for students is also available during this day (more information to follow). During our primary orientation day on May 25th our new students will be placed in mock classes so our teachers can assess them and begin to think about supports and class lists for next year. Families will be meeting in the cafeteria with the administration while students are with teachers.

**Pre-primary Registration** is also opened as of February 3rd. Students are eligible to register if they turn four before December 31st, 2020. Registration forms are available for pick up at the main office. Registering families will need to bring proof of residency, and birth certificate (unless they are presently enrolled in our pre-primary class this current year). Further information on the pre-primary program will follow at a later date.

## The Osprey

### Safe Arrival



If your child will be absent for any reason (illness, late arrival, away, etc.), you are requested to call the school and leave a message with your child's classroom teacher. This needs to be done prior to 7:45 am and can be done anytime during the night prior. To get to safe arrival, call 827-4112, select # 1, then select the grade and

teacher accordingly. If you have to call after 7:45 am, please call the school office at extension 2. It is important we receive this information, especially for students arriving late. This will avoid the school calling home and work numbers and leaving messages that may cause some concern.

**LATES:** Please make sure your child(ren) arrive before the 7:55AM bell each day. The best way to ensure this is to send them on the bus. Parents and guardians must accompany their children to the office for late slips.

**Drinking Water:** Due to the drinking water issue at OCDES, reminder for each student to please bring their own water bottle each day so they can fill up their bottle at the water dispenser. We have been informed the disposable drinking cups may not be supplied on a regular basis. Thank you for your time and patience as the issue gets resolved.

**Lost & Found:** Parents are asked to please remind their children to check the lost and found box for any of their missing belongings. Anything remaining in the box after the next week or so will be donated to charity.

**Coastline Singers' Sing and Swim** on Mon Feb 10th at Cole Harbour Place from 8:30-3pm. Families are responsible for transportation to and from our special event.

**Winter Walk Day** at O'Connell Drive will take place on February 21st. Winter is still a great time to walk and be outside! We will be walking together as a school in the afternoon.

### Valentine's Day is fast approaching!

Help support the fundraising efforts of the Grade 6's for their Bayside trip with an exciting **Gummy-Gram Drive!** Orders will be taken for Gummy-Grams in Centre Court next week during lunch time from February 5th-7th. They will be delivered around the school on Valentine's Day!! Each Gummy-Gram costs \$1 and includes a package of fruit gummies and a sticker to personalize when ordered. Come see the Grade 6 students during lunch time at their Gummy-Gram Booth from February 5th-7th if you'd like to purchase a Gummy-Gram....or a few! **Thanks for your support!**

**Allergies/Scent Awareness Policy:** Our school has a scent and allergy awareness policy. We have several students who are highly allergic to peanuts & nut products. Please help ensure the safety of all our students by not sending in any peanuts or nut products. Please do not send items in lunches with these products. For more information about children with life threatening allergies please contact <http://www.nochildwithout.ca>.

**Fire Lane:** Please be reminded that the front curb running along the front of our building is a fire lane and thus should not be used for dropping off students in the mornings. We have a clearly marked drop-off zone with a sign near the soccer field where students can be dropped off safely between 7:45AM and 7:55AM.

**Arriving Late:** If you arrive after 7:55AM you should park your vehicle in the parking lot to the left as you drive in, and walk your child into the main office to obtain a late slip. As always, the best way to ensure your children arrive on time is to send them on the bus.

**Dress Appropriately for the Weather:** It is important, especially this time of year, for students to bring an extra set of clothes to be kept here in their classrooms or in their back packs (ex: pants, socks, mitts, hats) in the event they get wet, etc. Students should also come to school with appropriate winter jackets, hats, gloves, boots, and other snow gear. Children who do not wear winter boots are at that the greatest risk of falling and injuring themselves.

**Lunch-time Supervision Support:** We are in need of substitute Lunch-time supervision monitors. If interested, please contact the school.

### IWK Days for 2019-20

Friday, Feb. 21	- PJ Day
Thursday, Mar. 13	- Rainbow Day (Wear clothes of all different colors)
Wednesday, Apr. 1	- Blue Day (World Autism Day)
Friday, May 22	- Funny Flashy Footwear

**Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 7 - IWK Telethon**  
Thank you for supporting the IWK!!