



The Osprey

O'Connell Drive
Elementary School

Volume 23, Issue 5

January, 2020

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Happy New Year O'Connell Drive community. I hope everyone had a relaxing vacation with family and friends. We are looking forward to a productive 2020 and hope for your continued support as we educate your children.

Sincerely,
Mr. Lucas

Primary and Pre-primary Registration: Both Primary and Pre-primary registration opens on February 3, 2020. Primary students are eligible to register if they turn five before December 31st, 2020, and pre-primary students are eligible to register if they turn four before December 31st, 2020. Registration packages will be available in the main office by January 27, 2020. Registering families will need to bring proof of residency (example: power bill, deed to a house, rental agreement), a birth certificate and health card information. Primary Orientation is scheduled for late May (exact date to be confirmed). **We ask for all new primary student to be registered before the end of February.** Welcome new students!

Inclement Weather: With the uncertainty of the weather we would ask that you send in any recent changes to emergency dismissal procedures that may have changed since September to your homeroom teacher(s). 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. You can also visit the HRCE website or phone the number below to obtain up to date information on cancellations:
WEB— <http://www.hrce.ca>
PHONE—464-4643 (INFO)

For more information and details on how to receive automatic text or Twitter notifications please follow this link:

<http://www.hrce.ca/content/id/1137.html>

Fire Lane and Late Slips:

Please be reminded that the front curb running along the entire front of our building is a fire lane and thus should not be used for dropping off students in the mornings or for picking up students at the end of the day (Excel included). We have a drop-off zone near the soccer field where students can be dropped off safely between 7:45AM and 7:55AM. If you arrive after 7:55AM your child is considered to be late and thus needs to be accompanied by you to the main office to be signed in. All lates and absences are recorded and kept on file. We appreciate your help in ensuring that your children make it to school on time. The best way to do this is to set up a regular morning routine that ensures a timely arrival at the bus stop.

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.

Pedestrian Safety: With winter upon us in full force, we would ask that you please take the time to discuss with your son or daughter the importance of personal safety when walking or playing outside. The Halifax Regional Police have some great traffic safety tips on their website at: <http://www.halifax.ca/Police/Programs/trafficsafety.html>.

Phys. Ed. News

Throughout this second term, students were working on their dance skills and will continue on with basketball and volleyball activities. Every grade level will be working on different ways of moving to different types of music alone and with a partner and the upper grades will also create dance routines.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 31 - Crazy Hair Day for the IWK

February 3 - Registration begins for New primaries (2020-21)

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Due to the drinking water issue at O'Connell Drive Elementary and the rest of the HRCE, we are asking for each student to bring a water bottle each day so they can fill up their bottle at the water dispenser. We will not have many of the cups available after this week. Thank you for your time and patience as the issue gets resolved.

ALLERGIES/SCENT AWARENESS POLICY:

We are an "Allergy Aware" school which means we do everything we can to educate our students and families on the dangers of food allergies at school. We recently updated our list of allergens for students with life-threatening allergies. We would ask that students not bring the items listed below in their lunches as they have the greatest likelihood of becoming airborne, leaving behind residue or being ingested accidentally: peanuts; tree nuts (almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts). We do ask parents/guardians to please discuss with your children the importance of not sharing food and washing hands before and after each meal at school. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school safe for all students. For more information about children with life threatening allergies please contact <http://www.nochildwithout.ca>.

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Thank You/Acknowledgements: . We would like to again thank our wonderful parent volunteers for all of their hard work and enthusiasm while organizing and running the Christmas Bazaar, Brunch with the Grinch, Christmas cards for the Birches' residents, as well as our ongoing weekly Heathy Snacks which they prepare for all students each Thursday. We can't express enough how very grateful we are to each and every one of our amazing parent volunteers.

December Christmas Concert: A huge congratulations to all of our students for doing such a fantastic job performing at the school Christmas Concert in December. Special thank you to Ms. Nolet for all of her hard work and expertise in putting together such a wonderful school wide event. Congratulation to the winners of our concert ticket draws ... 1st prize (4 front row seats plus VIP parking) went to Vickie Stevens ; 2nd prize (4 front row seats) went to Pam Johnstone. Congratulations to all!!

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>