



# O'CONNELL DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



40 O'Connell Drive  
Porter's Lake, N.S. B3E 1E8  
<http://ocd.hrce.ca>

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## September 2022

### Welcome

We would like to welcome everyone back for a new school year. It is always exciting to see our students returning to school and meeting our parents after a restful summer. We look forward to a new and exciting school year, learning new outcomes and assisting our students in their growth and development.

In developing a positive experience for the students of O'Connell Drive Elementary, it is essential that parents, teachers, and students work together. Please know you are welcome to discuss any issues that may arise throughout the school year. We have a wonderful school community at O'Connell Drive, and we'll work hard throughout the year to provide support for our students.

### Dates to Remember

September 7 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of School for Students
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Wear Pink today
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum Night 6:00pm - 7:00pm
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wear Crazy Sock Day for IWK ( <i>see third page for list of all IWK days this year</i> )
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cafeteria reopens
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	SAC meeting
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	PTO meeting
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Terry Fox Walk
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wear Orange today for Truth and Reconciliation Day
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Truth and Reconciliation Day – no school
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Day
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Provincial Conference Day – no school

### Bell Schedules

School busses are on time if they arrive five minutes prior to the start of classes. In our school this would be 8:00.

Entrance Bell	7:55 am
Classes Begin	8:05 am
Lunch	11:05 am – 11:50 am
Dismissal	1:55p.m. For all grades

### Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be scheduled for Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to announce that **meetings will be conducted in person**. Teachers will present their yearly curriculum plans and discuss the outcomes being covered throughout the year in the various subjects. There will be two 20-minute sessions with the first starting at 6:00 and the second starting at 6:30. It is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher if you haven't already done so. Please note this is not a venue for discussing student achievement with teachers. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child, please make an appointment with your teacher for another time.

### Our Shared Health:

We know – and Public Health reinforces – that the following practices are effective in this current phase of living with COVID-19:

- getting vaccinated, staying home if feeling unwell, frequently sanitizing hands and supporting those who choose to wear masks.
- Operations staff will continue to ensure that ventilation systems are regularly checked, cleaned and, where necessary, repaired and updated.
- The province's Back to School website <https://novascotia.ca/backtoschool> contains links to current guidance from Public Health as it relates to COVID-19.
- Schools will continue to follow this advice. Individuals who test positive will follow the guidance from Public Health. It continues to be the best practice for individuals to stay home when they are feeling unwell

## **SAC**

School Advisory Councils (SAC) are intended to give parents a say in what is going on at school, from policies to extra-curricular programs, photographers and more. The SAC brings partners together to make decisions and share advice in the best interest of student learning. At O'Connell Drive Elementary, SAC meets six times per year. If you are interested in serving for a term of one to three years or have any questions about the SAC, please give me a call at 902-827-4112 or email David Emin – [demin@hrce.ca](mailto:demin@hrce.ca) . We would love to hear from you. Our first School Advisory Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **PTA - Parent Teacher Association**

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and everyone is welcome. Participating on the PTA is a great way to meet other parents and demonstrate to your children that you value education. Hope to see you there! There will be a table set up during Curriculum Night with PTA members to answer any question you may have.

## **Parking Lot Safety**

Drivers using our morning Drop-off Zone are reminded to please wait in line until the zone is clear before moving forward. Pulling out of the zone and passing a vehicle unloading students could potentially cause serious injuries or accidents in the parking lot.

We would also ask that students exit vehicles on the passenger side so as not to be opening car doors on the traffic side of the parking lot.

When families are driving their children to school, they are usually dropping off students at the same time the buses are arriving. This can create a potentially dangerous situation.

We ask that all vehicles turn into the right-hand loop when entering the parking lot, circle around to the front corner of the school to drop off your children, and then exit through the center lane.

**The left-hand loop is only for buses coming into the school.** Please do not park in the fire lane.

It is important to be patient as approximately 350 students are arriving at school within a 15-minute window. Thank you.

## **SIP**

Please click on the following link for a PDF brochure with information about the School Insurance Program (SiP):

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IP09j-Z3HQLDm1SMG\\_BcotlCaQDBS4XF/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IP09j-Z3HQLDm1SMG_BcotlCaQDBS4XF/view?usp=sharing)

## **Medication**

School staff members are not permitted to administer non-prescription or prescription medications to students without specific consent forms filled out. Medication dosage information and pharmacological documentation must be listed on the forms which parents complete prior to sending any medication to school. This includes medication that students may administer themselves, such as inhaled prescriptions (puffers). Students should not bring over the counter medicines (such as Tylenol) to school to take on their own, as this may accidentally pose a risk to others. We are more than happy to safely store such medications in the office, when necessary, once proper forms have been completed.

## **NUT AWARE / SCENT FREE**

Please be reminded that all schools in the HRCE are nut aware schools, meaning you are asked to not knowingly send any food which contains nuts of any sort. Our schools are also scent free due to environmental sensitivities.

## SAFE ARRIVAL

We continue to use the new School Messenger Safe Arrival system at O'Connell Drive.

Please see the following site for more information, and details on how to use the system and get registered: [www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival](http://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival)

Parents also have the option to leave a message with their child's teacher, either by email or by calling the main number (902-827-4112) and entering the classroom extension (available on our website).

Please note that the Safe Arrival line has been disconnected and is no longer used.

## Head Lice Reminder

It is helpful to do routine head checks at home to help prevent outbreaks. Head Lice are spread by head-to-head contact, or through hats, combs or helmets. We encourage students not to share hats or helmets. Head Lice can be a problem in all schools. Below is some information you may find helpful if you discover your child has head lice. The following link will take you to a pamphlet from Public Health that provides more detailed information on head lice:

<http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>

## Lockdown Drill

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for **O'Connell Drive Elementary** and the Halifax Regional Center for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured, and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact the school if you have any questions about lockdown drill.

## IWK Days

Every month we have a "spirit day" to benefit the IWK telethon in June. Below you will find a list for each month. Closer to each date we will promote throughout the school. Last year our O'Connell Drive Elementary School family donated \$1551.

IWK DAYS	
Students can bring donations for the IWK	
Date	Theme
Sept 16th	Crazy Sock Day
Oct 21st	Rainbow/Tie Dye Day
Nov 18th	Camo Day
Dec 16th	Plaid Day
Jan 20th	Sport / Team Day
Feb 17th	PJ Day
Mar 10th	Tropical / Beach Day
April 21st	Earth Day (wear blue & green)
May 19th	80's / Neon Day