



The Osprey

O'Connell Drive
Elementary School

Volume 22, Issue 4
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SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The holiday season is upon us and our students are busy practising for their concert. However we celebrate this time of year, it is an important time for families and friends. On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday!
Sincerely,
Mr. Lucas

Concerts: Our P-6 Christmas concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18 -7 PM (storm date of Thursday, Dec. 20) **In lieu of monetary donations, food items will be accepted at the door, and donated to the local food bank.** Doors will open at 6:30PM to all ticket holders. All families will be sent home two personalized tickets for admission to our concert. We have extra tickets available upon request for special circumstances through homeroom teachers or the main office in the event we have not yet reached our maximum seating capacity. **Requests for extra tickets will be limited to a total of two more per family and students who live in multiple households will be given their extra tickets first.** Families who request tickets for older or younger siblings will be placed on a waiting list pending availability of seats after all parent, step-parent and guardian requests have been met.

Grandparents and other relatives should attend the afternoon concerts (12:00PM —1:00PM). The afternoon shows are open house and do not require tickets. Doors will open at 11:35 AM.

Shoreline Singers: A huge congratulations to our Shoreline Singers who did an outstanding job performing on Christmas Daddies on Sat Dec 1st. You certainly made us all proud!! Great job one and all!!!

Also, please take note that our shared concert (Shoreline Singers, Musical Friends, and Shore Vocals) will take place on Sat. Dec 8th at 7pm at St. Philip Neri Church in Musquodoboit Harbour. Hope to see you there!!!

FALL FUNDRAISER: O'Connell Drive Elementary school's Fall fundraiser has now wrapped up, and we're very excited to report a profit of **\$5480.00.** We wish to thank everyone who has taken part in this fundraiser which will support healthy food programs and initiatives at our school. We'd like to congratulate the winner of the Family Time Stay-Cation, **Martha Smith!!** Also congratulations to our top student seller from the lower elementary level, **Hayden Skalaa** from Primary MacLennan, and to our top student seller from the upper elementary level, **Isaac Brinton-Caillie** from 3/4Fitzsimmons, who are both awarded a \$50.00 shopping spree from a store of

their choice. **Congratulations to all!!**

Phys. Ed. News

For the month of December and throughout second term, students will be working on their dance skills. 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. This year we are looking to our community members interested in leading our students to learn new dances such as Acadian, African Nova Scotian, Gaelic, and Mi'kmaq. If interested please send Vanessa Steele an e-mail at stelev@hrsb.ns.ca. Thank you to all those students who continue to come prepared to phys. ed. class with t-shirt, shorts or sweatpants and clean indoor sneakers.

OCDES Online Clothing Store:

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>

Important Dates

Dec 3 - Mad Science Assembly

Dec 4 - 6 - Scholastic Book Fair

Dec 5 - Parent/Teacher interviews (6 - 8 pm)

Dec 5 - Gr 3 Swim to Survive

Dec 6 - Prov. Development in AM / Parent/Teacher interviews in PM (1 - 3pm)
No student present all day

Dec 12 - Gr 3 Swim to Survive

Dec 18 - Gr. Primary - Six Christmas Concert
Daytime: 12:00 - 1:00pm
Evening: 7:00 - 8:00pm
Doors open at 6:30pm

Dec 19 - Gr 3 Swim to Survive

Dec 20 - Christmas Concert storm-date

Dec 13 - Santa Brunch (no regular cafeteria service on this day)

Dec 14 - Christmas Bazaar

Dec 21 - Last day of classes before the Holiday Break

Dec 21 - Spirit Day for the IWK

Jan 3 - School Re-opens

Jan 3 - Jan 4
Cafeteria Closed

ALLERGIES— 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, sesame seeds, 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.anaphylaxis.ca/>

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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 should accompany their children to the office for late slips.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: On occasion, the HRSB may be forced to cancel school due to severe weather conditions or forecasts. Please listen closely to local radio stations so you will be aware of when these decisions are made. If cancellations are made to our area only, it will be an-

nounced as "Eastern Shore District High and Feeder Schools." For immediate updates on school cancellations via Twitter or texting, you can sign up at the following link:

<http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/d/1137.html>

NOTE: It is important, especially this time of year, for students to bring an extra set of clothes to be kept here in their classroom 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.

School News

Christmas Bazaar: Will take place on Friday, December 14. If you have any new or gently used items to donate (keeping in mind that we are a scent free and allergy awareness school), we ask if all donations could please be delivered to the school as soon as possible to ensure we have enough gift items for all students to participate. Please note that we are also in need of donations of wrapping paper and tape. Every little bit will help our PTA organize this event so all of our students will have a wonderful experience doing their holiday shopping.

Holiday Brunch with The Grinch: will be served on Thursday, December 13th, consisting of pancakes, ham, fruit and water or juice. Please note that all orders for the holiday brunch are due in by December 7th. Unfortunately, we will not have enough food and supplies ordered to meet the demands for late ordering. The staff of OCDES would like to thank all of our volunteers who will be helping to serve our students on December 13th. Our lunch hour will be extended to accommodate the large number of students ordering the brunch.

If your child/children does not order the "Holiday Brunch" for Dec. 13th, please remember to send them with a bagged lunch, whereas there will be no regular cafeteria service available on that day.

Regular cafeteria service will resume the following day, Dec. 14th, and will amend the menu to offer the pizza meal on that day rather than pancakes.

Scholastic Book Fair: Reminder of our Scholastic Book Fair taking place on Tues, Dec. 4th during school hours, on Wed., Dec. 5th during school hours, as well as in the evening at the time of Parent-Teacher interviews, and again on Thurs., Dec. 6th from 1-3pm during parent-teacher interviews. Special thank you to Cindy Jean along with all of our wonderful volunteers for planning and overseeing our annual **Scholastic Book Fair**.

**** On behalf of all staff and students, we want to express our sincere appreciation to our amazing PTA parents, and all of our many parent volunteers for their on-going hard work and dedication, making it possible for all of our students to experience and enjoy many extra fun-filled school activities throughout their elementary years at O'Connell Drive Elementary.**

Mad Science Lunch Hour Program: Mad Science will be having an assembly for students on Monday, Dec. 3rd. Information and registration forms for this lunch hour program will be handed out at that time. More information to follow at a later date.

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

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 before we leave for the holidays will be donated to charity.

Thank You to Glen and Yvonne LeDuc for their generous monetary donation again this year toward OCD's 'Heathy Snack Program'.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

* **MAPS (Marshall's Active Programs)** is now offering March Break camps for school aged children in Porter's Lake and surrounding areas. Located in the Narrows of Porters Lake, MAPS offers engaging programs to keep participants active while having fun! Camp will take place March 18th—22nd, 2019 and runs 7:30am to 5:30pm daily. MAPS 9-week Summer Program will also be returning in 2019. For information/registration please visit website: lifemaps.ca, or contact Trevor at 902-478-3242, email marshalls@lifemaps.ca.

* **Chezzetcook District Lions Club SUNDAY FLEA MARKETS** (9am—2pm) at the Chezz. Lions Club, East Chezz.

List of upcoming Flea Market dates: Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Jan 27.