



The Osprey



O'Connell Drive
Elementary School

Volume 21, Issue 2

October, 2018

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Dear Parents:

It's hard to believe that one month of school is already gone! Students & staff have settled in well and are keeping very busy. Thank you to the many parents/family members who joined us for 'Curriculum Night' on Thursday, Sept. 27th. It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces in the crowd. Following are some of our activities scheduled for this month.

ASSESSMENTS: Our grade 6 students will be writing their provincial assessments Oct 9th thru Oct 19th. The assessments are aligned with the provincial curriculum outcomes from earlier grades to give a quick "snapshot" of each student and are intended to be used along with teachers' ongoing classroom assessments in order to support individual student development. Your child's individual assessment results will be provided to you in a student report which you will receive from the school as they become available. This data is also a key component in the development of school-wide and professional goals.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: October is Mi'kmaq History Month. Our staff takes pride in integrating cultural content within curriculum outcomes from grades primary to grade 6. Many families who self-identified on verification and registration forms said they identified with Aboriginal ancestry. As teachers, it is our responsibility to ensure that content and language being brought into our classrooms is inclusive. All students should feel comfortable in sharing, celebrating and learning about the differences that make us all unique. Please visit the link below to learn more about Mi'kmaq History Month.
<http://mikmaqhistorymonth.com/>

PARENT/FAMILY PORTAL: For any parents who were unable to attend Curriculum night, thus did not receive their Parent/Family Portal access information letter, you can still get your access letter by sending a signed note with your child to his or

her classroom teacher so this confidential and important information can be sent home. The portal will give you access to grades, provincial assessment scores, attendance, schedules and teacher e-mail lists.

BULLYING HURTS EVERY-ONE: On Sept 13th, our students participated in the Stand Up Against Bullying Campaign. To assist parents in knowing what to watch for, what to do, and where to get help, visit the HRSB website at www.hrsb.ns.ca and click on the pink shirt on the front page. Students, families, staff and community members will find valuable links and resources for helping all of us to educate our youth on this very serious topic. Please visit the link below:
<http://antibullying.novascotia.ca/>

Current and upcoming OCD/PTA events:

- **Food Bank Campaign:** We're excited to report that our recent Food Bank Campaign was a huge success again this year. A huge thank you to our students and parents for supporting this very important cause.

- **OCD student/family Halloween Dance** to take place on Thursday, October 27th, 6:30-8:00PM. Info memo will be sent home within the next few weeks.

- **Christmas Bazaar (Dec. 14th)** - Asking parents to please start collecting items for the Bazaar to ensure we have enough gifts to go around at the time. Thank you in advance for supporting this fun and ever-so-popular school event.

TERRY FOX WALK: Student, staff and community members participated in O'Connell's 22nd annual Terry Fox Run on Wednesday, Sept. 19th. We are proud of the efforts made by O'Connell Drive students over the years in keeping Terry's dream alive. The \$213.05 raised this year gives us a 22 year total of 11,768.06 donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. Great Job Everyone - For Such a Great Cause!!

"NOURISH YOUR ROOTS" FALL FUND-RAISER: O'Connell Drive Elementary school's 'Nourish Your Roots Fall' fundraiser is wrapping up. We wish to thank everyone who has taken part in this fundraiser which will support healthy food programs and initiatives at our school. Please remember, the deadline date to submit your orders is Friday, Oct. 5th, and you can pick-up your orders here at the school on Tuesday, October 23rd anytime between 2:30pm and 6:00pm.

CAFETERIA SUPPORT: We would like to ask for parent/guardian assistance in asking you to please have a discussion with your child (children) about appropriate behaviours for eating in the cafeteria and in classrooms at lunch. We are asking students to please talk with indoor voices, not to be running around the room and to be respectful to their classmates and the lunch monitors. Our lunch monitors are doing a great job in supporting our students with safe environments so they get the nourishment that is needed each day. Please help us remind the children about respecting the rules that are put in place for them so that they can return to class ready for the remainder of the day. We have noticed that all lunches are not being fully consumed. We have talked to the children on why they should finish their lunches, and that the money spent on lunches is being wasted if they throw them in the garbage. If you could please talk to your child about bringing home what is not finished or to make sure they finish their lunch that would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you for your support!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 5 - Green Day for IWK (World Cerebral Palsy Day)

Oct 5 - 'Nourish Your Roots' orders due

Oct 8 - Thanksgiving (No School)

Oct 9 - Bus Evacuation Drill

Oct 9 thru Oct 19th - Gr. 6 Assessments

Oct 11 - Gr. 4 trip to BMO Soccer Ctr.

Oct 16 - Class 3Whitman to Discovery Centre

Oct 17 - SAC 6PM & PTA 7PM

Oct 18 - Prov. Devel. Day - no student present

Oct 23 - 'Nourish Your Roots' - Pickup 2:30pm to 6:00pm

Oct 25 - Bus Evacuation Drill (Rain-Date)

Oct 25- Halloween Family Dance, 6:30-8:00 pm

Oct 26 - Conference Day (No School)

Nov 8 - Picture Retake Day - plus all class photos

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 any time 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.

The 'TREE OF KNOWLEDGE' Fundraising Campaign continues!! The tree in center court which is the 'centerpiece' of our school, is continuously budding!! For a \$35 tax-deductible donation to O'Connell Drive School, an individual, family or company can add an engraved metal leaf to our stylized tree mounted on the center court wall. The leaf will be permanently attached as a lasting reminder of the donor's support. If interested in ordering a leaf, please contact the school and we will provide you with an order form. Funds raised for this will go toward the continued upgrading of our Ipad cart and new books for the library and classrooms. Thank you for your support and your generous donations. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have questions and/or require further details.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of severe weather, schools may decide to close part way through the school day. This will be announced on most radio stations. Before we dismiss children we are required to contact families or emergency contacts by phone. We would ask that families please keep emergency dismissal information current and update when necessary by contacting your homeroom teacher.

MIDDAY SCHOOL CANCELLATION FORMS have been sent home with students today (Monday). We ask if parents/guardians could please complete these forms and send them back to the child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

USE OF STUDENT IMAGE/ MEDIA RELEASE CONSENT FORMS have also been sent home today. We ask parents/guardians to please complete these forms and send back to homeroom teachers as soon as possible.

SCHOOL NEWS:

WE'RE ON TWITTER! - Please follow us on Twitter to receive real-time school news, pictures from school events and lots more. Click [here](#) or search for @oconnelldrive on your Twitter account to follow us.

DROP-OFF ZONE— 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.

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 including tree nuts. 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>.

LUNCH-TIME SUPERVISION SUPPORT: We are in need of substitute Lunch-time supervision monitors. If interested, please contact the school.

LOST & FOUND: Students and parents are asked to check the school Lost & Found box on a regular basis to check for any of their missing belongings. It is only early in the school year, and the box is already overflowing with items. We will exhibit the lost and found items in Centre Court during Curriculum night for you to browse through. After that, anything left will be donated to charity.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS:

* **Chezzetcook District Lions Club TOY BINGO!!** Sunday, November 4th at 2PM, at the Chezz. Lions Club, East Chezz. Winner of Jack Pot will win a PLAY STATION 4. For further details please call 902-827-2377

* **Chezzetcook District Lions Club SUNDAY FLEA MARKETS** (9am—2pm) at the Chezz. Lions Club, East Chezz.
List of Flea Market dates: Oct. 7th, Oct 21, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Jan 27.

* **RECRUITING ATHLETES: Registration for an Active Start & Fundamentals programs with Special Olympics.**

For more information please join us Saturday, Oct 13, 2018, 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m, with an open gym for Special needs Athletes at the Lake Echo Recreation Centre.

These programs are family centered activity program targeting children with intellectual disabilities between the ages of 2-6 and 7-12. They will run every Saturday with the exception to holiday weekends. There is a \$50.00 registration fee for the year Oct-June, parents/ guardians are required to stay during their Athletes gym time.