



The Osprey

O'Connell Drive
Elementary School

Volume 23, Issue 4
December, 2019

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Important Dates

Dec 5 - Parent/Teacher inter-views (6 - 8 pm)

Dec 6 - Report Cards Go Home

Dec 7 - Christmas Daddies Telethon

Dec 12 - Lunch with The Grinch (no regular cafeteria service on this day)

Dec 13- Christmas Bazaar

Dec 17 - Gr. Primary - Six Christmas Concert
Daytime: 12:00 - 1:00pm
Evening: 7:00 - 8:00pm
Doors open at 6:30pm

Dec 18- Christmas Concert storm-date

Dec 20 - Last day of classes before the Holiday Break

Dec 20 - Spirit Day for the IWK

Jan 6 - School Re-opens

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>

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

Parent/Teacher Interviews:
Unfortunately due to poor weather conditions on the initial scheduled evening for interviews, we had to re-schedule the evening sessions for this coming Thursday evening, December 5th (6 - 8pm), where we will follow the schedule as originally planned. Thank you to everyone for your understanding in regards to this necessary change.

Fall Book Fair: Although we may have lost a few sales due to cancellation of parent-teacher sessions/Book Fair on the night of Nov. 28th, we are still very happy to report that our sales totalled \$3244.50! Not too shabby at all!
☺

Fall Fundraiser: O'Connell Drive Elementary school's Fall fundraiser has now wrapped up, and we're very excited to report a profit of \$4025.00. 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 **Kaylee MacDonald**, the lucky winner of the Family Fun-Filled Weekend (mini vacation for the whole family). Also congratulations to our top classrooms

for bringing in the most ticket sales: Primary Whitman from the lower elementary level, and 5 Swain from the upper elementary level, who are both awarded a classroom pizza party for their outstanding efforts. **Congratulations to all!!**

Concerts: Our P-6 Christmas concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 -7 PM (storm date of Wednesday, Dec. 18) **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.

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 types of music alone and with a partner and the upper grades will also create dance routines. 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.

Coastline Singers Schedule:

Christmas Daddies Telethon - Sat Dec 7th, 12:43pm
We will be singing on the CTV Christmas Daddies telethon on Sat Dec 7th, at 12:43pm. Tune in for a great cause and some wonderful music!

Shared Christmas Concert with Shore Vocals - Fri Dec 13th at O'Connell Drive Elementary, 6:30pm
Come join us at our Christmas concert. Free will offering at the door.

Christmas Caroling on O'Connell Drive - Wed Dec 18th between 4:30-5:30pm
If you live on O'Connell Drive and will be home between 4:30-5:30 on Wed 18th, please let the office know your name and house number, and we would be happy to drop by and share some holiday cheer!

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 HRCE 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.hrce.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.

PTA INITIATED SCHOOL EVENTS:

Christmas Bazaar: Will take place on Friday, December 13. 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.

Lunch with The Grinch: will be served on Thursday, December 12th, consisting of turkey, gravy, potatoes, mixed vegetables, (water or juice), and jello with whipped cream. Please note that the deadline has passed for all orders for the holiday brunch, therefore 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 12th. Our lunch hour will be extended to accommodate the large number of students ordering the brunch.

If your child/children did not order the "Lunch with The Grinch" for Dec. 12th, 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. 13th.

**** 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.**

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.

WISHING YOU AND YOURS A SAFE

AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!!