



# The Osprey



O'Connell Drive  
Elementary School

Volume 22, Issue 2

October, 2019

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 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. 26th. 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 between Oct 7th and Oct 18th. 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 12th, 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](http://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:** In support for the local food bank, O'Connell Drive Elementary has been running our annual Food Drive Fundraiser for the past few weeks, and it will wrap up on October 4th. 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 24th, 6:30-8:00PM. Info memo will be sent home within the next few weeks.

- **Christmas Bazaar (date to be confirmed)-** 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 23rd annual Terry Fox Run on Friday, Sept. 20th. We are proud of the efforts made by O'Connell Drive students over the years in keeping Terry's dream alive. The \$418.40 raised this year gives us a 23 year total of 12,186.46 donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. Great Job Everyone - For Such a Great Cause!!

**"NOURISH YOUR ROOTS" FALL FUND-RAISER:** Again this year, and beginning on Oct. 7th O'Connell Drive Elementary is taking part in **Nourish Your Roots** healthy fundraiser to support healthy food programs and initiatives at our school. The funds will be used to support our Snack Program. Selling for \$30, each farm box includes a variety of fresh Nova Scotia produce, with a focus on root vegetables and may include fruit depending on availability. Information and order forms will be sent home on Friday, Oct. 4th. Please remember, the deadline date to submit your orders is Friday, Oct. 18th, and you can pick-up your orders here at the school on Monday, October 28th anytime between 2:30pm and 6:00pm.

**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.

**Oct 4 - Green Day for IWK (in recognition of World Cerebral Palsy Day)**

**Between Oct 7th and Oct 18th Gr. 6 Provincial Assessments**

**Oct 7 - 'Nourish Your Roots' campaign begins**

**Oct 9 - Bus Evacuation Drill**

**Oct 10 - Grade Primary Apple Picking Trip**

**Oct 14- Thanksgiving (No School)**

**Oct 16 - Gr. 6s to WE DAY 2019**

**Oct 16 - SAC 6PM / PTA 7PM**

**Oct 18 - Nourish Your Roots Ends - Orders Due**

**Oct 24 - Bus Evacuation Drill (Rain-date)**

**Oct 24- Halloween Family Dance, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Oct 25 - Prov. Devel. Day - no student present**

**Oct 28 - 'Nourish Your Roots' Pickup 2:30pm to 6:00pm**

**Oct 30 - Picture Retake Day**

**Oct 31 - Halloween Day**

**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.

**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!**

#### **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. Items which have not been claimed after a length of time will be donated to charity.

#### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS:**

\* **Chezzecook District Lions Club TOY BINGO!!** Sunday, November 3rd at 2PM, at the Chezz. Lions Club, East Chezz. Winner of Jack Pot will win a 55" SMART TV!! For further details please call 902-827-2377

\* **LEADING READERS** at the Musquodoboit Harbour Library is now open for registration for the fall session. Please call the branch to register at 902-889-2227 or drop-in, in person. Children meet weekly with a teen volunteer to read together, play educational games, and explore books through fun activities. Registration is required, and space is limited. Program runs every Wednesday 3:45PM-4:45PM. Starts October 9th until December 4th.

\* **St. David's United Church, 2nd Chance Clothing Sale:** 2723 Hwy 7, Lake Echo

Dates: Friday, Oct. 18th 6 - 9 pm / Saturday, Oct 19th 9am - Noon

Free Admission, Food Bank Donations Gladly Accepted.

Proceeds from this Community Fundraiser will go to helping those less fortunate in our neighbouring communities through various outreach programs. For further info please call 902-827-4020