



The Osprey

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O'Connell Drive
Elementary School

Volume 15, Issue 5
January, 2021

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello and Happy New Year to the O'Connell Drive family. I would like to welcome everyone back on behalf of the O'Connell Drive Staff to 2021. We are hoping for happy times in 2021 for everyone, but for all of the sadness in 2020 also cherish the happy memories. Take all of those happy memories and bring them forward to 2021. We look forward to seeing all of our students on Monday January 11, 2021 and listen to the stories that they will share of being home with family these past few weeks. It is those memories we hear that will guide us in discussions as we move ahead in our continued journey in education.

As we 'Validate, Affirm and Nurture' students we will need the support from families as we move forward with our well being goal. We know the students will continue to grow academically!

I wanted you all to know that my last day here at O'Connell will be January 21, 2021 as I head into retirement. I am going to miss O'Connell Drive Elementary. I have been teaching here for 9 years, 8 of those years as an administrator. It has been fun and I wholeheartedly appreciate all the support that I was given over the years. I will be thinking of the students as they move through the system and know that they will be prepared as they are getting a strong foundation from the staff here at O'Connell.

Continue to be a strong school community, and I know you are in great hands with Mrs. Tina Waterhouse-Campbell who will be the Acting Principal for the remainder of the year starting February 1, 2021. Talk with you soon and stay safe.

Dwight Lucas
Principal O'Connell Drive Elementary

December Highlights

December was a busy month of learning and celebrating together.

* Students were very excited to take part in the Bizarre this year; we did it differently but successfully. All students were able to select a gift for their care givers with the support and help of O'Connell staff. A big thank you goes out to all the teachers and staff members who volunteered their time to make this event so successful!

* Students also learned about Kwanzaa, a celebration of life from many cultures of African descent. Students learned virtually through dance, drumming and story telling.

* Together we also celebrated another virtual student of the month assembly, where we highlighted individual students accomplishments, as well as celebrating the learning that is happening for all students. With the support of the PTO we were able to surprise every student in the school with a small gift and a special snack to spread some Christmas cheer. It was a December to remember!

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for list of Students of the Month for December, 2020. Congratulations! We're very proud of each and everyone of you.

Primary and Pre-primary Registration: Both Primary and Pre-primary registration opens on February 1, 2021. Primary students are eligible to register if they turn five before December 31st, 2021, and pre-primary students are eligible to register if they turn four before December 31st, 2021.

Registration packages will be available in the main office by January 22, 2021. Registering families will need to bring proof of residency (example: power bill, deed to a house, rental agreement), a birth certificate and health card information. Primary Orientation normally scheduled for late May is still pending, due to the uncertainty of what the Covid situation may be at that time. We should have further information as time draws nearer. **We ask for all new primary student to be registered before the end of February.** Welcome new students!

Lunch Monitors Needed: If interested in helping out supervising the children at lunchtime, please contact the school. We very much need your help and would love to welcome you to our team.

DATE TO REMEMBER

Jan 13, 20 and 27- January Jammie Day

Jan 20 - SAC 6pm / PTA 7pm

Jan 29- Student of the Month Virtual Assembly

Jan 29- IWK Days - Crazy Hair Day

Feb 1st - Pre-primary & Primary Registration begins

Jammie January - will be every Wednesday in January!

Students can wear their jammies to school on Wednesdays to add some fun to this long winter month!!!



Safe Arrival: If your child will be absent for any reason (illness, late arrival, away, etc.), we ask that you please call the school (902-827-4112) and leave a message with your child's classroom teacher prior to 7:45 am. 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.

Dress Appropriately for the Weather: It is important, especially this time of year, for students to bring an extra set of clothes to be kept here in their classrooms 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. Children who do not wear winter boots are at that the greatest risk of falling and injuring themselves.

Student of the Month:

At this time we ask that you please join us in acknowledging the following Students of the Month for December, 2021. Congratulations to All!!

| CLASS | STUDENT OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER, 2020 |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Pre- Primary Corkum | Adalynn Mombourquette |
| Primary Poirier | Madden Mikkelsen |
| Primary MacLennan | Easton Hamer |
| Grade One Roberts | Sofia Glass |
| Grade One Browne | Olivia Estabrooks |
| Grade Two Sinclair | Katelyn Bond |
| Grade Two Waterhouse / Blandford | Ryder Wells |
| Grade Three Whitman | Olivia Jones |
| Grade Three/Four Stoddard | Henry Stairs |
| Grade Four Gillie | Britton Boutilier |
| Grade Five Fitzsimmons | Lucas Gillie |
| Grade Five/Six Swain | Abigail Horne |
| Grade Six Bent | Nicholas Dewar |
| Grade Six Halloran | Chayce Roma |

Allergy/Scent Awareness Policy:

Our school has a scent and allergy awareness policy. We have several students who are highly allergic to peanut and nut products including tree nuts. Please help ensure the safety of all our students by not sending in any peanuts or nut products in your child's lunches. For more information about children with life threatening allergies please contact <http://www.nochildwithout.ca>.

Lost & Found: If you notice that your child or children are missing any of their belongings, please remind he/she to come look through the Lost & Found items. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity before the holiday break.

OCDES Online Clothing Store: Reminder you can 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>

Reminder of our on-going 'Tree of Knowledge' fundraising campaign. 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 you're interested in ordering a leaf, please contact the school for an order form. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have questions and/or require further details.