



# The Osprey



O'Connell Drive  
Elementary School

Volume 23, Issue 2

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## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that we are a month into school. Staff and students have been working hard to adjust to the new normal of working and staying together in class cohorts. Teachers have been working with their classes to develop team spirit, so that students feel supported by one another in their classrooms and on the playground. Students are adjusting well to the new routines both inside and outside during the school day. Students stay with their classes during outside playtime and they have been rotating daily to different play zones so that they are able to play in different areas. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes in routines and protocols, as they arise. Thank you all for the support you have shown our staff as we try to navigate routines and learning during this pandemic! Together we are better!



**Celebrating Mi'Kmaq History Month:** October is Mi'Kmaq History Month. In September students started to learn about the injustices many first peoples of Canada suffered during the 120 years residential schools were operating here in Canada, on September 30th on Orange shirt day. This month teachers will be integrating cultural outcomes across the curriculum. See the following link to learn more. [Link](https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca) <https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca>



**October 30th:** Students are invited to wear their costumes to school on Friday October 30th. Students are asked to wear halloween masks inside the classroom only, as directed by their individual teachers. Students are asked not to bring weapons that may be a part of their costumes. Individual classrooms will be having celebrations but parents are asked not to send in treats due to Covid restrictions. Teachers will find creative ways to make learning fun using the Halloween theme on this day.



**October 20th: School picture day-** Students will be having their picture taken outside with social distancing and sanitizing measures in place. This year we will not be doing group class pictures and will replace these with class composites. For more information please see the link in the News feed on the school website.

**IWK Days:** IWK Days are back at O'Connell. We will be starting this Friday October 9th with a schoolwide PJ day. This is a great way to build school spirit and offer the support of our community to a great cause. If families wish to make a small donation on Friday, there are donation boxes in each classroom and all money raised will go to the IWK Foundation.



**SAC/PTA:** The PTA and SAC are two groups which are very important to the successful operation of our school community. If you have a special interest in either group, please attend the meeting appropriate to your interest. Only your support can keep these groups functioning for the benefit of your children.

The PTA is a group of parents and teachers who organize special events, fundraising, arrange for guest speakers, etc.

The SAC is a group of elected parent representatives with a mandate to advise administration on school-related matters. If interested, call Mr. Lucas at the school.

The first meeting for both SAC and PTA is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st. (SAC 6PM / PTA 7PM)

### TERRY FOX WALK:

Students and staff are excited to be participating in O'Connell's 24th annual Terry Fox Walk during the week of October 5th thru 9th. We are proud of the efforts made by O'Connell Drive students over the years in keeping Terry's dream alive. We encourage students and staff to bring in a small donation in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Please note that on our website, there is a link on the twitter feed in which folks can give a donation online if they wish. Thank you to all for supporting such a great cause.

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

**Oct 5 thr 9 (OCD Terry Fox Walks)**

**Oct 09 - PJ Day for the IWK**

**Oct 12- Thanksgiving (No School)**

**Oct 20 - Picture Day**

**Oct 21 - SAC 6PM / PTA 7PM**

**Oct 31 - Halloween Day**

### AFTER-SCHOOL BUS DISMISSAL POLICY:

Please take note that with the new bussing policies in place, students will not be permitted to travel home on any other bus other than their approved regular stop and/or courtesy stop as per approved by Stock Transportation (Bus planner). **Again, students can only travel home on their assigned busses.**

**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 7:55 am and can be done any time during the night.

To get to safe arrival, call 902-827-4112, and follow the prompts. 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.

**Cafeteria:**

We have had a successful start up in our cafeteria. Students are beginning to take advantage of the hot lunch option. Please note October 5th to 9th is week one. Meals are \$5 dollars each, please send your child with money and a note with their name and class on it so Nikki can get meals to the correct students daily.

**WEEK 1 Menu**

Monday:	Grilled Cheese and Soup with Dessert and Milk
Tuesday:	Spaghetti and Meatballs with Dessert and Milk
Wednesday:	Hamburger and Taters with Dessert and Milk
Thursday:	Pizza (Cheese) with Dessert and Milk
Friday:	Grilled Cheese and Soup with Dessert and Milk Week

**WEEK 2 Menu**

Monday:	Chicken Chunks and Taters with Dessert and Milk
Tuesday:	Pizza (Cheese) with Dessert and Milk
Wednesday:	Hamburger and Taters with Dessert and Milk
Thursday:	Grilled Cheese and Soup with Dessert and Milk
Friday:	Pizza (Cheese) with Dessert and Milk (Individual milk orders cost 40 cents)

**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** will be sent home with students this week. We ask if parents/guardians could please complete these forms and send them back to the child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

**PARENT/FAMILY PORTAL:** For any parents who 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.

**LICE:** With the school year back into full swing now, comes the likelihood of lice break-outs from time to time. According to Public Health, "School age children should be checked daily during an outbreak, after sleepovers, and on a weekly basis throughout the year". By working together, we can hopefully avoid the spread of these nasty little visitors. If you would like information for the treatment of head lice, please contact the school or contact Public Health at 902-889-2143.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS:** Whereas this is the first official OCD newsletter of this school year, we have decided to send it out to families via email as well as sending a hard copy home with your child. Every month hereafter, we will only send the newsletters to families via email, unless you contact the school requesting a preference of hard copies.

**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>.

**LOST & FOUND:** Parents are asked to please remind your children 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.