



OSLER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

December 4, 2013

"Learning, Growing.....Together"

Principal: Ms. Audrey Kampen
Vice-Principal: Mr. Glenn Key

Phone: 239-2077
Web: www.spiritsd.ca/osler

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, Dec. 6

Div. 2 choir will present songs of Christmas at Osler Mennonite Church, 9:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 13

Osler School Christmas Banquet at the Osler Community Church.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Osler School Christmas Program, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 23 to Jan. 3

Christmas Break. No School

Monday, Jan. 6

Classes resume.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

SCC meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

French Carnival

Friday, Jan. 31

Teacher preparation time. No school for students.

Thank you to our Room Representatives!

Thank you to the parents who have consented to be room representatives. These parents may need to contact other parents in the classroom to share information or to find volunteers for projects at school. As a school we will be sharing parents' contact phone numbers with our room representatives and our School Community Council.

If you wish for your primary phone contact information to not be shared with our room representatives and our SCC, please call Diana Buhler at the office (306 239-2077).

Dear Parents,

Progress reports are in your hands. The new progress reports in Grade 1-5 involve a learning curve for teachers and parents alike. If you have any questions about the progress reports please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or myself.

When the calendar page switches to December, we swing (or sing) into Christmas mode. The holiday season is a time of generosity and a time to be grateful. One of the educational newsletters I receive was entitled "Tapping into the Power of Gratitude." The research in the article shows that a school culture of "gratitude can lead to higher grades and life satisfaction among students." The article continues that gratitude "fosters an increased sense of hope and trust in others and fuels a desire to give back to the community." The article then offered tips on how to foster gratitude in the classroom. One of the suggestions was to plan various opportunities for service. I reflected on what we do as a school. Our Grade 7 class attended "WE DAY" which was a motivational day encouraging students to be of service to their community and to those in need around the world. After a followup discussion, the Grade 7's decided to host a bake sale to help raise funds for the construction of the local fire hall. Some of our Grade 8's organized an Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection drive which was very successful. Our Grade 4-6 choir will be hosting their own little "carol festival" in Osler rather than going to the Festival of Trees. The purpose of the morning is to share some Christmas cheer with people who live in Osler and who might not have the opportunity to attend the Festival of Trees. Our Grade 9's organize a food drive to put together Christmas hampers for families in Osler. In December, we also come together to put on a Christmas concert which is another opportunity to share the gift of music and story within our community. For me the article was very affirming. Fostering a culture of gratitude is not an add-on to the academic learning of our school; it is an integral part of growing and learning together as a school community.

If you have any compliments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher, Mr. Key or myself. Audrey Kampen

Curling

The curling season has begun. We practice Wednesday after school at the Martensville Curling rink from 3:45 to 5:00.





Thank you to Osler School students and staff for graciously donating items to Operation Christmas Child 2013. We were able to fill 54 boxes as well as send a Rubbermaid container filled with various school supplies. Thank you to the grade 8 students for their leadership with this worthwhile project.



Songs of Christmas

Osler School's Division 2 Choir is proud to present a morning of praise and peace through Christmas songs and hymns and spread some cheer throughout our community of Osler. Please join us at the Osler Mennonite Church on **Friday, December 6, at 9:45 a.m.** Everyone is welcome!



Christmas Food Drive

As an annual event, our grade 9 class canvasses the community for non-perishable food items to be distributed through local churches to families in need. We will be collecting on **Thursday, Dec. 12.** If you will not be home, feel free to leave your contribution on your front step or drop it by the school.

Christmas Banquet

On **Friday, December 13 at 12:00 noon** we will be having our third annual Osler School Christmas Banquet. This banquet is possible due to the support of our wonderful community. If you have not yet had a chance to volunteer through the notes that went home with our students, feel free to call us at the school. This help ranges from cooking various items to helping set up, serving and cleaning up after the meal.



Osler School Christmas Program

Students and staff are proud to present this year's Christmas program, "Just Words" on **Thursday, December 19.** Town of Osler presentations will take place at 6:45 p.m., with the school program beginning at 7:00. Doors will open to the public at 6:15. Students are asked to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30.

We will also have a morning performance on **Thursday, December 19, and it will begin at 10:00 a.m.** Those who are able to attend in the morning are encouraged to do so. It helps alleviate overcrowding in the evening.

Bus Cancellation Notices

All bus cancellations are prominently posted on the Prairie Spirit website (www.spiritsd.ca) by 7 a.m. each school day. Rural busing students will be called by their bus driver in the event of a cancellation.

Cancellation announcements are also provided to the following radio stations: The Bull 92.9; C95; News Talk 650 CKOM and CJWW 600.

Winter Rural Bussing Reminders

Thank you to the parents who clear their driveways and yards to allow for yard pickup. Using reflectors or other markers to mark your driveways also prevents our busses from getting stuck.

Club Badminton

Club badminton for grades 7 to 9 will run Mondays, starting January 13. Grade 7's will go from 6:00 to 8:30 and grade 8 and 9 students will go from 6:30 to 9:00. This is a drop in, with \$1.00 being charged per session to cover costs (up to a maximum of \$5.00 for the season).



Big Thanks for Supporting Our Apple Fund Raiser

Once again, BIG thank-yous to all the people who worked so hard to support and contribute to the success of our annual Apple Fund raiser - the organizers, the sellers, the volunteers and our many loyal customers. This year all records were broken with the incredible sales of nearly 1,200 boxes or nearly 24,000 pounds of apples. There were many prize winners among the students.

Top sellers in Division I were Payton (2), Stella (3), Shayden (3), Kamryn (1), Braden (1), and Ethan (1). Top sellers in Divisions II were Malysa (5) and Eric (6).

Top sellers in Division III were Nick (8) and Reese (8).

Top family sellers were the Wiebe family (Alison, James Joel), Buhler family (Brady, Cheyenne, Keeley), Quiring Family (Breanna, Dylan, Jordan), Belyk family (Emma, Gracie), Christianson family (Carlee, Corbin), Harms family (Madison, Chloe, Mya), Arnson family (Brayden, Alexis), White family (Chelsey, Taylor), Penner family (Katherine, Benjamin) and Bysterveld family (Jaymie, Vanessa, Deanna).

Classroom winners were: Alivia (1), Raiden (2), Cadence (2), Sofia (3), Curtis (4), Emma (5), Hannah (6), Kirsten (7), Jayden (8B), Owen (8L), Raelyn (9) and Ryan (9).

In addition, boxes of apples were donated to the following charities: "The Lighthouse", Hands on Youth Ministries, and The Friendship Inn.

See you next fall!

Grade 4-6 Girls Soccer

Congratulations to the Grade 4 to 6 girls soccer team on a great season! Games were played at Warman, VCA and Osler. A final tournament was held at Warman on October 18. Thank you to our team for your enthusiasm, energy, co-operation and sportsmanship.

Members of the team are:

Grade 4—Emma, Adriaah, Jaymie, Keira, Kadence, Arianna

Grade 5—Alexis, Carlee, Jocelyn, Brittney, Maddy, Malysa

Grade 6—Autumn, Hannah, Rose

- Coaches, Shirley Frie & Pam Saunders



Osler Mennonite Church Floor Hockey

Open floor hockey for ages 8 and older, Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Osler Mennonite Church.



Merry Christmas from the
Staff of Osler School

Melinda Reimer
Dave Fygon
Niki Carter
Janet Carter
Jane
Natalie Houseman
Heather Wall
Lisa Hryciuk
B.C. Lewchuk
Joanne Sirokan
Shannen Bymoen
Janet Grant
Garry Barman
Sandy Rasiuk
Rose Wolf
Tamara Milnthap
Cindy Kassa
Heather Buller
Pam Saunders
Shirley Irie
Bob Dunn
Lynne Eno
Audrey Kamper
Madeline





"Tis" The Season of Christmas



I love Christmas because I love to spend time with my family. I like to be with my cousins because this is the only time of the year I get to see them. My cousins and I usually try to stay up all night playing our Xbox we got two years ago for Christmas. I love when my uncle brings his snowmobile. We usually go to my grandma and grandpa's house to go snowmobiling. Last year, we went snowmobiling to a "warm up shack" and it wasn't even warm. But, I had fun anyways. That's why I love Christmas!

By Curtis
Grade 4



Why Christmas Is Special to Me

The spirit of Christmas has a different meaning to everyone, and in saying so, I admit that other people won't think of Christmas as I do. But deep in my heart, I know that it's not about the presents or the cookies and such. It's about the love, the joy, the friendship, and above all, the celebrating of Jesus Christ. But how can we achieve our goals of Christmas fun, if not every soul is united in our quest? Together, we can give families the opportunity to see their loved ones joyful and happy. We can join events such as church plays, Operation Christmas Child, or even just giving a gift can make someone feel special. Who knows? You could be the next to get a gift. How would that make you feel? Special?

By Kadence
Grade 4



Christmas fills my heart with joy. I love Christmas because we get to decorate the tree with lights, pretty ornaments, tinsel and a sparkling star at the top. We get to bake and decorate cookies. We only get to eat the yummy cookies at Christmas time. We open some presents on Christmas Eve and leave a few for Christmas morning. We sing Christmas carols at home and when we go to Grandma's house. My dad puts lights that blink on our house and we like how it looks. Most of all, we love Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday. Christmas is a time to get together and celebrate. I love Christmas!

By Kylee
Grade 4



Many Things I Love About Christmas

Christmas is special to me. Christmas is a special time of the year for me because I get to spend time with family. I love when my little cousins open presents and have huge smiles on their faces. I love listening to music, decorating, making cookies and opening presents. I love celebrating Jesus Christ's birthday. I love performing in concerts, and I love no school for two whole weeks. I enjoy seeing my friends cheerful. I really like giving gifts to my mom and dad. I love wrapping gifts in beautiful wrapping paper, except for the sticky part. My favorite part is family. Packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and giving gifts to children who can't afford presents makes me feel good inside. The most important thing about Christmas spirit is that Jesus Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Without Jesus, there would be no Christmas.

Thanks for reading! Hope you have a good Christmas. Merry Christmas!

By Emily
Grade 4



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December 4, 2013

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Re: Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP)

Prairie Spirit School Division is committed to work with families and community members to make our school learning environments safe and caring.

We are proud to inform you that Prairie Spirit is working with other school divisions and community organizations to implement the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP). Prairie Spirit officially signed this protocol at the end of November. You may review the protocol by accessing the Prairie Spirit School Division website (www.spiritsd.ca/safeschools).

As a result of this protocol, community partners are able to proactively share information and advice and to use their broad range of expertise to provide the appropriate supports to our youth and their families. In addition, we are committed to following procedures that require principals to complete a "threat assessment" whenever a student makes significant threats to harm themselves or others. The purpose of the assessment is to determine how best to support high-risk students so that their behavior does not become hurtful or destructive.

To maintain a safe and caring learning environment, all threats must be taken seriously and responded to quickly and effectively. We will continue to work with you, and with our community partners, to provide safe and caring schools for our students.

If you have further questions about this protocol, please contact your Principal.

Sincerely,

John Kuzbik
Director of Education

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

December 2013

Sponsored by your School Community Council

SHORT NOTES

Look ahead

Suggest that your youngster use winter break to get a head start on the new year. She could clean out folders and binders or organize her desk, for instance. If she has a long-term project coming up, she might start working on it now. Doing just one small task each day will make a difference in January.

Mistakes can teach

When you make a mistake, consider telling your child what happened and what you learned. *Example:* "I ran out of gas today. From now on, I'm going to refill when there's a quarter-tank left." You'll show him that everyone makes mistakes—and encourage him to see them as learning opportunities.

Calendar gift

A homemade calendar makes a great gift from your youngster. She could print blank calendar pages from the Internet or cut them from an inexpensive calendar. Then, on separate sheets, have her paint her own picture for each month. She can staple the pages together in order and decorate a cover.

Worth quoting

"It's easier to go down a hill than up it, but the view is much better at the top." *Henry Ward Beecher*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What gets bigger and bigger the more you take away from it?

A: A hole!



Learn as a family

Make this winter memorable with fun parent-and-child activities. Try these ideas that combine family time with learning.

Read in season

Let your youngster pick a season, and hold a read-a-thon based on his choice. For summer, you could wear shorts and T-shirts and lounge on beach towels in the living room while each family member reads a beach story. If he picks fall, you might "camp"—pitch a tent by draping sheets over chairs, eat s'mores, and read aloud from an outdoor adventure novel.

Hold how-to nights

Celebrate talents and skills by sharing them with each other. Take turns giving lessons on your "specialties." Your child can teach everyone how to draw a picture of a dog. Or the carpenter in the family could demonstrate how to measure and saw wood or use a hammer or drill. Everyone will learn new skills—

and appreciate the things their family members know!

Plan a "trip"

Staying home this winter break? Make geography into an activity, and plan a pretend trip together. Get travel brochures, or cut pictures of interesting places from old magazines. Then, find the cities and countries on a world map, and calculate the distance from home. Look in library books or online to find sights to see and to learn about the climate, language, currency, and food. You could even design your own brochure for your dream destination.♥



Show respect

The holiday season is full of opportunities for your youngster to practice something that is important all year long—respect! Here are some examples:

- Talk about respect before a get-together. Explain that she should offer her seat to an adult who is standing. Also, if your child isn't used to using titles ("Aunt," "Mr."), discuss this before visiting someone who prefers them. ("The people you'll meet like to be called by Mr. or Mrs.")
- Encourage your youngster to respect other cultures and traditions. If a friend observes a different holiday, she can wish the person a nice celebration. She might also point out something they have in common ("We have tons of relatives in town, too").♥



Good study habits

There's more to studying than reading a chapter or reviewing a list of words. Help your youngster study *actively* with these three tips.

1. Begin at the end. If your child has a textbook chapter to study, she can start by reading the questions at the back. That way, she'll be on the lookout for key facts.



2. Keep paper and pencil handy. Suggest that your youngster make notes while she studies. She might jot down names, dates, or formulas, for example. This will help her understand and remember what she is reading. And if there's a part that confuses her, she can write questions to ask her teacher.

3. Link it to real life. The material will be more meaningful—and easier to remember—if your child sees how it applies to her life. Say she's learning about different types of clouds. Have her spot them in the sky and try to predict what kind of weather they'll bring.♥

Q & A Managing learning disabilities

Q: My son doesn't like getting help for his learning disability. He'll even leave test answers blank instead of taking the extra time he's allowed. What should I do?

A: Your child's behavior is normal—kids this age don't want to feel different from their classmates. First, make sure he knows what's included in his learning plan. Explain that you and his teachers agreed on the accommodations to help him learn and do his best work.

Then, suggest that he set goals for himself so he can feel more in control of his learning disability. Also, talk to his teacher. She might have ideas for encouraging him to use the help he's entitled to. For instance, she may know a successful older student with a learning disability who would be willing to talk to your son.

Tip: Guide him toward an activity he can feel good about (sports, chess). That could boost his self-esteem and make him feel more confident about accepting help in school.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Work together

Whether your child is doing a group project or playing Hacky Sack, a team effort is needed. Everyone's a winner with these games that will show him teamwork in action.



Lower the yardstick. Together, hold a yardstick horizontally so that everyone has one finger underneath. Then, lower the yardstick to the ground—but if anyone's finger drops away, you have to start over. See how many tries it takes to get the yardstick to the floor.

Pass the ball. Have players lie down, head to toe, in a long hallway. The first player holds a ball between his feet and lifts it so the person behind him can grab the ball with his hands. That player places the ball between his feet and passes it overhead to the next person. Begin again if anyone drops the ball. How fast can you use teamwork to move the ball down the line?♥

PARENT TO PARENT

A grandparent volunteer

Last year when my mom was in town for the holidays, she asked if she could help me with my daughter Emily's class party. I checked with the teacher, and he said he'd be happy to have a grandparent volunteer.

My mother and I set up the snacks, and she played a game with small groups of kids. The students also enjoyed

hearing what winter is like where she lives—she told stories about getting several feet of snow and being stuck inside for days.

My daughter was proud to have her grandmother at school. And my mom said she liked seeing Emily's classroom and meeting her teacher and friends. I've already gotten permission from this year's teacher for her to help out again.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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