



November 4, 2013

# OSLER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

*"Learning, Growing.....Together"*

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

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Tuesday, Nov. 5

SCC meeting at 6:00 pm.

### Friday, Nov. 8

Remembrance Day Program,  
11:00 am. Everyone welcome.

### Monday, Nov. 11

Remembrance Day. No school.

### Monday, Nov. 25

Teacher preparation time.  
No school for students.

### Friday, Nov. 29

Term 1 Report Card Issued (Gr. 1-9)

### Tuesday, Dec. 3

SCC Meeting at 6:00 pm.

### Thursday, Dec. 19

Christmas program at 7:00 pm.

### Dec. 23 to Jan. 3

Christmas break.

### Monday, Jan. 6

Classes resume.

Dear Parents,

There has been much discussion around our staffroom table, amongst parents, and even in the media about the upcoming changes in report cards/ progress reports in Grade 1-5. For several years our progress reports have separated learning behaviours from academic achievement. This is nothing new to our school community. As educators, these learning behaviors are the feedback that we feel really highlight who the child is as a learner and as a member of the school community. These identify the skills a student will need to be a contributing adult member of society. As parents these are the 'marks' and the comments which focus conversations during moments over a great meal or during an uninterrupted drive in the car.

Our Grade 4 and Grade 5 classrooms are feeling the biggest change. They are moving from a percentage/letter grade rating scale to a 4-point rating scale that uses the language of **extending, meeting, approaching or beginning to meet** curricular expectations. A significant part of our school division moved to a four point rating scale for Grades 1-5 fifteen years ago. For parents this is usually a change from what we experienced in school. A pamphlet explaining the changes in our Grade 1-5 progress reports was sent home with all Grade 1-5 students this past week.

The change in how we report student progress also has implications for our honour roll. We have had several lengthy discussions around our staffroom table as to how to recognize the outstanding academic accomplishments of our students. The positive aspect of change is that it gives us the opportunity to discuss what is really important to us as a school. Our honour roll will continue in Grade 4-9 and will be based solely on students' academic achievement. Our Grade 4 and 5 teachers are undertaking a pilot (or an experiment) to see how the language in our new progress reports can be used to describe outstanding academic achievement. Please see below for details regarding this year's honour roll. After the completion of the second reporting period, we will be asking parents and students for feedback regarding honour roll and the criteria defining outstanding academic achievement.

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

Ms. Kampen



If you are interested in casual caretaking work at Osler School, please contact Audrey Kampen or Glenn Key at the school.

## Osler Monarchs Honour Roll for 2013-2014

To earn a place on the Honour Roll in Grade 4 and 5, a student must be **meeting or extending curricular expectations** in all areas of mathematical understandings, in all strands of the ELA curriculum, in Social Studies and in Science.

To earn a place on the Grade 6-9 honour roll, students must obtain **an overall average of 80%**. The average includes all subject areas with the exception of Bible Knowledge. Because more time is allocated to them, Language Arts and Math will each be counted as two subjects in the calculation of the term average.

Students who obtain honour roll distinction will be recognized at a monthly assembly and a letter of congratulations will be sent home.



### **Grade 7-9 Boys Volleyball**

It was a great volleyball season for skill development and improvement. Thank you to all boys who showed dedication and patience with our sometimes crazy volleyball schedule. The grade 8/9 team lost out in a very close playoff match against Waldheim last Tuesday. Great effort overall!

Grade 8/9 team: Jordan B., Josh B., Nick F., Levi K., Owen J., Shawn P., Reese T., Simon S., Zach P., and Simeon W.

Grade 7 team: Adam B., Corbin C., J.J. T., James W., Will M., Brayden A., Preston W., and Rhyss L.

Coaches: Michelle Lane and Cindy Klassen

### **Grade 7-9 Girls Volleyball Season**

Our two teams competed in the division volleyball league. On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Grade 7 girls participated in a fun filled tournament hosted by Warman Community Middle School. Both teams wrapped up volleyball season with an invitation tournament here at Osler on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The championship game was won by the girls from **Venture Heights School!** Thanks to **Brandon Gill** who helped coached the teams and who officiated our games. Most of all thanks to the girls who were brave enough to endure morning practices and who understood that being a great team involves encouraging everyone to do their best! It was a pleasure to coach you!

Coach – Audrey Kampen

### **District Cross Country Championships**

Another successful cross country season came to a close for our grade 4-9 athletes on Wed. Oct 2, with the CVAC District Cross Country Championships. All runners made us proud, with top ten finishes from Sierra Janzen (9th-atom girls), Kadence Johnson (10th-atom girls), Autumn Crittall (8th-bantam girls) and Brayden Arnason (10th-bantam boys). Many of our athletes also made great improvements to their placings/times. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication runners!

### **Cross Country Provincials**

A huge congratulations to Raelyn Reimer who competed in the cross country provincial meet held in Medstead on Oct. 11. Raelyn is the first student from Osler School to qualify for provincials. We are so proud of you Raelyn - you made Osler School very proud.

Mrs. Milnthorp/Mr. Key - Coaches

### **Volunteers for our Morning Snack Program**

More volunteers are needed to help with the snack program on Tuesday mornings. If you are available please contact Kathy Heppner (306 239-4217) or Verna Peters (306 239-239-4294).

### **A Partnership with the College of Education- University of Saskatchewan**

We are very pleased to have three student teachers working at our school this year. They are here every Tuesday and Wednesday until April. Welcome to **Jade Richardson** who is working in the Grade 1 room; to **Lisa Buhr** who is working in the Grade 3 room and to **Emily Otterbein** who is working in the Grade 6 room.



### **Thank You For Your Donations**

\$766.05 was collected during the silver collection at the Family Breakfast. These funds will be used to purchase books for a classroom library for the Grade 1 and 2 classrooms.



## ***Communicating Effectively with the School***

- Please remember to phone the school office or email us at [osler@spiritsd.ca](mailto:osler@spiritsd.ca) if your child is going to be absent. The issues with our message manager have been fixed and you are again welcome to leave messages at any time of the day or night.
- The school phone is for business use and therefore messages for students are discouraged and are to be limited to emergency/unforeseen situations only. After school arrangements regarding play dates and rides should be made the evening before or in the morning.
- It is extremely important to keep us up to date with your contact information. If your child should become ill at school, we need to be able to contact you. Please remember to let us know if your phone numbers change throughout the year.

## **Grade 7-9 SLC Magazine Fundraiser**

Thank you to all who were able to support our Magazine Fundraiser this fall. Our total sales were 119. We had some mini-goals that we were able to reach:

25 sales - Mini chocolate bar for all students

50 sales - Hat Day

75 sales - Prize in a Pie activity for students who sold at least one magazine

100 sales - Mr. Lewchuk shaves his facial hair! (Date TBA)

The top selling class was Grade 7 - they win a pizza party!

Individual top sellers were: Alison Wiebe, Adriana Cruz Alas and Madison Harms

Other prize winners were:

Justin Peters - Sling Shot Monkey

Emma Mitchell - Gift Card

Madison Harms - Monkey Hat

Alison Wiebe - Electric Cooler

Thanks again for your support!

## **Thank You!**

A big thank you to Kevin Brehon from Flaman Sales Ltd, who generously provided a 20ft trailer to transport the bottles from our Div. III bottle drive. This bottle drive raised over \$1500.00 to support our Regina trip in the spring.

Thanks to you as a community for your generous support, and to Sharon Baron as the catalyst and organizer!

## ***Phone Book Recycling***

As in previous years, we are working in partnership with the Sask Tel Pioneers to recycle phone books. Besides helping the environment, this is also a fundraiser for us, as we are paid 10¢ per book. So please collect from friends and relatives—why not recycle the books at your work place? You may drop off books in the front entrance of the school until **November 15** OR give Diana in the office a phone call and tell her how many books you have recycled.







## Take the Bite Out of Winter

Frostbite occurs with prolonged exposure of unprotected skin to very cold temperature. The most common body parts to have frostbite are the cheeks, ears, nose, hands and feet.

### Action for you and your family ...

#### Parents can prevent frostbite by dressing children in:

- several layers of warm clothing
- a coat or snowsuit that will resist water and wind
- mitts and boots that are not too small or too tight
- a warm hat that covers the ears

#### Watch for signs of frostbite:

- area is white or grey in colour and cold to touch
- frostbitten part will be numb
- severe frostbite causes tissue damage

#### When frostbite occurs:

- never massage the frostbitten area
- never rub snow on frostbitten skin
- do not use heat or warm water to warm the skin
- apply gentle, but firm pressure against the frostbitten part with a warm hand
- provide a hot drink to warm the body all over
- seek medical help if serious

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## Safe School Lunches

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Is your child's packed lunch still safe to eat by lunchtime? When perishable foods such as milk and meat are kept at room temperature until lunchtime (more than two hours), they can grow dangerous numbers of bacteria. These bacteria can lead to food poisoning.

The following steps can help to keep your child's lunch safe:

- Place a small ice pack in your child's lunch bag. Frozen unsweetened 100% juice boxes also work well.
- Take advantage of the *School Milk Program* if it is offered in your child's school.
- Use a Thermos™ to keep perishable items cold or hot.
- If you are sending food that needs to be heated in a microwave, be sure to pack it in a microwave safe container. Remember that food containers such as yogurt and margarine tubs are not meant to be reused.
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating lunch.
- If your child carries a reusable lunch bag, be sure to wash it out daily. Bacteria can grow on particles of food that may have spilled in the lunch bag.
- Water bottles also need to be washed with soap daily in order to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria.
- Throw away leftover perishable food that was not eaten at lunch.



Population and Public Health



# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

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November 2013

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#### SHORT NOTES

##### Play is for everyone

Play boosts imagination and relieves stress for kids of all ages. Try to make sure your youngster has time each day that's free of structured activities. You might encourage him to take out toys he hasn't used in a while—many elementary schoolers still enjoy building with blocks or racing toy cars.

##### Celebrate progress

Suggest that your child create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I memorized the state capitals") on a slip of paper and put it in the container. When she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Many smokers tried their first cigarette between the ages of 11 and 13. That means now is an important time to tell your youngster that you don't want him to smoke and why (it's addictive, it's unhealthy). If you smoke, you might explain how hard it is to quit, and avoid smoking around him.

##### Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try and cheer somebody else up!"  
Mark Twain

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What's yellow and smells just like green paint?

**A:** Yellow paint.



## Critical thinking

There's an important skill that can help your youngster do well in every school subject: thinking! Consider these ideas for helping her to think critically.

##### Spot similarities

Choose two objects in the room that don't appear to have anything in common (say, a clock and a sneaker). Ask your child to find at least one thing that's similar about them. She could say that numbers are printed on both or that each has "body parts" (the clock has a face and hands, the shoe has a tongue and a heel).



##### Play strategy games

Games like checkers, chess, Connect Four, and Mastermind build thinking skills. Play some of these together, and share your thought process: "If I move here, you'll probably move there, and then I could capture your piece." Suggest that your child talk herself through her moves, too. *Idea:* Solo games and activities like Sudoku, Rubik's Cube, and Rush Hour can also make her a better thinker.♥

##### Flip a fairy tale

Critical thinkers can look at situations through different lenses. Encourage your youngster to write a fairy tale from another character's point of view. For instance, how would the wolf tell *The Three Little Pigs*? He might think of himself as hungry rather than "big and bad." If the mother pig were the narrator, how might the story be different?

## The ABCs of conferences

Try these suggestions to get the most out of your next parent-teacher conference.

**A**sk questions. A written list will help you remember what you want to know. You might ask whether your child participates in class or how well he gets along with classmates.

**B**e positive. You could tell the teacher about a classroom activity or lesson that your youngster particularly enjoyed. Sharing good news helps create a strong working relationship.

**C**heck back. If, for instance, your child needs extra help with math facts or struggles with taking turns, see what you can do at home. Then, find out how and when to follow up on his progress.♥





## Bullying: Reach out

Even if your child has never participated in bullying or been a bully's victim, odds are he has seen a classmate being teased or threatened. And he can play an important role in helping those who are bullied. Here's how.

**Reporting vs. tattling.** He could interrupt a bully by asking the victim to play or read with him. If he doesn't feel safe doing so, however, he should get an adult's help right away. When it comes to bullying,



telling an adult isn't tattling. Make sure your youngster knows the difference: *tattling* gets someone *in* trouble while *reporting* gets a person *out* of trouble. Then, ask him to think of grown-ups he can go to if he sees bullying (teacher, coach, school counselor).

**"Pull-ups" vs. put-downs.** Encourage your child to say nice things to students who are teased. He might compliment a classmate on a presentation ("Your science project was cool!") or ask, "Hey, want to sit together at lunch?" His friendly words will act as "pull-ups" to help counter the put-downs these kids hear.♥

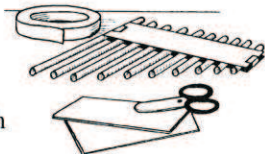
### ACTIVITY CORNER



## A musical experiment

Why do musical notes sound high or low? Your youngster can find out by making her own set of windpipes. She'll learn about music and science at the same time.

**1.** Have your child cut nine straws to different lengths and leave a tenth straw whole.



**2.** Ask her to lay them side by side, leaving a little space between each straw.

**3.** Help her put tape across the straws, front and back, to hold them together.

**4.** She should cut two pieces of cardboard that are wide enough to cover the straws and tape one piece to each side.

Now your youngster is ready to play her instrument! Suggest that she blow through one straw at a time. Does she know why each straw makes a slightly different sound? *Answer:* The shorter the straw, the faster it vibrates (and the higher the pitch) when air is blown through it.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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### Q & A

## Write for an audience

**Q:** My daughter has to share her writing in class, and she feels uncomfortable. How can I help her?

**A:** Your youngster might feel more confident if she gets used to sharing different types of writing outside of class.

For example, if you want to advertise furniture in the newspaper or on Craigslist, have her write the ad. Show her the published ad, and be sure to let her know when people respond. Or if you take a day trip or vacation, let your daughter pick out postcards. She can write about her adventures and mail the cards to friends or relatives.

Another idea is to encourage her to write a funny story that she could read to cousins at a family get-together. As they enjoy her story, she'll get a boost that could help her be more comfortable sharing her writing in school.♥



### PARENT TO PARENT

## Be a good citizen

At our local playground, my son Jack and I noticed a lot of trash on the ground. He said it was "gross" and asked why people didn't throw it away. I told him that good citizens help make our community a nice place to live, and he suggested that we clean up the playground.

We put on gloves and got bags for picking up the trash. The playground looked

much better, but Jack pointed out that people would just keep on littering. So he decided to hang up a poster reminding people to use the trash can.

Jack came up with a slogan: "Here's a fun place to play. Throw your litter away!" Then he drew a picture of kids—

and even a few pets—putting snack wrappers and empty juice boxes in the trash. He's excited to go back and see whether his sign is making a difference.♥

