

# The Eagle's Tale

[oakridge.dsbm.org](http://oakridge.dsbm.org)

Oakridge School Newsletter

December 2011

## ***From the Principal's Desk***

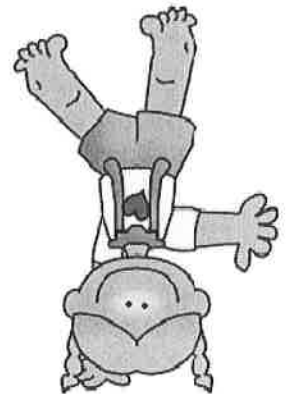


**Parent engagement matters.** Study after study has shown that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education, and that good schools become even better schools when parents are involved. It is recognized that parent engagement is a key factor in the enhancement of student achievement and well-being.

Students are more likely to be motivated, to earn higher grades, to have better behaviour and social skills, and to continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

It is equally important to recognize that parent involvement takes many forms.

- Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees (PICs)
- Volunteering for field trips and school activities
- Making sure there is a quiet place set aside to do homework
- Helping with the homework
- Meeting with the teachers
- Talking to your child about their day at school.



These are all examples of engaged parents. They are all contributing to their children's education. To make it easier for parents to get involved, government funding is available to encourage parent involvement. Find out more about parent involvement in schools at: Parents Reaching out Grants, <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html>

**EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING: ENGAGING PARENTS, 30 03 2011. 08 11 2011 <[HTTP://WWW.EDU.GOV.ON.CA/ENG/PARENTS/INVOLVEMENT/INDEX.HTML](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/index.html)>.**





### EARLY DISMISSAL ROUTINES

We understand that sometimes students need to be picked up early from school for various reasons. If this is the case, please write a note to your child's teacher letting them know the time they are to be excused and the reason. It is important that these arrangements be made before the school day begins. The afternoon is a very busy time in our office and it is difficult for us to get a message to your child when you are calling at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### ECO-FRIENDLY OAKRIDGE ONLINE NEWSLETTERS

You may also view our monthly newsletters online at: [oakridge.dsbns.org](http://oakridge.dsbns.org)



### PARKING LOT

Please be reminded that our front parking lot is for the use of staff and visitor parking only. Students are not to be dropped off or picked up at the beginning or the end of the day in this area. If you are dropping off your child for daycare in the morning, please use the back parking lot. As it is, there are insufficient parking spaces for school staff at the front of the building. We are also endeavouring to minimize traffic flow in the parking lot as students are often walking in this area. With winter's snow, we need to be extra cautious in the safe arrival and departure of our students. Let's all work together and remember to keep the safety of our children and students paramount in our thinking! We appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

### TNS – Throw No Snow!

For the safety of ALL of our students, Oakridge has a "throw no snow" policy on the playground.

This policy will be **STRICTLY** enforced.



### HEALTHY ACTIVITY

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages 6 - 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours/day, or 62% of their waking hours, being sedentary?



Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of

moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children:
- Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
- Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
- Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects

For more information: [www.activehealthykids.ca](http://www.activehealthykids.ca) or [www.participaction.com](http://www.participaction.com)

Winter Break  
December 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 to  
January 6<sup>th</sup> 2012



**ECO-CORNER BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
DSBN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMITTEE**

**NORTH AMERICAN HOLIDAY BY THE NUMBERS**

- 2.65 billion holiday cards were sold last year (would fill a football field 10 stories tall)
- 200,000: trees are cut down to make all those holiday cards.
- 4 million tons of landfill each year produced from shopping bags and gift wrapping.
- 50 million evergreen trees and about 30 million go to landfill.
- 40% of all battery purchases are made during this season and many are improperly disposed in regular landfill sites.

**TIPS TO ENJOYING A SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY 2011**

- Buy a smaller potted evergreen tree and plant the following spring
- Send electronic greeting cards if possible or reuse cards that you have received.
- Use reusable bags and creatively reduce the amount of wrapping paper by giving gifts inside of reusable containers or bags
- Prepare only an appropriate amount of food for your gathering to reduce waste....consider providing some of the extra food items to local community food banks instead.
- RE-THINK your plans with a new fun – creative tradition to reduce consumption and waste.

*The DSBN Environmental Sustainability committee wishes all students, families and staff to enjoy a sustainable holiday season with family and friends and encourages you to possibly make a couple of new traditions that result in a more sustainable celebration.*

Check out the following websites for tips/resources:

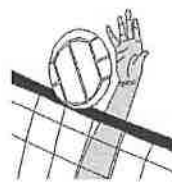
<http://1<sup>st</sup>-ecofriendlyplanet.com/12/christmas-waste/>  
<http://www.greenandeasy.co.uk/information/Christmas.aspx>

<http://www.nigelsecostore.com/actalalog/GreenChristmas.html>

<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

JK/SK am	Angela Z.
JK/SK pm	Audrey B., Gaby B.
Grade 1 / 2	Esther L., Sadie T.
Grade 3	Daniella C., Stefani M., Sagar P.
Grade 3 / 4	Claire S., Ashley H.
Grade 5/6	Ava B., Monica W., Sophia D., Hannah K.
Grade 5F1	Vida H., Cassie W., Jamie I.
Grade 5F2	Daniel G., Claire H., Athena L.
Grade 7-1	Marrisa M., Talyor M., Carlie W.
Grade 7/8	Alex K., Ben H., Hunter O.
Grade 8-1	Drake R., Dayna M., Denisse L.
Grade 7F1	Allison L., Maryam H., Jack A.
Grade 7F2	Susan K., Madison P., Alyssa W.
Grade 8F1	Logan I. Chris C. Jihyun R.
Grade 8F2	Alexis G., Brittney K., Nathan H.
Grade 8 F3	Laurel N., Sarah K.



**INTERMEDIATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Our intermediate girls volleyball team had a successful season, winning the Consolation Championship for the regular season. They concluded their season with a positive showing at the DSBN tournament, winning 3 of 5 games and were only 2 points short of winning the other two. At the end of the Round Robin, they were in a 3-way tie for 2nd place but ended up just missing the play-offs. The players and coaches would like to extend a special thanks to the parents who drove all season as well as the students who helped to score-keep or who supported the team throughout the season. Mme Vaillancourt, Mr. White and

Mme L.R. would like to congratulate the girls on their phenomenal team spirit, hard work and dedication. Great job girls!

### INTERMEDIATE BOYS VOLLEYBALL



**Congratulations** to the intermediate boys on a great season. The boys worked hard on improving their skills and brought home another league championship banner for the wall of excellence. Great job boys!

### MOVEMBER



Thanks to the **Oakridge Boys** for supporting the month of "Movember" to raise awareness for prostate cancer! From left to right: Mr. Game, Mr. Munderich, Mr. Beaman, Mr. White



This month, the Me To We Club has decided to run "Hugs for Hospitals" in support of children at our local St. Catharines Hospital. We wanted to do something that would brighten the spirits of the kids who are sick over the holidays. Students at Oakridge are encouraged to donate toys or gifts still in their packaging and with their tags still on. This initiative will start on December 5<sup>th</sup> and end on the 16<sup>th</sup>. When

donating, students are asked to keep in mind that the toys will be for children ages 4 to 14. Books are greatly appreciated as well. Also, if there is an overflow of donations, the extras will be going to the McMaster Children's Hospital. We hope to have Oakridge students and parents participating in this cause to help put a smile on a child's face this holiday season.

### Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School



Invites YOU to our  
**GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE**  
Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
6:30p.m. start (In the Auditorium)

Visit our website: [www.sirwinston.ca](http://www.sirwinston.ca)

**We look forward to seeing you at SWC!**

101 Glen Morris Drive, St. Catharines (905) 684-6349

### ECO-NEWS

Thank you to all students who have been remembering to bring waste-free snacks and lunches on Wednesdays. Keep up the great work! Members of the eco-team will be making some surprise visits during waste-free Wednesday lunches in December, and handing out prizes to those students who have a waste-free lunch. Also, remember to place your empty juice pouches in the red bins in your classrooms. The eco-team is sending these into Terracycle, so they can be upcycled and turned into new products. Thanks for your support!

**Music News**  
**December Around the World (and Here at Oakridge)**  
Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - 1:30

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December is a busy time in the music department. Students have been busy singing, dancing and playing in preparation for "December Around the World". Students in grades 1 - 6 will be singing "December Around the World", featuring the Hear Comes Treble choirs. From Canada to China and many places in between, various stories of the celebrations of December will be told through song. Primary students will also be rapping about the perils of being a reindeer. The Orff ensembles will be playing a couple of pieces that they have been working on as well. Please join us at 1:30 on December 21st in the gym for our celebration of the season.

On December 2nd, members of the Hear Comes Treble choirs, orff ensembles and bucket drumming club walked over to Sir Winston to listen to CADENCE.

"Four men. Four microphones. No instruments. This is the formula for Canada's celebrated vocal band, Cadence...This fabulous foursome has been entertaining audiences worldwide for over a decade with their innovative jazz arrangements, genre-hopping covers and eclectic originals. With an infectious energy and a good measure of wild stage antics, this cool cat rat pack of musical misfits is guaranteed to leave you shouting out for more...Cadence's three-time Juno-nominated albums have been met with wide critical acclaim, having received numerous awards and nominations including Best Jazz Song, Best Original Composition and Best Rock/Pop Album (CARA AWARDS.)"

On December 5th many of the students here at Oakridge will be travelling up to Brock to see "The Nutcracker".

"The timeless Nutcracker classic - choreographed by Bengt Jörgen and inspired by works from The McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Ballet Jörgen Canada's recently revamped version of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker draws its inspiration from the paintings of Canada's Group of Seven artists... This classic piece of choreography and music is a seasonal favourite around the world, but this version has a distinctly Canadian flavour that reminds of Algonquin woods and frozen lakes with abundant animals. With beautiful costumes, exquisite backgrounds, great dancing and some of the most distinctly recognizable music of all time, this production is designed for youth of all ages to encourage a stronger understanding and deeper appreciation of dance."

Hear Comes Treble t-shirts are now for sale. If you son/daughter is a part of an extra-curricular music group, please have them sign up for a shirt. The cost is \$12 (to be collected when the shirts come in) and the sizes available are Youth S, M and L and Adult S, M, and L.

In January the Bucket Drumming club will start up. We are still in need of more large, white, round 5 gallon buckets. Thank you to everyone that has been bringing them in over the last month. Also, in January, auditions will be held for main and supporting roles for this year's spring concert, "The Jungle Book".

Enjoy the sounds of December,  
T. King

# Woodend

Issue #2 ~ Winter 2011

The Living Campus

# Update

Outdoor Education: healthy children, engaged learners, critical thinkers, tomorrow's leaders

Bringing Learning to Life!

## The New Woodend Website!

The Living Campus has a new website. To find out what's happening at Woodend The Living Campus and to Donate visit us at: [www.DSBN.org/Woodend](http://www.DSBN.org/Woodend)

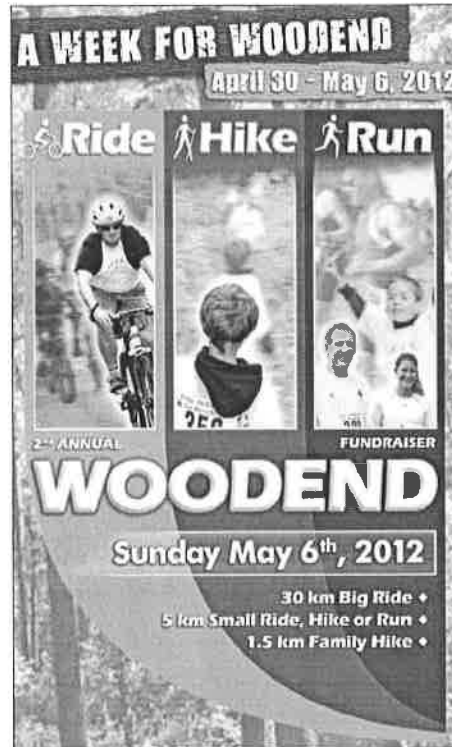


## DSBN-ETFO Trivia Night!

ETFO Niagara is hosting a Trivia Night on February 10th with all proceeds going to The Living Campus. So, grab a team of 10, start honing your Trivia skills and join us for a night of fun and fundraising for The Living Campus! For more information visit [DSBN.org/Woodend](http://DSBN.org/Woodend) and click on the "Events" button.



## A Week for Woodend... Come On Out and RIDE, HIKE or RUN!



Help us celebrate The Living Campus by participating in the *Week for Woodend* from April 30 - May 6, 2012. During this exciting week schools will be involved in fundraising activities to help raise awareness and funds for The Living Campus. The week will end with the 2nd Annual DSNB Ride-Hike-Run for Woodend on May 6th. **Online Registration Opens on January 12 at [DSBN.org/Woodend](http://DSBN.org/Woodend).** More details to come. We hope to see everyone there!



## Thank You TV Cogeco For Generously Supporting The Living Campus!

TV Cogeco was at the Living Campus last week to present DSNB Director Warren Hoshizaki, Chair of the Board Kevin Maves and Vice-Chair Dale Robinson with a cheque to help support the creation of The Living Campus. Thanks to support from our community partners The Living Campus will *Bring Learning to Life* for our students and community.

## Welcome John McCall MacBain

A Huge Thank-you and welcome to the McCall MacBain Foundation, the newest members of The Living Campus' Founder's Club! Through their generous support we are one step closer to providing a new and innovative Outdoor, Environmental Education Centre for our students and community - *a real Living Campus!*



## Support Us with Your Purchases!

Metafore and Acer have partnered with the DSNB to help us reach our fundraising goals! A portion of each Laptop or Tablet you purchase will go directly to The Living Campus, helping create a place for generations of students to come. Click the "Donate" button on [DSBN.org/Woodend](http://DSBN.org/Woodend) for more information and access to **metafore** IT Solutions. Delivered.

By supporting Woodend - The Living Campus you are providing children with a place that *Brings Learning to Life* by engaging them in hands-on learning and discovery through play. To find out how you can support the children of Niagara visit us on our website, on Facebook and our blog:

[dsbn.org/woodend](http://dsbn.org/woodend)

DSNB Woodend - The Living Campus

[woodendthelivingcampus.blogspot.com](http://woodendthelivingcampus.blogspot.com)