



# The Eagle's Tale

Newsletter of Oakridge Public School

October 2010

## Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

This year, the Ministry of Education has released a new policy document, *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting*. All schools in Ontario are required to adopt the policies and practices described in this document. One of the changes which parents will notice is the format and timing of reporting on student progress.

As educators, we recognize that the primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. There are seven fundamental principles identified in this new document. To ensure that assessment, evaluation and reporting are valid and reliable, and that they lead to the improvement of learning for all students, teachers will use practices and procedures that:

- are fair, transparent and equitable for all students
- support all students, including those with special education needs, those who are learning the language of instruction (English or French), and those who are First Nation, Métis, or Inuit
- are carefully planned to relate to the curriculum expectations and learning goals and, as much as possible, to the interests, learning styles and preferences, needs, and experiences of all students
- are communicated clearly to students and parents at the beginning of the school year or course and at other appropriate points throughout the school year or course
- are ongoing, varied in nature, and administered over a period of time to provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning
- provide ongoing descriptive feedback that is clear, specific, meaningful, and timely to support improved learning and achievement
- develop students' self-assessment skills to enable them to assess their own learning, set specific goals, and plan next steps for their learning

We know that parents have an important role to play in supporting student learning. Studies show that students perform better in school if their parents or guardians are involved in their education. This is the basis for the principle that students and parents should be kept fully informed about the student's progress.

### 2010-2011 School Year Reporting Timelines

November 15	Grade 1-8 Elementary Progress Report Senior Kindergarten Progress Report
November/December	Junior Kindergarten Parent/Guardian Observation and Follow-up
February 9	Grades 1-8 Term 1 Elementary Report Card Junior Kindergarten Progress Report Card Senior Kindergarten Term 1 Report Card
June 27	Grades 1-8 Term 2 Elementary Report Card Junior Kindergarten Term 2 Report Card Senior Kindergarten Term 2 Report Card

At any time throughout the year, parents or guardians are invited to communicate with the school about their child's progress or achievement. Prior to the distribution of the November Progress Report, we will be in touch with families to arrange for interviews with teachers.

## School Council

The Oakridge School Council is an important group of volunteers. We welcome all Oakridge parents to our next meeting on Tuesday, November 9th in our school library at 7:00 pm. We are always looking for new people to join our group and your attendance is welcomed. In the next few weeks, please look for a separate letter from our Council, inviting you to volunteer at the school.

## School Magazine Fundraiser



Thank you for your support of our school fall fundraiser. Proceeds from this event go toward subsidizing such things as school agendas, class trips, graduation and special

performance presentations. Once again, it was highly successful as a result of your efforts.

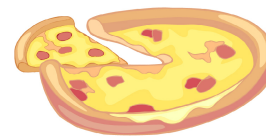
## School Nurse

Our Youth Connection nurse is Vivianne Lebrasseur. She can be reached at the Regional Niagara Public Health Department at 356-158 ext. 223, Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30 pm.

## Parking Reminders

We appreciate your cooperation in parking your vehicle in appropriately designated spots when picking up or dropping off your child. Parents are reminded not to park in NO PARKING areas or in the school bus loading zone. The front parking lot is not to be used for student drop-off or pick-up. As many of our children arrive at school via Marsdale Drive, we restrict vehicular traffic in this area to the greatest extent possible. Please be observant of this request.

## Pizza Days are Back!



A big thank you goes out to our parents who come out each week to organize our school pizza days. Our first pizza day is scheduled for Friday, October 22nd.

## Safety Items for Parent Action

- Severe Allergic Reactions - consent forms for intervention in medical emergencies must be on file in the office
- Student Medications - authorization forms to administer medication must be completed, signed by a physician and returned to the office.
- Custody Arrangements and Access - please provide current documents if there are special circumstances the school should be made aware of.
- Use of Front Doors - for safety reasons, students are asked not to enter or exit through the front doors, unless accompanied by a parent. Students are to use their assigned doors throughout the day.
- Visitors to the School - all visitors and parents must check in at the school office. If you are dropping off items to your child, please stop in at the office first before proceeding to your child's classroom.

- Student Absences - please contact the school before 9:00 am if your child will be absent from school
- Playground - please note that there is no supervision on the school playground before 8:30 am or after 3:15. Students who walk to school, or are dropped off, should not arrive earlier than 8:30 am. The playground equipment is not open unless there is a staff member on duty. At dismissal time, we do not allow children to play on the equipment as a staff are busy supervising the bus loading zones. Only children, whose parents are with them, may use the equipment at this time.

### Hallowe'en Activities

Once again, we will be having our Hallowe'en costume parade, along with classroom activities on Friday, October 29th.

Kindergarten children will have an am parade through the school. Our afternoon parade, which will begin at 1:35 will involve all students from Grade 1 to Grade 6. We will be walking along Marsdale Drive, Glendale Avenue, Masterson Drive and MacBeth, and returning to the school. Parents are invited to join the parade or to take pictures. We ask for your cooperation in not allowing costumes of a violent nature, which frighten young children. Our Grade 7 and 8 students will be participating in a Hallowe'en Dance to be held in the school gymnasium.



### Spirit Day @ Oakridge

Black and Orange Day is on October 28th. Prizes will be awarded for most creative black and orange wear! It's never too early to start planning!

### Toonies for Terry

Oakridge School students celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 30th. Staff and students from Oakridge contributed a toonie for Terry with the goal of continuing his fight against cancer. Staff and students and some parents joined in the walk/run around the perimeter of the school. Thanks to all of the everyone who supported this event. Our contribution for cancer research is \$700.

### 3rd Annual Season Opener - Niagara IceDogs

The Oakridge choir, led by Mrs. King, sang a jazzed up rendition of "Oh, Canada" to help the Niagara IceDogs kick off their season at the home opener on September 30th. Thanks to the 145 members of the Oakridge community for supporting this evening of skating, singing and hockey.

### Oakridge has been adopted!

Great news! Oakridge School has been adopted by Pizza Pizza and the Niagara IceDogs and, therefore, we have been given a pair of season's tickets for the 2010-2011 hockey season. Teachers will be rewarding various students with a pair of tickets throughout the year. If your child comes home with tickets, please enjoy the game together and have your child write a thank you note to our sponsors, Pizza Pizza and the Niagara IceDogs.

### District School Board of Niagara Blood Donor Challenge

Have you ever thought about how wonderful it would feel to save a life? October marks the third annual Blood Donor Challenge and your opportunity to help patients in need by

donating blood. This year, the challenge goal is 100 donations during the month of October. Please help us reach our goal.

The basic requirements for blood donation can be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca).

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Armstrong.

## Niagara Falls Art Gallery

Great news! Artists from the Niagara Falls Art Gallery will be visiting your child's classroom three times this year to deliver curriculum-based art lessons. Lessons may include painting, chalk or oil pastel, mask-making or sculptures. Please keep an eye on your child's agenda for specific dates.

## Outdoor Education Day

Our annual *Oakridge Outdoor Education Celebration*, for all students from Grades One to Eight, was **Thursday, October 7th**. This Celebration was originally to be held at Burgoyne Woods but due to rescheduling as a result of poor weather conditions, we held our celebration at Oakridge. The \$2 fee collected for busses and the park rental will now be donated to our Food Drive for Community Care.

Thank you to the Oakridge School Council who provided apples for our morning snack!

The Celebration included Arts & Crafts, Drama, Coop Games and the popular - Tug of War! Students were grouped with representation of all grades in each group. This organization promoted a sense of unity among our students. Congratulations to our grade 8 leaders who did an outstanding job ensuring their teams had a great outdoor experience!

## Community Care Food Drive

The Oakridge Staff, with the support of the School Council, is holding their **6<sup>th</sup> annual Hallowe'en Food Drive Challenge** in support of **Community Care**. Oakridge staff and families have traditionally been great supporters of Community Care and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our goal is 100% participation in each class! To encourage and motivate participation there is a friendly competition between classes. The class with the "heaviest" amount of food will enjoy a pizza party for these outstanding results, courtesy of the Oakridge School Council!

Please look for more details in notice home later this week.

## Student Leadership Team

We will be starting up our Intermediate Student Leadership Team during the month of October. Grade 7 and 8 students who join the Student Leadership Team will be meeting regularly to help guide our school community in three areas: school events, community outreach, and eco-initiatives. The Oakridge community will be hearing more from these student leaders in the upcoming months.

## Character Education T-Shirts

Our Character Education T-Shirt contest was a success! Students from all grades submitted designs but unfortunately we could only choose two. The winning designs were from Logan Imans and Tito Isekeije.

Congratulations girls. Some students were awarded their shirts at our Respect Assembly on Friday. This month's character focus is Responsibility and our assembly will be on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:35 a.m. Please join us.

