



Oakridge Public School

September 2011 Newsletter – The Eagle's Tale

Welcome Back!

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year at Oakridge School! As the summer draws to an end, we have returned to school re-energized after the holidays and are ready to begin working together with you to make Oakridge the best possible environment for your children. We welcome all new families to Oakridge and encourage you to become active members of our school community. Adjusting to a new school can be a challenge for some, but rest assured that we are ready to support your sons and daughters with the transition. With the addition of French Immersion at the Grade 5 level, we are pleased to announce that our school enrolment has increased and we now have over 400 students! If you are new to Oakridge, please take a moment to drop by the office to introduce yourselves. We are looking forward to meeting you personally. This year, we welcome the following new staff members: Mrs. Hasenack, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Zamproga, Mrs. Hall and Ms. Christie.

Please visit our website by visiting dsbn.org and clicking on Oakridge School. We encourage you to visit on a regular basis to hear of events at the school. The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time for teachers and students alike. We are looking forward to a positive and productive year. Please remember that we are ready to support your students on their paths to success and we always welcome the opportunity to connect with their families along the way.

School Organization 2011-2012:

Primary and Junior

Mrs. J. Fast	JK/SK. am
Mrs. S. Lengyel	JK/SK pm
Mrs. S. Kennedy	Grade 1/2
Mrs. C. Fabiano	Grade 3
Mrs. K. Read	Grade 3/4
Mrs. C. Anderson	Grade 5/6
Mrs. T. Vaillancourt	Grade 5 French Immersion
Mrs. C. Armstrong	Grade 5 French Immersion
Mrs. D. Gula	Rotary

Intermediate

Mr. A. White	Grade 7
Mrs. J. Kelcey	Grade 7/8
Mrs. S. Lengyel/Mr. Beaman	Grade 8
Mrs. J. Lelievre	Grade 7 French Immersion
Mrs. M. Zamproga	Grade 7 French Immersion

Mr. S. Munderich	Grade 8 French Immersion
Mr. C. Denomme	Grade 8 French Immersion
Mrs. A. Hall/ Ms. A. Christie	Grade 8 French Immersion
Mrs. L. MacDonald	Intermediate Prep

Learning Resource Teacher

Mrs. L. Ridley

Educational Assistant:

Ms. K. Sawatsky

Youth Counsellor:

Mrs. L. Hasenack

Office and Support Staff:

Mrs. J. Agnew

Principal

Mr. R. Game

Vice-Principal, Librarian

Mrs. L. Klapatiuk

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. K. Brown

Part-time Administrative Assistant

Mrs. J. Dunn

Head Caretaker

Mrs. C. Bonfield

Lunch Supervisor

Health Alert / Allergies

We have several children in our school who have severe allergies with sensitivities which may threaten their lives. This is referred to as Anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a life threatening allergic reaction. It can be triggered by accidentally inhaling, injecting or absorbing an allergen. Some sources include: foods, insect stings, latex and medication.

We are sending home a separate letter regarding anaphylactic students at Oakridge. To ensure that all of our children are offered a healthy and safe environment to learn in, we are requesting that you not send any products, identified in our letter on anaphylaxis, to school with your child for snacks or lunch. Please teach and remind your child not to share or trade food at any time. All food must be eaten in the classroom or designated areas, not outside the school or on school buses. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

School Agendas

To improve communication we encourage all students from Grade 1 to 8 to purchase an agenda at a cost of \$10.00. In the front of each agenda there is a pouch provided to hold notes and letters for communication home, so please check this pouch from time to time. It is recommended that routines should be established from the start, such as students putting their agenda in a consistent place where parents can read information coming home from the school. Students benefit so much when parents and teachers stay in touch! Let's keep the lines of communication open!

We will do this through:

1. Regular monthly newsletters
2. Class newsletters
3. Parent / student Handbook
4. Student Progress Report Cards
5. Telephone calls, notes and conferences
6. Open House - Sept. 14th, 2011

As the 2011-2012 year begins, we would like to remind parents that we welcome their support and assistance with their child's learning and encourage open dialogue between parents and school, so that each student meets with success!

Early Release Days

Parents, please take note that **Friday, Sept. 23rd, 2011**, and **Friday February 17th, 2012**, are *Early Release days*. The purpose of these days is for staff to focus on curriculum implementation. *Schools will dismiss at 12:15* on these days in order that buses and crossing guards can be co-ordinated. Please note that morning Kindergarten students do not take the bus home on these days and parents will need to make their own arrangements for student pick-up. If parents cannot commit to picking up their child, they should not send their child to school on these days. Afternoon Kindergarten will not be in session on Early Release Days. All municipal clerks have been notified and crossing guards will be on duty for the students' morning trip to school and their trip home following the three hour early release schedule.

September Open House and Gr. 7 & 8 Ottawa Information Session

On September 14th, from 5:30 until 7:00 pm, we will have our "**Meet the Teacher**" Open House. We encourage you to attend and visit your child's classroom. Due to the volume of parent visitors, teachers will not have time for an in-depth interview. Should you wish to discuss your child's progress in more detail, please schedule an appointment directly with the teacher. Following the Open House, there will be an information session in the gymnasium for families of students in Grades 7 and 8 regarding our planned year end excursion to Ottawa. We anticipate that this session will be 30 to 45 minutes in length.

Forms, forms, forms.....

Along with today's newsletter, we are sending home a number of forms. We would appreciate your assistance in returning these to your child's homeroom teacher as quickly as possible.

- *Acceptable Use Agreement for Student Use of ICT - Agreement and Consent Form*
- *Student Accident Insurance* information. Please note that the D.S.B.N. does not carry accident insurance for students. If you choose to participate, please return the completed form *directly* to Reliable Insurance.
- D.S.B.N. School Year Calendar
- Lunch Room Application, Emergency Closing Instructions
- Student Data Verification form

Lunch Break

Students are welcome to stay for lunch at the school; however, it is essential that lunch rules are followed as outlined in the application form. We need to know the whereabouts of every student at Oakridge School during the lunch break. We recommend that students only be given two options during the lunch break. One is to eat at home, and the other is to stay at school. *We ask for your cooperation in not giving students permission to eat at restaurants or at other students' homes where an adult is not present.* We cannot be responsible for students who are given permission to leave the school grounds. Last year, the office received a number of complaints from our neighbours regarding student littering. We do not encourage our students to attend at

the plaza during the nutrition break. Students **must** have a permission note from the parents to leave school property.

School Times

Please note that supervision on our school yard begins at 8:30 am. Students should not arrive at school to be on the yard without adult supervision.

8:45 am Entry
8:45 am Instructional Block #1 begins
10:25 am Fitness and Nutrition Break #1
11:05 am Instructional Block #2 begins
12:45 pm Fitness and Nutrition Break #2
1:35 pm Instructional Block #3
3:15 pm Dismissal

Medication at School

Staff members are not permitted to administer medication to students without a written request by parents and a physician's authorization indicating the name, dosage, frequency, time and method of administration of the drug. Only medications in their original labeled containers are acceptable. This practice is in accordance with District School Board of Niagara policy. Forms are available from the school office. For safety reasons, please do not send any medication to school in the hands of your child.

School Traffic



We ask that you obey the following traffic rules:

1. Please use the rear parking lot on Oakridge Avenue to drop off or pick up your child.
2. Please be observant that the front parking lot is for staff and visitor parking only and is not a drop-off or pick-up area.
3. Please remind your children to use the sidewalk directly in front of the school office if they walk to school along Marsdale Drive. Encourage them to be aware of vehicles in the parking lot.

Crossing Guards

City of St. Catharines Crossing Guards will be on duty at the following locations:

Glendale Ave / Marsdale Drive
8:15 am to 8:45 am
12:45 pm to 1:35 pm
3:15 pm to 3:45 pm

Glendale Ave. / Caroline Street
8:20 am to 8:50 am
12:55 pm to 1:45 pm
3:25 pm to 3:55 pm

Glenridge Ave. / Oakridge Ave.
8:10 am to 8:40 am
12:45 pm to 1:35 pm
3:15 pm to 3:45 pm



Milk Program

Once again, we will be offering our School Milk Program. You can order white or chocolate milk to be delivered to your child's classroom for his or her lunch. Order forms will be sent home with each child at the end of the first week of school. Give your child a healthy and tasty alternative to drink!

From the Office.....

Call-in system:

If your son or daughter is ill or away from school for any reason, please call the school office (684-6589) between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Oakridge School has voicemail, so calls can be made at any time during the day or evening. We are very conscious of the safety of our students. Regular phoning by parents will inform us immediately of the whereabouts of students not in school, and it will save us time in getting this information.

We will call the homes, workplace and, if necessary, the emergency number of parents whose children do not arrive at school and about whom we do not receive a telephone call. Student Verification forms are being sent home with this newsletter. *We ask that you make any corrections, sign the back and return it to the school (even if no corrections are required).* It is very important that we have the most up-to-date information concerning your child in case of an emergency.



Custody Issues

If there are any issues concerning the custody of your child(ren), please contact the school *every* year to advise us of the current circumstances and to provide us with the appropriate documentation.

