

# The Eagle's Tale

Oakridge School Newsletter

November 2011

## Dear Parents:

### IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

Let me start by saying how good it is to be back at Oakridge. Working with students, staff and parents again has definitely been a pleasure. Thank you for the warm welcome I have received. I've been getting to know the new students as well. I look forward to a great year with everyone!

Mrs. L. Klassen, Principal



- ❖ Seeking ways to volunteer from home to support classroom activities

Your involvement will enrich your experience as a parent and will also benefit your child. Students are more likely to be motivated, earn higher grades, and continue to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

### HEAR COMES TREBLE

Mrs. King would like to start a bucket drumming club, but is in need of plastic buckets - 60 in total. If you have any clean 3, 4 or 5 gallon buckets or large round plastic garbage cans to donate, you can send them in during the next two weeks.



Choir and Orff are off to a great start. The number of students that have joined this year has more than doubled from last year. So far Junior Orff are well on their way to learning and creating B-Sections to a piece they've called Pop-corn and Candy Apples. Intermediate Orff is experimenting with the mesmerizing sounds of Zimbabwe percussion music. The Junior and Intermediate Choir are learning to sing as an ensemble, using various canons to train their ears to sing in harmony. They're also working on an Adele song as well as a few formal choir pieces.

### TOONIES FOR TERRY

Our Toonies for Terry event raised a total of \$901.10. Oakridge made a donation of \$1,000, to the Terry Fox Foundation. Thanks for your support!

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The executive members of our School Council are as follows:

Co-Chair – Mr. Wright  
Co-Chair – Mrs. Unger  
Secretary – Mrs. Digenis

### GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING



The schools of the DSBN welcome parent involvement in their children's learning experiences. Studies have found the greater the support that families provide for their children's learning and progress, the greater the likelihood that their children will succeed at school.

Parent involvement can take many forms:

- ❖ Reading newsletters to keep informed about school and classroom happenings that are part of your child's school experience
- ❖ Asking questions to better understand how your child is achieving and how you can support next steps
- ❖ Working with your child at home, supporting what is happening in the classroom
- ❖ Making sure there is a time and place set aside to do homework
- ❖ Participating in parent teacher conferences, sharing your insights that will provide a richer knowledge of your child
- ❖ Meeting with teachers and taking an interest in their programs
- ❖ Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees
- ❖ Volunteering for field trips and school activities

Co-Treasurer – Mr. Zoccoli

Co-Treasurer – Mrs. Rougoor

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday, every month. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Oakridge will be holding our Remembrance Day Service. Staff and students will assemble in our school gymnasium at 10:45 am. First nutrition break will begin at 10:00 to 10:40 am. As always we welcome community attendance. Thank you to Mrs. King who is directing this assembly. Students can bring donations for their poppies on that day.



### BOOK FAIR

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming!

You can visit the Book Fair on:

**Tues. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m.

**Wed. Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Thur. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Did you know that for every \$10.00 you spend, up to \$6.00 goes back to our school? This enables us to purchase new books and

educational resources for our Library. We accept cheques, visa, mastercard and debit. We look forward to seeing you there!



### ST. CATHARINES FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTEST



The Grade 5-1 students in Mrs. Armstrong's class were the grand prize winners in the St. Catharines Fire Dept. Fire Safety Contest. The students collaborated to create a 4 metre long mural. Each student researched a fire safety tip and then wrote and illustrated about it. Students also created a Fire Safety video presentation. As the grand prize winners, the class was treated to a hot dog barbecue, drink, cake and cookies prepared by firefighters from Station 3. The firefighters brought their pumper truck which the students enjoyed exploring truck and tried on some equipment. A great morning was had by all. Congratulations to all on a wonderful group effort!

## Spirit Days

We are excited to be participating with several DSBN schools in a community based event for the Rankin Cancer Run. During November, we will be enjoying Spirit Days to raise awareness about cancer, bullying, and giving back to others through kind acts. There will be a Spirit Day **each Friday in November**. Listed below are the events:

**November 4<sup>th</sup> : Random Acts of Kindness Day** and our kick off to our **Road to the Rankin Run**. Students are asked to wear Rankin Run T-shirts (from previous years) or orange. For further details visit:

<http://www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org/rak.html>

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Day - Students are asked to wear red and white as proud Canadians. Please bring in quarters for poppies.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** – **Pink Day** in support of Anti-bullying. As a follow-up to our Power of One assembly, students and staff are asked to wear all their **flashiest pink attire** in an effort to raise awareness about bullying.

**November 25<sup>th</sup>** – Oakridge School Spirit Day students are asked to wear their **Oakridge Eagles spirit wear or school colours**. As we look forward to May 2012 and the Rankin Cancer Run, we are asking students to take the first step in supporting this great cause and bring in **loose change** on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will be taking part in numerous fun activities leading up to our school's participation in the Rankin Cancer Run. Loose change for cancer is our first event.



Great news! Oakridge's male staff have agreed to be part of "**Movember**" by growing moustaches for the entire month. During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces, in Canada and around the world. These men raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer. We are encouraging dads, uncles, older brothers, and cousins to grow moustaches and collect money for this worthy cause. If you'd like to join the Oakridge team or contribute to Oakridge's campaign, please visit:

[https://www.movember.com/ca/register/details/team\\_id/291894](https://www.movember.com/ca/register/details/team_id/291894)

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be sent home on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. The intention of the Progress Report is to

show the general progress of the students and to provide a holistic view of the child's strengths and next steps. These reports provide feedback that support *assessment for learning* and *assessment as learning*. The term one and term two Report Cards focus on *assessment of learning* at that point in time.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teachers to discuss these reports following their distribution. These interviews will take place over the period of a few days, however, most staff will be available here at the school on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30. Your child's teacher will send home a form letting you know what interview times are available.

### **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

**Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.**

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you to be followed throughout the school year.



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Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

#### **Websites:**

[www.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.org)

[www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca)

#### **Subscription Features:**

DSBN Facebook or Twitter

NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

#### **Phone:**

Niagara Student Transportation Services

905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

#### **Radio Stations:**

CKTB (610 AM)    CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM)

CHRE (105.7 FM)

#### **Television Stations:**

CH – Hamilton

CityTV Breakfast Television

CTV Toronto

### **HALLOWE'EN FOOD DRIVE COMMUNITY CARE**

The Oakridge Staff, with the support of the School Council, held their 7<sup>th</sup> annual

**Hallowe'en Food Drive Challenge** in support of **Community Care last.**

Oakridge staff and families have traditionally been great supporters of Community Care and those less fortunate than themselves. This year we did an outstanding job of doing the same!



Our goal of 100% participation was achieved by many classes more than once during the Food Drive! The class with the "heaviest" amount of food and will enjoy a pizza lunch, courtesy of the Oakridge School Council, on Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>, for their outstanding results. This class will be announced on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The following students are to be congratulated on their superb job as **Class Leaders** for the Food Drive: Sophia D., Hannah K., Ava B., Monica W., Kiani C., Fiona M., Sarah F., Daniella C., Evan H., Bendan B., Emma B., Ishan H., Nicholas W., Vida H., Cassie W., A.J. C., Cynthia W., Yianna P.G., Carlin S., Spencer D., Katherine S., Armand I., Jaydon D., Alana K., John R., Cole W., Lucy O., Aidan H., Tito I., Sarah M., Sarah K., Casey O., Katelyn B. Quinn D.

The **Grade 8 Committee Members:** Hunter O., Drake R., Dayna M., Sarah K. and Casey O. are also to be commended on their excellence in Leadership! The Oakridge community truly are "Community Caregivers!"



### **MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER**

In our recent magazine fundraiser, Mrs. Armstrong's grade 5-1 class sold a total of 103 magazine subscriptions! They were treated to 103 cupcakes prepared by Mrs. Fast! Way to go, grade 5-1 students!

### **JUNIOR BOYS' VOLLEYBALL**

Congratulations to the following boys:

Matt G.                      Justice D.

Matt J.                      A.J. C.



Henry A. Connor J.  
 Alex M. Basher R.  
 Ryan G. Brendan B.  
 Max H. Daniel V.  
 Jack A. Jacob W.

Thank-you to all the boys who tried out.



**WHAT IS ME TO WE?**

Me to We is about a shift in our thinking. It's about spreading positive messages and letting your voice be heard. It's about stirring your soul from complacency. It's about embracing our shared humanity. Living Me to We means walking softly, traveling lightly and making a difference in your actions – small or large. Living Me to We means making choices that make a difference in the world. Oakridge is proud to announce that we are starting our first Me to We Club for students in grades 5-8. We will work together to begin initiatives that will involve our school community in order to help make a difference in lives of many. We look forward to keeping you posted on new movements from the Me to We Club. For further information on Me to We please visit <http://www.metowe.com/>



**CROSS COUNTRY**

Congratulations to all members of the Oakridge Cross Country team who were involved in two races during the months of September and October. We took home the Intermediate Team award for the fourth year in a row and our primary/junior team placed second. Way to go Eagles! Special mention goes to some of our runners who made it on to the DSBN Championship race held on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls:

Brendan B.	Alison R. - 7 <sup>th</sup> place
Shaile J.	Julia B.
Owen B. - 1 <sup>st</sup> place	Olivia P.
Kaiah I.	Sam H. - 3 <sup>rd</sup> place
Sydney A.	Samantha S.
John R. - 10 <sup>th</sup> place	Ravi D.L. - 6 <sup>th</sup> place
Max H. - 1 <sup>st</sup> place	Matthew P.
Koah I.	Henry A. Kate C. - 7 <sup>th</sup>

**ECO-NEWS**

The Eco-Team is up and running again for another school year.



Eco-Team is open to all students in Grade 6, 7, and 8. Meetings are scheduled for second break on Tuesdays (1:05 to 1:35) and first break on Thursdays (10:35 to

11:05). Our meetings will take place in Mme Christie and Mme. Hall's room.

Shaile J., Denisse D., Logan I., and Emily U. did a great job of representing Oakridge at the DSBN's second annual Eco-Summit last Friday. These Intermediate students shared some of our past successes with other schools, and gained many new eco-ideas for this school year.

We are bringing back our "Juice Pouch Collection Program." Bins will be provided to each classroom for empty juice pouches (unlike juice boxes, juice pouches can not be recycled). The Eco-Team will take care of emptying these bins, and sending the empty pouches to Terracycle. This company pays 2 cents for each pouch collected, and then upcycles the pouches to make new products, such as tote bags. Funds we earn from Terracycle will be donated to the Woodend Living Campus. Also, take a look at your lunch and try to make it waste-free. The Eco-Team will be promoting Waste-Free Wednesdays. Information about prizes on Waste-Free Wednesdays coming soon!

**JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Congratulations to the following girls who've made the junior volleyball team this season:

Kit W.	Olivia N.
Claire H.	Kelsey B.
Kaiah I.	Katie K.
Cassie W.	Jenny C.
Abbey C.	Christine L.
Kiara V.	Madison Z.
Julia B.	Jordan G.

**Manager:** Ashley H.  
 Thanks to all the girls who tried out!



**ZEHRS CASH REGISTER RECEIPTS**

We're collecting Zehrs tapes from Pen Centre and Geneva Street. Unfortunately, Super Store receipts don't qualify. Please deposit in box by office.

**DSBN STUDENT FAMILIES IN  
ST. CATHARINES AND SMITHVILLE  
ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE A ONE-MONTH HOMESTAY  
FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT**

International students are participating in  
The District School Board of Niagara's  
**KOREAN WORLD CLASSROOM PROGRAM**

International students in participating schools  
in St. Catharines are in Grades 7 & 8  
International students in participating schools  
in Smithville are in Grades 4-6

The homestay timeframe is Jan 11–Feb 7, 2012

**PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION BEING HELD**

**Wednesday, November 9 @ 6:30 – 7:30 .pm.**  
at the DSNB Education Centre  
191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

- open to families in St. Catharines who ideally have a Grade 7 or 8 child themselves (other ages may be considered)
- open to families in Smithville who ideally have a Grade 4-6 child themselves (other ages may be considered)
- your child will build intercultural awareness and leadership skills as a host buddy

Registration for the information session is not required

\*\*Please direct inquiries to:



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