



May 2019 Newsletter

Admin Message

Principal: Mr. Dave Quon

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Tiffany Austin

May has arrived and we have many successes to celebrate. It is at this time of year that we begin to look at planning for 2019-2020 school year.

According to student projections for next year we will plan for approximately 590 plus students. Given this information we continue to address school organization and staffing. Student learning is our priority

and we will continue to discuss with our staff the best way to effectively meet the needs of all students at Olympic Heights School. Conversations have already begun with staff and we will keep parents informed as decisions are made.

Is your family moving? If you know that your child(ren) will not be returning to Olympic Heights School in September 2019, please fill in the attached form of this newsletter and return to the office, or call the main office at 403 777 8370 to inform the school. Thank you for your cooperation – this makes our next year’s planning much easier. **It is crucial that we have accurate counts for next year as our school organization – staffing and number of classrooms is based on these counts.**

As June approaches teachers will come together to create classes for the next school year. Decisions of student placement are intentional and thoughtful. As a school we ask two questions:

- 1) **Under what conditions does this student learn best?**
- 2) **From the teacher-classroom choices available for student placement next year, what is the best match for this student?**

These decisions are made by your child’s current grade teacher, all the teachers from the subsequent grade, the Administration Team, Curriculum Specialists: Music, P.E., French, ELL, and the Resource Teacher. We take into consideration factors such as student’s cognitive ability, gender, social skills, key relationships, second language, special needs, learning styles, and community of residence. Each student also has an opportunity to list five friends they would prefer to have in their class. It is our guarantee that we match them with at **least one** of their friend choices.

If you have an **educational or emotional concern about your child** that you would like School Administration to consider for your child’s placement next year, please write a letter or an email to Mr. Quon. These will be the **only two** criteria that will be used for **special requests**. Please do not request a specific teacher. Our intent is to place

students in the most appropriate learning environment in which they will meet their best personal potential and achieve academic success.

We believe all our teachers are competent and truly care about the students. Teachers and staff are committed to ensuring that all students master their learning to their best potential, develop generosity and independence and work at making sure that everyone has a sense of belonging.

We have an upcoming **Professional Development Day on May 16th and 17th**. This day will be used to assess our School Development Plan from this year and to create a new School Development Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. Goals, Calendar and learning focus for the upcoming school year will also be addressed. We will also examine the work that teachers have done this year with Professional Learning Communities. The professional learning of teachers will be shared as they too have engaged in professional dialogue/learning regarding students' work. Throughout the year teachers have participated in professional learning around making learning visible, high impact strategies for teaching Mathematics and Literacy, and effective assessment strategies. Professional learning sessions are guided by reviewing student work with the intent to direct instructional decisions and task design. Our staff will be sharing the results and impact that these conversations have had on their instructional practice with each other in the upcoming Professional Development Day. Thank you to our Learning Community for supporting our professional learning focus for this school year.

Lately we have dealt with a number of school situations involving physical and verbal altercations among students. Students are reminded to be generous with their words and actions and work hard to build a sense of belonging for everyone. Many of these altercations have involved students not keeping their hands, feet and objects to themselves. This is a school expectation that students keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves and use their words to solve their conflicts in a positive way. Students have been taught in-class strategies such as an "I" message, how to deal with bullying, the difference between bullying and hurtful behaviours, the role of a bystander, and the difference between tattling and being a responsible citizen. We ask that our learning community continue to reinforce these expectations at home so that we build coherence between school and home. When students do make a bad choice/decision and are held accountable the school uses the "CBE Progressive Student Discipline Philosophy" as a guide to bring resolution to the problem. Please see attached.

We want to thank our students, parents/guardians and staff for continuing to make Olympic Heights School a great place to learn and for the support given.

Provincial Achievement Tests – Grade 6 Students

On Wednesday, May 8th, Grade 6 students are writing their first Provincial Achievement Test. The Provincial Achievement Tests are written to measure the student's best effort on each test on a specific day. Please make sure your children are well rested and fed so they are prepared to do their best. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to show their knowledge and skills and for teachers to evaluate their own practice as reflected through the student's work. We are so proud of our students and their academic, social and personal growth. More information will be coming home but please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teachers if you have any concerns and questions regarding these tests and dates.

Provincial Achievement Test Dates May and June 2019		
Wednesday, May 8	A.M.	Grade 6 Language Arts Part A
Tuesday, June 11	A.M.	Grade 6 Social Studies
Wednesday, June 12	A.M.	Grade 6 Mathematics – Part B
Thursday, June 13	A.M.	Grade 6 Language Arts - Part B
Friday, June 14	A.M.	Grade 6 Mathematics – Part A
Monday, June 17	A.M.	Grade 6 Science

Volunteer Tea:

It was an honour and a privilege to recognize all of the school volunteers who have given their gifts, talent and time by chipp'n in to support student learning at our annual volunteer tea on Friday, May 3, 2019! We are truly grateful. This will be an amazing morning of entertainment, goodies and celebration. Thank you to all of the school volunteers who attended.

Pancake Breakfast

Please mark your calendar for **Friday, May 31th for our annual Pancake Breakfast**. All families both current and new are invited to this celebration. This day is to celebrate the success of the 2018-2019 school year. The theme for this day will be "Western".

Sports Day

Please mark your calendars for our Sports Day on Monday, June 24th. The theme for this year is "CAMP OHS". It promises to be a great day. Please look for more information coming home from your classroom teachers about ways to volunteer that day!

School Council

Our next school council evening is Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 PM. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend. This is an excellent way for our families to stay connected and informed about what is happening at Olympic Heights School.

KidZinc Before and After School Care

KidZinc will continue to run a **pre and after school childcare program** in Olympic Heights School next year just for Olympic Heights students. **In addition KidZinc has a Kindergarten Childcare Program** to be run out of the Strathcona Community Center. This is great news knowing that childcare can be a challenge for families.