



## OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

### ADMIN MESSAGE

It seems that September has come and gone in a whirlwind. Students and staff have been very busy establishing and settling into routines, embarking on new and exciting learning opportunities and building community. As we begin a new year, we continue to revisit The Circle of Courage as a way of living and being at Olympic Heights School. Our goal is to encourage students to be **independent** learners who are **generous** with their words and actions, who develop a sense of **belonging** within our school community, and work to **master** skills that will they will carry with them throughout their lifetime.

We believe in engaging students in **authentic challenging tasks**, which foster creativity, problem solving, independence, resilience and high-level thinking.

We believe in developing **global citizens** by providing opportunities and experiences where students view themselves as **agents of change** who can make a difference.

We believe in creating a **safe and caring** learning community that promotes belonging, respect, empathy and social-emotional growth.

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who attended Parent-Teacher conferences. The purpose of the September conferences was to provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to inform the teacher about their child's interests, strengths and areas for growth. This in turn, assisted teachers in gaining a holistic picture of their new learners.

Once again there will be two reporting periods and three opportunities to meet with teachers. The dates are as follows:

December 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> 2018	First Student Led Conference
January 31 <sup>st</sup> 2019	First report card sent home
March 21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2019	Second Student Led Conference
June 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Second report card sent home

In addition to these above opportunities, teachers will communicate throughout the year about your child's learning. This may happen through personal correspondence, face to face meetings, curricular updates, agendas, blogs, and Iris. If at any time you wish to initiate communication about your child's progress, please **make an appointment** with your child's teacher so that proper time and attention can be given to the conversation. Please refrain from catching teacher's at the classroom without notice before or after school as this is a very busy time for both our staff and students.

The Calgary Board of Education Three Year Plan continues to be used as a framework to personalize learning for all students. In response to the CBE Three Plan, this year, staff will engage in Professional Learning Communities, which will focus on the CBE's Literacy and Mathematics Strategy and Formative Assessment. Formative assessment is a high-impact strategy that allows all students the opportunity to learn from and improve their work throughout the learning process rather than waiting until a final product for assessment of student work. This "just in time" learning is beneficial for all students as they adapt their work in response to teacher and peer feedback. The goal of this work is to ensure students are able to articulate/represent what they know, how they know it, and what they need to learn next.

Students and staff continue to use IRIS as a tool to document student learning. This web-based teaching and learning application consists of student learning plans, learner profiles, resource library and teacher and administrator workspaces. IRIS brings together student voice, learning data, and best research to support teachers and administrators in making well-informed instructional decisions for each student. It also encourages students to build a better understanding of themselves as learners, which in turn helps to informed decisions about their own learning. IRIS allows students to use this data to set goals and collect artefacts of learning.

Olympic Heights staff continue to have conversations about how we ensure students make good choices, develop independence, show kindness, make a difference and develop citizenship that will help them be productive in an ever changing world in the future. The Comprehensive School Health Committee works in collaboration with staff and students to develop and engage in:

- Healthy Eating
- Healthy Relationships
- Physical Activity
- Positive Mental Health

Lastly we want to remind you that each grade in the school will have the opportunity to showcase their learning both through a Celebration of Learning evening and a School Assembly. These celebrations of learning and assemblies are important for building school community and an opportunity to showcase the important work that is taking place in classrooms throughout the school year. Please check agendas, our school calendar, and school magnet for information on each particular grade. We will have a Thanksgiving Assembly this Friday, October 5 at 10:30pm

hosted by the Grade 3 students. Also our Halloween Assembly – Wednesday, October 31 at 1:30 PM hosted by the Grade 4 students. In addition, students will participate in the annual Halloween Costume Parade beginning at 1:15 PM. The Remembrance Day Assembly will be on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM hosted by the Grade 5 students.

We want to thank our students, parents/guardians and staff for making Olympic Heights a great place to learn and for a wonderful start-up. If you have any questions with regards to the information in the October Newsletter please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the administration.

### **COLD WEATHER IS COMING**

Leaves are falling and snow is surely in our near future. Please remember that students are often outside at various points throughout the day for recess, lunch, and natural breaks. It's important to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the unpredictable weather of Calgary at all times. This includes hats, mitts, a warm jacket, layers of clothing, and waterproof footwear.



### **JACKET RACKET**

Olympic Heights School will once again be participating in **Jacket Racket**, an opportunity to help those less fortunate AND clean the closet of those winter jackets that no longer fit your children! From October 7<sup>th</sup> until November 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a large box at the office to collect Ski Jackets, Snow Pants, Hats, Mitts in good and clean condition. Items are for children up to Grade 12. Please take this opportunity to sort through your children's clothing and make the winter warmer for a needy child! Jacket Racket has been providing clean gently used winter jackets to Calgary children since 1988. Please note if your child needs winter clothing – please call the school or let your child's teacher know.

Thank you for your generous donation.

### **Updates from the Office**

The \$10.00 Incidental Activity Fee assigned to all students needs to be paid by October 31, 2018. This fee can be paid through your My CBE Account. Payment can also be made at the school office by debit, credit, cheque or cash.

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Our first few weeks of Kindergarten have been exciting as we have started building a community of learners who will wonder, engage in exciting learning journeys, problem solve and learn to work together as a team. We have spent time learning important classroom routines, which will set the framework for our future learning and allow us to interact appropriately with each other in a respectful, nurturing environment. We have started to build relationships with our peers and teachers, and explore the materials and areas of our room that will be used during our learning journey.

We have been exploring our Name Centres and the students will have the opportunity to create their name using a variety of creative materials while focusing on the formation of letters, letter sounds and blends.

We have introduced patterning and sorting using our natural environment as well as creative materials that are beautiful to work with and to hold. We will continue to revisit these concepts throughout the year to gain a deeper understanding and engage in more complex problems.

The students have had opportunities to visit our creative learning centres where they are encouraged to use their imagination to create, explore and build. These centres change regularly and encourage students to learn from each other, problem solve, collaborate, listen to other points of view, persevere, negotiate and share.

## **GRADE ONE**

Our first month of Gr. 1 has been exciting, eventful, and inspiring, as we have started building a community of learners. All four classes have been exploring the changes in seasons as fall is all around us. We are learning to become grade 1 mathematicians by sorting, patterning, and beginning the concept of numbers. Students are also working hard to build routines while developing skills as readers and writers. We look forward to a colourful and nature-filled October!

## **GRADE TWO**

It has been an exciting start to the year in Grade Two! We have been spending lots of time getting to know our new surroundings and getting settled.

We have begun learning about our brain in relation to a growth mindset. With a growth mindset students believe that they can improve through dedication and effort. Mistakes and challenges help to grow our brains! We have also begun investigating the concept of “grit”. Grit is persistence + resilience. We are seeing these concepts and beliefs being applied and lived in our classrooms by the students.

We have also been taking time to focus on mindfulness and managing emotions both in the classroom and outside of it. We have been using Smiling Mind to focus on breathing, calming our minds and focusing our attention.

### GRADE THREE

How fast time flies when we are having fun! It is hard to believe that September is behind us but when we look at all that we have accomplished, it is easy to see how busy we have been! Over the past month, we have started our inquiry into Rocks and Minerals so please listen for us to use terms like metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary as we sort and identify rocks in our world! In Math, we have started exploring patterns. We encourage you to practice basic facts at home, as well as look for patterns that live within your home, backyard, and community. Through daily writing and sharing, we have learned a great deal about each other and what makes us all unique. We feel very grateful to be part of such kind, generous, and thoughtful learning community. To celebrate our gratitude, we invite you to join us on October 5 at 10:30am for our Grade Three Thanksgiving Assembly. In the meantime, if you have questions or wonderings about what else we are doing, please have a look at the new Grade Three website: <http://ohsgrade3.weebly.com>. On it you will find important information relating to Grade Three, as well as reminders, forms, and monthly Newsletters. This website will not replace our daily agenda, so please continue to look for our daily AMA questions and ask lots of questions about what we did at school all day!



### GRADE FOUR

We have had a wonderful start to our school year! The grades 4s have been enjoying our novel study, **Wonder**. We are discussing important virtues such as, acceptance, tolerance and perseverance. The students are exploring numeracy and patterning in Mathematics where students are focusing on the identification and representation of patterns within tables and charts. We are exploring the attributes of Alberta's natural regions. In Science, students are implementing design tasks to solve problems using simple machines. Focusing on pulleys students have constructed various systems to observe how increased mechanical advantage decreases the amount of effort to move a load. Other students in Grade 4 are investigating Light and Shadows where they are using various lenses and mirrors to determine the reflective and refractive angles of light. Students also participated in Beakerhead, where our grade group introduced and lead the school assembly for our special Canadian Space Agency engineer, Mathieu Caron.

### GRADE FIVE

Science: The Grade 5's have been tracking the temperatures around the world for our Weather unit in Science. They will be analyzing their data in Math and using it for their Regions task in Social Studies. We are lucky to have the CTV Weather team coming in to speak to us in October as well as a presentation on Weather where students participate in discovering how weather is measured, recorded and planned for.

Math: As we begin our look into numbers, Grade 5 students worked on reviewing what they learned last year. There have been some quick assessments, some mental math problems, WDIK's and meaningful problem solving tasks to refresh their Math brains. The number unit takes the skills from Grade 4 and expands on their understanding to create meaningful connections between concepts.

Social Studies: Canada is the focus of our Social curriculum this year, and Grade 5 students started with a 'Loose Parts Task' where they chose symbols and materials to represent what they already knew about Canada. In the upcoming weeks, students will begin a Regions Task where they identify the regions and characteristics. They will use their knowledge to create region based artwork and eventually the task leads them to exploring the natural resources, people, jobs and goods being sold.

Language Arts: Free writing is a great way to explore writing without restrictions. The Grade 5's have begun free writing from prompts to identify how they write, what they could improve on and what they enjoy about writing. Paragraph corrections and spelling have been a focus as we start the year. To accompany their Regions task, students will be learning different types of writing such as expository, narrative and poetic writing.

## **GRADE SIX**

Grades sixes are beginning the much anticipated Night of Notables project. This inquiry develops reading strategies, researching skills, and proper jot note format and organization. Children will begin their

research focusing on the childhood of their notable person, and understanding the context in which they lived. Math in grade six begins with reviewing and developing number sense and problem solving strategies around place value, adding and subtracting large numbers with decimals, and multiplication and division of numbers with decimals. Students are also learning to use graphs and tables to analyze patterns around science topics. In Science, the unit of 'trees and forests' is being explored using our beautiful natural plant parks on our school property. In social, grade six classes are having conversations around being an active citizen, responsibilities in a Democracy, and structures of municipal government.

## **FRENCH**

*Bonjour et bienvenue au programme de français de l'école Olympic Heights!* Welcome to grade 4 students who have started the year learning greetings and salutations in French as well as numbers and colors. Grade 5 and 6 students are currently working on personal presentations through which they review and reinforce their conversational skills acquired last year, followed by new units on *Food* and *Emotions*. Students learning journey of French new language concepts is sustained and enforced by the use of games, songs, plays, use of ipads and computers to create videos and visual presentations.

Maria Ghira

French Teacher, Olympic Heights School

## MUSIC

Welcome to a new year of music at Olympic Heights School! My name is Ms. Tran, and I am extremely excited to be teaching music at Olympic Heights this year. We started off September with a focus on rhythm. Kindergarten and Grade One students worked on keeping a beat and following rhythms through a variety of songs, movement activities, and instrument exploration. Students in Grades Two to Six explored different elements of rhythm through djembe drumming. They were able to apply these skills to create their own compositions. In addition, students in Grade Six learned several traditional polyrhythms from Guinea, West Africa and had the opportunity to work with a professional djembe drummer!

In October, we will be moving towards a focus on melody and singing. Students will learn a variety of songs, explore different elements of melody, and further develop their skills in reading and writing music. Division two students will also begin to work with Orff instruments to accompany their songs.

## CHOIR NEWS

We are so excited to have around 150 students in our Division 1 and Division 2 choirs! It is such a wonderful experience to spend lunch times singing together and preparing songs for our upcoming performances. The students will be performing in the Remembrance Day assembly on **Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am**. Families are invited to attend this important assembly. We are also preparing for our Winter concerts in December, which

will be in the afternoon of **Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm** and in the evening of **Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. Please mark these dates on your calendar. Thank you!

## PE NEWS

Welcome to another exciting year of Physical Education at Olympic Heights School. I am excited to be teaching Division I P.E. and look forward to working with our Division 2 teachers periodically in the gym. We have begun the year outdoors, as much as the weather will allow us. With that in mind, I ask that you please ensure that your child has suitable footwear for P.E. For safety reasons, we ask that all students have comfortable, non-slip indoor and outdoor foot wear as they will participate in both indoor and outdoor Daily Physical Activity. Slip on shoes and very loose footwear present safety hazards for students when running, jumping and participating in other activities.

We will begin this month by reflecting on a very successful Terry Fox Run, as our entire school demonstrated perseverance and effort in this worthwhile cause. We will then continue with refining our soccer skills, on the field, with dribbling, passing, trapping and shooting as well as playing games. We will also continue to learn and practice fair play, teamwork, effort and cooperation in our gym and with each other.



October will also see us learning and playing volleyball-type games. We will practice our striking, sending and receiving skills with our hands.

At the end of the month, we will once again, enjoy our highly popular Halloween Stations! We always enjoy rotating through all of the Halloween- themed stations, while continuing to develop our locomotor and non- locomotor skills!

Division Two students will receive further instruction from the Mount Royal Cougars with their Cougars on the Court program, in October.

Mrs. Schoenberger



## Terry Fox Run

A big thank you to everyone for your continued support with our Run for Terry. Your commitment and dedication to the cause is always appreciated. Together we will try to raise \$3000 dollars for the Terry Fox Foundation. If we are successful, Mr. Parsons will shave his beard! The deadline to make a donation is Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. You can make a donation on line at [www.terryfox.org](http://www.terryfox.org) or bring in your Toonies for Terry near the office! Together we can make a difference!

Mrs. Schoenberger

### SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES

#### **FUN LUNCH**

The first Fun Lunch event is fast approaching! On **October 11**, Fun Lunch is bringing Cob

Scones to Olympic Heights. **Deadline to order and pay is October 1**; there will be no scones available on event day. Please visit [www.ohs.hotlunches.net](http://www.ohs.hotlunches.net) to order for this, and other upcoming lunches and treats.

Thank you for your continued support of Fun Lunch!

#### **KISS & DROP**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! Kiss and Drop is still looking for volunteers! It's only a few minutes a shift, please help out!**

Everyone is welcome to use the Kiss & Drop service. It operates best when everyone knows the expectations. Please review.

- **Remain in your vehicle at all times** to keep the service running smoothly.
- Move your vehicle with the flow of traffic and allow us to open your door when it is safe to do so.
- Ensure that your child can exit and enter your vehicle from the passenger side only. If you are unable to use the passenger side, we ask that you not use the Kiss & Drop service.
- Arrive on time when dropping off a kindergarten child. Our volunteers will walk kindergarten students to the courtyard until the bell at 9:10 am. **If you arrive after this time, park elsewhere and walk your child in through the office doors.**
- The Kiss & Drop zone is reserved for kindergarten pick-up until 5 minutes before the bell or until it is full, whichever comes first. If you are not picking up kindergarten, please stay back from the zone until the reserved time has expired.
- Arrive on time when picking up a **kindergarten child with a pass**. If you arrive late, we ask that you kindly park elsewhere and walk to retrieve your child.
- Ensure that all passengers in your vehicle are safely and legally secured. If you do not have enough room for the children you are picking up, please re-think your plan prior to entering the Kiss & Drop zone.
- **Do not make U-turn at either of our intersections.** Our patrols keep track of vehicles who are making unsafe decisions.
- **Do not turn left** after dropping off or picking up your child(ren). Continue down the hill

turning right at the community centre, taking you back around.

- If the Kiss & Drop zone is full, do not double park. At drop off, please remain in the line and be patient. At pick-up, please turn right at the community centre and loop around, returning you to the back of the line.
- At pick-up, please respect the sign at the end of the bus zone. The sign denotes the end of the line. Cars that stop between this sign and the intersection block the flow of traffic around the corner.

Please remember that the people running the Kiss & Drop program are volunteers from our learning community and their time and energy are gifts. Please model appropriate behaviour in front of your children and the community when speaking to our volunteers. Abuse of our volunteers will not be tolerated. The top priority of our volunteers is the safety of our school.

Thank-you from your Kiss & Drop team

### **FALL 2018 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS**

#### **Coupon Books - On Sale Now!**

- \$25/book (includes a FREE mobile app)
- Calgary ~ Edmonton ~ Red Deer ~ Southern Alberta
- Orders are delivered on a weekly basis

#### **Big Box of Cards - On Sale Now!**

- \$33/box which include 33 cards (that's \$1/card!!!)
- Birthday Box OR All Occasions Box
- Orders are delivered on a weekly basis

#### **Family Movie Night - Tickets On Sale October 1st!**

- \$5/person or \$20/family
- Thursday, October 25th (6pm) in the gym
- Preorder your popcorn, candy and water
- Please note this is a family event (childcare/supervision is not provided)

#### **Calgary Hitmen Teddy Bear Toss - Tickets On Sale October 15th!**

- \$25/adult and \$20/child (limited tickets available - this event will sell out!)
- Sunday, December 9th (2pm) at the Scotiabank Saddledome

- Please note this is a family event (supervision and transportation are not provided)

### **ONGOING**

- **Cobbs Bread Aspen Landing** Shopping Centre will donate a portion of sales to OHS using the **code 2134**.
- **Loveable Labels** will donate a portion of sales to OHS, order at [www.OHPA.loveablelabels.ca](http://www.OHPA.loveablelabels.ca)

All items can be ordered online at [ohs.fundraiserorders.com](http://ohs.fundraiserorders.com) (same UserID/Password as Fun Lunch). Payment can be made online via PayPal or send in cash or cheque to the school in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name, teacher and classroom number. Please make all cheques payable to "OHS Parent Association". Funds raised help support school learning initiatives that cannot be supported from our Casino funds.

Thank you for your continued support!

Fundraising Committee

[fundraising@ohsparent.com](mailto:fundraising@ohsparent.com)

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

The next school council meeting is **Thursday, October 18 at 6:30-8:00 pm**. Come learn about the great initiatives happening in your learning community.