

# Osoyoos Elementary

## Nighthawk News

SEPTEMBER 2011

Principal: Mr Bo Macfarlane bmcfarlane@sd53.bc.ca

Vice Principal: Mrs S Benoit sbenoit@sd53.bc.ca

### Special Points of Interest:

- *Parent Advisory Council meeting Today September 13 at 6:00pm in the school library*
- *Terry Fox Run Friday, September 23*
- *Photo Day Thursday, September 29*
- *Grade Six Immunizations Thursday, September 29*

### A WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello:

If you are returning to us welcome back. If you are new to our school then welcome. Either way we are thrilled to have you with us. I have said it many times and I truly believe that we have the nicest kids at Osoyoos Elementary. Combine this with a passionate hard working staff and a supportive parent community, we are truly blessed.

This point was driven home clearly this week as we learned of the huge fire in Oliver that destroyed two thirds of the high school. I know as a community our hearts go out to all those in Oliver who are affected by this tragedy. Again, we certainly have a lot to be grateful for hear at OSE. I am pleased to tell you that our student numbers are up this year and as a result we are adding a new class and teacher at the primary level. This means some students will switch classes and all primary students will be in smaller classes. Parents will also be happy that we will have less

splits at the primary level. ( Even though we all know split class aren't a bad thing:))

Effective today our primary classes will be as follows: Kindergarten: Ms. Johnston and Mrs. Murseli, Grade One: Ms. Crowe-Smith, Grade One/Two: Ms. Chantler, Grade Two: Mrs. Bayda and Mrs. Fonteyne, and Grade Three: Mrs. Langley and Mr. Bayliss. Things will remain status quo at the intermediate level other than Mrs. Bayda's class who will have a TOC until the position is filled formally.

For many of you that have been with us here at the school for sometime, you likely noticed that for the first time in years we were able to put students in class right from day one. In fact our start up has been the smoothest yet. It was eerily smooth, perhaps? We had no idea that our brand new high school would catch fire. Nor did we expect to have so many new students and that this would lead to us receiving a new teacher. Interesting, how sometimes

great things follow on the heels of tragedy.

It is going to be a fabulous year. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in making Osoyoos Elementary such an amazing place.

Cheers

Bo Macfarlane, Principal

### A WORD ON JOB ACTION

The provincial teacher association is currently under job action. The issues that teachers around the province are fighting for are bigger than our little school in the South Okanagan. We do not anticipate any changes in the high quality of education our teachers here at Osoyoos Elementary provide.

However until the job action is resolved teachers will not meet with the administrators for staff meetings, complete report cards or participate in meet the teacher nights or parent teacher conferences. Teachers will be happy to discuss your son or daughter's progress personally.

**We would like this to be the final formal newsletter sent home this year.** Instead, if parents could check our school website every couple of days all important information will be provided. If you do not have access to the Web, please let us know and we will certainly provide you with a written newsletter. If we don't hear from you we will assume you will be accessing information from our website.

Thank you again for your help and cooperation.



*Thank you to Sandhu Farms for donating the delicious apples.*

## OSOYOOS ELEMENTARY

### HOT LUNCH AND SALAD BAR

The food program began on Mon Sept 12. It is \$3.50 per lunch. We will serve the following foods

Mon & Fri : pizza, fruit & water

Tues: ham and cheese on whole wheat bun, fruit & water

Wed & Thurs: salad bar

A second slice of pizza can be purchased at the time of ordering.

Order forms will be sent home each month.

Children are to bring their own plastic plate and bowl, a fork and spoon for Salad Bar days

We do have a limited supply of Salad Bar packages that include a plate/bowl/fork/spoon for \$4.

(see Mrs. Liebel in the concession)



*Remember to bring your plate, bowl, fork or spoon.*

### ABORIGINAL ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT

On behalf of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council and School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen), I want to invite you to the Signing Ceremony for our second Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

The ceremony will take place at: 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School (behind the gymnasium on the basketball courts). *Dinner will be served after the signing ceremony*

The Enhancement Agreement honours the partnership that exists between School District No. 53 and its Aboriginal groups and recognizes the collective responsibility for the success of all Aboriginal learners. It will be implemented with the vision and spirit of improving educational performance of all Aboriginal learners.

We look forward to seeing you at the ceremony.

Respectfully yours,

Jim Insley

### 20/20 READING CHALLENGE

*“30 years of reading research confirms the formula that children who read the most, read the best, achieve the most, and stay in school the longest.”*

*Jim Trelease*

*Read aloud handbook*

This year we will continue the 20/20 reading program. Our school-wide goal is to have all our students actively and thoughtfully engaged in reading for twenty minutes a day. All students and staff are encouraged to dedicate themselves to reading independently or engaging in read aloud experiences daily for 20 minutes, 20 days of the month, for 8 months of the school year. Monthly

awards and assemblies will honour our efforts. We appreciate parent support in supervising reading logs and participating as positive role models for the love of literacy. Students who achieve 20/20 for 8 months will be given a special award that is known as the “Mystery Trip.”

### ATHLETICS THIS FALL

Soccer practice will begin on Tuesday September 12th. Practices will be Tuesdays and Thursdays after school at 2:45pm. The district soccer tournament will be on Tuesday October 18th, 2011.

Cross Country practices will begin this week and will continue on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s until the District Meet on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

To be selected for this event, attendance at the practices will be recorded, and students must show a genuine enthusiasm for running during their DPA and PE lessons.

The age categories and distances are as follows:

Age 5-7	1Km
Age 8-9	1.5Km
Age 10-11	2Km
Age 12 +	2.5Km

Thanks, Mr. Rowland



*All Grades 5-7 students are welcome to join either the boys or girls*



*All Grades 1-7 students are welcome to join the lunch time cross-country Practices.*



## DECLARATION OF ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY

Are your children descendants of First Nations, Metis or Inuit peoples? If yes, they qualify for additional service through funding from the Ministry of Education. This funding is used by the school district to provide additional academic support and cultural programs to these students. Parents/guardians only need to self-identify to qualify for this funding,

status is not a requirement. If your child is of Aboriginal

Ancestry, please contact your school and complete the required forms.

Thank you for your support.  
Helen Gallagher  
First Nations Contact Teacher  
School District No. 53  
(Okanagan Similkameen)

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Statement of Purpose: to continue to provide a respectful, caring, and safe environment at Osoyoos Elementary School.

### Conduct Expectations

**Acceptable Conduct:** respecting self, others, and the school, -helping to make the school a safe, caring, and orderly place, -telling a staff member about incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation, getting involved in learning activities on time, helping make our school a better place

**Unacceptable Conduct:** behaviours that interfere with the learning of others interfere with an orderly environment create unsafe conditions, acts of: bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, or intimidation either during or beyond school hours physical violence retribution against a person who has reported incidents. Also any illegal Acts.

Rising Expectations: increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline and the use of a progressive discipline model for inappropriate behaviour.

Consequences: responses to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair and disciplinary action relates to the infraction and is preventative and restorative in nature, in line with School District 53 Student Conduct & Discipline Policy.



*Make hockey a part of your day.*

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Osoyoos Elementary School is part of The BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program. This program is part of ActNowBC, an initiative to improve the health of BC children and families.

Students and school staff will receive a fresh fruit or vegetable snack twice a week every other week.

Eating the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables improves children's health and improves children's ability to concentrate. The fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables to be served in the Program will be grown in BC, subject to availability.

Attached to this Newsletter

is a **reverse consent** form which needs to be completed and returned to the office if you **do not wish** for your child to participate in this program.

## HOCKEY ACADEMY

We are about to begin our fifth year of the Hockey Academy at OSE. Our first session will be Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 – 2:00pm. Our Wednesday/Friday sessions will then continue on a weekly basis. We will use the same gear drop off procedure as in the past – parents drop the

equipment at the arena in the morning from 8:00-8:20 (please put all gear in Dressing Room 1) and pick up between 2:30-3:00. Due to other bookings at the arena, there is the occasional week where we miss an on ice session. These dates are as follows: Friday, November 4; Friday, November 18; Friday,

January 13. On those dates, Hockey academy students will stay at school for the afternoon and attend their regular classes. If you are interested in having your son or daughter participate in this program, please contact Mrs. Rempel, Mr. Macfarlane, or Mr. Rowland for registration information.

#### Ministry of Education

As students get ready to head back to school, here are some tips to help them have a successful year and get the most out of their study time:

#### Parents of Primary Students:

- \* Let your children see you read, and set aside time each day for family reading.
- \* Ask your children to read to you while you prepare a meal.
- \* Get your children excited about reading by taking turns reading pages or acting out characters.
- \* Talk to your children about what they read. Ask them questions that require them to read between the lines and think about what they have just read. This will help improve their reading comprehension. For some tips, check out this video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WqFPWSBG18&feature=player\\_profilepage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WqFPWSBG18&feature=player_profilepage)
- \* Introduce your children to a variety of literary genres and see which one they most enjoy.
- \* Introduce your children to Aboriginal culture and history through stories and other learning opportunities.
- \* Help your children get a library card and take weekly trips with them to the library

#### Parents of Intermediate/Middle School Students:

- \* Set up a daily homework routine. Designate a homework area away from distractions like the television and Internet, and with adequate lighting and supplies.
- \* When it is time for your children to do their homework, reinforce strong study habits by also doing yours: balance your chequebook, pay your bills or immerse yourself in a book.
- \* Let your children read comic books in their spare time because comics can encourage positive reading habits and can play a role in improving literacy.
- \* Help your children identify difficult and easy homework tasks and get them to tackle the most difficult subjects first.
- \* Make yourself available to answer questions and offer help, but do not do your children's homework for them.
- \* Ask your children questions and have them explain what they have just read or studied.
- \* Encourage your children to write stories, poetry and songs.
- \* Keep an assignment calendar on the fridge for quick reference of due dates, exams and how they fit with other activities.

## IAP INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN

### IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the high costs of serious injury from unexpected accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For your convenience, we have made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident

insurance through the IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance

Pacific Insurance and Financial Services Inc. ("IAP").

#### Accidents can, and do, happen.

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include coverage for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, whether at school or at home;
- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans - such as ambulance, physiotherapy, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury-related dental treatment (including future dental treatment up to age 26);
- Out-of-province or country emer-

gency medical expenses.

If you change address during the school year, your IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance plan is transferable from school to school, anywhere in Canada.

Insurance premiums range from \$13.50 to \$31.95 per year, depending on the plan selected, and your child is covered all the time, not just while at school. A discounted premium is available for families with 3 or more children.

For more information, please find check online, at [www.iapkidsplus.com](http://www.iapkidsplus.com), or speak with an IAP Kids Plus™ Customer Service Representative at **1-800-556-7411**.



*Accident Insurance*