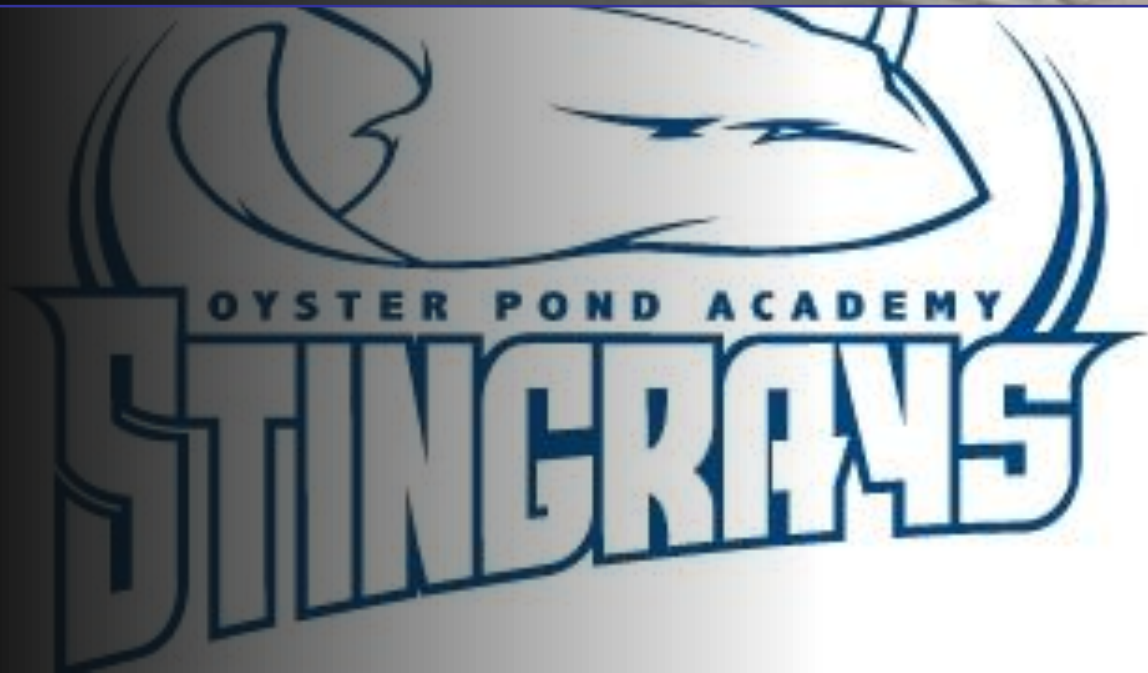


**Welcome
To
OPA!**





Circle:

**What is a value you would
like to pass down to our
children?**



Circle:

**What is something you are
looking forward to when
you think about starting
school?**

Circle:

What is something you are nervous about when you think about starting school?



The Goals of Primary

- To provide a rich, child-centered learning environment.
- To offer experiences that ensure children's learning of the academic, personal and interpersonal skills essential to school success.

The First Days of School

- The focus of the first few days is to support the students in learning the routines of school, including:
- getting off the bus and hanging up their backpacks
- moving to and from spaces within the building in a safe and orderly way
- what recess, lunch and playtimes look like
- the expectations in each class, including gym and music
- how to help themselves, and also ask for help when needed
- Please be encouraged to take 'first day of school' photos at home or bus stop so as to avoid teary transitions at school

Attendance

- All children attend a full day of school each day. Regular attendance is expected.
- If your child will be absent, please call the school, providing the reason for the absence. We ask for this info as we are required to report trends in illnesses within the community to the Capital Health.
- If your child will be late, we ask you to sign them in at the office. They will be given a 'check in' slip to take to class with them so they are accounted for in attendance records. Please allow them to travel to class independently, giving 'goodbye hugs and kisses' in the office.
- If regular attendance or timeliness presents as an issue, please contact your child's teacher so we can lend support.

What We Will Learn

- We provide key experiences in the areas of literacy and math development that lay the foundation for school success, in addition to other integrated subjects such as science and health.
- Songs, games, reading, writing, word play, experiments and class meetings are examples of activities your child will experience.
- An outline of the general outcomes taught and learned in Grade Primary will be shared in the Fall at Curriculum Night.
- The typical Primary day consists of numerous experiences designed for purposeful learning and play, including centers or 'zones', balanced by one- one- one, small- and whole- group instruction.

Expectations for Behaviour

- **Our expectations are based on the belief children learn self-discipline, and behaviors that will result, through cooperation, sharing, following directions, listening and showing respect for themselves, others and our learning environment.**
- **In the Primary classroom, this is accomplished by providing activities that encourage the development of these skills, and by modeling these skills for the children.**
- **We know keeping the children actively engaged in learning, combined with consistent expectations and appropriate supports/ consequences for misbehavior, helps promote their pro-social choices, and work to accomplish that each day.**

What About Food?

Children are expected to bring a healthy recess snack, lunch and water bottle each day.

Foods and containers that the student can manage themselves are encouraged, with a reminder to send all necessary utensils. Labelling their containers is also advised.

As we have students with life-threatening allergies, foods containing nuts are allowed.

There is no student access to microwaves.

The school participates in the NS Schools Milk Program; details to follow each Fall.

OPA boasts a cafeteria; details to follow!

During the year, please provide a different outfit to reflect the changing season.

Please ensure your child's clothing is labelled with their name or initials, as one pair of black snow pants often look like another.

Clothing

- Families are asked to send a complete change of clothes to school, including bottom, top, socks, and underclothes, in a grocery bag within their backpack.
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- Please ensure your child's clothing is labelled with their name or initials, as one pair of black snow pants often look like another.
- Please also know our adage to the students on damp days: "If you choose to get wet, you choose to stay wet." This is a natural consequence for going into puddles when reminded not to, and not an issue if they have a change of clothes. We avoid calling families unless necessary.

Student Health and Safety

- Please inform us of any allergies or medications well in advance.
- If your children are ill, PLEASE keep them home.
- All school staff are required to report cases of possible child abuse and/or neglect.
- The school discourages the use of personal devices at school, and requests they be kept in children's backpacks, unless they have expressed adult permission to access it.

Transportation

- Children will only be released to the parent(s)/ guardian(s), or other persons authorized by the family, usually indicated on the registration form.
- In Primary, a designated adult must wait for the child at the bus stop. If no one is there to receive the child, the driver will finish the bus route and then bring the child back to the school to wait for their parents to pick them up.
- All families must contact HRCE Transportation before school starts to ensure their child is assigned to a bus or if bussing needs change throughout the year at 1-902-464-2000.
- Notes or phone calls to make bussing changes are not accepted at school. In instances when last minute changes are necessary, please arrange to have someone meet your child at the bus stop or pick them up at school as an alternative.

The Home-School Connection

- **Communication Book/Calls/Emails**
- **Home Reading**
- **Parent Conferences- 2 per year**
- **All student information kept up-to-date**
- **Immunizations**
- **Daily check of child's book bag**
- **Attend school celebrations!**

Other Important Information

- **Supporting students with exceptionalities**
- **Volunteering/Chaperones**
- **When something is going on at home**

Other Important Information

- **Supporting students with exceptionalities**
- **Volunteering/Chaperones**
- **When something is going on at home**
- **Questions or Concerns?**