



Oyster Pond Academy Newsletter

October 2020

Dates to remember:

- September 30 - Orange Shirt Day "every child matters"
- October 12 - Thanksgiving - No School
- October 19 - Terry Fox Run—during Phys. Ed this week
- October 30 - Gr. 7 Immunization
- October 30 - Halloween Celebration



Welcome Back

It is with great excitement that we welcome back our students to a new school year! A copy of your child's registration form will be going home this week and we ask that you make any changes or corrections and send it back to school. Please pay special attention to the "**Technology**" portion. If there are no changes please return the form marked "no changes". What a great time to give us your email address to receive newsletters and information!!

Contacting Us

The main number is 902-889-4300 and will connect you to the secretary (Mrs. Golding) who is here from 7:30-2:45 each day. Telephones in classrooms will go directly to voicemail during school hours (see the website for staff extensions). If you have a time sensitive message please call 902-889-4300 and speak directly with Mrs. Golding.

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent for any reason (illness, late arrival, away, etc.) you are asked to call the Safe Arrival at **902-889-4300 then press #1** and leave a message with your child's name, teacher's name and reason for their absence. We ask that you call before 8 a.m. if possible to avoid us calling home and/or work. The purpose of the Safe Arrival Program is to keep our children safe. Please help by calling when your child is absent from school.

Health & Wellness

As we approach the usual cold/allergy season we expect to have some kids in school with runny noses and coughs due to asthma or woodstoves. Mild, lingering symptoms does not prevent individuals from returning to school. You as parents know your child best. We do ask that you keep a watchful eye for new or worsening symptoms and call 811 if you have concerns about your child. We are in this together. Please continue the great work with handwashing.

Pick Ups

The end of the day is proving challenging due to some congestion in the parking lot. We ask that you do not block the front entry where the Special Needs bus enters. You will need to buzz in and wait in the foyer while we call into the classroom to get your child. Dismissal is at 2:05 each day and we would like to keep classroom interruption to a minimum. If you are picking up because you are having bus issues please contact the school at 902-889-4300.

Our Cafeteria

Chartwells will be our cafeteria provider again this year. All orders are to be done before 8:00am. Please visit www.cafzone.ca for online purchasing. Students sending money/orders in, are asked to have money, and order in a labelled bag, and to place this in their classroom basket upon arrival at school.

Keep an eye on our website:
opa@hrce.ca

Follow us on Twitter
[@OysterPond_hrsb](https://twitter.com/OysterPond_hrsb)



Lost & Found

Lets call it “Lost and Found with a twist”. Since we can’t allow parents into the building to look at lost and found items, we will take a photo of the table and place it on the OPA Facebook page on Mondays. If you see something that you recognize, feel free to call the school or ask your child to pop by the main entry to pick it up.



School Photos

You can view and order your childs school photos by going to www.nssp.ca and using your childs student number (starts with a 3). You have more than 50 backgrounds to choose from. If you have issues please contact 902-423-8840. **A retake date has not been set yet.** The company is still working their way through doing first round of photos for other schools.



Allergy Alert / Scent Smart

In an effort to keep our school safe for everyone we ask that you carefully check the food you are sending to school . Please do not send nut products with your children. No scents are to be worn or used at school by any student, staff or visitor. We have staff, students and visitors who are scent sensitive. We appreciate your understanding and support.



Terry Fox Run

The Terry Fox Fun will run the week of October 19th all the students at OPA will be participating in the Terry Fox Run. The walk/run will be on the school grounds during school hours. We are hopeful each student can donate \$2.00 towards the cause and dress in appropriate clothes for that day and have lots of water.

Curriculum Night– 2020 Style

Teachers have uploaded curriculum guidelines/communication plans to their websites. If you are interested in viewing your child’s curriculum, please check them out on our school site <https://opa.hrce.ca> You will also find teachers email addresses if you have any concerns.

Halloween Celebrations

We ask that you do not send Halloween treats in this year. We do plan to have a treat delivered to every classroom. Halloween costumes are welcome but keep in mind we are NOT able to have parents or volunteers enter the building nor can junior high students break their cohort to help with costume changes. Also keep in mind non surgical face masks must still be worn for students in 4-9 and no FULL face masks for any student (we still need to be able to tell who is who). So while our celebration may look a little different than previous years we are excited to celebrate with you. Stay tuned for more information.

WELCOME BACK!

The only way to make sense of change is to plunge into it
flow with it . . .
and join the dance. *Alan Watts*