

Chicken Hawks News

October 2011

Oak River School

Important Dates:

- * Oct. 10-NO SCHOOL
- * Oct. 11-Mrs. Gage away (pm)
- * Oct. 12-Bookmobile
- * Oct. 14-Happy Bday Ryleigh
- * Oct. 20-Ms. K away
- * Oct. 21-NO SCHOOL
- * Oct. 27-Ms. K away
- * Nov. 1-Mr. Stouffer in 1-3 class
- * Nov. 7-NO SCHOOL
- * Nov. 9 Bookmobile
- * Nov. 10-Happy Bday Tanner
- * Nov. 10-Remembrance Day Service 10:30 am
- * Nov 11-NO SCHOOL
- * Nov. 15-Ms. K away
- * Nov. 16-Parent/Teacher Interviews
- * Nov. 17-Ms. K away (pm)
- * Nov. 21-Ms. K away (pm)
- * Nov. 22-Community Engagment Meeting 7:00 pm Rivers Elementary
- * Nov. 23-WE Day at Winnipeg (5-8 students)
- * Nov. 24-Annie the Musical in Brandon
- * Nov. 29-Ms. K away
- * Nov. 30-Ms. W away
- * Dec. 6-Immunizations

Happy Thanksgiving and Halloween

Wow! What a busy September we have had at Oak River School. I want to thank all of the parents for being patient and supportive this year. I appreciate all the help you have given myself and the students. It is greatly appreciated.

A group of parents have come together and have created an active home and school committee. Please look in the newsletter for more information.

The students have had an awesome start to the year. We are once again working on how to be a respectful and responsible student.

Ms. Willis and myself attended a conference in Winnipeg. We learned about our spelling program (Words their Way) that

we will be incorporating into our school day. The students will be receiving their spelling words within the next couple of weeks. Please look in the planner for more information.

I would like to welcome Mrs. Danielle St. Pierre. She will be working in the Grade 1, 2 and 3 room from 9:30-3:30. Welcome to Oak River School.

With the weather being so cold in the morning and the afternoon being a little warmer, please send appropriate clothing for these changes in temperature.

The students have been busy at recess time playing kick the can, tag and grounders. It is great to see everyone playing together and having so much fun.

Congratulations to the Grade 5-8 students for doing such a great job at the Rolling River Divisional Middle Years Soccer tournament. The students won 3 games and only had one tough game. Thank you to all the parents and fans who showed their support by cheering on our students. Thank you again Ms. Willis for coaching the team. You did a wonderful job.

A great big thank you to our substitute teachers Mrs. Hume, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Thorson-Dinsdale and Mrs. Reid. Without you we would not be able to go to our meetings, professional development or have a well-deserved day off. We sincerely appreciate all that you do. Thank you!

Ms. Klemetski

Terry Fox



Again the community of Oak River has shown how dedicated they are to the Terry Fox Foundation. We donated a total of just over \$1300 to the foundation. Before the walk, our students watched a very inspirational movie about Terry Fox and his journey to try and make it across Canada.

Congratulations to Ryleigh who won a t-shirt and Kate-Leigh who won a pin. The students wore tattoos and decorated signs to carry on our walk. Thank you to the parents, aunts, grandma's and community members who joined us on the walk. Also a very big thank you to Mrs. Gage and

her helpers for organizing the hot dog lunch. At this time, we also held a book sale. Thank you to those of you who purchased some books. We still have a bunch on display. If you would like to come have a look, please do so before the end of the week. We will be donating them to a great organization very soon.

Reminder... Town students are to arrive no earlier than 8:40 am. Thank you

Campbell Labels for Education

Just a reminder that our school is going to be collecting labels again this year. Labels can be collected from any Campbell's soups, Chunko soups, Prego pasta sauces, V-8 cock-

tails and Goldfish crackers. The whole label is required with the UPC code. We are able to purchase a variety of fun playground and school items for the students to enjoy. Please

drop off your labels at the school or send them with one of our students. Thank you for your continued support to a program that our school is part of.

Reminders....

Town students should not arrive to school before **8:40**. This eliminates the extra time



that students have to put into their school day.

If your child

requires utensils for lunch, please send some from home.

Please phone the school if your child will be away for the day or let the school know ahead of time.

Return forms the following day or as soon as

possible. This eliminates the risk of notes getting lost.

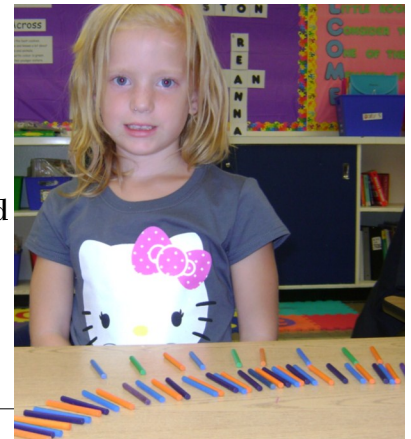
If you require any information or want to know how your child is doing, please let your teacher know. We would be happy to meet with you.

Magazine Campaign

The annual magazine campaign kicked off on Wednesday, October 5. Last year the students raised the most amount of money since 1981 when the school first started this fundraiser.

Thank you so much for your continued support. If you would like to purchase a subscription, please contact any student that goes to Oak River School. This year the money raised will go

towards our school ski trip to Ski Valley in Minnedosa. It will also be used towards our year end school trip and also any events that happen in the school or events we go to.



Greetings from Parent Council

It is that time of year when all the activities are starting up again and we all get super busy. The parent council is no exception. We have had a couple of meetings already this year and as a group have decided to do some fundraising to provide the ORS students the opportunity to attend some extra curricular activities the school budget may not allow for. As a kick off we are planning to do a Peak of the Market Vegetable

fundraiser. Keep your eyes and ears open for the kids selling a healthy choice to those of us who had measly gardens this year. For those with a sweet tooth, don't worry. We will still be doing our annual chocolate bar fundraiser as well. We will keep you posted with other fundraising events in upcoming newsletters.

The Parent Council is pleased to announce that we are taking over the hot lunch program

from the school staff. We will be offering a hot lunch once a month with items such as pizza, perogies, spaghetti and taco salad to name a few. We have had great attendance at our meetings and everyone is engaged to help make the ORS experience an awesome one for our students. If there are any parents who missed our organizational meeting and would like to be involved with the planning of our activities, please contact Mrs. Gage at the school.

Thank you to the members of our Parent Council Group. The staff and students appreciate all the hard work!



Keep the lines of communication open with school



Parent-school communication is critical to students' success. Whether your child is an average student or has special needs, these

tips will ensure effective home-school communication:

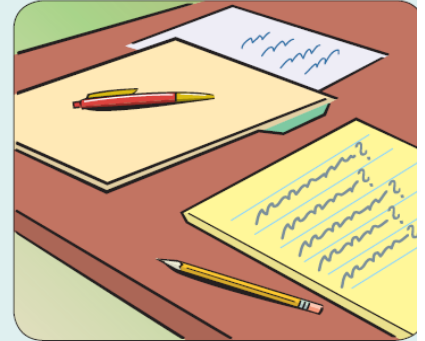
- **Meet with school staff** regularly. Attend meetings and follow up to see how things are going. Always contact the teacher if concerns arise.
- **Arrive prepared.** Before meetings, jot down notes so you are sure to remember everything you wanted to say and ask.
- **Be optimistic.** Remind yourself that you and your child's school have a mutual goal: your child's success. A positive attitude makes conversations more productive.
- **Listen attentively.** Keep an open mind as you focus on the teacher's view, which may be different from yours. Ask for clarification about anything confusing.
- **Stay calm.** It's natural for parents to feel defensive of children. If you accidentally say something you regret, just apologize and refocus on solutions.
- **Offer suggestions.** You know your child best. Explain what you think will help him most—and why you believe it will work.
- **Don't give up.** If an initial meeting doesn't get results, try again. You could also ask for another staff member to join you.

Ask these questions at your parent-teacher conference

Parent-teacher conferences can help you learn more about your child's strengths and weaknesses. They can also give you a better idea about the year ahead.

Here are 10 questions you might ask your child's teacher:

1. **What will you cover** in this grade or subject this year?
2. **What are your expectations** for homework? Has my child missed any of her assignments so far?
3. **How are my child's work habits?** Does she use time in class well?
4. **Does my child read** at the level you would expect for this grade?
5. **Is my child able** to do the math you expect for a student in this grade?
6. **Is my child in different groups** for different subjects?
7. **Has my child missed** any classes other than the ones I contacted the school about?
8. **Does my child qualify** for any special programs?
9. **Does my child get along well** with the other students?
10. **What can I do at home** to help my child be more successful?



Grade 1-3 News

I believe we are settled down into our routine and are ready to learn! We have been working really hard at getting all of our expectations set for the Daily 5. We are reading up to 20 minutes a day on our own! We are also learning how to read with a partner and to check for their understanding.

Numbers is the main focus for Math this month. Grade 1's are working on numbers to 30, Grade 2 to 100 and Grade 3's to 1000. Numbers are so much fun!

In Science we are continuing on with our understanding of animals and the changes and growth they go through. We have been able to do a lot of our learning on the netbooks which always adds fun to the class.

The students want to be just like the older kids so in Gym, we have been learning about some volleyball skills. They are doing an amazing job and I think they are almost ready to take on the older kids.

Please remember to continue reading and doing math activity folders. I expect reading to be done every night and at least one math activity a week! Thanks for your continued support.

Ms. K

Grade 5-8 News

We are finally getting back into the school routine! The 5-8 class has been working very hard on being respectful, independent students. I am proud of the growth I am seeing in each and every one of them. We have moved on in our math units and the grade 5/6 students are working on numbers to one million, estimating, prime and composite, factors and order of operations. The grade 7/8 students are learning about the divisibility rules, algebraic expressions, square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem. We are currently finishing up our Science unit on Cells and Systems and we have had a great time learning and rapping about them!

Look for our video on youtube in the near future!! We have started our novel study of the Jeanne DuPrau novel "The City of Ember". This story is about an underground city of the past who have been relying on a broken generator for all of their power! We are starting our new spelling program called "Working with Words" where the students manipulate their spelling words during the week in an activity called "word sorts". Ask your child to explain the process to you! We have started our volleyball mini tournaments every Thursday after school. Our class is also participating in WE Day in Winnipeg in November. We day is an empower-

ing and engaging day where 16 000 students from all over the prairie provinces get together for motivational speakers and performers to help empower youth to make change all over the world. Look for information being sent home about what WE plan on doing as a class to help change the world. Our first project will be Halloween for Hunger. The 5-8 students will be collecting non-perishable food goods on Halloween to donate to the local food bank. Have a great month everyone and as always, call or come visit if you have any comments or questions! Keep Warm!

Ms. Willis

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



Thank you!



ORS would like to thank the parents, families and community members for their support in our fundraisers last year. The students did an amazing job and we were able to participate in some great out-of-school activities. Thanks to all the support we received, the students went to a musical in Brandon, 2 ski trips, the 5-8's went to Brandon to the aviation

museum and the food bank, the K-4's went to RMNP and the whole school went to Winnipeg. The 5-8's attended the Titanic exhibition while the K-4's went to the science museum. Then both groups went to the IMAX. It was a great year and we are well aware that it takes a whole community to pull it off.

Along with magazines, we also plan to do the

Donelli Pizza fundraiser again, closer to spring. This year we are working towards attending another musical, Annie, in November. We will also be going on our ski trips and planning for year-end field trips to various spots. Thank you for your continued support to the students at ORS!

Thank you to the community for your continued support to our school and students!

Library News

The library is in full swing again for another great year! It is so great to see the students busy looking for books again! ORS library has some great new books in it this fall and I'm SO happy to see the students excited to read them.

In the grades 1-3 class, we started off with a review of the library rules and being respectful in the library. We are working very hard on choosing books that work for us. To kickoff the 2011-2012 year, we are reading sing-a-long stories. Most of the stories are familiar and it

doesn't take long for everyone to join in! We are also reading about fall and the changes we feel, see and hear. During October we will be continuing with these books as well as reading about Thanksgiving and sharing our Thanksgiving memories. Closer to the end of the month we may have some SCARY Halloween tales!!

In the grades 5-8 class we are reading the novel "The Birthday Room" by Kevin Henkes. On Ben's 12th birthday he receives a letter from his Uncle that he has no memory

of meeting. His Uncle is inviting him and his Mom and Dad to visit. Why, after all these years does he want to reconnect with Ben's family? His Mom and his Uncle have a lot of issues to get passed. After begging his Mom to take him on this visit, this family is about to start an amazing journey back to each other! We read the first 3 chapters and have done some recapping and predictions. During the month of October, we will see if our predictions are accurate.



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Ms. W away (pm only)	5	6 Ms. K and Ms. W away	7 Ms. K away (pm only)	8
9 Happy Thanksgiving	10 NO SCHOOL	11 Mrs. Gage away (pm only)	12 Bookmobile Last day for magazine sales	13	14 Happy Birthday Ryleigh	15
16	17	18	19	20 Ms. K away	21 NO SCHOOL	22
23	24	25	26	27 Ms. K away	28	29
30	31 Happy Halloween	1 Mr. Stouffer in the Grade 1-3 class	2	3	4	5



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'A Place to Grow Together'

**We're on the
web: [www.rrsd
.mb.ca/
schools/
oak_river_ele
mentary/
index.html](http://www.rrsd.mb.ca/schools/oak_river_elementary/index.html)**

Making Friends in Colombia

Students from around the world are choosing Manitoba as their preferred locations to spend an academic program. Whether it be for a month or a full school year, they are excited about the caliber of education they are receiving and the friends they are making. The bonds they are forming with their homestay families and classmates are creating friendships that reach across miles and borders.

Study Manitoba is partnering with Colegio Nueva Inglaterra (New England School) in Bogota for an upcoming study tour. The New England School was founded in 1974 and has an enrolment of 1300 from Kindergarten to Grade 11. The academic focus is English and student values

Extra-curricular activities at the New England School include swimming and riding. They have several sports teams including soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis and skating.

Students, aged 13 to 17, taking part in this upcoming study tour will be placed in various communities around Southwestern Manitoba. They will attend regular classes and take part in extra-curricular activities during the school day and spend time with homestay families after school and on weekends.

Homestay families are the heart of our international student program. We are seeking families who are healthy in their lifestyle and active in their communities. All types of families are welcome to apply; families with children at home, no children at home, single parents, retired couples. If your family is excited about the opportunity of welcoming an international student into your home as they immerse themselves in the English language and Canadian culture, we encourage you to apply today. Visit our website at www.studymanitoba.ca to find out more about our programs and complete the online application.



* Photo Credit: Ben Bowes