

❖ OAK RIVER SCHOOL NEWS ❖

March 5, 2009

Principal's Message

Spring is possibly on the way as we have seen the snow beginning to melt and puddles forming. ORS students continue to be healthy and active in body and mind. This past month we were involved with "I Love to Read" month learning to use new technologies to engage our minds. We also took part in the DHAT (Daily Health Awareness Team) "Color Your World" program where students examined the different colors of healthy fruits and vegetables and worked hard to ensure that their lunches were packed with a variety of colors each day. To celebrate the success of the program the DHAT group visited our school with some activities for the students. A series of stations were set up and small groups rotated though so each child was able to participate in Jeopardy, fitness activities, hand washing, parfait building, and Food Factor.

Sporting events this month provided exciting action for spectators. ORS entered two teams in the RRSD Junior High Bonspiel in Rivers on Feb.7. Kyle Curtis and his team of Riley Shamray, Lucy Abrams, and Ali Radcliffe won their first game and lost their second to a tough Rivers foursome who went on to claim the championship. Tegan Radcliffe and her team of Eleanor Hyndman, Jeriah Wurtz, and Jordie Bates went undefeated until the A-side final game where they ended up coming second. Both teams provided excellent shot making and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Congratulations teams!! Our Grade 5-8 students all participated in our own ORS Annual Bonspiel on Feb. 13. After all teams played three six end games the points were tallied and the winning team of Kyle Curtis, Daniel Bates and Katherine Heapy was presented with the plaque. Students showed great enthusiasm and team spirit! It was nice to have so many spectators out to watch and even the K-4's cheered for a bit in between skating. During the month of February the K-4 class enjoyed skating on Friday afternoons. Thanks so much to all the volunteers who prepared the ice for us during the curling and skating season and to those who looked after the canteen on bonspiel day! With moderate temperatures we were able to make good use of the cross-country skis and snowshoes this month. Grade 5-8's also enjoyed our annual downhill ski trip on Feb. 19 at Ski Valley. Thanks to our parents for transporting students and special thanks to Jacalyn Shamray and Lois Hyndman for their assistance as supervisors out on the slopes. On Wed. Mar. 4 the ORS basketball team played three games at Minnedosa in the RRSD tournament. Prior to each game we set a team goal and I am very pleased to say that our team worked hard to meet the goal each time!! We didn't post any wins however lost a close game to Erickson in the A Consolation Final. Our team consisted of grade 5-8 students and for the first time in many years we had a complete line of subs, which allowed players a chance to catch their breath!!

On March 2 our school was involved in the RRFA "Artist in the School" program. Ruth Penner, an artist from Brandon visited to teach our students about color and line. They received valuable instruction as well as the opportunity to create some very unique and striking works of art.

As you can see ORS continues to be a buzz of activity and our students have been provided with a broad range of extra activities. Even though we have been extremely busy we continue to work hard in the classroom and are nearing the end of our second semester. This means report cards and parent-teacher interviews are coming up very soon. As in the past we will schedule interviews this time only at the request of parents or teachers. Enclosed in your child's report will be a paper indicating if the teachers have made a request and there will also be a spot for you to indicate if you are requesting an interview time.

At this time of year we do begin to do some planning for next year as well. I have met with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent regarding the staffing allocation for our school for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. We will have 2.0 Full-time equivalent teaching time for next year. This is a reduction from our current staffing level. In the upcoming months I will be working hard to put together a timetable with suitable grade combinations given the resources that are available to our school. In making these decisions please remember that my top priority is to provide a quality education for each and every student at ORS. At this point we are unsure of the staff that will be at the school. As soon as details are confirmed I will pass that information on to parents and the community.

With the coming of spring it is always necessary to remind you that our weather changes drastically and that students need to be dressed appropriately for school each day!! Also on days of inclement weather it is important that parents listen to the radio for announcements regarding bus cancellations or school closure. To view the divisional policy regarding the above please access the information on the RRSD website. As always, whether or not you send your child to school on a bus or walking is at parental discretion. We hope that we have had our share of miserable weather but living in Manitoba you can never be too sure!!

Ms. Knight

