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UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER:

Week of Sept 21-25th	Lockdown drill #1 this week
Now-Mid October	Nourish Your Roots Campaign is on!
Sept 24 th	Virtual Curriculum Night
Sept 25 th	PD Day – no students present
Sept 30 th	Orange Shirt Day
Sept 30 th	Terry Fox
Week of Sept 28-Oct 2	Hold and Secure Drill
Oct 5	Picture day (no class pictures this year)

FROM MRS. BRACE & MS. WALSH

Welcome back! This past week and a half has been so busy and wonderful all at once. Our staff has enjoyed seeing all of our littles with their big smiles. We have also enjoyed seeing the parents again too. ⁽²⁾ There are a lot of changes that have happened inside our building so that we are following the public health orders. This includes limiting visitors, directional arrows on the floor, increased cleaning of high touch points by the caretaking staff, sanitizing whenever students move to a new space, students being separated within the classroom, students staying within their cohort of children and playing with those children outside, getting the children outside as much as possible, and more!

We appreciate all of your support and understanding as we all discover how to teach and learn in the middle of a pandemic! Grace, kindness, compassion, and a sense of humor are the key components that will help us be successful this year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the classroom teachers. Take care!

There Is No Courage Without Vulnerability - Brene Brown

Early Dismissal:

Please send this information home asap. We want to make sure we have the correct information in case an early dismissal happens.

Lockdown and Hold and Secure Drill:

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for *Ocean View Elementary School* and the Halifax Regional Center for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our RCMP School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as sometimes the Fire Department may assist with practice drills.

We will also take time to practice a hold & secure drill. During a hold & secure drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room. No one will be permitted to enter or leave the building at that time. The hold & secure drill is over when the admin lets the students know.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

We will be conducting the Lock Down Drill during the week of Sept 21-24th and the Hold & Secure Drill during the week of Sept 28th. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Nourish Your Roots Campaign:

To receive box before Thanksgiving, place order by: Wednesday, September 30th, 8:00am

School is back, and we know that school food programs like breakfast, school food gardens and cooking in the classroom have never been more important. With fundraising not possible through students this fall, Nourish Your Roots, a farm-to-school fundraiser, has adapted and moved online for 2020! Buying a box of fresh, local produce is easier now than ever with the new Nourish Your Roots Online Store!

You become what you believe.

This year, 116 participating schools will still receive much needed funds for their school healthy eating programs through Nourish Your Roots. Dedicated farm partners have been working hard to prepare for deliveries starting on September 28th and running through to the end of October. Boxes will be available for pick-up at 30 unique community sites around the province.

Support students and farms around the province this fall by purchasing or donating a Nourish Your Roots box today! **Visit NourishNS.ca for details**.

Virtual Curriculum Night

On Sept 24th teachers will send out an email to families with information about the curriculum. If you have any questions, please reach out to the teachers.

Dressing For the Weather

Please ensure your child has extra clothing in their bag and are dressed for the weather. We WILL be going outside a lot - even on cold days or wet days. The field that we use often is muddy due to rain – please send your child with boots so that their feet won't be cold and wet.

Driving on School Grounds

Only staff are allowed to drive on the school grounds. We have multiple recess and lunches this year which means that children are outside playing all day long.

Orange Shirt Day



From https://www.orangeshirtday.org/about-us.html

Orange Shirt Day is part of a legacy. As spokesperson for the Reunion group leading up to the events, former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl.

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.

There Is No Courage Without Vulnerability - Brene Brown

On Sept 30th we encourage the children and staff to wear an orange shirt in support of beginning those conversations of why Orange Day exists.

Here is a video to share with your children: <u>https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/what-is-orange-shirt-day</u>

Here are some more resources: https://www.unsm.org/treaty-day

Terry Fox

Normally we would do a Terry Fox walk and raise monies for the Terry Fox Foundation. This year we are still working out what the "walk" will look like. We are asking that if the community wishes to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation that they do so online at <u>https://terryfox.org/</u>. We will not be collecting money donations at the school this year due to COVID restrictions.

Parking/Arrival

Thank you to everyone for all of the support around the dirt road being used solely for the buses. It has enabled families to use the pathway to walk to the back doors and allowed the buses to exit our school grounds unimpeded.

No Stopping Zones – we will be asking people to move out of the no-stopping zones. Ocean View Road is too narrow to have cars parked on both sides. This includes the grassy area that some people try and park on. Please remember – this is about student safety. We have many students and families that cross the road and we want them to be able to do it safely.

Arrival: Please bring your child to their assigned door anytime between 8:30-8:45. Teachers will be taking the classes in as close to 8:30 as possible to get the children in as quickly as possible. There will still be an adult stationed at the back doors so that children can continue to arrive until 8:45am. **After 8:45 students are to be coming to the front door as the back doors will not have a person manning them.**

Please remember to check your email for information

* Please return the registration forms, media release forms, and early school closure forms as soon as possible *