



Ochre Park Post

February 2023

Phone 780 942-2901 Email opark@sturgeon.ab.ca



Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that half our school year is already over! The first half has gone quickly and I'm sure the second half will also go quickly. Our winter weather has been relatively mild to date and that is fine with lots of people. Our students have been able to get outside a lot and play at recesses, which has been great. We hope that type of weather continues through the rest of the winter months.

January was filled with many school events, including our first trip to the Diamond Springs Lodge in several years. It was great to see the smiles on the faces of all the residents there. This was originally planned for just before the Christmas break, but wasn't able to happen due to the cold snap we experienced and the timing so close to the break. We were grateful to be able to go when we did though, as we feel it is important for our students to connect with the seniors in our community (and we believe it is also important for our seniors to get to see our young students). Our students enjoyed skating in January, an event that not all children always get to participate in. It was great to see students return to the school after it was done with smiles on their faces. We capped the month off with Family Literacy Week. A number of events were held throughout the week relative to literacy and the love of reading. We ended the week with parents coming to read with their students. We had a wonderful turnout, which was so nice to see both adults and students enjoying themselves.

As we move ahead into February, a few key events will highlight our month. First, we will be holding our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Open Houses/Registration (in-person) on Thurs., Feb. 16 @ 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm respectively. We encourage parents to attend these events and get their children registered for Sept. 2023. Next, we have an Anniversary coming up... Ochre Park will turn 40 years old on Feb. 17! The plaque in our front entrance indicates that the school was officially opened on Feb. 17, 1983. We will have a bit of a celebration that day with our students and will defer a larger celebration with our community to June 2023, when we are able to enjoy the great outdoors. We look forward to sharing more details on this later this year. Stay tuned for more information. The other major announcement is that we are in the process of forming a Playground Committee, which will be examining options for a new playground structure for Ochre Park, reaching out to local companies and setting some plans for some fundraisers. The reason for a new playground is that we have been told that our Spider Web structure, although not all that old, is made of bolts and nuts that are not stainless steel and they are rusting. We know it is only a matter of time before the next piece will break, at which time we will need to make a decision to either repair it (which is very costly) or have it taken down and removed. While we may not have all the funds raised by the time something breaks, we hope that we will be well on our way. We also recognize that some of our other playground equipment is also aging and may also need replacing at some point into the future. Our hope is to have all our playgrounds inspected in the coming months to give us more feedback on the life expectancy of our other equipment. Again, stay tuned for more information on this major project. If you are interested in sitting on this committee, please contact our school office.

A few other events that are happening this month at Ochre Park School are Valentine's Day (14), Pink Shirt Day (22) and Winter Play Day (27). Our gr. 4 classes will also be going curling this month. As many of you will already know, Jan. 31 was a Professional Learning Day for our staff. We spent time expanding our knowledge in a few different areas. As well, our teachers will be attending Teacher's Convention on Feb. 9/10, so there will be no school on these days. Our teachers are already beginning to plan and prepare for report card comments and mark updates, including updates to various student plans. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on March 21/22. Students in gr. 4 will be participating in a couple of surveys to provide feedback to our school on how we are doing and how we might be able to improve. These surveys are done annually. The information gathered is anonymous and allows us to determine our priorities as we move forward.

With a few shorter weeks in February, we know that this month is likely to pass quickly. Hopefully we get good news on Groundhog Day later this week. :) I look forward to sharing more information on these events and projects and some new ones next month.

Mr. Calvin Anhorn
Principal, Ochre Park School

Ochre Park Happenings

Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year will open February 1, 2023 (K-4)! A friendly competition among SPS schools is to see who completes all registrations first. So , get into the school spirit and log in to your Parent Portal and complete the registration as soon as convenient for you. :)

Pre-Kindergarten /Kindergarten Open House

Join us on Thursday, February 16th at 6:00pm and 6:45 pm to learn about our programming for early childhood.



OP turns 40 on February 17th! Students will celebrate this occasion with cupcakes!



COURTESY TO OUR OP NEIGHBORS

We understand that parking is a challenge around our school at both drop-off and pick-up times. We have reached out to our Facilities Dept. at SPS Central Services and hope we are able to arrive at a solution going forward. In the meantime, we ask that you use kindness, patience and courtesy while parking around our school at these times by not blocking driveways and interfering with normal operations for our OP neighbors.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Calvin Anhorn, Principal

Our school playgrounds are increasing in age and will need to be replaced in the future. These come with a large bill and therefore planning and collecting funds/grants for this needs to start as soon as we can. We would like to start a Playground Committee to do this work. If any parent's would like to be a part of this please contact Ochre Park Parent Council/Society . We would love some of the parent's with kids in the younger grades to be a part of this as it will take a few years to complete. It would not a large demand of your time, we just need to start finding some grants to apply for and getting companies to sponsor it. As we all know, a new year means new funds to spread out in the community from companies.

Counsellor's Corner

Pink Shirt Day – February 22, 2023

Pink Shirt Day is about working together to celebrate diversity and promote positive social relationships. It is about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of age, gender, ability, or cultural background.

Celebrated annually around the globe, Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, took a stand to support another student who was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. David and Travis bought dozens of pink shirts and distributed them to their male classmates to wear the next day. The word got out online and hundreds of students showed up in pink, some from head-to-toe, in support of their friend.

This year's slogan for Pink Shirt Day is Lift Each Other Up and specifically #BeKindAB for Alberta. I am looking forward to seeing a sea of pink as a symbol of kindness on February 22, 2023 at Ochre Park School.

As always, if you have any questions, please call (780-942-2901) or email me

Jennifer.Geleta@sturgeon.ab.ca) when it is convenient for you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Geleta





Skating!



Dress as your favorite book character!



Dress Like your Teacher!





MIKISIWI-PÎSIM EAGLE MOON

PRONOUNCED- MIK-SOO-EE-PEE-SIM

Soaring into February to welcome the Eagle moon. This is the moon where the eagle returns and begins to build or repair their nest in preparation of mating season. Since eagles are such large birds their nests are often 4-6 ft long and 2-4 ft deep! The eagle is a very special bird and also brings us the teaching of love.

The eagle represents love because they have the strength to carry all of the teachings in their sacred wings. The eagle has the ability to fly highest in the sky and closest to the Creator. It is said that the eagle can take our thoughts and prayers up to the great spirits. The eagle also has the eyesight to see everything on land from great distances. The eagle views all things with unconditional love. Try the eagle eye this month and view all things with unconditional love.



Created by: Indigenous School Counsellor Katie Holubowich





Daily Arrival & Dismissal- please remember that if you are dropping off your children or they are getting to school on their own, students should not be arriving before 8:35. Our school buses start letting children off the buses at 8:35 and that is when we have supervision in place. There is no supervision before this time. We are also asking children to refrain from playing on the playground equipment when they arrive in the morning as there is no supervision. After dismissal at 3:05, only children with parental supervision should be playing on the playground. Thanks for your help in keeping our children safe.



Parking Lot Designated as Staff Parking Only

Please refrain from parking in the parking lot and instead utilize the drop off loop at the end of the parking lot to let your children out safely or park on the street. Thank you for your cooperation.

Permission Forms:

All permission forms for student activities and excursions are now available to be signed electronically via the parent Powerschool portal. Please note that this has to be done on a web browser and not the app. If you need help accessing the parent portal, please call or come into the office.



Reminder: We are a nut free school.

Medications and/or Medical Treatment

To keep our students and staff safe, strict Policies and Procedures are in place regarding medication and medical treatment at school for students. Sturgeon Public Schools recognizes that the administration of medication and/or medical treatment to students is the responsibility of parents, guardians and medical practitioners.

If a student must receive medication or medical treatment prescribed by a medical practitioner during the school day or during extra-curricular activities and the student is incapable of self-administration, the parent must request in writing to the Principal that the school store medication and medical treatment equipment to enable: student self-administration where appropriate (e.g. asthma inhalers); administration of medication and medical treatment. Written instructions must be signed by the parent/guardian and the physician. Non-prescribed medication shall not be distributed to any student enrolled in a Division school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. The Sturgeon Public School Division Policies and Procedures regarding Medication and Medical Treatment to Students can be found on our division website at <https://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/board/procedures/4724>.

As per Administrative Procedures II– School Board Governance and Operations, Section

255 Inclement Weather Decisions for Schools " The lowest temperature at which students will be required to go outside shall be -25 Degrees Celsius including wind chill and as determined by the Weather Network. " Going forward, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. Also, if you have extra hats and mittens, the school will greatly accept them to loan to those students in need. For further information, please see the following link: <https://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/board/procedures/4609>

Volunteers Welcome! If you wish to volunteer in our school, here are a couple things to know: 1. Please contact your child's teacher to arrange a day and time to come in. 2. A criminal records check is required every three years. These are completed Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the RCMP station. Contact the school office for a letter to waive the records check fee.



JAN/FEB 2023

HOT LUNCH MENU

January 13- Taco Noodle Casserole \$4.00

Seasoned ground beef, noodles and cheese in a creamy tomato sauce.

January 20- Cream of Potato and Mushroom Soup with Bun \$0.00

Baba's recipe! Sponsored by Redwater Lions Club .



January 27- Burger Baron Pizza \$2.50

Choice of Pepperoni or Cheese.



February 3- Perogies and Sausage \$3.00

3 cheddar and potato perogies sauteed with butter and a touch of onion, 3 garlic sausage coins, sour cream (optional).

February 17- Chicken Noodle Soup and Bun \$0.00

Chicken, veggies and hand-cut noodles in a homemade broth. Sponsored by Redwater Lions Club.

February 24- Lazy Lasagna \$4.00

Seasoned ground beef, spinach, cheeses and broken lasagna noodles in a tomato meat sauce.





February 2023



Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	K1	3
			Cheese, crackers, fruit	Smoothie, gran- ola bar	Yogurt tube, fruit	
					Wear your team color!	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Cereal, fruit 4G Curling (pm)	Yogurt, fruit, granola bar	Muffins, fruit 4S Curling (am)	Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL		
12	13	14	15	16	K2	17
	Cereal, fruit 4S Curling (pm)	Valentine's Class parties Cheese, crack- ers, fruit	Smoothie, granola bar Canadian Agricul- tural Day 4G Curling (am)	Pre K/Kinder Open House Veggies, dip, crackers	100th Day of School (Dress like you are 100!) OP's 40th Anniver- sary Cheese string,	
19	20	21	22	23	K1	24
	Family Day No School	Cereal, fruit	Pink Shirt day Yogurt, fruit, granola bar	Muffins, fruit	Fruit salad, granola bar Wear your team color!	
26	27	28				
	Winter Play Day Cereal, fruit Parent Council meeting 3:30pm	Smoothie, granola bar				