

# ÉCOLE OKOTOKS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWS- December 2018



### Important Dates

Dec 21 – Early Dismissal at 12:05 pm  
Dec 24 – Jan 4 – Christmas Break  
Jan 7 – Welcome Back to School  
Jan 8 – 9A & 9C – Zoo Field Trip  
Jan 10 – 9B – Zoo Field Trip  
Jan 14 – 9G & 9F Zoo Field Trip  
Jan 14 & 15 – Grade 9 Cap & Gown Pictures  
Jan 24 – Last Day of Semester 1



### Long Term Dates: (Subject to Change)

Jan 24 – Ski Club to Sunshine  
Jan 25 – PD Day, No School for Students  
Jan 26 – Cheer Zones in Lethbridge  
Jan 28 – Semester 2 Begins

### Learner Profiles

Learner Profiles were mailed home to the addresses we have here on file the week of November 26, 2018. If you have not received your child's Learner Profile, please contact the school office to ensure we have your correct mailing address on file. Did you know that our school is also using Maplewood for student marks? You are able to login at any point to see the latest information that has been entered by your child's teacher.

### Grade 9 Cap & Gown Picture Day – January 14 & 15

Please mark your calendars that January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> all grade 9 students will be having their Cap & Gown pictures taken over the course of these two days. January 14<sup>th</sup> will be Homerooms 9A, 9B, 9C & 9I. January 15<sup>th</sup> will be Homerooms 9D, 9E, 9F & 9G.

For best results, the photographer has recommended that the students either wear a light colored shirt with a dark tie or a collared shirt/blouse.

All pictures will be taken in the East Courtyard at EOJHS.

### ÉOJHS 2017-2018 Year Books

The yearbooks for last year have arrived and have been distributed to students whose parents have purchased one. There are a few extra yearbooks for sale in the office for \$20.00 each.

### Bus Zone in Front of the School

Please be mindful of the “No Parking Signs, Bus Zone” in front of the school. This year in particular, as we have a student that is required to be dropped off and picked up by the bus every day in front of the school. We have placed orange “No Parking” cones and a “No Parking” sign to allow room for the bus to park safely. Thank you for not parking or dropping off in this designated area.

### Free from Google!

Create a new document and edit with others at the same time – from your computer, phone or tablet. Get stuff done with or without an internet connection. Use Docs to edit Word files. Free from Google

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_3n9eQ-Huc8zrluoUhoBvWuJvl\\_ToENs-l3c4GsFVvk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_3n9eQ-Huc8zrluoUhoBvWuJvl_ToENs-l3c4GsFVvk/edit?usp=sharing)  
[Google Docs – create and edit documents online, for free.](#)

**NEW!**

**Important**

### Music Department News

The festival dates for the new year are now in progress. All three classroom choirs will be combining to compete as the EOJHS Concert Choir at the Highwood Lions Music Festival, and possibly ChoralFest South. The Chamber Choir will be competing in the Alberta Excellence class at the Highwood Lions Festival, and the Provincial Class at the Brooks Music Festival. We are aiming to qualify both our Chamber Choir and Concert Choir for provincial finals this year. A finalized performance calendar will be sent home as soon as the dates are confirmed.

Finalized itineraries and behavior contracts will be coming home for the trip to Vancouver Island this April. There is a lot of excitement from the festival and our venues about our performances. I'm excited to take your kids to where I grew up, and to many places that formed who I am as a person and a teacher. We will have more info in the new year. Please keep in mind that we need all trips paid off by January 31st. If this isn't doable, please contact me immediately and we can make some arrangements that will work for all involved. Thank you for having such amazing kids.

EOJHS Chamber Choir 2018



### Physical Education

When we return in January, students will have the opportunity to choose the next set of modules. As always, there will be groups who will be outside for physical education. We encourage all students to have an extra hoodie, sweat pants, mittens and a toque in their locker. This will ensure that they are warm when they are in the outside units. If your child has lost their physical education outfit, new clothing is available to purchase from the main office. The cost is \$10 for shirts and \$15 for shorts. There is also Ocelot apparel that can be customized, available for purchase on our website.

A reminder that when your child can not participate, or participation needs to be modified in physical education, please send in a note of explanation. This includes both injuries and illnesses. If your child needs to be excused for more than four days, we require a medical note. Question or concerns, please contact your child's physical education teacher.

**NEW!**

**Important**



### **Handbags with Heart**

If you have a handbag you no longer use, here is a chance to give it a second life and share your heart with women less fortunate. Ocelots will be collecting purses and personal care items from **January 9-25, 2019** for the Handbags with Heart Foundation.

Personal care items can include: lotion, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, perfume, make-up, magazines, hair accessories, books, scarves, gloves, socks, or gift cards. Please look for the BIG BOX in the office to drop-off your donations! For further information please check: <https://handbagswithheart.com>

### **School Fees**

Invoices for school fees for 2018/2019 school year have been mailed home and are now PAST DUE. Please check your Maplewood accounts regularly as field trips, athletic fees and fee updates are added and revised on your accounts regularly. Payment can be made online or we accept Cash, Cheque, and Debit Card at the school. If you wish to pay online with Visa or Master Card, please follow the link using your Maplewood User Name and Password. Please check your Maplewood accounts regularly as they get updated throughout the school year. The link to login to our schools Maplewood is <https://hosting.maplewood.com/ab/fsd/OJHS/parents>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your billing or wish to make arrangements for a payment plan, please contact Mrs. Tracy Thorbjornsen at [thorbjornsent@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:thorbjornsent@fsd38.ab.ca) or 403-9384426 ext. 19105.

### **Drama Production "Alice Through the Looking Glass"**

The Drama department is accepting donations of the following things:

- Tupperware bins with lids
- Sturdy hangers
- Halloween costumes, masks, wigs, costume jewelry, hats, and retro clothing (not current fashions) in good condition.
- Large amounts (bolts) of fabric
- Wall Paint (especially Black and white), at least half tins

Our play this year is "Alice Through the Looking Glass" so if you have any unique items that you think would fit, please email Mrs. Ferguson at [fergusonc@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:fergusonc@fsd38.ab.ca)

### **Makerspace Comp Course**

Got dusty old gear sitting around? Spare parts? Junk? Consider donating it to our Makerspace class! Grade 9 option course, we re-purpose old stuff to build new, functional items. Students are provided with opportunities to upcycle old materials, to plan and design and to problem solve as they work through each project. They learn principles of design, engineering and construction along the way. We are currently looking for battery packs and small motors, like those found in old electronics and toys. Not sure if your stuff would be of any use? Ask Ms. Leriger ([lerigerdelaplantes@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:lerigerdelaplantes@fsd38.ab.ca)) or Mr. Hamilton ([Hamiltong@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:Hamiltong@fsd38.ab.ca)). We are willing to pick the items up. We appreciate your donations as they are essential to keep this option course open to student at EOJHS.



## ***SCHOOL/STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS AND VIEWS!***

### **Hot Lunch in Danger**

In order for the Hot Lunch Program to continue twice a week, we are in need of volunteers to help out. If you can spare one hour at lunch time to help sort classroom lunch orders, please contact Kim Owen, Volunteer Coordinator, at [volunteeroj@gmail.com](mailto:volunteeroj@gmail.com). Without volunteers, the Hot Lunch program might be cut down to one day a week starting in January.

Thank you all for everyone who ordered the Rafiki bracelets in the month of November to help the Mamas in Kenya support their families, send their kids to school, and take charge of their future. EOJHS is also proud to announce that we have purchased 20 goats for our Hats on for Goats Charity. These goats will help the families in Haiti to get milk, butter, and meat. They can also sell the goats to earn money for their benefits.

Our next big project will be our battery drive in January. Batteries have Zinc which is a necessary micronutrient that is crucial for healthy growth and brain development. 1.2 billion people worldwide aren't getting enough zinc through their diet which leads to Zinc Deficiency. Zinc Deficiency contributes to the death of nearly 200,000 children under the age of five every single year. We can prevent that. One AA battery has enough zinc to create 6 zinc tablets, each tablet will improve someone's life and possibly save one as well. Last year we collected over 16,000 batteries, which means over 96,000 zinc tablets were made and these tablets saved people's lives. This year, can we beat that? This January, collect your used batteries and save the lives of thousands of people who are impacted by zinc deficiency each year.

Sincerely, Student Council

### **Council Meeting**

There will no School Council meeting for the month of January 2019. The next School Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

### **EOJHS Hot Lunch Program**

Hot lunch ordering is available by visiting [Healthyhunger.ca](http://Healthyhunger.ca) to view menus and place orders. There is a new procedure to sign up for Hot Lunch Volunteers – Please Volunteer! Three steps to volunteer:

**Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/login/entry/9702882895492600>

**Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)

**Sign up!** Choose your volunteer spots.

**REPEATED  
INFORMATION FOR NEW  
FAMILIES...  
OR IF YOU NEED A  
REMINDER...  
OR FOR YOUR READING  
PLEASURE!**

Short Term Memory Rule #5  
"Repeat to Remember"

Long Term Memory Rule #6  
"Remember to Repeat"

**"Hats On for Charity":**

In addition to other Fundraising campaigns that are held at ÉOJHS throughout the school year, on the last school day of each week we encourage our staff and students to contribute a minimum of \$1.00 to have the privilege of wearing their hats in school for the day. Each month the monies raised are donated to a different charity which ties in with other philanthropic activities that we are focusing on in the school.

**Our results to date:**   **September (Terry Fox) - \$237.25**  
                                  **October (Okotoks Food Bank) - \$226.35**  
                                  **November (Canadian Legacy Project) - \$262.55**  
                                  **December (WE "Create Change for Goats") - \$1,000. ÉOJHS purchased**  
                                  **purchase 20 goats for Haiti.**

**Show your Ocelot Spirit – Optional Athletic Wear**

We have available the optional Ocelot athletic wear available for sale in the front office.

The ÉOJHS Sweat Shirts - \$40.00 each

The ÉOJHS Sweat Pants - \$20.00 each

The athletic lightweight wicking jersey – great as a warm up shirt or gym shirt in sized youth medium to adult XXL for \$30.00.

Water bottles are for sale \$6.00 each in a variety of colors (Red, Green, Purple, Blue and Black) and they can be refilled with at the bottle fountains located conveniently throughout the school including the gyms. Please see Mrs. Thorbjornsen any time to pick up these great items that will help keep you warm on those chilly outdoor PE Days or just to show your OCELOT PRIDE.

If you are looking for something special, try our new online shopping portal for École Okotoks Jr. High School Spirit Wear. Simply Log onto <http://okotoksjr.entripyshops.com> to place your order. You simply create an account to order and delivery will be made directly to your home.

**Sobeys/Safeway Gift Cards**

Gift cards are available again this school year and are a dollar to dollar program where anyone can purchase pre-loaded gift cards in variable denominations from \$25.00 to \$500.00. Cards can be purchased from the office and the forms are located on our website. Up to 6% of you purchases will be credited to your students account and can be directed to the program of your choice, School Fees, Athletics, Field Trip, Band Camps. If you need any further information, please contact Tracy Thorbjornsen at 403-938- 4426 ext 19105.

**ÉOJHS School Neighbors**

With parking at a premium, please be considerate of our neighboring preschool, Children's Montessori Academy that is directly across the street from ÉOJHS. Their parking area is the driveway that is often blocked by ÉOJHS parents dropping off or picking up students. Your consideration of being mindful to keep their driveway open is appreciated.

### **Visitors In The School**

PLEASE remember that ALL visitors in our school are to check in and sign in at the office. Once you have signed in, the office staff will give you a visitor's badge to acknowledge to all of our staff and students that you are a visitor at EOJHS. This policy within the School Division is to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

### **Tuesdays Are Pizza Day at EOJHS**

Pizza is for sale at the school every Tuesday at lunch time. Pizza selection includes Pepperoni, Hawaiian and Cheese. \$3.00 for 1 slice and \$5.00 for 2 slices.

### **Recycle, Reduce, Reuse...**

The Foods and Textiles room are accepting any unwanted magazines (old Sears catalogues included), both Foods and Fashion related, to be used for different projects throughout the year. Also being accepted are any clean yogurt or sour cream containers with lids. Please drop them off at the front office or to Mrs. Schaan in the Foods Room. Thank you.

### **Student Illnesses**

At EOJHS, we endeavor to provide all students with a safe and caring environment. As such, we have students who have high risk medical conditions and we believe it is our responsibility to support them to the best of our ability. For this reason, we ask that you communicate to us any suspicions or occurrences of illnesses, particularly measles, chicken pox or flues.

### **Absenteeism**

All students are expected to be in school on time and to attend all classes. It is the parents' responsibility to confirm with the front office at the school whether or not these absences are excusable or inexcusable. The attendance number is 403-938-4426, then press 1. Alternatively you may email us at [ojattendance@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:ojattendance@fsd38.ab.ca) and provide the student's name, homeroom and reason for and approximate length of absence/lateness. Any student absences not reported to the office will be recorded by the office as inexcusable.

### **Student Messages**

Urgent student messages can be left by calling the school's main number 403-938-4426, ext. 0. Student with messages will be called to the office at 12:30 pm (lunch time) and 3:05 pm (end of the day) only.

### **Criminal Record Check (CRC) for Volunteers**

All volunteers for the school are required to have a criminal record check on file with EOJHS. If your family is new to EOJHS, and you need to obtain the required CRC please contact the office (938-4426, ext. 0) so we can prepare the letter you will need to take to the RCMP. The detachment is charging a \$5.00 fee- exact change, cash only.

Parent volunteer drivers are also required to have a CRC as well as completing the Volunteer Driver Form and providing a copy of their driver's license and insurance coverage of \$2 million.

### **School Twitter Information**

EOJHS is now using Twitter on our home web page to get you information about what is and will be happening in our school. Check it out! Visit <http://okotoksjr.fsd38.ab.ca> Contact [holmesb@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:holmesb@fsd38.ab.ca) for more information.

Attachments: EOJHS Chamber Choir 2018