

**ÉCOLE OKOTOKS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER – January - 2017**



**Hey Families!  
Did you know...?**

The learning for both students and staff at École Okotoks Junior High School continues with great enthusiasm, our teachers are working collaboratively in what are called PLC's (Professional Learning Communities). These groups ensure that teachers are doing the following (just to name a few):

- Ensuring that assessments used to grade your child are timely and fair
- Using a multitude of strategies to teach your child and targeting students at *all* levels of learning
- Analyzing data to ensure that we understand areas for growth as well as areas for celebration

Our teachers care about your children and their safety to and from school as well as when they are in our building it is of the utmost importance to us. Together we foster a safe, caring and inclusive environment and are pleased to report that very few incidents of bullying are reported to the office. To me this means that students are treating each other with respect and that classroom teachers are visible in the halls to minimize negativity.

We feel confident that we are encouraging students to do their best while providing them the supports they need along the way.

If you are a parent of a child in Grade 7, you will be receiving a survey from Alberta Education called the Accountability Pillar Survey. Your feedback helps us to be the best school possible. Should you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to call me.

As we talk about inclusion and a safe and caring environment, we are thrilled to be offering our second annual Wellness Conference on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a wonderful day to teach students the benefits of mindfulness and activity, while teaching strategies for overall good health. We thank you for encouraging your child to sign up for the many sessions available.

With Ocelot P.R.I.D.E.,

Sincerely,

Leah, Bill & Rhonda

# ÉOJHS Wellness Conference



We are so proud that our school is committed to the wellness of all students and staff. Our work in the classroom is focused on both academic and emotional well-being. We are absolutely thrilled to offer our second annual WELLNESS Conference on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. This full day of health and wellness will start with Hayley Wickenheiser as our keynote speaker. Following that, students and staff will explore a variety of sessions ranging from bouldering, equine therapy, career planning, yoga, money management, mindfulness, the power of friendship and stress management, just to name a few! The day will conclude with a concert by the band The New Electric. Thank you for all your support as we work to make this day an amazing event for everyone!

## **Volunteers Needed**

ÉOJHS has a couple of upcoming events that need your help. Wednesday, Feb 1 is our student Wellness Conference. Lunch is supplied for Presenters by School Council. We are seeking volunteers to assist in set up and clean up. If you can assist, please contact School Council.

On February 8, School Council is organizing a POTLUCK dinner (3pm set up) for teachers prior to Parent/Teacher Interviews. If you are able to provide a dinner item and/or assist with set up or clean up, we would appreciate your help. Please contact the chair of School Council through email to participate. [eojhcouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:eojhcouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca) or just drop off a dinner item at 3pm. We are feeding approximately 30 teachers.

School Council is requesting input from parents for the outdated Policy & Procedure documents that guide your Council. If you can assist us in this, please let us know. The BYLAWS for the OJHS Ocelots Fundraising Society also need to be updated at the same time. Copies of these documents are available for review and input through your School Council.

The Alberta School Council Association AGM & Conference takes place in Edmonton on April 28-30<sup>th</sup>. School Council is seeking parent participation to attend on behalf of your School Council. The Chair has submitted a request for funding to the School Board to cover these fees. At the time of this writing, School Council does not have funds available to support attendees. If you would like to review the Conference information and put your name forward to attend, please note that it will be at your own cost until confirmation of financial support is received by FSD. Email [eojhcouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:eojhcouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca) to confirm. <http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/?page=eNewsJan2617> for more information.

Thank you for supporting your School and your School Council.

### **Important Dates**

Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	School Council Meeting, 7pm
Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Semester One
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	School PD Day, No School
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	School Council
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wellness Conference
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ski Club trip to Fernie
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	FI - Parent/Teacher Interviews, 4pm-6pm
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Interviews, 4pm-7pm
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Interviews, 4pm-6pm
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Les Bucheron presentation to remaining F.I. and FSL students
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Quebec School Trip
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pink Shirt Day at EOJHS
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	Staff/Student Hockey Game
Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Family Day, No School
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	No School – Day-in-lieu
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	PD Day, No School
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Teachers' Convention, No School
Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Teachers' Convention, No School
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Global Info Night 7-9pm
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	School Council Meeting 7pm

### **FSD Sport Academy/Global Sport Academy Group Information Nights**

Global Sport Academy Group will be hosting their next Information Night on Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> at ÉOJHS from 7:00 to 9:00pm for all interested male and female hockey players grades 7 - 12. Come by and meet our staff and learn more about having hockey as part of your school day!

### **Parent/Teacher interviews:**

Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm and Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 6pm. Appointment times will be limited to 10 minutes each. Prior to booking your appointments, please be sure to have a discussion with your student as to determine the names of the teachers you wish to meet with, as these meetings are being scheduled prior to the second Learner Profiles being sent home.

Our School appointment website is scheduled to open on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 am. We respectfully ask that each family books one appointment per teacher, so as to maximize the number of students that our teachers can meet with.

If you are unable to meet with a teacher on these days, or if there are no spots available, please be sure to contact them at any time to talk about your child's learning or to set up an alternate time to meet.

Parent/Teacher attachment included.

Parents of French Immersion students' please be advised of a slight change to the interview schedules of Mme. Lee, Mme. Tsimaras & Mme. St-Jean. Due to the French Language trip to Quebec, these teachers will be holding their interviews on Tuesday and Wednesday February 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Please Be Considerate of Our 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 EOJHS. Their parking area is the driveway that is often blocked by EOJHS parents dropping off or picking up students. Your consideration of being mindful to keep their driveway open is appreciated.

### **Hats On for Charity - January:**

Hats on for Charity donations for the month! ÉOJHS raised a total of \$210.00

### **ÉOJHS Triathlon Club:**

The ÉOJHS Tri-Club is looking for student athletes! If you are interested in swimming, biking and running with Mr. VanDerVeen and Mrs. Burgess, please pop by the PE Office for the information form. Over the next five months we'll train as a group in preparation for 1 – 3 triathlons beginning in June! Get ready to SPLASH, MASH and DASH! For more information on our program, please check out [www.ocelottriathlonclub.weebly.com](http://www.ocelottriathlonclub.weebly.com).

### **Ocelot CrossFit Kids:**

Ocelot CrossFit Kids is having its best year yet! With over 70 members and 35 kids per class we are one of the largest school CrossFit Kids programs in North America.

Our kids are now gearing up for CrossFit competition season as we are planning two contests of fitness against Heritage Heights and Highwood High School. Stay tuned for more information! In the meantime, check out [www.ocelotcrossfitkids.com](http://www.ocelotcrossfitkids.com) for more information.

### **Tuesdays Are Pizza Day at ÉOJHS**

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.

### **Sobeys/Safeway Gift Cards- Fundraiser**

Our Gift Card fundraiser program is a huge success. Gift Cards are available 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 8% 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, etc... If you need any further information, please contact Tracy Thorbjornsen at 403-938-4426 ext 19105.

### **HASS**

The students from the Healthy Active School committee has decided that it's time to cut down our abuse of plastic water bottles! Unless you recycle plastics it will NEVER go away. The school will begin selling ÉOJHS metal water bottles at the cost of 6\$ starting January 25, 2017. Help us boycott plastic water bottles.

### **Hot Lunch**

ÉOJHS School Council is excited to offer hot lunch two days a week. The days are Monday and Wednesday beginning immediately.

Please go to [www.healthyhunger.ca](http://www.healthyhunger.ca) and register your child. See attachment for more information on how to register.

Please note: all lunches must be claimed at lunch hour. If a student is away for a field trip or absent due to illness, ordered lunches will not be held, nor reimbursed.

Pizza will still be available at the school on Tuesdays without pre-ordering and the canteen will operate as usual.

If you have any questions please email [eojhsmomhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:eojhsmomhotlunch@gmail.com).

We are also looking for two parent volunteers on each day, from 11:45 am until roughly 12:45 pm

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

The Foods department is accepting 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.

### **School Fees**

Invoices for school fees for 2016/2017 school year have been mailed home and are now PAST DUE. 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. 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.

### **Student Illnesses**

At ÉOJHS, we endeavor to provide all students with a safe and caring environment. As such, we have students who have a high risk medical condition 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.

Thank you for your support!

### **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.

Please note: When calling to leave a message on attendance line please be clear, we have been having a little trouble understanding student names.

### **School Council Meeting**

The next School Council meeting will be as follows:

Date: Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Location: École Okotoks Junior High  
Time: 7:00pm

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

### **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 ÉOJHS. 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.

### **Optional Athletic Wear –Sweat Shirts**

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

The EOJHS Sweat Shirts - \$40.00 each

The EOJHS 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.

New this year are the Water Bottles – various colours - \$6.00 each

Please see Mrs. Thorbjornsen any time to pick up these great items that will help keep you warm on those chilly outdoor PE Days.

### **ÉOJHS 2015-2016 Year Books**

The yearbooks for last year have arrived and have been distributed to students whose parents have purchased one. The office does have extra for sale and they are available for \$20.00 each.

### **Canadian Tire Money Donations**

Ms. King is once again collecting Canadian Tire money on behalf of the Okotoks Pound Rescue.

Donations are collected all year and then given to the organization to help them purchase supplies.

If you can donate, please bring \$ to Room 001. Thank you.

### **School Twitter Information**

ÉOJHS 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:**

Minster's Letter

Parent/Teacher Interview Registration



## Invest in the future.

Alberta Education invites you to play an important role in your child's education.

By completing this survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to gauge the quality of education your child is receiving and to ensure they are being prepared for success.

When you fill out the attached Accountability Pillar survey, you're adding your voice to the future of education in your school and throughout Alberta. Results are used by schools, school authorities and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved.

We all have a part to play in the important work of educating the next generation of Albertans.

Thank you for your participation.



David Eggen  
Minister of Education

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Anthony Warren, Alberta Education  
E: [Anthony.Warren@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Anthony.Warren@gov.ab.ca)  
T: 780-422-4750  
(toll-free access within Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Please return  
your completed survey  
in the enclosed,  
pre-paid envelope by  
February 24, 2017.



# A true picture of our success.

## Measuring the quality of your child's education

We want to know that our children are receiving a quality education in a great school. Grades are important, but there's more to it.

A great school and its staff help every child to make the most of their talents and abilities. Great schools are caring, secure and encourage parents to play a key role. It's all about each student's success.

While it's easy to agree on such goals,  
how do we measure our progress toward them?

The Accountability Pillar is an innovative and straightforward way to measure our learning goals as schools, school authorities and as a provincial government.

Results are provided in a colour-coded and easy-to-read report so everyone in the community can review it. At a glance, it points out successes and areas of concern from both a local and provincial perspective.

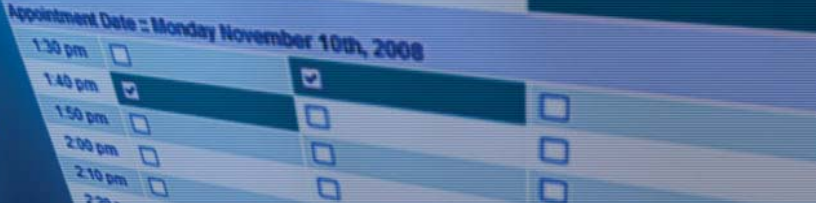
The results report shows which measures have improved, remained consistent and which have declined. It allows everyone - parents, teachers, school authorities, students and the province - to celebrate successes and respond to challenges together.

### The Accountability Pillar looks at:



- **Survey results** – every year between January and March we survey students, their parents and teachers to see how they perceive the quality of education they receive and take part in
- **Student learning indicators** such as dropout rates, high school completion rates and the number of students eligible to receive Rutherford Scholarships
- **Student results** from Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

Details about the Accountability Pillar and how to obtain results are available online at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/accountability>





## School Appointments - Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site: <http://ejhs.parentteacherconferences.net>
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. Click "**Insert New**" button to add more children.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with and the "**View Calendars**" button. Use the "**Ctrl**" or "**Command**" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time.  
5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments and then click the "**Book Appointments**" button to save your bookings.
6. Sections of the teacher's calendars that are black are not available for booking as the teacher has another commitment at that time. Sections of the calendars that are coloured burgundy are time slots that you as a parent are already booked for other appointments. You will only see burgundy sections when booking appointments for a second or third child.
7. When you are finished you can view your appointments from the "PROFILE" tab by selecting "View Appointments". You can also print your appointments from the view appointments screen.



## SOBEYS/SAFEWAY GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER ORDER FORM

Name of Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(OPTIONAL)

Date of Purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method: Cash / Debit / Visa / Master Card / Cheque  
(PLEASE CIRCLE)

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If credit card is not presented at time of purchase)

**Cards Purchased:**

<u>Face Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>*Designation</u>
\$25.00	x	_____ = \$ _____	Band / Other
\$50.00	x	_____ = \$ _____	Band / Other
\$100.00	x	_____ = \$ _____	Band / Other
\$200.00	x	_____ = \$ _____	Band / Other
\$500.00	x	_____ = \$ _____	Band / Other

Program of Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Funds raised can be designated to activities such as Band Program, School Fees, School Athletics, Trips or a program of your choice. If no designation is selected then the funds will be held in a general account under your student's name to be accessed as needed. Non accessed funds will be distributed throughout the various programs such as Breakfast Program, Fine Arts, Athletics and other school initiatives as needed.