

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



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

Dear families and guardians,

We recently had the privilege of hosting Sam Jingfors from Safer Schools Together out of Vancouver, B.C. Sam spent the morning speaking to our whole student body about their digital footprint, what is appropriate/inappropriate to send on-line, and how to use technology for good not evil.

Following the school-wide assembly, Sam worked with 40 students from Grade 8 and 9 in a specialized training program called "Peers to Peers". These student leaders will then take their new knowledge and present to our grade 7 students as well as the grade 6 students from our feeder schools. Research behind this format shows that when the message of 'positive use of technology' comes from the students themselves (rather than adults), the impact is greater on promoting sustained change as well as building capacity within our school.

That evening we were pleased to host the parent presentation on Parenting in the Digital Age. Sam shared numerous insightful tips and very valuable knowledge around our role and responsibility as parents to help keep our children safe in this digital age. I have attached the Social Media Parents Checklist sheet that was shared. Thank you to all of the parents for your attendance at this very important presentation.

École Okotoks Junior High School is cutting edge in their partnership with Safer Schools Together. We are the only school in Foothills School Division to forge this relationship and emphasize the critical importance of intentional actions like these to create a safe and caring climate and culture. We are committed to continuing this important work because if students do not feel safe, they will not learn.

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

Sincerely,  
Leah, Bill & Rhonda

### **Important Dates**

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – PD Day, No School for Students  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert, Eastlick Gym, 7-8pm  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – French Film at Okotoks Cinemas Field Trip, 9:15am – noon  
Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Franco-Connexion in High River, all day  
Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Nakiska Ski Field Trip, all day  
Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – School Dance, 9am – 12 noon  
Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Early School Dismissal at 12:05pm  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Break, No School  
Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – First Day Back to School

### **Visitors In The School**

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

### **Student Council Selling Rafikis Bracelets**

Student council has committed to making an international impact by selling Rafikis again this year. Our sales times will be before school starts and at morning break from Wednesday – Friday. The link below is a short video with regard to the Rafikis campaign.

<https://www.we.org/we-schools/program/campaigns/we-are-rafikis/>

The cost is \$10 per bracelet. The order will go in next Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and will be here just before the Christmas holidays. Each of the five bracelets represent the following: Water (blue), Education (multi-colored), Health (red pink), Opportunity (purple), and Food (green) OR they can buy a multi pack all 5 for \$50.

### **School Council Winter Bazaar**

The EOJHS School Council & Ocelots Fundraising Society is excited to host "Winter Market & EOJHS Showcase" on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-8pm at EOJHS. This school and community market will include parent/guardian vendors, community vendors, photo opportunities and showcase the talent of our students. Money raised from this event will support "Technology" at our school. Please contact [EOJ4Parents@gmail.com](mailto:EOJ4Parents@gmail.com) or call Naydene at 403-938-6629.

### **Music News**

Poinsettias orders have been placed. Thank you to everyone who helped support this campaign to help our Fine Arts Students participate in this year's Sun Peaks Music Festival. All Poinsettias orders must be collected following the December 11<sup>th</sup> concert.

The following performance dates are set:

Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert	All Bands and Choirs
Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Alberta Children's Choir Gala Performance	Concert Choir

Uniform requirements for choir members are black pants or skirts, black button up dress shirts for the boys or blouses for the girls, and black shoes. Girls may substitute a dress as well. NO WHITE SOCKS.

Uniform requirements for the bands are an EOJHS band shirt, and black pants, and black shoes. The girls may substitute an ankle length black skirt if they so wish. The shirt orders for the Grade 7s as well as 8/9 band members that need new shirts, will be sent in this week so they are here in time for the concerts. Parents are reminded that EOJHS has a performance based music program. Performances are music's midterm and final exams, as well as an opportunity to see your child truly shine, therefore, performances are mandatory. We also believe that many hands make for light work. Band students are in charge of setting up and tearing down after the concert, so please budget your time accordingly.

### **The Magic of Christmas donations**

The Magic of Christmas is a non-profit organization focused on delivering the Christmas spirit of loving, caring, and sharing to those who need it the most. Volunteers elves will deliver donated items to families within our Okotoks community later in December. Okotoks Jr. High School would like to get involved in this great cause by encouraging students to bring in a gift card of choice, that could be gifted to a teen through this program. Gift cards can be accepted until Wednesday, Dec.13<sup>th</sup>. Students can take them to their homeroom teacher for collection.

**Donate old Christmas Trees!** - If anyone has an artificial Christmas tree they are looking to get rid of, please consider donating it to Okotoks Jr. High School! We will gladly accept it, and put it up in one of our school spaces for all to enjoy! Please drop off at the front office.

### **Hats On for Charity:**

In addition to other Fundraising campaigns that are held at EOJHS, throughout the school year, weekly, we encourage our staff and students to contribute a minimum of \$1.00 on the last school day of each week and 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 that month. Below you will find our results to date:

September (Terry Fox) - \$299.90

October (Okotoks Food Bank) - \$304.93

November (Movember Campaign) - \$244.65

### **Donations Needed for the EOJHS Theatre Program**

The theatre program is looking for your donations! As we prepare for our spring production, we have found that we are in need of construction supplies and specific set pieces. If you have extra construction materials that can be used for set building (wood of any kind, old crates, etc.) we would greatly appreciate your donation. We are also in search of some antique pieces that could either be borrowed or purchased. If you are able to assist us in our search, please send an email to [fergusonc@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:fergusonc@fsd38.ab.ca)

### **Student Council Newsletter- November**

By: Madison and Payton

Hello, this is a message from Student Council. We have officially formed and elected an executive team and are ready to go. We have already established our point system and poured our hearts into the making of this. We will be using the point system for all of our activities and at the end of each semester the winning team will win a pizza party! We started of the year with We Scared Hunger and it was a huge success. We donated 633lbs of food to the Okotoks Food Bank. We have announced our winner for the Remembrance Day poster contest and 7I are the lucky winners! Great job 7I! Student council will be selling Rafiki's and Water Bottles and having a bake sale on Thursday Nov 30th at the Parent Council Winter Bazaar. It's from 4-8pm on the 30th so feel free to stop by! We are enjoying our work in student council so far and are currently using what we learned in our trip to We-Day this year to make our group even better. We even have some more ideas that we cannot wait to get started on. Throughout December we will be doing a door decorating contest and the administration will be judging and awarding points for the best doors. In the next couple weeks, look for pictures on Twitter. Have a great day!

### **EOJHS Hot Lunch Program**

EOJHS School Council is happy to offer the Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch Program once again this year. This program offers a preordered hot lunch twice a week on Monday and Wednesday and every second Thursday. All lunches are to be picked up during the school lunch break in the front foyer. Unfortunately, if a student is absent from school, their ordered lunch will not be held for the next day, nor will money be reimbursed. Please go to [www.healthyhunger.ca](http://www.healthyhunger.ca) to register and order a delicious lunch. **Volunteers are desperately needed for one hour on hot lunch days. Please contact us at [eojhCouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:eojhCouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca) to volunteer.**

### **School Council Meeting**

The next school council meeting will be held:

Date: January 30, 2018

Location: École Okotoks Junior High

Time: 7:00pm

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting

### **EOJHS Casino Fundraiser – December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**

School Council is hosting a Casino on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> in hopes to raise approximately \$50,000. In order for this fundraiser to be a success, we really need your help! Parent volunteers are needed desperately. There are two shifts each day that we need help with. The day shifts are from 9:45am – 7pm and the evening shifts are 6:30pm – 3:30am. If you wish to volunteer please email [bonpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:bonpalmer@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **Purdy's Chocolate Bars For Sale!**

School Council is selling Purdy's chocolate bars and they are available for purchase for \$2.00 each. Please contact Naydene Lewis at [ejhcouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:ejhcouncil@gm.fsd38.ab.ca).

### **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.

### **School Fees**

Invoices for school fees for 2017/2018 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 403-938-4426 ext. 19105.

### **Student Illnesses**

At EOJHS, 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.

### **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.

### **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 extra yearbooks for sale in the office for \$20.00 each.

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

### **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.

### **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 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 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. If you need any further information, please contact Tracy Thorbjornsen at 403-938-4426 ext 19105.

### **Attachments:**

Social Media Parents Checklist

EOJHS Winter Market Poster

Global Sport Academy Information Nights, 2018



### Social Media Parents Checklist



- Call a Digital Family Meeting - Set rules and expectations for behavior with technology
- Draft a Social Media Contract – see examples
- Have a central charging station (e.g. your room, kitchen table) – Keep devices out their bedrooms!
- Have your child write a paragraph about why they should have a phone or be able to download an “app”.  
Set up the accounts WITH them
- Know their passwords! Sealed envelope of passwords on the fridge if applicable
- Set technology limits on use – if you meet resistance, remind them who pays for the phone or device
- Buy, Use and Teach your child how to use a physical old fashioned alarm clock
- Set parental controls: Phone, Tablet, Computer
- Google yourself and your child. What is out there about you and your family?
- Review privacy settings on all social media accounts. Set Instagram as private!
- Check Instagram “DIRECT” mailbox and read the comment section of pictures and posts
- Explore strategies of what to do when a stranger talks to them online. Remind them that you won't be upset and you are just looking out for their safety
- Ask your child what social media platforms are popular and why – take a keen interest with curiosity to help open up dialogue
- Actually, read the privacy policies and terms of service with your child
- Discuss the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship
- Discuss both the positives and negative uses of social media
- Remind them of the permanence and public nature of all things shared electronically
- Discuss with your child the dangers of sharing intimate (sexting) photos
- Are location services turned OFF for camera and social media apps – do any of their posts have a geo-tag attached?
- Be mindful of and know what VAULT apps look like
- Put tape or band-aid on the laptop camera when not in use
- Make strong passwords for all accounts and emails – That includes YOU!  
Letters, numbers, and special characters !@#\$\$%^&\*
- Set up and be ready to use Find my iPhone or Android Device Manager
- Educate Yourself - Search online for anything you don't understand
- Remember that your kids are growing up online! Help guide them
- Encourage your kids to create a positive digital footprint as they grow older



# ECOLE OKOTOKS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WINTER MARKET & SHOWCASE

NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 4-8PM

1 PACIFIC AVE

PUBLIC WELCOME!

We have over 25 Vendors on site.



**PLEASE JOIN US. WE ARE FUNDRAISING FOR TECHNOLOGY AT  
OUR SCHOOL.**

Seasonal and Traditional items	Stocking Stuffers	Jewellery	Crafts	
Every day use items	Embroidery	Baking	Metal Works	Glass Works
SANTA PHOTOS-bring your own camera	Food	FREE YOGA Classes	Personal Health	
Event Ticket Sales	Paintings	Drawings	Handmade items	Clothing

Please contact us at [EOJ4Parents@gmail.com](mailto:EOJ4Parents@gmail.com) or Naydene Lewis, Chair  
403-938-6629 to receive further information about this event.

**FACEBOOK: EOJ SCHOOL COUNCIL & FUNDRAISING SOCIETY**



## Information Nights 2018



**Information Nights: Springbank**  
**Sprinbank Community High School:**  
**November 27, January 15, March 5, April 16**  
**Sports Offered: Hockey, Golf and Global Athletics**  
**Grades: 9-12 Male and Female**  
**Where: Small Gym at Springbank Community High School**  
**Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm**



**Information Nights: Okotoks**  
**Ecole Okotoks Junior High School:**  
**November 29, January 17, March 7, April 18**  
**Sport Offered: Hockey**  
**Grades: 7-12 Male and Female**  
**Where: Okotoks Junior High School Learning Commons**  
**Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm**



**Information Nights: Airdrie**  
**George McDougall High School**  
**WH Croxford High School**  
**Bert Church High School**  
**Ecole Airdrie Middle School**  
**November 29, January 16, March 6, April 17**  
**Sport Offered: Hockey**  
**Grades: 7-12 Male and Female**  
**Where: RVS Education Centre**  
**Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm**



For more information visit our website at: [www.globalsportacademygroup.com](http://www.globalsportacademygroup.com) or contact us at [info@globalsportacademygroup.com](mailto:info@globalsportacademygroup.com) or call 587-430-0444