



Principal.....Mrs. Leah Kingston 403-938-4426 ext 19107
Vice-Principal.....Mr. Bill Holmes 403-938-4426 ext 19106
Vice-Principal.....Mrs. Rhonda Bymak 403-938-4426 ext 19104

Attendance Line.....403-938-4426 press "1"
Attendance Email.....ojattendance@fsd38.ab.ca
OJHS website.....<http://ojhs.fsd38.ab.ca>
Twitter at..... OK_Ocelots

École Okotoks Junior High School
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THE PAW PRINTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

Important Dates

October 5 – World Teacher day
October 7 – No School - P.D. Day
October 10 – Happy Thanksgiving – No School
October 13 – School dance 6:30-9:30
October 17 – Flag football jamboree
October 25 – Grade 9 vaccinations round 2
October 26 – Picture re-take day
October 26 – WE Day
October 26 – Parent/teacher interviews
October 27 – Parent/teacher interviews
October 28 – System Learning day

Message From Administration

We welcome back all of our Ocelot families and are thrilled to have so many new families to our community. We trust that you had an enjoyable summer and that you were able to relax and rejuvenate.

Our school year has started smoothly and all students are now settled in their respective classes. We are pleased to offer a variety of options including French Second Language and Spanish which are both new this year.

We are happy to have the opportunity to work with your child on the Fourth R curriculum (as part of our health instruction). The Fourth R speaks to the Healthy Relationships curriculum and is a comprehensive school-based program based on extensive research. It applies best-practice approaches to building skills and reducing harm among adolescents. The foundation is a skill-based curriculum that promotes healthy relationships and targets violence (bullying, peer and dating violence), high-risk behavior and substance use.

For parents of students in Grade 9 we will be holding an information session on Tuesday, October 25th at 5:30 p.m. This session will share with you what you need to be aware of for your child to be successful in their transition to high school. More information to come!

Please know that your child's success and happiness is our top priority. We appreciate our relationship with you and value the partnership between home and school to support your child.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

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

Leah, Bill & Rhonda

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.

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. 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 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.

Bell Times

The first bell is at 8:30 am, second bell is at 8:35 am (all students should be in their Period 1 class at this time)

Monday - Friday

Morning Break: 10:30 am – 10:40 am

Lunch Time: 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Dismissal: 3:05 pm

Cheer News

The cheer team for the 2016/17 season has been chosen, thanks to all the athletes who came to tryouts! There will be a parent information meeting at 5:15 on Thursday, September 29th in the café.

ÉOJHS 2015-2016 Year Books

The yearbooks for last year have arrived and have been distributed to students whose parents have purchased one.

Music Department News

Band shirt orders will be going home in the next few days. Grade 8s and 9s are still in the polo shirts. Grade 7s will be in button up short sleeve dress shirts with the ÉOJHS Ocelot Music logo embroidered on the front. These shirts are necessary for a uniform appearance during all performances. If the 8s and 9s have their shirt from last year, and it still fits, they can continue using it.

Final details regarding the 8/9 choral and band trip to Jasper are still being worked on, INCLUDING THE DATES. Final details will be finalized and forms will be sent home upon approval from division office.

Thank you for the fantastic attendance at our Annual General Meeting. There were a lot of people in the room. I enjoyed meeting all of the new families.

Information will be coming home in regards to our 1st Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser. We expect to be running this in the coming weeks.

School Photo Retake Day, Wednesday October 26, 2016 (Day 2) in East Courtyard

All students that did not get their school photo taken on Monday, September 26th will have their photo done on retake day, Wednesday, October 26th.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Wednesday, October 26st from 4pm to 7pm and Thursday, October 27nd from 4pm to 6pm. Interviews will be by appointment and more information will follow in early October on how parents can access the parent/teacher interview calendar.

Volunteer Requests

We are looking for parent volunteers to support field trips and ongoing calendar events if you are interested please pick up a Criminal Record Check to ensure we are up to date with your information.

ÉOJHS School Dance

The first dance of the school year will be held Thursday, October 13th from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

School Fees

Invoices for school fees for 2016/2017 school year have been mailed home and e-mailed out along with your Maplewood user name and password. Payment can be made online or we accept Cash or Cheque at the school. If you would like to make arrangements for a payment plan, please contact Mrs. Tracy Thorbjornsen at 403-938-4426, ext. 19105. All fees are due no later than October 31, 2016.

Ocelot CrossFit Kids News:

The ÉOJHS Ocelot CrossFit Kids Club will start next week! This club runs on Monday mornings at 7 am and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

What is CrossFit? It's constantly varied functional movements performed at high intensity. All CrossFit workouts are based on functional movements, and these movements reflect the best aspects of gymnastics, weightlifting, running, rowing and more. These are the core movements of life. They move the largest loads the longest distances, so they are ideal for maximizing the amount of work done in the shortest time. Intensity is essential for results and is measurable as work divided by time—or power. The more work you do in less time, or the higher the power output, the more intense the effort. By employing a constantly varied approach to training, functional movements and intensity lead to dramatic gains in fitness. The CrossFit Kids Program incorporates the aforementioned areas with a safe and fun environment to develop overall fitness!

Permission forms are available at the PE Office or please contact Mr. VanDerVeen for more information.

Also, please check out our website at: www.ocelotcrossfitkids.com

“In Pursuit of Excellence”

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 ÉOJHS, 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. Effective January 1, 2016, the Okotoks RCMP detachment is now charging a \$5.00 (cash only) fee to volunteers who are requesting a Criminal Record Check. 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.

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.

EOJHS Website

Please feel free to visit our website which is regularly updated at okotoksjr.fsd38.ab.ca (you do not need to type www before OJHS). The newsletter is also available on this web page

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 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.

Routine Fire & Safety Drills

These drills are practiced routines to help protect the safety of all our students during the school year. Questions or concerns should be directed to the school at 403-938-4426, ext. 0.

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 Immunization Program Consent Forms

Each year public health nursing provides a variety of vaccinations through our school health program. Routinely, vaccinations are offered in grades 5 and 9 to eligible students. We offer catch up vaccinations to students in grades 1,5 and 9 as well as to students new to the school in all grades who need updates. If you are unsure if your child is up to date, please contact your local health unit at 403-995-2600.

Early in the school year students who are eligible for a vaccination came home with an envelope containing information about what vaccinations they need, and consent forms to sign and return to the school. Please look for this package in your child's backpack and/or ask your child about where this package is! The first vaccination date is Wednesday, September 28th! So please ensure that all completed consent forms are returned to the school prior to this day. Thank you.

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 your 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.

In Foothills School Division we all play a part contributing to building a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

To ensure all students are engaged and successful learners, every day in school counts. Attendance is an essential ingredient to academic success.

School absence adds up. Non-attendance is a significant early indicator that your child may be at risk for not completing high school. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10% or more of school for any reason. Poor attendance is not just about unexcused absences or children willfully skipping school – excused absences can affect performance, too.

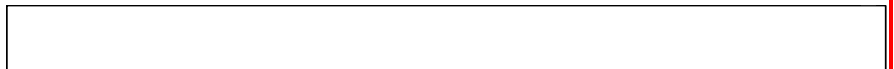
Research from the Every Student Counts: Keeping Kids in School Report indicates that students with attendance challenges typically do not:

- *feel safe*
- *have positive connections or relationships with others*
- *feel that they belong and/or*
- *make the effort to attend school regularly*

(Alberta Education; Spring 2014)

School strategies to create a Culture of Attendance include:

- ✓ Recognizing Good and Improved Attendance
- ✓ Engaging Students and Parents
- ✓ Monitoring Attendance Data and Practice
- ✓ Providing Personalized Early Support
- ✓ Responding to Barriers



Parent strategies to create a Culture of Attendance include:

- ✓ Show interest in your child's schooling by talking with their teachers, helping with homework and overtly encourage them to do well at school. Having regular contact between home and school will help to discourage absenteeism with an early detection system in place before attendance becomes chronic
- ✓ Reduce technology distractions at home that make getting to school challenging
- ✓ Avoid booking trips during school days wherever possible

- ✓ Encourage a healthy lifestyle including good eating and sleeping routines
- ✓ Keep open the line of communication talking directly to your child when problems arise for ideas about how things could work better for them at school
- ✓ Monitor transportation to ensure there are not concerns around taking the bus, walking, or riding to school
- ✓ Encourage your child to join clubs or activities of interest at school to encourage school connection
- ✓ Support your child with clear goals for themselves regarding school and future making the connection between your child's current school experience and their future

<https://education.alberta.ca/attendance/attendance-toolkit/>



Support is Available

If you are experiencing difficulty in having your child attend regularly, there are supports in place for you. Contact your child's teacher, administrator or Family School Liaison Counsellor. They can provide you with strategies and supports to encourage attendance and ensure your child has a successful year at school! So welcome back to school!



Blood cancers are the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer in both men and women. This year an estimated 21,000 Canadians will be diagnosed, or one person every 25 minutes. Team in Training and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada work towards reduce these numbers through research, support, and educational programs.

Funds raised by Team in Training support The Society's mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

To raise funds for this organization, we are planning to have a OKOTOKS HALLOWEEN CANDY CRAWL. This event will consist of two races: 1 km CANDY CRAWL and a 5 km walk/run . We respectfully ask if you would consider donating A BAG OF CANDY and/sponsoring this event, with proceeds received going to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada.

Thank you for your kind consideration and I look forward to hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact by email at okotokshalloweencandycrawl@gmail.com if you would like to contribute or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tamara Ford, Joan Gauthier and Sarah Gauthier

Team In Training



Okotoks Halloween Candy Crawl!



October 28th & 29th



1km Candy Crawl - Oct 29
Put on your costumes, gather your friend's
and family and prepare for a **Candy Palooza!**

5km Walk or Run - Oct 29
Costume's optional each participant
will receive a medal & treats



All proceeds to benefit:



Haunted Houses - Oct 28 & 29

Two Haunted Houses; one child friendly,
the other, we are out to scare you!

Sponsored by:

Kids' Stop

For more information or to register visit the running room website
or email us at okotokshalloweencandycrawl@gmail.com