

Ocean Grove Elementary

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March 2022 Newsletter

Dear Ocean Grove School Community,

I want to send out a very big thank you to all of you.

We realize that this time of year has been really busy and stressful and with the added illnesses and covid protocols there has been extra stress added.

There is very good news! We seem to have managed to get through the worst of omicron and the cold season without having to close a classroom or shut the school. There were a few days when we had up to 25% of our staff and students absent, which was very close to triggering a functional closure, but with your help we managed to avoid that happening. We are back down to an average of a 6% absence rate for staff and students. So thank you for your support!

Due to our improved attendance numbers and new Ministry protocols, we are cautiously opening up a little bit. Please feel free to walk your students to their classrooms; all we ask is that if you are not wearing a mask that you socially distance from those who are not in your family bubble. We are once again able to offer in-person student led conferences (March 9th). Also, we are going to be able to have student audiences for the Battle of the Books, at least at the school level.

We, Ocean Grove Staff, wish you all a restful and happy two week Spring Break.

Deborah Beres, Acting-Principal

Joanna Broadbent, Acting Vice-Principal



Important Dates

Feb. 28 - School Battle of the Books

Mar. 1 - Zone Battle of the Books

Mar. 9 - Student Led Conference Day
Regular Classes Not in Session

Mar. 14 - Spring Break Starts

Mar. 28 - Return to School after Break

Apr. 15 - Good Friday
Schools Closed

Apr. 18 - Easter Monday
Schools Closed

Please ensure that you perform a Daily Health Check on your child every morning, and follow the directions as to when to keep them home. (see website to download K-12 health check App)

Bell Schedule

8:25 School Starts
10:15-10:30 Recess
11:55-12:40 Lunch
2:10 Dismissal

Student Led Conference Day: Wed., March 9th

Regular Classes will NOT be in session.

If you have not already heard from your child's teacher, please contact them via email for information regarding the format/times available this year.

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Kindergarten Registration for September 2022



Although the official “kindergarten registration week” has passed, you can still come in to register your child for September 2022 kindergarten. We strongly recommend that registration be done as soon as possible.

Please provide us with the following documentation via email to “oceangrove@sd72.bc.ca”:

- **Completed student registration form (see district or school website);**
- **Copy of student’s birth certificate;**
- **Copy of student’s care card (both sides); and**
- **Proof of residency (ie driver’s license, tax/utility bill)**

Although emailed registration is the preferred method, you may also phone the school office to set up an appointment time for registration. Any visitors to the school must wear a mask and complete a health check upon arrival.

Children must be five years old before December 31st, 2022 to register.

Student Learning Survey

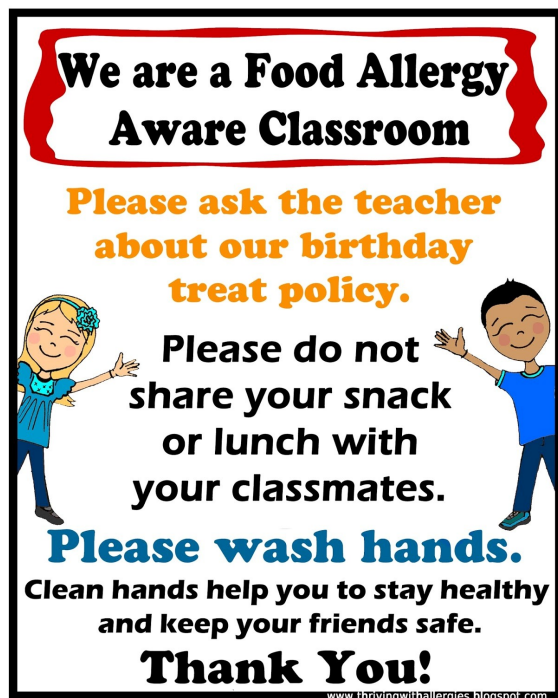
The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in 2022 the Student Learning Survey will be administered at Ocean Grove to students in grade 4, and all school staff. By letter dated February 15th sent home to the families of grade 4 students, we also requested participation at home by parents/guardians/caregivers of these students. Their participation is requested as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement.

The anonymous survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, access to the e-survey is simple and secure, and no log-on code is required - just select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, district and school reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey will be open until **April 29th**. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.





Classroom Allergy Alerts

Please note that we have allergy alerts in certain classrooms.

Please help us keep our classrooms free of these allergens to protect these children.

Mrs. Kretlow
All nuts and eggs

Ms. Menard
All nuts

Mrs. Holland/Beres
Peanuts, cashews & pecans

Ms. Watkinson
All nuts & fish

Ms. Menard
All nuts

Mrs. Jarvis
Tree nuts, sesame, pistachios & cashews

Mrs. Hatfield
All nuts & lentils

March Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes are sent out to all of the following students having a birthday in March:

Kacey	Brody	Logyn
Linkin	Evan	Hannah
Mason	Evelyn	Felicity
Mikayla	Emily	Hailey
Sawyer	Emily	Sofie
Ashton	Elliott	Mia
Tristan	Austin	Khloe
Madison	Lewis	Emma
Luke	Isabelle	Blake
Drew	Cameron	Miley
Natalie		
Deven		

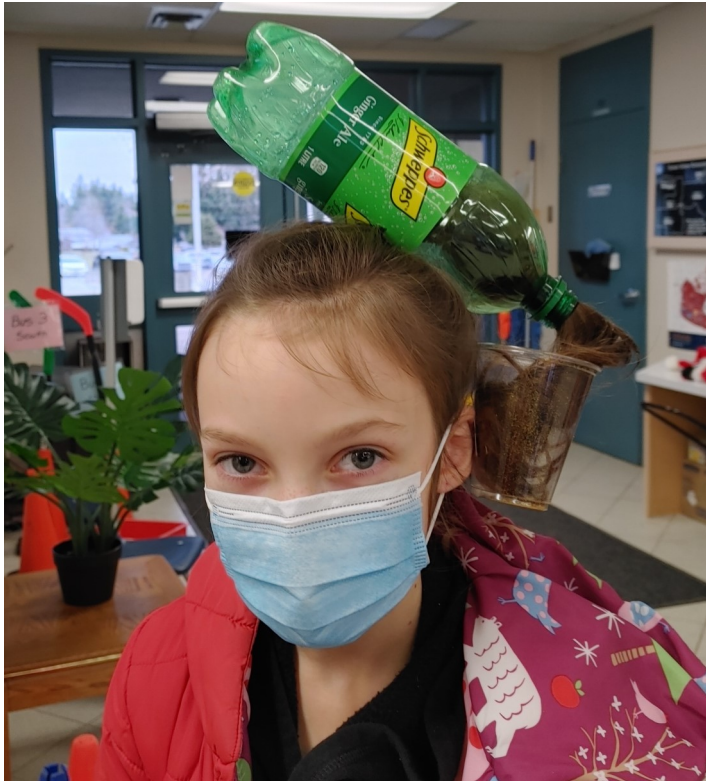


Daylight Savings Time

Clocks go ahead one hour
at 2:00 am on
Sunday, March 13, 2022



The first day of Spring Break is
Monday, March 14th
Students return to school on
Monday, March 28th



Friday, February 11th was CRAZY HAIR DAY, with lots of students and staff participation!

Thank you Leadership students for organizing this fun event.



Reporting Student Absences

We require parent/guardian notification of student absences EACH day (unless you have pre-notified of a block absence).

Two ways:

(1) Phone

250-923-4266,

Option 2 for

Attendance Line

(2) Email

oceangrove@sd72.bc.ca

When leaving a message please state the REASON for the absence (ie sick, appointment, vacation, etc.)

We track for health reasons. Thank you!



Mrs. Sewid's class made lovely suncatcher crafts for Valentines Day.

KINDNESS COUNTS

(One of Mrs. Sewid's well known sayings.)

Students throughout the school supported Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 23rd.



Late French Immersion

Interested parents/guardians of current grade 5 students are invited to an online event on **Wednesday, March 2nd at 7 pm. Use this link to attend the meeting: <https://bit.ly/3sbX0VA>** Attendees will be able to watch this event through either a web browser or the Microsoft Teams App, if you have it downloaded.

- * Meet the Ecole Phoenix Middle School leadership team and hear about the school.
- * Meet Mme. Brenda Laliberte, our late French Immersion teacher, who will give an over view of the program.

REGISTRATION: For more information please see district website, and if you are planning on attending the meeting and/or register your child in next year's grade 6 French Immersion program, please fill out the information sheet and return it to your child's teacher asap: https://www.sd72.bc.ca/_ci/p/5950

On-line Gaming and Cyber Bullying

Pink Shirt Day, held on February 23rd this year, raises awareness of bullying and enforces the message of kindness. This day should also be used as an opportunity to discuss various issues with your child, including the potential for cyberbullying and harassment through online gaming.

The following information has been obtained from <https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/kids-on-social-media-and-gaming>. Playing videogames is a popular activity, with the majority of students gaming online. Many video games - whether they are on a computer, game console, cellphone or tablet - allow users to play with friends they know in person and others they have met only online. While gaming can have positive benefits like making new friends, socializing, and learning how to strategize and problem solve, it is also another place where cyberbullying occurs.

Anonymity of players and the use of fictional versions of themselves allows users to harass, bully and sometimes gang up on other players, sending or posting negative or hurtful messages and using the game as a tool of harassment. If someone is not performing well, other children may curse or make negative remarks that turn into bullying, or they might exclude the person from playing together. ***This type of behaviour often crosses over from the home into school, leading to unpleasant confrontations, harassment or exclusion between students.*** We are seeing this at a younger and younger age. Due to covid, students have been at home more often, missing out on peer interactions, and spending more time online.

“Griefing” is the term given to any act in which a player sabotages or interferes with another play’s game-play or verbally harasses others during in-game chats.

Many parents don’t know that their school-age children are being bullied or are bullies. Many players do not appreciate that the consequences of their actions or comments in the virtual space matter as much as they do in the real world, allowing them to “act up” in a way that they would consciously not do in person. It is up to parents to have these conversations with their kids. It can be a tricky conversation requiring careful reactions if your child confides in you about being bullied or dishing it out. It’s important to keep the lines of communication open and try to figure out how it is that you can help your child through it.

There are things parents can and should do to prevent cyberbullying of children who are gaming:

- ◆ Play the game or observe when the game happens to understand how it works and what your child is exposed to in the game;
- ◆ Keep the gaming devices in common areas of the home, and can check in periodically with your child about who is online and playing the game with them;
- ◆ Teach your child about safe and respectful online behaviour. Children can feel “anonymous”, and not understand the effect their off-hand comments/chat may have on someone else. They may feel that *it’s not real, it’s just a game*, but the impact and feelings are real.
- ◆ Ensure that your child’s gaming accounts are linked to the email address of a parent/guardian so all chats and activity can be accessed.
- ◆ Your child should only play age-appropriate titles. In addition to the content in an age-restricted game being more explicit, discussions occurring within in-game chats will also be more likely to contain inappropriate topics and inflammatory language.
- ◆ Establish rules about how much time a child can spend playing video games.

Check out the many articles that are available on-line for parents regarding in-game bullying.