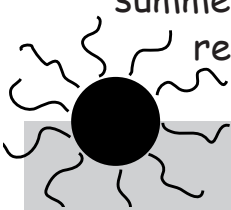


September 2008

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone has had a great summer. This newsletter contains some important reminders and policies as well as announcements and information on events and activities.



Important Dates

Friday, September 19th Fall Equinox Potluck 3:30-6:00

Monday, September 22th Professional Development Day -- No School
(Out of School Care available on request, \$25 per day.)

Tuesday, September 30th 7:00 pm, Fall Parents Meeting

Thursday, October 2nd 3:30 pm, Parent Meeting-Note: this is the same meeting as the one on Sept. 30th to give everyone a chance to come to one of the two meetings

Monday, October 13th Holiday-School Closed

Friday, October 24th, Professional Development Day--No School
(Out of School Care available on request, \$25 per day.)

Reminders

Please remember to pay your activity fee. This fee is \$100 per child and covers school supplies, field trips and activities for the year.

Also remember to keep your tuition fees paid on a regular basis. The tuition fees cover costs associated with the building such as utilities, mortgage, cleaning, educational equipment, etc. Post-dated cheques are a great way to pay fees!

ANNOUNCEMENT; Morgan's baby was born on Thursday, Sept.11 at 12:20pm! Her name is Mairabelle Sola and she is 10lbs, 5oz. We are collecting food donations for the happy family.

FALL EQUINOX POTLUCK

Bring friends and family along with a healthy dish (we encourage vegetarian) to share for a celebration of the equinox in the school yard. Please bring your own plates utensils. 3:30-6:00

Please remember to send your child with a 3:00 snack as dinner is at 5:00pm

Announcements

FALL PARENT MEETING

Parents are encouraged to attend one of the dates. We will discuss ways to be involved in the school, organizational structure, philosophies, and your suggestions for the upcoming year.

There are two meeting options:

- 7:00 pm on Tues Sept 30th
 - 3:30 pm on Thurs Oct 2nd
- (The same meeting will be repeated.)

If anyone has changed their address, phone number or email or any other information we need to know for your file, please give this information to Corrina at the office. Thanks.

Notice: You will soon be able to view our school calendar for the year on-line at oakandorca.ca. Please note that all future months are subject to change.

Important Request:

We have several earthquake emergency bins throughout the school. We need to fill these with non-perishable items. We ask that each family bring in a few healthy items. Earthquake supplies are group contributions and not returned.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

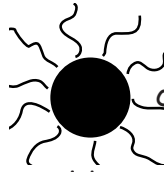
POLICY MANUAL

Please see our complete policy manual on our web site:
<http://oakandorca.ca>

POLICY REMINDERS

- Healthy lunches are mandatory. Please, no candy, gum or pop.
- All lunch trash must be taken home. (We do collect compost.) Please use re-usable containers where possible to avoid garbage.
- No juice boxes. They create too much mess because they don't re-close. Please provide a closable container for drinks.
- Generally, no toys or personal items including school supplies may be brought to school. We buy and share all the supplies.
- Please remember the scent-free policy. Take care to use unscented products for your child and any other family members who enter the school.

Activities



Aikido: Will be Monday afternoons during Workshop Time. Any parents who are concerned about their children participating in Aikido, please speak to Kara.

Wilderness Skills: Children walk to Summit Park for nature awareness activities. Wilderness skills will occur on Wednesdays

Field Trips: Field Trips will continue to be on Wednesdays, either by Bicycle or by City Bus. Field Trip Forms will be coming out soon, please sign and return them ASAP.

We are requesting that parents check their children for headlice periodically. If your child does have it at any time please let the school know.



CRD HEALTH:

WE HAVE A HEALTH NURSE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE CONTACT WITH HER PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Things to Bring

Items to bring to be prepared at school:

- Several non-perishable food items for the earthquake kit - every family must bring something each year.
- Labeled bag of spare clothes
- A sun hat (September-October and May-June)
- Indoor footwear
- Nonbreakable mug with handle
- Rain boots & Rain gear
- Sweater & Warm hat

Please bring in the following items before your child goes on a Field Trip:

- Well-fitting helmet
- Warm clothes
- Well-fitting backpack
- Water bottle (500ml)
- Rain gear & boots
- Extra clothes.

Dear family members,

VIDEA is launching a One Month Challenge in Greater Victoria!

Groups and individuals of all ages are signing up now to take the challenge to learn more about fair trade and related issues and to challenge themselves to buy fair trade for November! We want to invite you to take part too - you won't be alone - we expect over 1,000 people from businesses, faith groups, schools and the general public to participate.

Your involvement with Oak and Orca demonstrates your understanding of the importance of community and sustainable decision making. As consumers, we have a powerful role in supporting products that endorse environmentally and socially conscious production practices. By choosing to purchase fair trade products you are supporting fair prices for producers and workers, environmentally sustainable farming measures, as well as community support initiatives.

I encourage you to challenge yourself by signing on to the One-Month Fair Trade Challenge. By taking up the challenge, you are pledging to buy fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and handicrafts when buying these products in November. Your role does not stop there though! Part of the challenge is to learn more about fair trade and to pass this on to friends, family and co-workers - who knows, you may help to forge some fair trade habits that stick for the rest of the year!

Together we can take an active stand for fair trade and start the movement that will increase the level of community knowledge and the strength of consumer demand for socially, ethically and environmentally responsible products.

If you have any questions I would love to hear from you - and please do sign up to take the challenge at [HYPERLINK "http://www.videa.ca"](http://www.videa.ca) www.videa.ca. You'll also find lots of other information on the challenge, who's taking part, fair trade in general and where to purchase fairly traded products when you sign up.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Michelle Spencer
Education Outreach Coordinator
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