



OYEN PUBLIC SCHOOL

EAVESDROPPER



November 20, 2009

From the Principal's Desk

What a weekend to remember as part of OPS history. Both the boys and girls volleyball teams won the J South Central Zone volleyball championships. The girls played in Carbon and won their first championship since 1994. The boys played in Calgary and won their fifth championship in the last 11 years. As far back as our records show this is the first time the boys and girls have won the championship in the same year. Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Pat Stober should be very proud of their accomplishments. Many hours go into building a championship team, and it is greatly appreciated by the students, staff, and parents.

On a different note, the sign up sheets have been posted for basketball teams. If you are interested in helping out with the basketball program this year give Mr. Duchscherer a call. Miss Chmillar is organizing the school junior high curling program this year, and we would like to thank her for her efforts. In the elementary the curling program has also started. This program gives our elementary students a chance to get some exercise, learn the basic rules, and the strategies of the game. Thank you to Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Cox for running this program this year.

There are a couple of presentations coming to OPS shortly. The first presentation is for K-6 students. Steve Harmer from Motivational Magic will be here on Tuesday, Nov. 24 with his show starting at 9:00 AM. It is a magic show built around the character virtues we are trying to instill in the students at OPS. All elementary parents are welcome to attend the presentation. The second presentation is the Dare to Care program for the junior high students. This program is run by Mr. Duane Peace who is a retired police officer from Calgary. His program deals with bullying, drugs, alcohol, and hazing. He will be here on December 1 and 2. In order for your son/daughter to participate in the program we need the permission forms signed and returned to the school by Friday, November 27. He will also be running a parent session in the OPS gym on December 1 at 7:00 PM. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Report Cards will be coming home on Friday, November 27. Elementary report cards are to be signed by a parent and returned to the school. Junior high report cards do not have to be signed and returned. If you have any questions or concerns about your son/daughter's report card please contact the school.

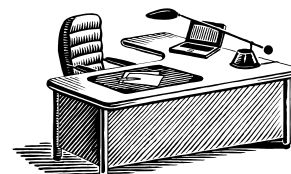
The John Howard Society out of Medicine Hat has been in our school for the last two weeks. They are running bullying presentations for grades K-9. They will remain in the school until December 1. Grade K-1 have three sessions, grade 2-6 have four sessions, and the junior high students have 3 sessions with the option of an one hour presentation on cyber bullying and conflict management. If you have any questions on the program feel free to contact the school.

The OPS food bank drive will begin on Tuesday, November 24 and run through to Friday, December 4. The teams for the food bank drive will be the intramural teams, and each team will make a Christmas sculpture out of the donated food items.

I would like to end by thanking our Legion members Mr. Lloyd Smith and Mr. Ian McKay as well as a number of parents for joining us at our Remembrance Day Service. Have a great long weekend as Monday, November 23 is a holiday for students as the staff at OPS will be having a PD day on team building.

Yours in Education

Jason Duchscherer



ECS UPDATE



We will be joining the elementary students for Steve Harmer's Motivational Magic on Tuesday morning. We will also have our own anti-bullying presentation on Tuesday afternoon from the John Howard Society.

The children listened very well during the Remembrance Day service and recited their poem "Children, Do Your Part" very well. They did an excellent job making their wreaths and laying them at the cenotaph.

The December calendar will be sent home next week.

We will be in the Christmas play with the elementary students. If any parents are interested in making/sewing costumes please let me know.

Thanks to Mrs. Scarff for subbing for me last Wednesday and Mrs. Foot will be in on Wed. Nov. 25th (please note there is Kindergarten on Wednesday, not Thursday next week.) We will have Kindergarten on Monday November 30th.

Mrs. Evens and I will join the other OPS staff for PD on Monday Nov. 23rd.

The Early Childhood Education Council Conference that I attended in Calgary last weekend was very good. We'll be trying a few new ideas as time goes by.

For our pocket chart we have been working on "Today is" to practice our days of the week and to think about the different food groups. We have also been clapping words to count syllables (beats). We will continue to play a couple of games to reinforce knowledge of food groups and the five senses. We have been sorting and seeing why things go together and we have been counting by twos.

Keep up the great work with practicing letters, sounds, numbers and counting at home.

Here's hoping that our days of sickness are behind us!

Piano Tuner coming to the Oyen area in Mid December

For appointments please call Sandra Ford @ 403-326-2227



Jr. High Update

On Wednesday, October 28th the junior high held a potluck lunch. The food was excellent and we would like to thank all of the families who brought the delicious food.

Pumpkin Carving contest took place on November 29th and 30th. The 1st place winning pumpkin was carved by Kyler Salik, Austin Garchinski and Chris Peacock. The second place winner was carved by Adam Wasylkowski, Jeremy Dick and Alex Scory. The students union would like to thank Oyen Shop Easy for donating the pumpkins!!



**Life Skills in today's economy
for 9-17 year olds**
**Please join us for inexpensive gift-making, crafts, sewing and mending
4H Needles and Pins**
As a member, you will have the opportunity to:



- *learn life skills**
- * meet new friends**
- *complete 5 projects**
- *assist with or lead a project**
- *attend 4H regional functions**
- *attend a public speaking workshop**
- *complete a communication activity**
- *apply for 4H scholarships**
- *attend 4H camps**
- *have fun**

**Register by Friday Nov. 20
at Doug's AG Foods**
**Please call Kay Dingman 403-664-3933
or Willaine Rosenau 403-326-3938**

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

DATE: Friday and Saturday, December 4 & 5, 2009

TIME: 6-9pm (Doors will not open until 6 pm)

**PLACE: Oyen Crossroads Centre
1100 Main Street, Oyen, AB**



NO CHARGE 6 A DONATION TO THE OYEN FOOD BANK WOULD BE APPRECIATED

This is a hands-on Holy Land experience for the whole family. It is an evening of re-enactment of Christmas night in the city of Bethlehem. You will sign in for the Census, visit the market place, complete with many shops such as leather making, metal works, perfume, bakery, etc. with the highlight being the living Nativity Scene. There will be an opportunity for your family to dress in Biblical times and have a souvenir photo taken.

This production is very unique and a wonderful way to bring the Christian meaning of Christmas to our homes and lives.

A Night in Bethlehem is sponsored by the Oyen Ministerial Association and other sponsors.

Please allow 1 to 1 1/2 hours to fully participate.



MACHELL'S MIRROR

Another two weeks, and time for another Machell's Mirror. We left our "Once Upon a Time" theme behind, and ended it with a half hour of folk and fairy tale entertainment for parents, and the grade one and three classes. The day before, we read the story of "The Little Red Hen", and ground flour and made bread. Each child took a small loaf home, and we had bread and honey after our entertainment the next day.

To go along with our "The Poles" theme, the children have been experimenting with magnets, and have discovered that magnets attract metal objects, but not all metal objects. They have also done a couple of experiments with hot and cold, watching a balloon fill with expanding hot air, and then collapse when the air cooled, and having an ice cube melting race in teams, using their hands. They discovered that cold hands can be uncomfortable, and can be warmed by rubbing them. Our body heat is, however, pretty good at melting ice, especially when working together. Three children working together were able to melt an ice cube with their hands in 9 minutes 11 seconds. When five people worked on it, it only took 7 minutes 27 seconds.

We are reading the story "Mr. Popper's Penguins", a chapter a day. Mr. Popper has received a penguin from the South Pole, from Admiral Drake! He is about to take residence in the Popper's fridge. We are also learning about the north and south poles, and how the slant of the earth's axis makes the seasons.

In Math, we have begun looking at measurement. The children traced and cut out their hands and feet. They compared the length of their feet, and ordered them from shortest to longest. After this, they used their feet to make "foot" rulers. We discovered that more shorter feet could fit on a ruler than longer feet. Our results fit perfectly with the size of our feet! The children also used their hands to make a "hand" ruler. They estimated how many of their hands they could fit on a strip the same size as their foot ruler, after comparing the size of their hands and feet. Their estimates were right on! The children are measuring their height with their hand and foot rulers. So far, we have found the children to be 6 of their feet tall, and 9 of their hands. It will be interesting to see if everyone gets a similar result.

Last Friday, November 13, saw another visit from Zero the Hero and Decimal Dot. They visited for quite awhile, telling the children about their planet Zero. This time, the children received little containers of Play-Doh. Today is already the 54th day of school! The year is more than one quarter complete, and, yes, we have started working on Christmas Concert.

Our Student of the Week last week was Xanel. Xanel loves horses! Her favourite animal is a horse, her favourite book is "The Ghost Horse", she says she rides horses well, and her wish is to have a horse. She also says she dances well. Xanel's favourite food is spaghetti. She admires her mom, partly because she does her nails. At school, her favourite thing is her teacher! That is nice to hear!

Our Student of the Week this week is Hayden. Hayden has missed a lot of his important week with the chicken pox, but was here long enough to share his information. Hayden admires his dad, and his favourite animal is a cow. He also says that spaghetti is his favourite food. Hayden's favourite book is "The Night Before Christmas". I bet he reads it at his favourite time of year. At school, Hayden says he likes Mrs. Stammers and Mrs. Machell. That, again, is great to hear! Hayden says he plays soccer and Wii well, and skates well. We hope to see Hayden back next week.

Congratulations to Treyle and Hayden, who received their Copper Award since last report. They have each earned more than 50 Personal Effort Points.

Junior High Ski Trip
Friday, December 18th

Forms are due back **Wednesday November 25th**.

Please make sure to fill out forms completely or they will be returned to you. Helmets are mandatory and available for rent. There will be a \$5.00 transportation fee.



Oyen Public School
Christmas Food Bank Drive
November 24th ó December 4th
Intramural teams will be competing to build a Christmas theme food sculpture.



Coats for Kids
Oyen Public School is collecting clean, gently used coats and blankets (any size) for donation to the Mustard Seed in Calgary. You can drop off items at the school office.

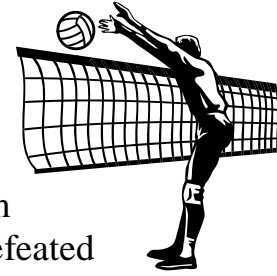


RELAY FOR LIFE
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Monday, November 23rd, 2009
7:00pm
Oyen Public School

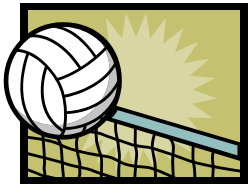
For more information contact
Angela @ 403-664-3103 or
Lucille @ 403-664-2431
Everyone Welcome!

NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER
23RD
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY
FOR STAFF.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL UPDATE



The boys volleyball team advanced to the Zone Championship final held in Menno Simons, in Calgary this weekend by winning gold in the Divisional Tournament held in Oyen on Monday, November 9th. We played the Jr. Varsity from Oyen Public and won two straight; 25-8, 25-7. We then played Acadia Valley who had defeated New Bridgen two straight; 25-13, 25-7. Again we won two straight; 25-14, 25-23 to win the gold medal. Finishing third was our Jr. Varsity team who defeated New Bridgen two straight; 25-19, 25-23. Overall it was a good day for the boysø volleyball. Mr. Duchscherer and I would like to thank Mr. Fred Beynon for coaching the Jr. team all year, it made it possible for Mr. Duchscherer to take some well deserved time off. It was greatly appreciated.



Boys Win Gold

On the weekend of November 13th/14th the Oyen Junior High Boys Volleyball Team traveled to Calgary to participate in this yearsø Zone Championship.

At 2:00 P.M. on Friday the 13th, our boys played a best of three against Our Lady of the Snow, a Christian school in Calgary. We won game one; 25-17, lost game two; 20-25, and lost a close one; 13-15.

At 4:00 P.M. on Friday the 13th, our boys played a best of three against Standard. We won two games straight; 25-12, 25-6.

At 6:00 P.M. on Friday the 13th, our boys played a best of three against Rosemary and again won two straight; 25-21, 25-11. This put us in a first place tie with Our Lady of the Snow. They won our match so we finished 2nd in our pool.

On Saturday morning the second place team from pool B, (which was Oyen) played the first place team in pool A (which was Carbon). The Semi-Final was also a best of three match. Our boys won the first game; 25-17, lost the second game; 14-25 and won a very exciting game three; 15-12. This put us in the final.

The final had us once again playing Our Lady of the Snow from Calgary. We won the first game; 25-21, lost the second game; 17-25, and won a thriller in game three; 15-9 to capture the Gold Medal and win the Banner for 2009.

We had our ups and downs throughout the year but the boys played to their capabilities when it counted and had a very good year.

OPS Boys and Girls Volleyball teams won the
1J South Central Championship on November 13th & 14th
Congratulations!!



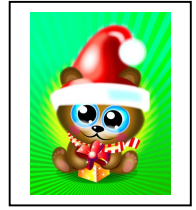
Back Row: David Reimer, Kelly Woods, Coach Mr. Simmons
Middle Row: Matt Norris, Dawson Ruchkowski, Samson Ly, Shade Salik, Justin Logan
Front Row: Ryder Duffield , Austin Garchinski



Back row: Hailey Hauck, Presley Peacock, Kira Smigelski, Jade Stober, Jordyn Thomson, Erin Cartwright, Coach Mrs. Stober
Front Row: Kennedy Kuzmiski, Selena Smigelski, Kelsie Battrum, Morgan Cartwright



December 2009



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | 1 Dare to Care gr. 7-9 Parent presentation @ 7pm Sled Smart presentation 1:00pm | 2 Dare to Care Gr 7-9 | 3 | 4 Hotdog Day <i>Food Bank Drive Ends</i> | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Elementary Curling | 8 Pizza Forms Due | 9 | 10 | 11 Pizza Lunch | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Elementary Curling | 15 X-MAS CONCERT 1PM & 7PM | 16 | 17 <i>Christmas Banquet</i> | 18 Junior High Ski Trip | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Merry Christmas  | 26 |
| | Christmas Break | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| | Christmas Break ó First Day Back Jan. 4 th | | | | | |