



# Ocean View Elementary

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## THE OCEANVIEWER NEWSLETTER, September, 2009

Tracey White – Principal  
Sarah Shea– Vice Principal  
SAFE ARRIVAL LINE 465-8737

Dear Families:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to another year at Ocean View School! I hope that your summer was fun and relaxing and that you had time to spend together. The staff and I are very excited to begin a new year with the students as we work towards helping them reach their full potential. Please feel free to attend all assemblies and activities in the gym and mark our Open House on your calendars, we would love to see you...there will be ice cream! On behalf of Ms. Shea and myself, we hope that the start of the school year is the best it can be for you and your children.

Ms. White

### SCHOOL HOURS/BELL TIMES

8:30	First Bell
8:30-8:40	Indoor supervision in the classroom
8:45	Classes Begin
10:15-10:30	Recess
11:45-12:45	Lunch
2:15	P-2 Dismissal
2:45	Gr. 3&4 Dismissal

\* Supervision of students does not begin before 8:25.

**Remember:** When picking up your child at lunch time or after school, please wait at the exit nearest to your child's classroom and not in the hallways unless it is raining. During inclement weather **we ask that you wait in the main foyer.** This is an important **SAFETY ISSUE.** Students need as much room as possible as they prepare for home and need to focus on the teacher. We understand that for the primaries for the first week or so they will need some help with this routine but after the first full week, they must follow the same procedure as other students.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are always welcome at Ocean View. Participation on the Parent/Teacher Organization, School Advisory Council, reading with students individually, helping in the Library and with special events is always appreciated. Please drop by the school if you are able to help us. All volunteers are required to have a criminal record check and child abuse registry check completed.

**Registration Forms:** We will be sending home registration forms close to the end of the month where information can be updated for the 2009/2010 school year. **They are very important for our records and we ask that you please fill them out and return as soon as possible.**

**Parents/Guardians/Volunteers & visitors** must check into the office when visiting the school or picking up students for **SAFETY REASONS.** **You must sign in and get a visitor/volunteer tag.** This will be strictly enforced as the children's safety is paramount.

**Medication:** The Halifax Regional School Board policy, states that all medication (puffers included) taken at school must be accompanied by a form filed out by parents. These forms must be updated each school year. **Also, please notify us of severe allergies.** All medications taken at school must be sent in the original containers and appropriate forms must be completed. Please see the main office for a copy if this applies to your child.

**Web Page:** Our school web address is [www.oves.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.oves.ednet.ns.ca) and we are very pleased with the response to our new website which went live late last year. We are trying very hard to stay on top of updates and changing this web site to better suit the needs of our families. If you have any suggestions for our web site, please let us know.

**Open House/Ice Cream Social:** Please mark your calendars to attend our Curriculum Night/Ice Cream Social on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30. This gives you an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, receive an overview of the work they will undertake this year and set up a follow up meeting where necessary. It is a family night and students should accompany parents and share in an ice cream treat. **We will also have a "USED BOOK SALE" in the library during this time in support of our PTO with all books being sold for \$1 and children's books \$.50.** All book donations can be dropped off at the school during school hours or with Tanya Manthorne, PTO president. **(Information listed in the PTO section)**

**Lunch News:** Hot lunch orders and recess canteen will begin Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> with menus going home this week. **We are always in danger of closing our hot lunch program if participation does not continue so make sure if you want it, you use it. We will evaluate participation and costs in December to see if the program can be maintained.** Late orders will not be accepted unless your child is absent the day lunch orders are due.

All food includes condiments. If you order soup, it includes crackers for example.

**We have severe nut allergies in this school. We also have a severe shellfish allergy so please keep that in mind. Please do not send peanuts or other nut products to school.**

**Toys:** Toys are only permitted to be taken out of book bags at lunch with the permission of the class lunch monitor. Students are to keep all toys in their book bags during the day if they need them after school as well. This is to avoid issues such as lost, broken or stolen toys that may sometimes require teachers to take time away from the learning. Electronics such as PSP, DS, cell phones and the like are not permitted at school at all. Thank you.

**Safe Arrival:** If your child is absent from school, please call the safe arrival line before 8:30 a.m. and leave a message on the machine. The phone number is **465-8737**.

**Agendas** – The cost for an agenda is \$7. All classes except grade primary require an agenda. **Please send in your money to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.**

**Dogs/Pets:** For the safety of all involved, dogs and other pets are not permitted on the school grounds while students are outside. All pets, no matter how lovable, are still unpredictable and even though I love my dog, I recognize that I must watch her carefully, especially around young children. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you

**Stand Up Against Bullying Day:** The second annual *Stand Up Against Bullying Day*, to be celebrated this year on September 10th. Students will be asked to wear pink (t-shirts, caps, scarves, etc.) to show their commitment to not being a bully or a bystander. This was the example set by two young high school gentlemen from the Annapolis Valley last year. Please encourage your children to participate in this important message.

**PTO/SAC** – These two important groups support and advise Ms. Shea and I on important school issues. It is a great way to find out what is going on and how you can support your child's school. Meetings run for one hour and we try hard to stick to that time limit. We talk to you about what is happening in the school and then we discuss what we can do to enhance the students' experiences.

**SAC** is the school advisory council, a more formal body with regulations. We require two parent members and one community member. We value the support of the SAC provides for decisions we make each day. **We are in need of two volunteers to serve on our committee for this year. Our present members Stacey Smith and Kim Cantwell as well as Billy Oakey (community member) have offered advice and support to Ms. Shea and I over the past year and would welcome new input. If you have one night a month to offer your time and hear first hand the decisions that are being made at the school, please call the office and leave your name with Mrs. Cashin.** Our first meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 although the day of the week may change later to suit the committee members.

**PTO** We always need parents to support our PTO. Under the direction of our PTO president Tanya Manthorne, the basic mandate of the PTO is to fundraise and use the money to support class trips, materials and fun activities for the students. Please try to come to the first meeting to see what is happening. Our opening PTO will be held on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Tuesdays may not always be our meeting night, we will decide on a day of the week during our first meeting. **Our first fundraiser will be another popular “used book sale” held in the library on Thursday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> during the Curriculum Night/Ice Cream Social. Tanya Manthorne, our PTO president, has offered to allow families to drop off books to her house as well as the school. Her address is 142 Cow Bay Road and her phone number is 473-7932.**

**Head Lice Checks:** Once again we will be checking the hair of every student in the school at the beginning of the year, after Christmas and after March Break. This was a very effective way to keep the number of cases of head lice to a minimum. A huge thank you to our volunteers and if those dedicated individuals can help us again, please let the office know. Thank you!

**Fundraising:** A necessary evil in education as we face many cuts every year. We try to pick things families would use or find useful and we try to limit our fundraising every year. Still, it is necessary that we fundraise. Our first fundraiser begins September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please try to ask family and friends to support our fundraisers so that we can maintain all the programs our students count on each year. If you have any suggestions for fundraising or concerns, please feel free to bring those to our attention.

**Birthday Cakes/Cupcakes:** As much as we love to party here at Ocean View, we are unable to accept any requests from parents to send in cakes and cupcakes for their child’s birthday. We have many allergies, special needs students and a nutrition policy that we must abide by and usually only have treats once/twice a month. We like to keep these treats to school events and even then keep the sugar to a minimum. This is to protect all involved, especially those with allergies. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

#### ***No Child Without.***

Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation’s ***No Child Without*** program again this year. There is no cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 to 14 to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program.

For further information please come to the office for a brochure or go to [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca). To register your child you will need a ***No Child Without*** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the ***No Child Without*** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child’s file.

**School News:** We are happy to welcome some new staff members to Ocean View. We have three new teaching assistants who work with our special needs students: **Lucille MacDougall, Holly MacNevin and Faerlie Richard.** We are also pleased to welcome back **Ms. Hussey** who will be finishing off **Ms. Gallant’s** maternity leave while she enjoys her last few months with baby **Kara!** We welcome back **Mrs. Oppong and Mrs. Thompson** who are happy to be back after their maternity leaves! We are also excited to announce that **Mrs. Tetford** and her husband have just welcomed baby **Myles Wilson** to the family on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>!

**Student of the Month:** Our first student of the month Assembly will be on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Stay tuned to see who got the year off to an excellent start and make sure you look at the bulletin board in the lobby for pictures of our latest recipients.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

September	7 <sup>th</sup>	No School Labour Day
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Stand Up Against Bullying Day
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox Run 1:00 – Coin donations
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Open House /Ice Cream Social 6:30-7:30
	25 <sup>th</sup>	PD Day - No School for Students
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Rain date for Terry Fox Walk
October	1st	School Photos – Retakes TBA
	6 <sup>th</sup>	SAC meeting at 6:30
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving – No school
	13 <sup>th</sup>	PTO meeting at 6:30
October	23rd	Conference Day – No School for Students
November	2nd	Parent/Teacher meetings 6-8
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher 1-3 Early dismissal - Lunch
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Student of the Month Assembly
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day Assembly
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
	23rd	PD Day – No school
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment & Evaluation –No school
Dec.	8 & 9	Christmas Concerts (Dec. 10th-storm date)
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Report cards go home
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of School before Christmas

In an effort to improve communication between home/school, we are asking students to bring back this slip of paper to let the teacher know the newsletter has been seen by the family. The class who returns the most slips each month between now and June will receive a class trip to an activity. Please sign and return below.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Room \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_