



**Thursday, November 18, 2010**

**Newsletter #3**

**Principal:** Megan Egerton  
**Office Administrator:** Janet Veale  
**Office Assistant:** Lynda Larkin  
**Chief Custodian:** Doug Chapman

**Safe Arrival Line:** 722-4474  
**Council Co-Chairs:** Pam Dillworth-Christie / David Fortier  
**Trustee:** Jennifer McKenzie  
**School Web Site:** [www.churchillalternative.ocdsb.ca](http://www.churchillalternative.ocdsb.ca)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Another fabulous month has passed. We have Halloween, a Felting Literacy evening, CASC meetings, staff meetings, our first Student Council, a very moving Remembrance Day Ceremony, student led conferences, progress reports, drumming workshops and a Tie Dye event - just to name a few! This is truly a special place to be. I have enjoyed getting to know some of you more and hope to meet even more community members and families in the months to come. Feel free to continue to drop by my office or pick up the phone for a chat as our dialogue is really welcomed and valuable. We are now working together to create a school improvement plan that will reflect the direction the school learning goes in and any and all feedback is encouraged and welcomed. Time is flying by so fast I am thinking of investing in a magic flying carpet! Thank-you one and all for the work you do as staff, parents, community members, students and families to make Churchill a place all students want to be everyday.

Megan  
[Megan.egerton@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Megan.egerton@ocdsb.ca)

### CHURCHILL COOKS

We are going to be making a Churchill Cookbook to raise money for technology in the classroom and yard improvement initiatives. We are looking for recipes from students, staff, parents, community members, etc. You can send them in via email to: [Megan.egerton@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Megan.egerton@ocdsb.ca). Any favourites you can send in would be much appreciated.



### LATES

Being on time is an important life skill. We continue to have an excessive number of students that are arriving late to school. This is not only disruptive for their learning but also extremely disruptive to the entire class when the teacher has to stop what they are doing to 'catch-up' a student, take time to re-teach portions of their classes or just get the person settled in. We would ask you to make every effort to get your child to school on time. When your child is late a couple times a week this can equal out to over 25hours a year of lost instructional time.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

All parents are welcome to join us at our school improvement planning session on November 26th from 1pm - 2pm in the library. We will be continuing to make opportunities to involve our parents in creating and updating this document. We have set some of our learning goals for the year and welcome additional input and suggestions.

## **TERRY FOX RUN**

The Terry Fox Run was once again a great success raising \$3140.00. A big thank you to staff, students and parents for making this the success that it was.

## **TECHNOLOGY AT CHURCHILL**

It is after discussion and consultation with safe schools staff, our social worker, school psychologist, staff, and parent council that we have made the decision to prohibit the use of IPODs, cell phones and cameras from the school property. This decision is based on student safety and privacy. These technologies have the capability to take photos, video, access the internet and make out going calls all of which compromise student privacy and safety.

Throughout the year, there may be educational, structured opportunities for students to use these technologies with direct supervision in the classroom but they are not to be used out on the yard, in the hallways, at lunch times, etc.

We would appreciate your support in implementing this policy. If your child requires a cell phone then our expectation is that it remains in their bag while they are on school property and/or on the bus. The phone in the office is available to students, if required.

## **LOST & FOUND**

Please have a look at the lost and found items in the lobby by the gym doors to see if something belongs to your child. Items that are not claimed are sent at the end of each month to a shelter for women and children. Don't forget to write your child's name inside his/her coats and sweaters as this makes it easier to return lost items to their rightful owners.

## **SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATIONS**



Transportation cancellations due to bad weather or poor road conditions are announced on Ottawa radio and television stations as early as 6 a.m. These announcements are repeated at least twice per hour - more frequently on all-news stations such as CFRA radio.

When a transportation cancellation is made but schools remain open, it is important to remember that these cancellations apply to the entire school day (morning and afternoon). Students who are dropped off by parents in the morning will have to be picked up again by parents at 2:30 pm to go home.

If buses are cancelled and the schools are closed, there will be no classes and no one to answer the phones. Thus, it is important to listen to the radio on days when the weather is threatening.

If you are having difficulty getting the cancellation information on time from your radio or television stations, please call the OCDSB Transportation Cancellation Line at (613) 596-8201 or consult the OCDSB website at [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca).

## FOOD BANK DRIVE



Our school is participating in another Food Bank Drive for the Westboro food bank. We are also challenging local businesses to match our food donation in weight with a cash donation to match our contributions. We will be accepting food from November 27th until December 15th.

## MORNING SOCCER

7:30 – 8:00 am in the gym  
October 25 to December 10

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Monday – Russell    | Grade 4 and 5 |
| Tuesday – Ray       | Grade 6       |
| Wednesday – Natalie | Grade 3       |
| Thursday - Roy      | Grade 1       |
| Friday - Cheryl     | Grade 2       |



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

We are now well underway to setting our school improvement goals and teaching strategies. We invite parents to join us from 1 – 2 pm on November 26<sup>th</sup> to hear about our plans and we welcome input. This will take place in the library.

## SPRING CLEANING IN NOVEMBER

In an attempt to use our school space to the best of our advantage, we are looking for parent volunteers to help with our “November Spring Clean Out”. Please email Megan if interested. [Megan.Egerton@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Megan.Egerton@ocdsb.ca)

## SAFETY NOTE

Please do not tie dogs to the fence in the playground. Unattended dogs could jump up on students.

## HAND SANITIZER

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of germs. 60-90% alcohol-based hand sanitizers protect against most germs. They are also a good option to hand washing when soap and water are not on-hand. When hands are clearly dirty and after using the washroom, wash with soap and water.

Place a drop the size of a dime in your hand and evenly rub on both hands. Don't forget to rub under the finger nails, between the fingers and around the thumbs. Hands should be rubbed until they are dry - at least 15-20 seconds. At this point the alcohol in the product is gone.

This product is safe to use with all age groups. Children should be watched to make sure they rub their hands until dry. If a child's hands become red, itchy, or sore they should be seen by your health care provider.

For more information go to [ottawa.ca/health](http://ottawa.ca/health) or call Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 to speak with a public health nurse.