

Alta Vista Public School Newsletter

December 2013

Newsletter #3



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

1349 Randall Ave
Ottawa, ON
(613)-733-7124

www.altavistaps.ocdsb.ca

Principal:

Vice-Principal:

Superintendent:

School Council Co- Chairs: Marty Carr/Lindsey Barr

Vivian Bright

Sandy Owens

Stephen Sliwa



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HOLIDAY BAZAAR- Saturday December 7th from 2-5pm

We do hope you are hoping to come by on Saturday December 7th between 2-5pm for our first ever Holiday Bazaar. School Council is kicking off the fundraising for yard revitalization with a goal of installing a new Kinder structure for fall 2014.

WORKING HARD AND CELEBRATIONS

The approaching holidays bring an air of excitement about the school. While we continue to work hard until the last day of school- Thursday December 19th, this is a special time for our students as many have performed or will be performing or gathering for special get-togethers. We also have a number of holiday concerts fast approaching. On Thursday December 12th we have the Kinder Holiday Concert at 9am in Gym 2 as well we will have a visit from Ridgemont High School Band later that day at 11:00am. In the evening, the Alta Vista String Ensemble will have a performance in Gym 2 at 7:00pm. Later in the month, on December 18th, our primary (gr 1-3) students will have their holiday concert at 2:30pm in Gym 2. We look forward to welcoming parents and grandparents to these special events. Due to the large number of anticipated guests, parents and grandparents will be greeted in the front foyer and they can proceed to the gymnasium without signing in. After the concerts during the school day parents and grandparents who have made arraignments to visit, are reminded that they will need to sign in at the office if they wish to proceed into the school past the gymnasium.

For some, this is a difficult time of year and for others it is an exciting time of various celebrations. Our Muslim families celebrated Ashura in November, our Jewish families are observing Hanukah in early December, and our Christian families have just celebrated the First Sunday of Advent and are preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. All of our students and staff are looking forward to a break from school work and extra time with family. I am sure you are as well!

Our annual Holiday Canned Food Drive has begun and is running until December 13th. We know that our donations to the food bank on Heron Road will be much appreciated. We are grateful to the Leadership Club for organizing the drive and to Mrs. Kilicaslan for organizing a Math connection-graphing of donated items which is part of Data Management. Our goal is 800 items! This is a good time of year to encourage your children to think of others and show caring in a tangible way by giving of their time to show kindness to others.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF:

Welcome to our new Kinder Lunch Time Monitor Mrs. Sweata Basnet who joined our team on November 25th. As I finish this newsletter, I am pleased to be able to share the news of the safe arrival of Ms. Hindle's second child, a daughter, who decided to arrive ahead of schedule. Mother and baby are doing well! We are so pleased that Mrs. Colette Wright was able to step right in and begin her position with us on December 3rd already instead of after Christmas. Mrs. Wright will be with us for the remainder of the school year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS/ JOYEUX NOEL!

May you have a wonderful two weeks and we look forward to welcoming our students back on January 6th ready for more learning. From my home to yours I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Joyeux Noel!

Mark your calendars!



- Mon Dec 2nd – Fri Dec 13th Holiday Food Drive
- Mon Dec 2nd - SWAT Tobacco Presentation - Intermediates
- Thurs Dec 5th - Gr 8 Info night Hillcrest HS 7-9pm
- Fri Dec 6th – Gr 8 Info. Night Brookfield HS 7-9pm
- Fri Dec 6th – Pizza Friday
- Sat Dec 7th – Gr 7/8 Tutoring
- Sat Dec 7th –2-5pm School Council Holiday Bazaar
- Mon Dec 9th – Leadership Club
- Tues Dec 10th – Gr 8 Info night Canterbury HS 7-9pm
- Wed Dec 11th – School Council Meeting 7pm
- Thurs Dec 12th – Kinder Holiday Concert 9am
- Thurs Dec 12th – Ridgemont Band Concert
- Thurs Dec 12th – Strings Ensemble Concert 7pm
- Fri Dec 13th – Pizza Friday
- Mon Dec 16th – Leadership Club
- Mon Dec 16th – Primary Dress Rehearsal Gym 2
- Tues Dec 17th – Primary Dress Rehearsal 2:15pm Gym 2
- Wed Dec 18th – Primary Holiday Concert 2:30pm
- Wed Dec 18th – AVCCC Holiday Concert 4pm
- Thurs Dec 19th – Pajama Day
- Thurs Dec 19th – Intermediate Dance 1:45pm
- Fri Dec 20th – PD Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- Mon Dec 23rd – Sun Jan 5th Winter Break
- Wed Dec 25th – Christmas



- Mon. Jan 6th- first day back!
- Wed Jan 15- Parent Kinder Info 6:--6-45pm

Winter has arrived! Snow Shoveling and Clearing

Winter has begun and with it so have the joys of one custodian to shovel/clear snow on snowy mornings! The snow removal contractor ploughs the two parking lots and the fire truck entry, but it is Mr. Tucker who does the rest. **Mr. Tucker’s priority list for snow clearing is as follows:** Cleaning the sidewalk from the front entrance to the parking lot and long the park and ride entrance, cleaning the large staircase to the front doors, cleaning the large staircase from the Kiss & Ride into the Primary yard, clearing the Primary entry doorway, snow blowing a path from Randall Ave. to the Kinder yard door, clearing the Kinder, Junior and Intermediate doors, shovelling the small stairs between the Primary and Junior yard, clearing the courtyard door and clearing the back doors. Mr. Tucker as a courtesy tries to some extra clearing in the Kinder yard if time permits. The pedestrian gate by the Intermediate yard is not a winter entrance.

| AV Cycle Days | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|
| DECEMBER 2013 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 (2) | 3 (3) | 4 (4) | 5 (5) | 6 (1) | 7 |
| 8 | 9 (2) | 10 (3) | 11 (4) | 12 (5) | 13 (1) | 14 |
| 15 | 16 (2) | 17 (3) | 18 (4) | 19 (5) | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Book Fair Bonanza!!

One of Alta Vista’s annual highlights – the Scholastic/Usborne book fair – fired up our gym last month with a flurry of book buying. Staff, students, and parents all participated to make this year’s sale one of the best yet.

A huge part of that success is due to parent volunteers. This large fair would not happen without their dedication and generosity. All the required work -- set-up, tear-down, counter sales, administration, behind-the-scenes organization -- represents countless hours of parents’ time. The Alta Vista community is immensely grateful to them. Their efforts not only gave us an exciting book-buying opportunity, but also resulted in hundreds of dollars worth of free books for the school. Kudos to all volunteers with extra special thanks to parents **Petra Alince** and **Barb Holland** who shouldered the bulk of fair responsibility.

From the Main Office...



Forgotten Items Delivered to the Office - We will make every attempt to deliver items and messages that are left at the office as part of our 10:55am announcements however, it is not always possible. The **best practice** is to ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the day or that they check the office when they have forgotten items at home.

Student Attendance – We have a number of parents contacting teachers directly however please call our student attendance line at 613-733-7124 ext. 500 if your child is going to be late or away.

Picking your child up early? Please notify your child’s teacher with a **note in the student agenda**. This will ensure that your child is in the office and **ready** when you arrive to pick them up. Classes are often hard to track down. Prior notification will ease this situation.

Well enough to come to school means well enough to go outside! We sometimes receive requests for students to stay indoors if they are a little under the weather. Unfortunately we do not have enough staff to supervise and the expectation is that all students go outside during recess.

Snow Days & Inclement Weather

Last week we experienced our first “snow day” - a day of joy for many kids and an added stress for many parents! Ever wonder how this decision is made? The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) makes this decision between 4:00 and 5:30 a.m. when there is inclement weather. OSTA staff monitor the forecast every four hours, even in the middle of the night and take into consideration the type of precipitation, how long it is forecasted to last, the amount of expected precipitation and the air temperature. OSTA services a large geographical area, and they have to consider weather and road conditions across the entire jurisdiction. Once OSTA makes the decision, they contact the school district and we start communicating with parents through the media, social media, websites, etcetera. You can monitor the [OSTA](#) or [OCDSB](#) websites. When there is a snow day, yellow bus service is canceled, but OC Transpo high school routes continue to operate. All schools remain open for students. Whether it is a snow day or not, with ice and snow on the roads, all drivers and pedestrians in and around schools need to use caution and to proceed safely! A reminder that we do NOT call home to bus students on snow days.

You may have noticed in your recent visits to the school that we have had new hand rails installed for the last two steps leading down into the parking lot. We ask that you use the handrails at all times for all steps in the school yard as the ground can be slippery at this time of year. If you notice areas which require more attention, please contact the office so that our chief custodian can take appropriate measures.

Registration Information for 2014-2015

| | |
|---|--|
| Alta Vista Kinder Info Evening (for parents who have students entering JK in September) | Wednesday January 15 th Gym 2- 6:00-6:45 pm |
| Kindergarten Registration Period | Monday, January 27 to Friday, January 31, 2014 |
| Elementary Student Transfer Application Period | Monday, February 10 to Friday, February 21, 2014 |
| Secondary Student Transfer Application Period | Monday, February 10 to Friday, February 21, 2014 |
| Middle French Immersion Registration Period | Tuesday, February 18 to Monday, February 24, 2014 |

More information can be found on the Board’s website: www.ocdsb.ca

Bus Cancellations

Because of the inevitability of inclement winter weather, school buses may run late at times. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run after school. If you drop your child off at school in the morning, you must come and pick them up at 3:30 p.m. dismissal. The school remains open. Please listen to local radio stations after 7 a.m. for cancellations. For more information you can call the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority at 613-224-8800



Yard Safety: Pet Concern

Recently, one of our Grandmother’s was kind enough to report that she witnessed a member of our community allowing their dog into our Kinder yard and closing the gate so their dog could be let off the leash. This resulted in urine in the sand and feces being left and not picked up. This is very much a concern for the health and safety of our students. Dogs are not permitted on school property and the kinder yard is a particular area of concern. If you see any person allowing their pet off leash on school property please call City Bylaw at 3-1-1. Please be sure to notify us if you have done so with the report number so we can have our School Resource Office follow up.



Questions? Concerns? Ideas?

Please drop me an email (Vivian.Bright@ocdsb.ca) or call to set up a time to chat. I welcome the opportunity to hear from parents!

High School Grade 8 Information Nights

Hillcrest HS – December 5th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 Brookfield HS – December 6th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 Canterbury HS – December 10th 7:00pm – 9:00pm
 Glebe C.I – January 9th 5:00pm – 7:00pm
 Ridgemont HS – January 23rd 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Kudos to.....

Jessica E. came up with the wonderful idea and uplifting act of kindness which was to “cover” the school with positive and anti-bullying messages. Special thanks to Sahar M. also in R8A who assisted her! Well done girls!

Dental Screening – JK/SK & Gr. 2

Lynne Bérubé, registered dental hygienist from Ottawa Public Health, will provide a dental screening using a tongue depressor on **January 7-8, 2014**. Only children identified as having dental needs will bring home a form. Follow-up school visits by the dental hygienist for individual children may be done. **THIS DOES NOT REPLACE REGULAR DENTAL VISITS WITH YOUR FAMILY DENTIST.**

This is offered in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, Mandatory Health Programs under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. Personal Health Information is collected under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act and will be used for the purpose of dental assessment, treatment and oral hygiene instruction, and for statistical purposes. Questions concerning the collection and use of this information should be directed to the Supervisor of Dental Health Promotion, Ottawa Public Health, 400-1580 Merivale Rd., Ottawa, ON, tel.: 613-580-6744 ext 26376.



Canned Food Drive

Alta Vista Leadership Club is having a canned food drive from DEC 2nd to DEC 13th. All the food collected will be donated to the food bank on Heron. Thank you very much for helping out people in need during this season.

Immunization Clinic for Gr. 7 & 8s

The next Immunization Clinic for Gr. 7 & 8 students will be held on January 28th, 2014. As this is an Ottawa Public Health initiative, please call the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 or visit www.ottawa.ca for more information.

St. Thomas the Apostle Nursery School – Daycare Spaces Available

Located at 2345 Alta Vista Drive. Contact www.stthomastheapostlenurseryschool.ca for information how to register your toddler or preschool child. Morning, lunch and afternoon programs are offered in both English and French

French Tutor Available

Edgar Toumilovitch our crossing-guard at Randall and Ridgecrest is available to tutor in French. Tutoring can be done at the public library or in the student's home. Edgar can be reached via email at kiryledgar23@yahoo.ca.

Christmas Exchange/Toy Mountain

Concerns about Christmas/Winter Holidays? Please contact your local Community Resource Centre (**call 211** to find out which one is in your neighborhood) and ask about the **Christmas Exchange/Toy Mountain Program** or visit www.christmas-xchange.com/index.php/about-us/faqs

Snow Suit Fund

Does your child need a snowsuit? Please call the **Snow Suit Fund** at (613) 746-8719 or visit

Bathroom Repairs: The major repairs to the Boys Primary Washroom are nearing an end. The repairs should be completed in the next week or two.

Non a l'intimidation (No to Bullying)

Mme Thériault's students invited all Grade 3s to hear them sing the song “Non a l'intimidation”. Well done!

Improving Student Achievement

As you know, school improvement is an important focus at Alta Vista. Our school wide smart goal is in literacy- writing: "By June 2014 students will use a variety of tools (e.g. graphic organizers) and strategies (e.g., accountable talk to generate ideas, plan and organize their ideas to develop an effective piece of writing." We continue to work on cross curricular Mathematical Process Expectations-in the area of "Communicating". The third week of November, staff met in one of three groups (Kinder-grade 1; grades 2-5 and grades 6-8) to "moderate" samples of student work in response to the prompt students were given to recount a happy moment. "Moderation" occurs when teachers collectively review student work to determine student understanding and next steps for learning. The information we learned is guiding our current instruction. Want to know more about mathematics education in our schools? Then watch for the OCDSB Numeracy Guide for parents which will be distributed early in the new year! **Anti-Bullying Education** is ongoing at Alta Vista. In addition to sessions which directly deal with bullying education, we provide events to build positive school climate and resiliency. So at Alta Vista, while we mark the annual "Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week", this is not something we learn about during only one week a year.

Stand By Me

The Stand By Me student group is comprised of students from every grade 6, 7, and 8 class at Alta Vista. It is a leadership group formed to help deal with bullying and harassment in the school. It empowers youth with the knowledge and leadership skills to take an active role in a safe and respectful school culture. Last year, many of the students within the group completed training in a series of workshops entitled "Beyond the Hurt Youth Facilitation". Afterwards they delivered bullying and harassment prevention presentations to students in their own homerooms. This year, Stand By Me would like to bring these workshops to the Grade 4 and 5 classes as well. The students selected for Stand By Me are chosen using the following criteria: positive relationships with peers and teachers, leadership potential, involved in a variety of activities, is a team player, has the potential to facilitate and deliver workshops. Congratulations to the following Alta Vista students: Niem A., Emily H., Jessica E., Zachary G., Currage R., Charlotte L., Nicholas G., Alison C-S., Kevin M., Sammy F., Patsy A., Jaya V., Zoe W. and Pascha L. Thank you to Mrs. McRae for leading this group.

Wash Your Hands and Be a Germ Stopper!

Everyone knows how bad it feels to be sick. Follow **these tips to help prevent the spread of germs:**

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- Wash your hands after using the washroom, changing a baby's diaper, or touching animals, before eating, before and after preparing food, and when your hands look dirty.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if you can't wash your hands. Use a squirt the size of a quarter (dime-size for young children) in your palm, rub palms together, rub the back of each hand and around each thumb, and don't forget your fingertips. Rub for at least 15 seconds until dry.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your upper arm, not your hands! Throw the tissue away and wash your hands right away.
- Keep your hands away from your face to help keep germs out of your body.
- **Stay home when you are sick, have a cough or a fever.**

For more information contact Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 or visit www.ottawa.ca/health.

