



Newsletter

Another December is here and Christmas break is just around the corner. Our Onway volleyball teams had a lot of success this November winning multiple GCAA and zone titles! Congratulations to all the volleyball teams and their coaches on an incredibly successful season. The basketball season is now underway and already off to a great start. As always, an important part of November is the Remembrance Day Ceremony. We held our ceremony on November 8th with all staff, students, and a number of community members participating. A huge thanks to the Onway Legion and the local cadets also for their participation in the ceremony.

We have a lot going on again in December. On December 7th, we have our Christmas fundraiser: An Evening of Christmas Enchantment. This is to raise funds for our school council, which supports various school programs. This will be a Christmas mingling and shopping event. There will be a bake sale, silent auction, and Christmas market vendors. Donations to the bake sale and silent auction are appreciated, see the advertisement in this newsletter to see whom to contact to donate. On December 20th, we have our school Christmas dinner at lunch. Pre-orders are required by students and staff. The meal is \$12 and tickets go on sale on December 5th. Finally, on December 22nd, we have our annual Junior High Reindeer Games. This is always a highpoint in the year for jr. high students and sends them out on Christmas break with a whole lot of Christmas spirit.

Semester one exams are also just around the corner. When students get back in January, English 30 and Social Studies 30 Diploma exams will start the first week, then it will be just a few short weeks before exam week starts. The exam schedule is posted on the last section of this newsletter.

I wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas break and a Happy New Year. Classes end on December 22nd and we return to school on Monday January 8th.

December 2023

Mr. Jespersen
Assistant Principle

Please Note

Our doors are locked for the most part of the day for security and safety of our students and staff. If you need to come to the school, there is a doorbell you may ring for our office staff to hear - but it is always a good idea to phone ahead and book an appointment

(780) 967 2271

Find us on



@ngpsohs



@Onoway Jr/Sr High School



@onowayjrsrhigschool

Or please visit our website onowayhigh.ca for all information and updates



Basketball

Basketball season is underway! Congratulations to all the student athletes who made the teams for the 2023-2024 season. Stay up to date on upcoming home games by following our school Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Good luck and have a great season to all our athletes.

Go Mustangs!

Volleyball



It was an outstanding season of volleyball at OJSH this year. We had eight teams representing our school at various levels and over 50 student-athletes participated. Almost every team finished the season on a high note with a banner or medal win. The junior boys and girls teams both won their GCAA tournament and brought banners. The junior girls also won the third-place match at 3J zones and took home a bronze medal. Both JV teams had successful tournaments - the girls finished first at the Swan Hills Halloween Howler. The senior boys won their GCAA tournament and had successful showings at numerous tournaments. A special congratulations goes out to the Sr Girls team who finished 1st at their Zone Tournament and went on to represent our division at 2A provincials in Whitecourt!



A big thank you to the players, coaches, bus drivers, administration, and parents who made this season such a success.

Skating

PE 20/30 and Sport Performance 8 groups did some skating and shooting drills the last week of November. Even though the ODRs aren't up and running because it has been so warm, we are grateful that we could use the Onoway Arena to get some ice time and still do some skating!



New Staff Welcome

Ms. Cavanagh joined our staff earlier in November to cover for Mr. Millar. She is loving OJSH and wanted to introduce herself:

Hello, My name is Samantha Cavanagh.
A little bit about me: I am originally from Saskatchewan. I completed two years at Lakeland College and then moved to Edmonton in 2019 to attend the University of Alberta. I graduated in 2021 with my degree in Secondary Education. I have taught mostly in Edmonton with EPSB but recently bought a small acreage in Lac Ste. Anne county so I was mostly substitute teaching in NGPS - and now I am at OJSH and loving it!





Kitchen Corner

We have made it into December and it is a busy month for us in the Kitchen! We start the month off on December 5th with selling tickets for our Christmas dinner. Tickets are only \$12 and are available to purchase until December 12th.

Next you will see Grandma Pat's Tarts being sold in the main foyer on December 6th. You will not want to miss her delicious baked tarts that you can buy, cash only, for \$1.00! Every year they sell out quickly, so make sure you mark your calendars and bring your loonies and toonies.

Every year, the kitchen puts together a full meal for staff and students to enjoy at lunch. It is the only food available to eat at lunch but what a meal it is! We have turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, peas & carrots and of course, cranberry sauce! And to finish it all off... Strawberry Shortcake!

The dinner is served by the Kitchen staff and some fantastic helpers on December 20. Please keep watching the daily bulletin for more details about the meal and tickets. We hope to see you all there.

Then we have Christmas Enchantment on December 7. The Kitchen will be open from 5-8pm that evening to help keep you hydrated and provide you with our menu if you have forgotten dinner. Come by and say hello! And if you are looking for a little extra special something for your student, come and pick up a gift card from us! It's easy to use and easy to reload either at the school or online at www.freebeespay.com

From all of us in the Kitchen, we wish you the best over the holidays!

Mr. Galliford, Grandma Pat and Laura



Art



Seniors have finished their acrylic painting and are currently working on their sculpture unit. We just completed our first charcoal drawing experiment which encourages students to use careful observation and develop good hand eye coordination to free-hand good proportions. We have also been learning about art history and some popular art movements including Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Art Deco and Art Nouveau. We will continue to dabble in art history right until the end of the semester.

A new quarter for the Junior High Students and we already have some amazing drawings coming in. There are many talented artists in this school and I am looking forward to working with them.

Many thanks to student artists who have agreed to leave their art work at the school for display until after the Christmas Enchantment evening. Come check it out in person on Dec 7th!





Webs of Support

Colour of the month: **YELLOW (Intangible Strings)**

So far we have learned about:

Red representing the "Rule of Five" – this refers to children needing a minimum of FIVE ANCHORS (or more) for their personal webs of support to be most effective

Orange representing tangible strings – those measurable supports adult anchors give to children that contribute to creating the web of support (such as nutritious food, activities, and healthcare)

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Yellow is the third color in our Webs of Support rainbow. Yellow represents the intangible strings that anchors throw to thicken a youth's web. These intangible strings are difficult to measure but just as important to be modelled for and "caught" by youth. These are beliefs, values, and behaviours that anchors model and teach such as:

Kindness Honesty Courage Patience Curiosity Justice Tact

The upcoming holiday season is a perfect opportunity for anchors to model throwing intangible strings. Take the youth you care about to shovel driveways for your neighbors (kindness), donate to the Salvation Army Kettle in the department store (generosity), and volunteer for one of the many causes in the community (sacrifice). There are many ways for adults to demonstrate throwing intangible strings. Using the webs of support language, discuss with the youth that you anchor what it is you're doing and why. This time of year strings are thrown for many people, not just youth. Later on, we will learn about the color indigo, which represents "Caring for the Carers". At this time of year, often anchors of youth need support, too. It's okay to throw strings for other adults, because adults need support to be at their best for the youth who rely on them.

As you celebrate this time of year, be sure to spread many **orange** and **yellow** strings! Not only will it help others feel good, you will feel awesome too!

If you'd like to read ahead and learn more about the colours we will be discussing the link below will help:
<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/squarespace-brightwayslearning/kaleidoscope-connect/KaleidoscopeConnect-Overview-withComponents.pdf>

Come Join Us on Dec 7th

OJSH SCHOOL COUNCIL
INVITES YOU TO OUR

Evening
of Christmas
Enchantment

FEATURING
CHRISTMAS MARKET
BAKE SALE | SILENT AUCTION

07 | 6:30-9:00 PM
DECEMBER | ONOWAY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR
PARENT COUNCIL

ENTERTAINMENT BY OJSH BAND STUDENTS

Please send us an email if you would like to contribute baked goods, or silent auction items.

onowayhighparents@gmail.com

Or, to rent a table for the vendors market please email amywhalen13@gmail.com

The more funds we raise, the more we can be supportive of the OJSH School community, so thank you for your continued support!



Wrap Around News

As the calendar turns to December and the season of giving that is Christmas, it is natural for us to think of all that we have received from the people who give of themselves to make our lives better. This is no different for the staff of the Wrap Around, who in the course of our daily work, receive so much from those who help us and make it possible to do our jobs. We would like to thank the school administration for giving us the time and support we need to work with students and parents and staff every day. They believe that having school counsellors is important in the running of a school and this is evident in their words and their actions. We would also like to thank the teaching staff for allowing students to come to the Wrap Around during their class time and for their invaluable support and knowledge of the students they teach and guide every day. The number of times that we have received valuable and vital knowledge and observations of students in need from teachers is countless. We are also grateful for the many and varied support staff whose job is often a thankless one and goes unrecognized. They do the hands-on, practical, behind the scenes work with students every day that is vital to the smooth operation of any and every school. Whether it is in the classroom, the lab, the shop, the office, the cafeteria, the gym or in the hallways, the time support staff spend supporting students is essential not only to their academic success but their emotional and mental well being as well. The staff of the Wrap Around would also like to thank parents, the primary caregivers of our students, who provide us with necessary and crucial information, backing and communication to help their children. It would be infinitely more difficult to support and assist the students of our school without their help. Finally, we need to thank our students who are the reason for and purpose of the Wrap Around area. We fully realize and appreciate the trust and willingness our students demonstrate every day by coming down to the Wrap Around to talk, get help or advice, grab a quick bite or simply to say hello. As we always say, the challenge of working with teenagers and young adults is far outweighed by the reward and blessing we receive by getting to know our students for the unique individuals that each of them are. We also would like to thank the members of the Onoway community, many of whom are not parents of our students, for their fundamental and integral support of the school. Whether it is through volunteering, coaching, donating money and/or food to the Wrap Around to support our food program or handing out treats on a Friday morning as students are arriving at school, it enables all of us to do a better job for students and makes Onoway Junior Senior High a better place to be.

The Wrap Around would like to welcome Jesse as the newest member of the Wrap Around team. Jesse is a provisional psychologist from Canniff & Assoc. that joins Heather as therapists that are available to see students, with their parents permission. Heather is at our school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Jesse is here on Wednesdays. On a monthly basis, a former Canniff therapist, Heidi returns to see students as well. If any students or their parents are interested in the services that Heather and Jesse provide, please contact the Wrap Around staff.

Lastly, we would like to make our school community aware of a scholarship from Alberta Blue Cross that is available to Indigenous students. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2024 and information regarding the scholarship can be found at

<https://www.community.ab.bluecross.ca/programs/indigenous-scholarships.php>

A message from NGPS Transportation

Preparing for cooler temperatures! It's been a positively balmy November, but colder temperatures are in the forecast. With the changing of the season, families are reminded to dress warmly and prepare for Winter busing conditions.

To Run or Not to Run? School Bus Transportation in Inclement Weather
When the safety of transporting bus students is at risk because of severe weather conditions, the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Director of Transportation Services, may choose to suspend school bus services and, in extreme cases, close schools. Procedures used in this process can be found in **Administrative Procedure 750 : Severe Weather and Emergency Closure.**

Please note: Except in very special circumstances, NGPS schools always remain open on school days.

BUSES: Running or Not

HOW DO WE DECIDE?

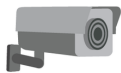
The Director of Transportation makes the decision based on:



Weather Conditions



Scouting the Roads



Highway Cameras



Communication with Bus Drivers/Contractors



- 40°

Temperature Readings from Environment Canada & 511 Alberta

HOW DO WE NOTIFY?



Social Media



NGPS.ca



BusPlanner App

DECISION IS MADE BETWEEN

6:00 AM - 6:30 AM



Your Choice

It is always your decision whether or not to send your child to school during extreme weather conditions.



With people getting together to celebrate the holiday season, impaired driving is always a concern this time of year. Drivers should think ahead to how they will get home safely. Use a ride share, taxi, or public transit, call a friend or family member to pick you up, or make plans in advance for a designated driver. Impaired driving is preventable if you plan to find a safe ride home.



Impaired driving facts:

- 420 people died in collisions involving a legally impaired driver over the ten year period 2012 to 2021 and more than 6,100 were injured.
- In 2021, about 1 in 13 drivers involved in a fatal collision was legally impaired at the time of the crash.
- Impaired driving collisions most commonly occur at night, and on Saturdays. In 2021, more than half (57.6%) of impaired driving casualty collisions occurred between 7:00 pm and 3:00 am, and nearly a fifth (18.9%) occurred on Saturdays.
- Cannabis can negatively impact one's ability to drive, as it reduces many cognitive and visual skills, such as tracking, reaction time, visual function, concentration, short-term memory, and divided attention. Combining cannabis with alcohol further intensifies the effects on driving skills, even if the doses of either substance are low.
- According to Health Canada's 2021 Canadian Cannabis Survey, 21% of people who had used cannabis in the past 12 months reported they had driven within two hours of using cannabis, and 35% of those respondents did so within the past 30 days.
- Since December 1, 2020, Alberta has had some of the toughest impaired driving laws in Canada, with immediate and severe consequences for impaired drivers.



Significant Dates



Dec 7th	School Council "Evening of Christmas Enchantment"- Bake Sale, Market, and Silent Auction
Dec 25-Jan 5	Christmas Break - No School
Jan 8	First day back for students
Jan 10	Diploma Exams begin (English)
Jan 11	Social Diploma Exams
Jan 19	Last Day of Regular Senior High Classes
Jan 22	Exam week begins for Senior High Students (please see exam schedule below) Mathematics Diploma Exams
Jan 23	English Part B Diploma
Jan 24	Social Part B Diploma
Jan 29	Physics Diploma
Jan 30	Quarter 2 Ends for Junior High Options
Jan 31	PD Day - no school for students. Report Card #2 released on Powerschool at the end of the day

January Exam Schedule

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uL8x58L-Sp5q6g0eydhYo5tYa5wPmJKC3khhC0QiMBQ/edit?usp=sharing>

