

Newsletter

Administrator's Message

We are nearing the end of the 2023-24 school year. We have many full days of hard work ahead before we get to graduation. I trust that OJSH students will continue to work as hard as they always do and finish the school year strong.

Please pay special attention to the dates in this newsletter. The exam schedule is included in this newsletter along with information on the final day of classes for Sr. High and Jr. High students. National Indigenous People's Day is on June 21, 2024. There are no exams scheduled for that day. We will be holding events on that day for the students to celebrate and learn about indigenous history and culture.

Our final School Council meeting will be on June 13th at 6:30 PM. All parents are welcome to participate. Our parent fundraising organization: The Onoway Parents Educative Association has been granted a fundraising Casino on August 2nd and 3rd, 2024, at Century Casino in St. Albert. We need volunteers to work at the casino in shifts. If you would like to help you can sign up at: [Volunteer Sign Up Link](#)

This year's graduation is on June 28, 2024. The school ceremony will be at 1:30 PM in the gym. We have another excellent group of students graduating this year. They have grown through the years and have proven themselves to be a very hardworking group. We wish them all the best in their future ventures.

Finally, I would like to finish with a farewell to several staff that are moving on at the end of this school year: Ren Giesbrecht, Samantha Cavanagh, Teresa Ross, Corey Lougheed, and Amy Vilneff. My best wishes to all as you move on to new paths.

Stay tuned to the website and social media sites for updates before school begins in September. All the best to our wonderful students and their families.

June 2024



- Mr. Jespersen

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

To speak with our office, please phone



(780) 967 2271

Find us on



@ngpsohs



@Onoway Jr/Sr High School



@onowayjrsrhighschool

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

Counselling Corner

Where does the time go? It seems like we just finished getting ready for the start of the school year and now, all of a sudden, we are preparing for the year to end. As happens with the end of every school year, time fills up quickly with trying to wrap up and complete things from the previous 8 months while at the same time, we work feverishly to get things in place for next year. The last 2 weeks of May were replete with Grade 7 Orientation tours for our feeder schools and with PowerSchool Course Registration sessions for our current students in Grades 9 through 11. All students that are going into grades 10-12 next year, should have completed their course and class requests for the 2024-2025 school year.

Since course selection has now passed, any students who have not completed a course selection sheet and input their courses on PowerSchool with Mr Bellerose or Miss Deacon, please go to the Wrap Around and see a counsellor to complete this ASAP.

We would also like to encourage parents and guardians to please take a look at your child's PowerSchool Account, so that they can go through their course selection with you. If you have any questions, please contact the school counsellors, Mr Bellerose or Miss Deacon to discuss changes or modifications.



Significant Dates

June 4	Junior High Track and Field
June 5	Incoming Grade 8 parent information night at 7PM
June 18	Last Day for Senior High and Grade 9 classes
June 21	National Indigenous People's Day
June 27	Grad Rehearsal
June 28	Graduation Day for 2024 Graduates

link to the June 2024
Exam Schedule



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nqte_NxUdvCOXfxTi-3C8eBUZ4_AxZkEaKVmNTDYjXo/edit?usp=sharing

Scholarship Opportunities

- ★ Gr. 12 students who will be attending a post-secondary institution in the fall are encouraged to apply for one of the two \$1000 scholarships that are offered by the Whitecourt Fish and Game Association. They are reaching out to our students because they are receiving no applications so your chances of being successful are very high. Preference will be given to students who are entering the environmental resource field. The deadline to apply is June 15 so come down to the Wrap Around, get an application and get it sent out. You might be the only one applying.
- ★ The Spruce Grove Ag Society is offering a scholarship to assist a post secondary student enrolled in an agriculture related field of studies. Although the Scholarship has a residency stipulation, Onoway High School students are being included as there may be a cross boundary student who could qualify. It might be of interest that the 2022 recipient was Sarah Bowman, an OHS grad, who lived outside the boundaries but belonged to a 4-H club in Parkland County. See a counsellor in the Wrap Around or the posters around the school for more information.
- ★ The Henry Tomlinson Memorial Scholarships, a total of \$5000, are sponsored by Ste. Anne Natural Gas and are now accepting applications and has a deadline of June 30. They are intended for Gr. 12 students whose families are SANG Utility members or who live in a SANG service area. For more information, come down to the Wrap Around and see one of the counsellors or check out one of the posters around the school.
- ★ The Town of Onoway has a \$500 bursary. Information is posted in the Wrap Around room. For students who are still interested in applying for scholarships, this can be an opportunity to gain an additional competitive edge, as many students' interest in scholarships has lessened by this time of year.
- ★ Canadian Hearing Services National Scholarship - This scholarship is available to Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Last year, they gave away over 30 awards
- ★ Geotab Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Engineering Scholarship - This scholarship is for Aboriginal, Black/African-American, Inuit, Metis, or North American Indian/Alaskan Natives looking to study a STEM program
- ★ The Brandon Walli "Phones Down, Eyes Up" Memorial Scholarship - is for students planning on studying Arts, Creative Arts, or Music
- ★ Dream Unlimited has 2 awards, both 4 x \$10,000
- ★ <https://scholartree.ca/scholarship/dream-scholarship/NJpU9pGRz> - Open to any grade 12 students in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, or Saskatchewan
- ★ <https://scholartree.ca/scholarship/dream-scholarship/NXVVRzKiMD> - Open to grade 12 students in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, or Saskatchewan students studying specific programs

See the Wrap-Around for further details!



Badminton

The Junior High Badminton team had a very competitive showing in all categories at GCAA Tournament, in Whitecourt, Monday April 29. The athletes were very good student representatives for OJSH and showed good sportsmanship and behavior throughout the tournament. Ms. Deacon, joined Mr. Burghardt and Ms. Cavanagh with supervision help at the tournament. Congratulations to all of our Junior High Badminton team players!

In many categories, we had players make it to the semi-finals.

Carleigha P and **Pyper H** won silver in intermediate girl's doubles.

Ariana V and **Jaxon W** won silver in intermediate mixed doubles.

Tia Z and **Peyton L** won gold in senior girl's doubles.

The team had a fun "windup" practice and party on Wednesday, May 8th to celebrate our athletes and wrap up a successful badminton season.



Senior High Track and Field

This year OJSH sent a small but mighty crew of athletes to Foote Field at the University of Alberta for zone qualifiers. Our team of 10 competed in various runs, throws, and jumps. Many students had PB's in their events, top-3 finishes, and four athletes have qualified for Provincials by finishing 1st or 2nd in their event!! We wish good luck to:



Sawyer M - long jump
Teniel T - javelin
Delilah A - high jump
Sophia H - discus



A big thanks to Mr. Stoltz and Mr. Eastman for their work with this year's team!

START



Junior High Track and Field

The junior high track and field team did exceptional this season with great performances and sportsmanship! Congrats for winning GCAA Overall Champion and GCAA Aggregate Champion.

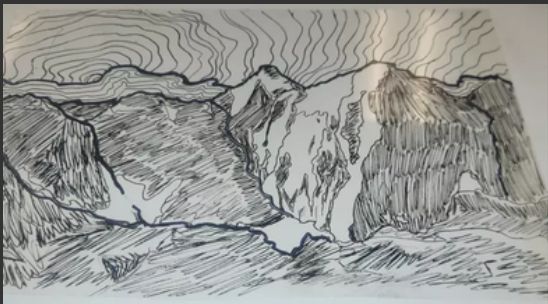
47 athletes qualified for the Zone Meet, representing OJSH with great talent, etiquette and pride. Great job athletes!



Senior High Art

In May we enjoyed the annual Senior Art Field trip, including a visit to the Royal Alberta Museum and the Alberta Gallery of Art. This trip enabled students to spend time enjoying the art and artifacts while taking time for sketchbook opportunities.

Seniors are now finishing up their sculpture unit which includes choice from ceramics, epoxy clay, paper sculpting and more. We will be finishing up the semester with Free-Choice or Print options. Many students are choosing mixed media pieces.



Junior High Art

Junior High students have been introduced to different drawing media and finishing up with their pinch pot ceramic mugs. They are now trying painting media and will finish off the year with some printing media.





A message from the Cafeteria

May is done! Can you believe how quickly June has arrived? We are wrapping up in the kitchen as we head towards the end of the school year. This past month we saw a few things of note in the kitchen and around the school.

With the school year finishing, I had the idea of bringing a little bit of fun, stress relief and some community service all together for a few days to help with all our mental health. And so the idea of Carnival was born. The students were asked to help raise money and bring in donations for the Onoway Food Bank as well as for Barrhead Animal Rescue Society (BARS). And in return, we held Carnival events during the lunch break such as Fishing for Ducks, Toilet Paper Toss, and Slam Dunk Basketball. There was an assortment of prizes that was given out at each game and a few stuffies that were handed out to a few big winners.

The cafeteria was very busy selling mini donuts, cheeseburger rollers, deep fried pickles and more to help bring the feel of Carnival alive in the school. There was also sales of cotton candy and popcorn for the grads and travel group, respectively.

The week ended with a 9 way tie between all the staff that volunteered to get a pie in the face. For the cost of \$1, the students could choose to pie a staff member! The competition was close until the final hour when Constable Steve decided to help even the odds and everyone was considered a winner, including himself!



We have officially closed the Library/Study Commons Cafe as well. Over the past few months, the students from Life Skills have set up and worked the lunches upstairs to help give the staff and students another venue for their lunches. With the help of Mrs. Petherbridge and a few other volunteers, they have been a tremendous help to all of us and we greatly appreciate all the work they have done!

Finally I would like to say thank you to everyone from the work experience students to our "regulars" and everyone of the students who came into the cafeteria for breakfast, lunch, a snack or drink or just to say hello. We all greatly appreciated you and are very proud of all you have accomplished this year.

Grads, we are very proud of your journey and we hope you let us know how you are doing with your future endeavors! Have a fantastic and safe summer!

Murray Galliford, Grandma Pat and Laura Harrison



CARNIVAL





Cosmetology Field Trip

The Sr. High Cosmetology students have been learning a variety of hair and esthetic techniques over the course of both semesters. As a way to understand where these skills can be applied, they attended a tour of MC College in downtown Edmonton. There they were introduced to the numerous post-secondary options MC Colleges offers, ranging from hair styling to fashion design. The College's representative did a fantastic job explaining the school's mission, and even discussed some interesting facts about the college in general. All students were given a chance to receive a service from the MC college students which varied from lash tinting, brow waxing, manicures and a hair wash and style. It was a very informative day, and it always helps when learning is followed by some pampering.



Provincial Skills Competition

From May 8-9, the Provincial Skills Competition took place at the Expo Centre in Edmonton. OJSH is proud to share that we had two students compete in 2D Animation, Harrison A and Triston Kand one student competing in Graphic Design, grade 12 student Johnny C. The premise of the competition is for all students across Alberta enrolled in Tech and Trades courses, a chance to showcase their skills. These gentlemen have been working all year fine-tuning their skills. This is Johnny's second year competing in Graphic Design where he was hoping to place in the top three once again. We were thrilled when we heard the announcement that Johnny had placed third this year. A big congratulations goes out to Johnny, as this was a great way to celebrate his graduating year.



Both Harrison and Triston were up against stiff competition in the area of animation. They held their own, as they only had a total of 12 hours to complete a full 10 second animation which included a wildcard and mandatory theme. Mrs. Rad is extremely proud of these young men and their dedication to their craft. She is excited to share that Triston and Harrison will be applying again for the 2025 Provincial Competition, and she hopes to recruit other eager students to compete in various technology competitions.

DARWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMING SOON

STARTS
IN
SEPTEMBER

ADULTING 101: HOW NOT TO LIVE IN YOUR PARENTS' BASEMENT!

LEARN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS FOR INDEPENDENCE

Basic Banking

Career Options
& Job Opportunities

University Applications

Budgeting

Writing A Resume
& Cover Letter

Student Loans, Grants &
Scholarships

Income Tax

Job Applications
& Interview Skills

Understanding Artificial
Intelligence

Study Skills

Where:

Darwell Public Library

Phone: 780-892-3746

Email: adarlibrary@yrl.ab.ca

www.darwellpubliclibrary.ab.ca

When:

Monthly Sessions

September 2024 to March 2025

Dates TBA

Cost:

Free

TEENS IN

GRADES 9 - 12

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Congratulations

To this year's Legion Winners for the
Remembrance Day Poster and Essay Contest:

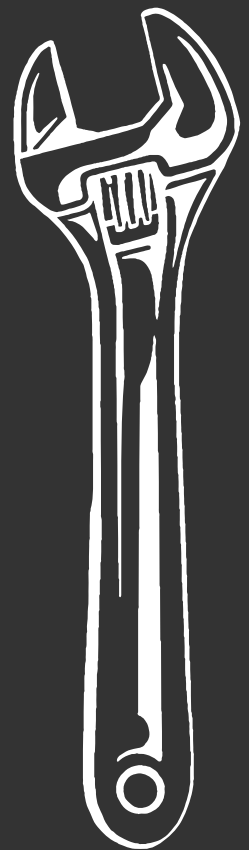
Cadence M
Hannah K



Registered Apprenticeship Program

The Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) provides senior high school students with the opportunity to earn up to 40 credits in high school, gain on-the-job training, and earn up to 1000 first year hours in an apprenticeship. RAP students are both high school students and registered apprentices at the same time.

This school year our Registered Apprenticeship Program has greatly expanded with 16 students currently enrolled in the program. We currently have students working as first year apprentices in following trades: automotive service technician, heavy equipment technician, carpenter, electrician, and welder. For more information on the program, contact Mr. Jespersen.

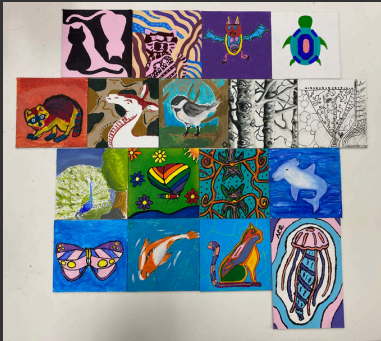


Jadin is one of seven OJSH students currently enrolled in the Registered Apprenticeship Program as welders at Academy Fabricators

Senior Art - Guest Speaker

Last week the Sr. High Art Students had the pleasure of listening the experiences of Indigenous artist, Jessica Desmoulin. Her work is currently on display at the Edmonton Bear Claw Gallery and she has also been a feature artist with the TREX (Travelling Exhibition Program) Run by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Jessica is also a member of the Red Spirit Motorcycle Club which brings awareness for Reconciliation and MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women)

Art students were walked through Jessica's family story which is linked to residential schools in Ontario and how she was eventually enrolled as a full-time artist at the Bear Claw Art Gallery. During her visit, Jessica described her artistic process and encouraged students to paint an animal, simplify it and use colours with whatever makes them happy. Jessica is a strong advocate for using art for mental health. Thank you Jessica for sharing your expertise with the our senior art students. We hope to have you back every year.



Thank you
from Lifeskills

The Lifeskills class would like to thank Tim Hay for donating dirt for our raised beds. The students worked hard to unload and fill the garden.

We would like to thank those that donated seeds. We have planted the garden and are excited to enjoy the fruits of our labour.





On June 6, OJSH welcomed back Lonny Potts for a classroom visit. With graduation approaching we asked Lonny to come to our school and bless the Eagle Feathers that are gifted to each First Nation graduate. The Aboriginal Studies class was invited to join Lonny outside. Lonny began our visit with a smudge and students were offered to smudge if they wanted to partake. Lonny explained the importance of the two medicines he was using and why smudging is important. The students also were able to observe Lonny bless the feathers and sing prayer songs. It was a beautiful sunny day and we are grateful for Lonny offering this experience to our students.



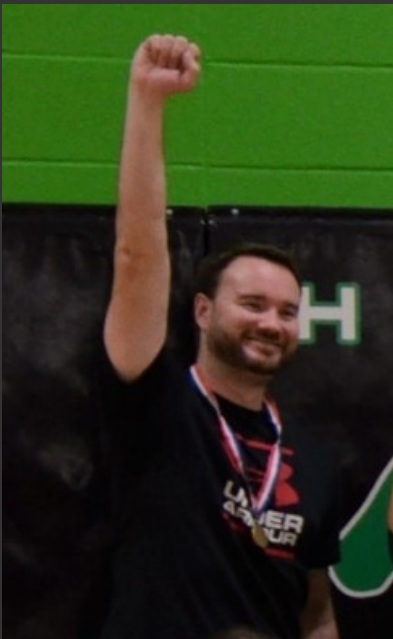
Farewell Ms. Cavanagh

Ms. Cavanagh came in one day in November as a substitute teacher and ended up staying on with us from that point on! That one day showed the staff and students at OJSH what a wonderful teacher she is and when a staff member went on leave, she was a wonderful fit for the position. Since November, Ms. Cavanagh has been teaching mainly Grade 8 humanities. She was one of the junior badminton coaches and has been a wonderful relationship builder and educator for students. Ms. Cavanagh is expecting her first child in the fall and will not be back with us at OJSH, but we certainly hope we will see her again in the future when she is ready to teach again. She has made an impact on students and staff alike and she will definitely be missed. Best wishes Ms Cavanagh!



Mr. Longheed

It's been a real privilege to spend the last 11 years teaching in Onoway and surrounding area. I've met fantastic people at work, in my classes, on my teams, and after hours around the community. There are so many great people and families in this area. Life sometimes pulls us in other directions but leaving Onoway and OJSH is hard. Thanks to everyone I have met along the way and best of luck to all of you in your future endeavors. The students at OJSH are in great hands and will continue to do amazing things at our school.



Mrs. Ross

OJSH is bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Ross. Mrs Ross at one time was a most excellent Education Assistant and then moved into the role of Wellness Coach in 2022. As a Wellness Coach she has been a trusted anchor for students, maintaining high expectations for students while supporting them through difficult situations personally and academically. Students have known that when they don't know where else to turn, Mrs Ross would be there and point them in the right direction. Mrs Ross is a mom and grandma who is moving closer to family now after devoting years to students in NGPS. We know wherever she lands her next colleagues will feel very lucky to work with her as we all have. Best wishes on your next adventures Mrs Ross.





Farewell and Best Wishes



It is hard to believe that I have been here for 9 years! The time sure has flown. I remember starting as Assistant Principal in 2015 in the old building. That was also the last year we were over there. Now that building is a distant memory - the place that used to be where the beautiful soccer field and running track are today.

I remember moving into the building that stands today - it was delayed and students and staff spent most of that first year walking the halls where there were construction people still working in the school and some areas were still cordoned off with plastic. It seemed like living in a construction zone would never end! It eventually did and we were left with the beautiful school we still have today. Any visitor or new students and parents marvel at how beautiful this school is - Onoway is very lucky to have such a great building!

Inside that great building are the best people, though - the people I will truly miss as I leave to go on my next adventure. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the best staff for the past 9 years. Onoway is fortunate to have premium educators and educational assistants, great and efficient office personnel and friendly, talented cafeteria staff - the BEST people!

The best people also includes wonderful students. I have always enjoyed working with adolescents. They are very interesting people going through so many changes at one time - its a challenging time of life for sure. I have had the pleasure of getting to know many, many (thousands over 9 years) special teenagers in my time at OJSH. They have made me laugh, smile, question many things, and have kept my day-to-day life at OJSH very interesting to say the least. I always had students' best interests at heart. I believe in holding students accountable, helping them develop resilience and responsibility, and understanding the school is the first and best place to learn many lessons that will help them on their journeys to adulthood. I also believe that what is fair does not mean equal as all students have different stories, but with staff, we worked together to meet as many needs as possible. I know that this will continue - it is the OJSH way!

I want to thank the supportive parents I had the opportunity to work with over the years. Thank you for working with us at school as part of a team in the best interests of your children. This includes the small but mighty School Council that OJSH is so lucky to have. Without their efforts there would be no anchor club to greet students once a month with treats and school supplies, there'd be far less food for hungry students in our breakfast nook, and that outdoor basketball court would not be here. The School Council is a small and hard working group of parents that I encourage others to join. You won't regret it because it is also a great way to know what is going on in OJSH and why.



My fondest memories of OJSH are:

- When we made it on the evening news when the school banded together to fundraise for the Ukraine after they were attacked by Russia - wow did we show everyone in Alberta our school spirit and generosity that day
- The yearly Gr 11 VS Gr 12 Scavenger hunts - I loved being part of those dog/puppy and Goat/kid visits at school and watching the 11s and 12s come together to do some very interesting things
- The Annual Evenings of Christmas Enchantment - only had two so far but it quickly became a tradition that I am sure will continue for many years
- School Spirit days - dressing up for Hallowe'en, 80s/90s Days, Christmas, and more
- Awards nights and Graduations - celebrating wonderful accomplishments of students

OJSH is a very special place - one I will miss for sure. Thank you to all of you who made me smile and laugh, who helped me find silver lining on the toughest days, and who were a great support to myself and staff at the school. I wish you all well in your journeys ahead!

- Dr. Amy Villneff