



# THE OXFORD SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



### HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

We have completed half of the school year and are approaching the First Term Report Cards. Students have worked hard on multiple activities, resulting in a summative report card mark. While summative reporting is critical, the formative assessment of students in the class is where teachers see real growth—conferencing with students, observing and providing feedback on their learning is essential to the teacher and student. Student participation in extracurricular

and school activities outside the classroom also develops the child as a whole.

Our Friday Tea is vital in teaching students how to be polite in a public setting and celebrating fellow schoolmates achievements. I regularly get compliments on the Tea Days that people are visiting our school for the first time.

We will continue to offer students extracurricular opportunities to participate as we move through the second half of the

school year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Wild Connection Community and The Oxford School for supporting the students and providing school leadership.

Together, we provide students at The Oxford School with an excellent holistic education.

**Gerry Cockburn** OCT. MSc.Ed.  
Head of School

# CLASS UPDATES

February 2024

## EARLY YEARS

After a magical holiday season Pre-K is back and better than ever in 2024! Term 1 of our program is heavily dedicated to social-emotional development and the Pre-K students have demonstrated amazing ability to adapt into school life and create friendships. We are always busy doing learning activities, collaborating with our JK/SK friends or using our imaginations to create impressive play scenarios. Our favorite thing to do at school is sensory play and we LOVE getting messy in the classroom. This term we will work towards mastering skills such as name writing and letter recognition to help prepare us for Junior Kindergarten! This fun and creative crew is bound to have an incredible term 2.

*Written by: Miss Leah Pellar*



## JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

Things have been bustling and busy in Junior Kindergarten! We have built strong friendships and continue to play, share



JK CONTINUED

and help one another. Our classroom is constantly filled with giggles, smiles and fun. JK has been working through the Singapore Math program by working in centres with manipulatives. We have been working on recognizing shapes and numbers. We build snowmen by cutting out different shapes. JK performed for the first time at Friday Tea and did a wonderful job singing "I'm a Little Penguin" complete with penguin hats they painted themselves. It can be a scary thing to sing in front of a big crowd and I am very proud of how well the whole class did. JK loves playing in the snow. The creations, buildings, structures and creativity that happens during our Outdoor Education time is amazing to see! We are very thankful the extra cold weather is behind us and are hopeful for more mild days that are filled with snow (rather than slushy puddles). We've had a wonderful first term and I can't wait to see what comes next for these amazing kiddos :)

*Written by: Mrs. Kim Barlow*

## SENIOR KINDERGARTEN

We have come a long way, from learning phonetic sounds to reading full on words and sentences. Many have even attempted to write their own sentences! SK is excelling in Language. In Math we have completed our first Math book. We are moving on to skip counting in 2's and making number bonds. Numbers and concepts are reviewed daily during Circle time. Arts and Crafts has always been a favorite, currently we are enjoying some winter art like snow covered trees and hats. SK is building resilience through this rough winter weather. They can now independently come in and change a set of wet mittens and snow pants. We are now enjoying outdoor education more during the Winter as students have accepted the harsh cold and weather conditions. Overall, SK has been busy filling their young brains with amazing things that will help them grow and succeed!

*Written by: Ms. Kashmala Saeed*



# CLASS UPDATES

February 2024

## GRADE 1

Well there have been some big adventures in Grade 1! We arrived one morning to find ourselves locked out of our classroom and our teacher handcuffed to a TOP SECRET briefcase! We had to work through a bunch of clues and adventures in order to help our teacher escape. We solved the mystery, found the keys, freed Ms. Dorken and got into the briefcase! It turns out that our class has been selected to be Secret Agent Word Detectives! We scan into our class daily to ensure they are no imposters and wear our detective badges. We have been busy in class learning all about the secrets of WHY the letters make the sounds they do. We use magnifying glasses to find the secrets in books and are so excited when we uncover all of the secrets in our writing. Check out our employee wall of our spy agents inside the front doors of the school.

Written by: Ms. Kim Dorken



## GRADE 2

We're excited to share what's happening in our Grade 2 class. Right now, we're focusing on procedural writing, specifically imperative verbs, to boost our writing skills. In math, we're exploring 2D and 3D shapes and learning about their properties. Our science journey is wrapping up the air and water unit, and we're gearing up for the exciting world of simple machines. In Social Studies, we've mastered the continents and oceans, and now we're looking into countries within continents and their climates, exploring how location influences communities and lifestyles. As a creative break, we're temporarily shifting from Art to drama, diving into readers' theater for some expressive fun. Your ongoing support is appreciated, and we're looking forward to continued growth and enthusiasm from our students in the weeks to come.

Written by: Ms. Annie Aziz



## GRADE 3

Grade 3 has been busy with exciting learning activities. We have set some fantastic resolutions for ourselves this year, expressed it through art and are determined to see them through. In language we've been diving deep into descriptive writing, honing our skills in punctuation to express ourselves effectively. Completing our first math workbook and now diving into mental math, enjoying multiplication and division games and engaging in some friendly math challenges as well. We have explored our plant world in Science and are now gearing up to learn about forces that drive motion. During our recent Parent Tea, we proudly presented a beautiful song about the food chain, showcasing our understanding of this topic. In Social Studies we are working on a project centered around family and community. While in Drama we are on an imaginative journey of fables, enhancing our reading comprehension and acting skills. Together we are growing, learning and creating wonderful memories everyday.

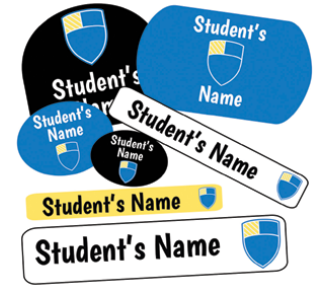
Written by: Mrs. Namritha Vijayakumar

## GRADE 4

We have been doing so many fun things in Grade 4! We have started our social studies unit about Early Societies. We have explored the concept of history and begun to look at life in Ancient Egypt. In Language Arts, we are exploring biographies. To help us practice our writing skills we are writing a biography about Howard Carter- the archaeologist who discovered King Tut's tomb. After we get to write a biography about a person of our choice. Finally in Science, we are finishing up our unit about Rocks and Minerals. We learned an awesome song about the rock cycle that we randomly start to sing even during lunch times! Miss Kleebaum has even hinted about an upcoming field trip. We are so excited to keep learning in Grade 4.

Written by: Ms. Melanie Kleebaum

## SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!



### LOVABLE LABELS

Buy your child's clothing labels here and 20% of each sale will go back to The Oxford School!

[www.OxfordSchool.lovablelabels.ca](http://www.OxfordSchool.lovablelabels.ca)



### MABELS LABELS

Follow this link, and search "The Oxford School" (Woodstock) to support our school with your purchase

[https://mabelslabels.ca/en\\_CA/fundraising/support/](https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/)



### FLIPGIVE

Buy your everyday and holiday gift cards here and a portion of each sale will go to The Oxford School! FlipGive sells gift cards to popular stores like Sobeys, Winners, Starbucks, Home Hardware and Indigo!

Also, use this site to make your online purchases and a portion of each order comes back to TOS.

[www.flipgive.com/teams/199731-the-oxford-school](http://www.flipgive.com/teams/199731-the-oxford-school)



### SCHOLASTIC

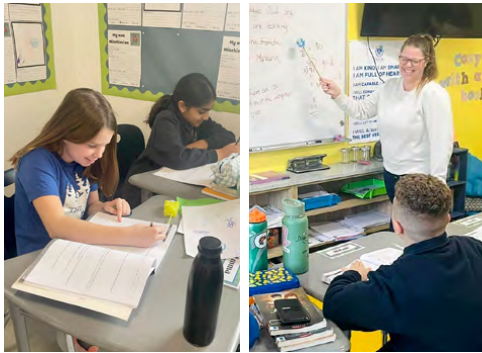
Scholastic Flyers are back!

Our school code is: RC531678. Use this code to ensure your purchases are attached to our school and benefit our teachers. The school will receive 20% back from your orders and the teachers can use this money for more classroom books and supplies. Flyers will go out a few times a year. Happy reading!

Orders and shopping are done online: <https://bookclubs.scholastic.ca>.

# CLASS UPDATES

February 2024



## GRADE 5

It has been a very busy time full of learning in Grade Five. Students are currently exploring biographies in Language Arts. They have read and listened to several biographies about some interesting people including Terry Fox, Roald Dahl, Taylor Swift, and Usain Bolt. They are now hard at work writing a biography about someone of interest to them personally and are very excited to share all they've learned with the class. In math, we are continuing our focus on fractions and are currently working on multiplying fractions by whole numbers. Grade five has also really loved building their multiplication and division fact fluency with TT Rockstars and are geared up to take on the teachers this week! In science, we are exploring forces and their effect on structures. Student's have enjoyed learning about different forces and loads using their bodies, pulleys, and other tools. In social studies, we are exploring the early fur trade as established under Samuel de Champlain. Students found it surprising that beaver pelts were in such high demand!

*Written by: Mrs. Nicole Kropf*



## GRADE 6

The Grade 6 class has had a busy month wrapping term 1! After wrapping up a novel study on the classic Mary Poppins in Language Arts, students focused on their oral

### GRADE 6 CONTINUED

communication and public speaking skills this month. We enjoyed writing and listening to rants on various topics including why pulp doesn't belong in orange juice, if pineapple should be on pizza and why cats are as smart as dogs, to name a few. We enjoyed having a student teacher in our classroom for a few weeks; she was able to provide some helpful one-on-one feedback to students and planned an art history research project. We also enjoyed setting goals and manifesting a positive 2024 year with our vision boards in art. In science, the grade 6's learned all about flight, including the forces of flight, properties of air and water, and the positive and negative impacts of flight. They enjoyed lots of hands-on experiments and activities including participating in paper airplane challenges and creating mini rockets! Next term, the Grade 6 class will dive into poetry, media literacy and advertising techniques, space, electricity and so much more! We are looking forward to starting some new units and learning!

*Written by: Mrs. Rebecca Moss*



## GRADE 7

In the past three months, Grade 7 students had a fulfilling school experience marked by notable achievements. The senior volleyball team, comprising of both boys and girls, advanced to the semi-finals and quarter-finals respectively. Their impressive art pieces adorned the walls, while their dramatic performances echoed through the halls. The orchestra showcased excellence, with every Grade 7 student participating.

Friday tea times featured piano solos and engaging presentations, reflecting their eagerness to challenge themselves. Their proficiency in French continued to improve. They excelled in units covering Negative Numbers, Rates, Ratio, and Percent in Mathematics. Through the novel study "A Night Divided" they honed their reading, writing, and public speaking skills. Their exploration of solutions and corresponding STEM projects yielded impressive results. Known for their warmth, Grade 7 students willingly contributed to post-tea clean-up, fostering a supportive school environment, filled with touching moments.

*Written by: Mr. Tiger Li*



## BECOME A Parent Volunteer

The Oxford School is currently looking to add to our group of active volunteers. Volunteers help in various roles within the school and classrooms, including: volunteer drivers, classroom helpers, Friday Tea helpers, library helpers, and special event helpers.

**If you are interested in volunteering please contact [volunteer@theoxfordschool.ca](mailto:volunteer@theoxfordschool.ca).**

## GRADE 8

Grade 8 students have been very busy and have enjoyed a variety of learning experiences and activities. Students participated in various STEM challenges making tin foil penny boats and hydraulic machines. Both the Senior Girls and Boys volleyball teams finished their season strong showing excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and integrity. Students' enjoyed going to see some of our TOS alumni performing in WCI's production of Bye Bye Birdie and also welcomed alumni into our classroom for our annual Alumni lunch; in which TOS Alumni come for lunch and an informal chat with our grade 8 students about highschool and what to expect next year. Students are also practicing their public speaking skills, along with grade 7 students, by writing and presenting speeches.

*Written by: Ms. Alanna Stinson*

## WCC NEWS

I am excited to announce that the WCC has purchased 2 subscriptions of Foundations AZ reading platform for the younger grades. We are also pleased to give some teachers support by activating the 'Teachers pay Teachers' account and starting the teachers with some funds which they have already started using. For anyone interested in becoming a part of the WCC executive, details of the positions will be available at the next meeting.

*Written by: The WCC*  
[wcc@theoxfordschool.ca](mailto:wcc@theoxfordschool.ca)

*Wild* COMMUNITY CONNECTION

# YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT HERE

## NEW SCHOOL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Advertisement spots will be available to our school family businesses in our quarterly school newsletter. The revenue generated from advertising sales will go towards The Oxford School's yearly fundraising goals.

Advertising spots will be sold for \$75 per spot (3.5"h x 5"w)

Coupons and special offers are encouraged.

Examples: "Buy One, Get One", "Use code: oxfordschool at check-out"

Contact [donations@theoxfordschool.ca](mailto:donations@theoxfordschool.ca) to learn more or purchase an advertisement spot in future newsletters.

## PHYS ED.

2024 is here! The Wild has begun a busy winter and spring season filled with learning,

athleticism and displays of sportsmanship! Starting it off is the junior basketball season! The boys and girls both played their first few games against Woodstock Christian School, Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, and Monsignor O'Neil. Their league is specifically targeted to the development of young players; allowing them to learn the fundamentals of basketball. They are building the skills they will use in the future to play in the competitive intermediate basketball league. Our 7 and 8 boys are chomping at the bit for that league; it starts March 4th. In other upcoming news, The Wild will be competing in London District Catholic School Board's gymnastics invitational on February 26. Grade 1 to 3 will be performing in a mass event where they will show off some of their newly acquired moves to a funky tune! Meanwhile many of our grade 4 to 8 athletes will be creating their own routines to showcase at the event! It is going to be a super fun day for all involved! We also look forward with great anticipation to the LDCSB's volleyball tournament for the junior and intermediate students in April! It's an exciting season of sport, and The Wild will meet it with great enthusiasm! Go WILD!

Written by: Miss Samantha Mason



## WELCOME NEW STAFF

### KORTNEY RAND

#### Director of Strategic Development - Fundraising

I'm thrilled to be stepping into the role of Director of Strategic Development - Fundraising. With 16 years of experience in events, digital marketing, strategy, and business development, I'm ready to bring my expertise and creativity to The Oxford School!

I grew up in a small town along the St. Lawrence River, where I developed a strong sense of community and a love for sports, the arts, and adventure. As a neurodivergent and mental health advocate, I'm passionate about creating healthy spaces while advocating for the well-being of others.

In 2020, I moved to Woodstock with my two boys and husband, and we instantly fell in love with the vibrant and supportive community.

When I'm not busy with work, you'll often find me exploring the great outdoors with my boys, by the lake, or spending time with family and friends.

With my experience and enthusiasm, I'm eager to lead The Oxford School's fundraising efforts and help take the institution to new heights. Let's make a difference together!



## SCHOOL WEAR CAN NOW BE ORDERED ONLINE!

We appreciate your support as we navigate becoming a fully cashless school. We are excited to announce that both Spirit Wear and Athletic Apparel can now be purchased directly through Zeffy. If you have any questions or need assistance navigating this new platform please do not hesitate to contact me: [victoriadavidson@theoxfordschool.ca](mailto:victoriadavidson@theoxfordschool.ca).

Written by: Ms. Davidson



### SPIRIT WEAR

To access the Zeffy order form click on or scan the above QR code.

Or visit our website: [theoxfordschool.ca/spirit-wear](https://theoxfordschool.ca/spirit-wear)



### ATHLETIC WEAR

To access the Zeffy order form click on or scan the above QR code.

Or visit our website: [theoxfordschool.ca/athletic-wear](https://theoxfordschool.ca/athletic-wear)

# Upcoming Events

February						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH VALENTINE'S SPIRIT DAY

Wear red, pink or white to celebrate Valentine's Day. Those who choose not to participate are asked to wear full uniform.

## WEDNESDAYS, FEB 14TH, FEB 21ST, FEB 28TH, MAR 6TH, MAR 20TH, MAR 27TH, APR 3RD, APR 10TH, APR 17TH & APR 24TH • 10:45-11:30AM PIZZA DAYS

For those who pre-ordered - Crispy Slice Pizza is served at the first lunch.

Please send additional snacks and water/juice to round out this lunch and for our second lunch break at 1:10pm.

## THURSDAYS, FEB 15TH, FEB 29TH, MAR 28TH, APR 11TH, & APR 25TH • 10:45-11:30AM SUB DAYS

For those who pre-ordered - Mr Sub is served at the first lunch.

Please send additional snacks and water/juice to round out this lunch and for our second lunch break at 1:10pm.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH FAMILY DAY

The school will be closed for the holiday.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND ANTI-BULLYING DAY

What to Wear: Students have the option of wearing Pink, or full school uniform.

Pink shirt day was inspired by an act of kindness in a small-town in Nova Scotia in 2007. A student in high school was being made fun for wearing pink shirt to school. Other students noticed this happening and wore pink shirts as well to support this student.

Wearing a pink shirt on this day makes a statement about spreading kindness and love everyday. We invite all students and staff to celebrate the kindness we live everyday by wearing a pink shirt on this day.

March						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD • 2:30-3:20PM PARENT TEA

Come join us for tea, to celebrate the accomplishments of our students so far this month!

We welcome parents to sign up to volunteer by speaking to the administration. We hope to have parent volunteers to bake/create/purchase our tea treats throughout the school year. It has shown to be a fun sense of pride for our students to have their provided treat on our tea tables.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH TO FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST SPIRIT DAY

Students are invited to wear their house colours for today's spirit day. If students choose not to wear their house colours they are asked to come to school in their regular uniform.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH ST. PATRICK'S SPIRIT DAY

Students have the option of wearing Green, or full school uniform.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH TO FRIDAY, MARCH 15TH SPRING BREAK

We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing March Break!

## MONDAY, MARCH 18TH TO FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will be held before and after school in the TOS Resource Library.

## MONDAY, MARCH 18TH TO THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 2024/25 RE-REGISTRATION

Re-registration enrollment forms and fees for the 2024/2025 School Year shared with parents. Re-registration deadline is March 28th.

April						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND • 2:30-3:20PM PARENT TEA

Come join us for tea, to celebrate the accomplishments of our students so far this month!

## TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH • 6:30PM 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The School's Board will hold its Annual General Meeting to update our community on the activities and plans of the Board. Please RSVP to Victoria in the office by Friday, March 22nd.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH & MONDAY, APRIL 1ST GOOD FRIDAY/EASTER MONDAY

The school will be closed for the holiday.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH SPIRIT DAY

Students are invited to wear their house colours for today's spirit day.

## MONDAY, APRIL 8TH PD DAY

No school for students.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH CLASS & GRADUATION PHOTO DAY

This Friday, class photos as well as grade 8 grad photos will be taking place!

Students are asked to wear the complete formal uniform (blazer included).

Refer to the Uniform Guidelines for details.

## MONDAY, APRIL 22ND EARTH DAY

## FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH • 2:30-3:20PM PARENT TEA

Come join us for tea, to celebrate the accomplishments of our students so far this month!

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 SPRING UNIFORMS BEGIN

Spring uniform may be worn after May 1st. Please see the website for complete uniform guidelines:

[theoxfordschool.ca/uniform-guidelines](http://theoxfordschool.ca/uniform-guidelines)

THE EVENT CALENDAR IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [THEOXFORDSCHOOL.CA/CALENDAR](http://THEOXFORDSCHOOL.CA/CALENDAR)