

Oyama Traditional School: December 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has nearly been a whole year serving this amazing community as Principal of OTS! To think, one year ago, we were still navigating a number of health protocols, one that even postponed winter holidays by an additional week! Yet the patience and creativity of this community still found a way to come together for an awesome outdoor winter concert. It was my introduction to the passion and perseverance of our outstanding students, dedicated and talented educators, and supportive parents and guardians. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with you all!

I also wanted to express the pride I felt following the Remembrance Day assembly. Our students were incredibly respectful, their singing and acting was moving, and our leaders who guided us through the assembly were absolutely amazing. It was the first major indoor gathering we have had in a few years, and I felt honored working with this community and sharing it with those parents who were able to attend.

I am looking forward to our next event, the winter concert, which I know will bring about great joy as we get closer to our winter holidays. The students have been busy practicing their songs and skits, and I am excited for you all to travel around the world and join us on the "Spirit Express," where we will follow the story of Sally and Tim, who are searching for Tim's lost "holiday spirit!" Can Sally, Madame conductor, the wise students of OTS, and the community of Oyama come to Tim's rescue??? I hope you are able to find out during one of our two public showings! Please see the specific, separate email regarding these showings. Thank you as well for your support as we looked to find ways to share this performance with as many people as we can.

Bringing more fun, during the afternoon of Friday, December 16, our PAC is sponsoring an afternoon winter warm up movie called Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile! Thank you kindly for providing this fun afternoon!

I hope everyone has a wonderful December, and are able to relax and rejuvenate with family and friends over the holidays!

Sincerely,
Robbie Franklin

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Seasonal Reminders

After a warm fall, winter is certainly approaching. While we have seen a little of the "white stuff", there's definitely a bite in the air! The breeze off of the lake can often bring an added chill to outdoor playtime. Please encourage your child to dress warmly including gloves, toque, and a warm coat. We continue to see many students arriving to school without coats and weather-appropriate gear and these students are often quite cold at recess time. An extra pair of socks can be a great addition to your child's bag on a snowy day. And please remember to label everything.



Crazy Carpets

Once the snow arrives, our students have a great time using crazy carpets to slide down back field hills at lunch time as weather conditions permit. Just a reminder that **only crazy carpets that we provide are allowed** for sliding. Students should not bring saucers, foam sliders, or other sliding equipment to school. **Snow pants are mandatory for sledding.**

Winter Concert

It is hard to believe that we are getting ready for our Winter concert! Our students have been working hard practicing their songs. This year we are holding our Winter Concert at the Creekside Theatre on **December 8th at 6:00pm. Please have students at George Elliot Secondary School at 5:45 pm. in the large gym.**

Our PAC will be selling the gift basket raffle tickets online on the PAC hot lunch website from December 5-15 and the draw will take place on December 16th. A PAC letter has gone home on November 28th regarding this information.

Office news

We are noticing a lot of students requesting cutlery from the office over the past few months. Please remember to send your child with cutlery if needed. Also, several students are coming to the office "still hungry" so please send an extra snack for the afternoon. If you are needing support with lunches please contact Mr. Franklin or Ms. Steel.

Now that the snow has started to fly, I just wanted to reach out to everyone regarding our parking lot areas to ensure all our students get to and from school safely.

1. We have two designated parent parking areas. The pull through parking on the south side of Oyama Road and our lower parking area on the north side of Oyama Road.
2. The lower parking area has a pull through that is one way from the east entrance to the west exit. Students load the bus on the right hand side of the exit. It is tricky to get in and out of there so please ensure that zone is kept free of parked cars, especially with any snow build up.
3. We have a wheelchair accessible door located on the north parking lot of our school. Those who require assistance may use this parking area.
4. Folks may park along Greenhow Road beside our school. However, the north parking area is for wheelchair accessibility, staff parking and maintenance vehicles. We ask this parking lot **not** be used as a pull through drop off/pick up site due to the large volume of students entering/exiting and limited parking space.
5. Last year after a large snow dump, the entrance to exit pull through on the lower lot was where the snow was piled up. It began to encroach into the parking area and made parking/driving through very difficult for our bus. I will work to make sure that we can keep that inner loop available for parking, but I may have to adjust this accordingly if it is unable to pull through.

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Enjoy some of these recommended Holiday books with your kids over the break!

Pick a Pine Tree by Patricia Toht

The Robin and the Fir Tree by Hans Christian Andersen, Jason Jameson

A Cabin Christmas by Glynnis Hood

'Twas the Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore, PJ Lynch (beautiful illustrations!)

Metis Christmas Mittens by Leah Marie Dorion

Joy to the World by Kate DePalma

Christmas: From Solstice to Santa by Nikki Tate & Dani Tate-Stratton

Rachel's Christmas Boat by Sophie Labelle

Latkes and Applesauce by Fran Manushkin

Jan Brett's The Nutcracker by Jan Brett

Red and Lulu by Matt Tavares

Tiny Reindeer by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the OTS Library Staff,



Mrs. A. Allen and Mrs. T. Smithman

NUT FREE: Please send only NUT FREE snacks and lunches to school with your children.



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**Mrs. Gleboff's
class**



**Cultural Performance
Zac-Percussionist**



We are the Social Justice Crew and our winter project is to gather food, treats and toys for cats and dogs for the Pet Food Bank. All supplies need to be new and in their original package. Each classroom will be supplied with an empty box in hopes to fill it up for our furry friends. We will start collecting on **Monday November 28th** and end on **December 9th**.

Thank you for helping us out! Woof, woof, Meow, meow