



Onslow Elementary School Newsletter^{C19}

January 5, 2021



Happy 2021!

Prior to the Holiday Break, the Quebec government announced an extension to the opening of schools in the new year: January 11th. Barring any other announcements, OES will be welcoming students back to the school on **Monday, 11 January**.

School winter activities:

Cross-country skiing: The Pontiac Community Gym received a grant from Loisir Sport Outaouais (Outdoors grant) with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Quebec to buy cross-country ski equipment. But, due to COVID 19, the gym was closed and the gym managers opted to **lend** OES the gear (winter 2021) for the students to enjoy. We are looking forward to groomed trails or the opportunity to make some trails locally.

Building a Snow Castle with [Marc Walter](#): January 19-22

Marc Walter is an artist who will be coming in to work with all the students in the school in creating one big snow castle. OES will take steps to maintain appropriate social distancing (Marc Walter will provide some key instructions by video conferencing and maintain social distancing while working outside at the school). He will lead us in filling wooden moulds to create the blocks, which we will then carve into the structures surrounding our school castle. Your child will be outside for an extra hour each of these days. Please send your child with warm outdoor clothing and extra mittens, socks and pants. Stay tuned for photos of the teamwork and final product of this project!

Extended Planning and Training Days:

At OES, we have one planning and training day remaining: **18 January**. If there is a delay or cancellation of the **planning and training** day above, we'll follow-up on 17 February (only if necessary). In November, the [MEQ](#) announced that teachers will have extra days for training in distance education in the event that schools and/or classes are closed again due to the spread of COVID 19.

Preparing for colder weather: With the colder weather here to stay, teachers and staff are asking parents to ensure that our students are dressed appropriately. At OES we are encouraging the younger students in K4, K5 and Grade 1 to be as independent as possible with getting dressed to go outside: Our goal is to have as many students as possible able to dress themselves.

Keeping the little ones dry: If you have a child in K4, K5 and Grades 1 / 2, it is important to make sure we have a change of clothes on hand here at OES: pants, socks, underwear as needed. The older grades should also have an extra pair of mittens and socks to keep in their lockers as well.

COVID 19 Symptoms: based on protocols set by [Public Health \(https://www.inspq.qc.ca/\)](https://www.inspq.qc.ca/), when a single symptom is persistent (runny nose, headache, cough, fever) we will inform parents and suggest that the student remain at home for a 24 hr period to allow for the symptom to clear completely. If there is a combination of symptoms (fever + cough + headache, for example) we recommend keeping / taking the child home and contacting Public Health for instructions on the next step: **COVID 19 Helpline 1-877-644-4545**

Note: the government has also recommended that children report to school with masks on.

School Fees We will send notices this month between the 19th and 22nd of January. The fees will cover additional supervision and materials commonly used in school.

Visiting the school: A friendly reminder that we will have parents in the school by appointments only – we will also offer video conferencing to reduce the number of people entering the building.

Report Cards: Please note that report cards will be available and accessible on the portal as of Thursday, January 21, 2021.



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Onslow School -Important Dates -January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4 	5 On-Line Learning	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						