



Ashley Oaks Public School

We make a difference through the 3 R's: Respect, Responsibility and Recognition

December 2020

Principal: J. Hicks

Vice Principal: D. Squire

Superintendent: P. Skinner

Trustees: S. Polhill and L. A. Pizzolato

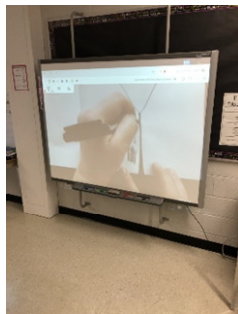
Ashley Oaks P.S. Website: <https://ashleyoaks.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>



From the Office...

After a quick wintery blast, I am writing this newsletter and the yard is mostly green and snow free again. The students are getting accustomed to the change in weather and this is a perfect time to remind them to dress appropriately. Although some students would love to stay inside during the cold weather, this is simply not possible. Parents should be certain that children come to school prepared for the cold weather - hats, mitts, coats, snow pants and boots. Students should also have a pair of indoor shoes to change into while in the building. This helps keep our classroom and gym floors clean and tidy.

As I walk around the school visiting classrooms, I am impressed with the teaching and learning that is occurring. Staff have had to be innovative and creative during COVID to create engaging lessons while following health and safety protocols. Below, Miss McLaughlin is using Google meet to broadcast her art lesson from the back of the classroom. Well done staff and students!



To all our families, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

A Message From Mrs. Squire...

It is with mixed feelings that I say 'good-bye' to the Ashley Oaks community. Ashley Oaks school has wonderful students, staff and families and I have been fortunate to have spent the last 1.5 years here in this community. Our students have worked hard to improve their reading and writing skills and most importantly our students are kind and generous people. I hope that you will continue to work hard and be successful in your journey! While I am sad to be leaving, I am looking forward to a new experience while I move into the next stage of my career as the principal of Aberdeen Public School. I will take with me many happy memories of my time here at AO! Please welcome Mrs. Ingram who will be taking over as the new vice-principal!

Leaving the Property at Lunch

At the beginning of the school year, parents indicated if their child would be staying for lunch or going home for lunch everyday. If you decided that your child was staying at school regularly but need to change those plans on an occasional basis, please send a note to the school indicating the date(s) that your child will be going home at first break. Your child needs to bring this note to the office before leaving the school. Students who go home for lunch should leave at the beginning of first break and return just before the bell at 11:50.



Water Bottles and Masks

Just a friendly reminder to send water bottles with your student each day. Fountains are closed, however our water bottle filling stations

are open for student use. Each day we hand out extra masks to students who have forgotten to bring one to school. Please take a moment each morning to ensure your son/ daughter packs a mask or two for the day.

Yard Improvements

Our kindergarten students are thrilled with their yard upgrades. They have been busy hop scotching, letter finding and scooting around the track. If you have a chance, stop by after school and check out the improvements!



Student Safety

We have observed students running through the parking lot and crossing in front of cars. As well, students are not looking before they cross the road. With the weather changing and roads becoming more slippery, it makes it harder for cars to stop more suddenly. We ask that you talk to your children about road safety. The safety of our students and families is extremely important.

Story Time Holiday Spectacular

Try out these tips over the holidays to make story time with your child more spectacular!

- 1) Tell your child a story while out on a car trip and ask them what their favourite part of the story was and why.
- 2) Ask your child to read a book to you, both draw your favourite scenes, and then explain the drawings to each other.
- 3) Sing your favourite song to your child and ask them what story the song is telling.
- 4) Read a book to your child. Ask them what adventures might happen next to the main character when the book is done.

- 5) Ask your child to share a simple picture book with you and to tell you a story based on the pictures.
- 6) Get family members to tell a story about their day around the dinner table. Ask your child to repeat back the main points of the stories in their own words.
- 7) Gather 3-5 random items from around the house (e.g. stuffed animal, bowl, pen, TV remote, running shoe, fork) and ask your child to tell you a story that includes all of the items.
- 8) Take a walk with your child around the neighbourhood and tell each other stories about the people who pass by. Where might they be going? What could they be doing? Make up fun details to tell interesting stories.
- 9) Read one page of a book to your child and pause before you start the next page. Have them guess what happens next. Continue this until you're done the book.
- 10) Have your child walk across the room 5 times. On each trip, call out something new they are doing and ask them to tell you a story about it (e.g. walking through snow to school; walking in the forest; going down the aisle of the grocery store).

Bloom

Children are like flowers.
Take care of them.
Let them bloom.
Keep them safe from harm.
Let them grow and be beautiful.
Flowers.

[Wasem - Grade 6 - Full Remote Learning Student](#)

*November 2020 - Flower Poem - adapted from www.myhero.com

Canned Food Drive

Ashley Oaks is once again collecting non-perishable food items for families in need. Due to COVID restrictions, it will look a little different this year.

If you and your student would like to donate non-perishable food items, please send them to school in a plastic grocery bag. These items will be placed in the front foyer to isolate for a period of time before they will be picked up by a local organization.



From the ESL Department

Ways to use storytelling to increase literacy skills in our students...

Families can tell traditional stories from their background or country of origin. These can be traditional family stories, fairy tales or folktales. The first telling allows children to pick up details of the story, the second telling lets them connect and clarify those details, and the third telling builds a deeper understanding and reinforces memory for their own retelling. Each retelling offers yet another opportunity for children to delve deeper into the story and learn something new.

Invite active participation by telling stories with repetitive words. This encourages children to listen attentively by leading them to anticipate the next word. This is often fun for children. This attention to sounds and phrases not only makes the story interactive, it also develops phonemic awareness, which is the ability to identify and tell the difference between each sound. Below you will find a link for free stories in various languages.

www.uniteforliteracy.com.

Parking

Please avoid parking in our bus lanes. This area is designated for specialized transportation that requires curbside pick up.



Dates to Remember

Crazy Hair/ Sock Day- December 4th
Jersey Day- December 18th
Christmas Break- December 21st- January 1st -NO SCHOOL!



Art From Around the School

Unfortunately, guests are not permitted in the school. We thought you would enjoy seeing some of the amazing art posted in our hallways.

