

Good evening Oakridge Parents, Guardians & Families,

I would like to thank the in-school and virtual parents, supporting and Oakridge staff who were in attendance for participating in our parent/guardian gathering. We learned about some of the health and safety revisions as it relates to COVID-19 from Nancy Hagnashe, the function of the nutrition program and how families can receive additional support from Durward Anthony, how to access additional community support from Steve Salfarlie and how to access school council funding through Mark Ramcharan. Additionally, parents shared their inquires and thoughts about in-school and virtual learning and provided important feedback.

This was a very communal evening because of the different voices and the sense of working together towards the betterment of children and the community. We're looking forward to meeting again in the future.

Because we want the meetings to be relevant and productive, please send suggestive topics to Wanda Skrlj (wanda.skrlj@tdsb.on.ca).

Grocery Gift Cards/Food Baskets & Children's Clothing

Thank you to Durward Anthony for his continued passion and support for Oakridge. Our Nutritional Liaison Officer, Durward Anthony secured some grocery gift cards from the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and other items like food baskets and children's clothing from Muslim Welfare Canada. Please complete the forms if you're requesting any of these items by Friday December 4th. I would like to thank TFSS and Muslim Welfare Canada for there support during these times.

Grocery Gift Card

<https://forms.gle/H1aqpFUFnSrdCU9o8>

Food Basket/Children's Clothes

<https://forms.gle/BRHTYSJUb1jWhvtN7>

Lessons from Phyllis Webstad

Phyllis visited our school virtually on Wednesday! Phyllis Webstad is an Indigenous person who went to residential school and did not like it. Phyllis' grandmother got her a new orange shirt from the town and she took it with her to the residential school. But they took away her orange shirt and it was never given back to her!! She was worried she would never see her mom and dad again.

Phyllis Webstad has made a huge change in how people think of Canada's history. Residential schools were spread out all over Canada messing up lots of lives. Phyllis Webstad was taken to a residential school and was there for 300 sleeps. By 1996, residential schools were closed up and swept away but Phyllis Webstad didn't think everything was alright because some kids died, and parents suffered. Phyllis Webstad made *Orange Shirt Day*. *Orange Shirt Day* represents the kids who got their clothes taken away, hair cut and a terrible education.

Learning about Phyllis' story impacts us because we remember that this country wasn't always flawless and still isn't. Even though 34 years have gone by since the last residential school closed, we still remember by just wearing an orange shirt.

By Rayyan I. and Eyasu H. Gr. 4

School Council

I would like to welcome Mark Ramcharan as the school council chair. Mark is actively involved in the TDSB ward and parent meetings and brings a lot of experience to the role. If you would like to learn more about school council or participate either formally or informally, please send an email to (mark.ramcharan@tdsb.on.ca) or you can contact me and I'll forward your message to him.

Holiday Break

The last day of school before the holiday break for in-school and virtual students is **Friday December 18th 2020** and the first day back to school will be **Monday January 4th 2021**.

Stay Strong! Stay Safe! Stay Positive!

Mr. D. Parker
Principal