January 2015

**Upcoming Events**

- January 5th: Back to school
- January 16th & 17th: Wrestling Tournament at Tommy Douglas
- February 13th: Telemiracle Fundraiser/Hockey Challenge Game

**Administrator’s Message**

Welcome back to a chilly January 2015. We hope you had a warm and wonderful holiday break. As the New Year starts we welcome back a familiar face. Sherri Fasthuber will be joining OHS for the remainder of the year as Karla Duchesne’s maternity leave replacement teacher.

As we jump back into the swing of things, we are preparing for senior high school final exams at the end of the month. Please check the attached exam schedule to ensure that you are aware of when your child(ren) writes. Exam time can be very stressful for students, especially those in grade ten who are writing finals for the first time. If you are able, study with your youngster and help them eat and sleep well in the nights before their exams.

Now that we are into the REALLY cold weather there comes the possibility of bus cancellations. If you are uncertain of whether the buses are running please check the division website for updated information. Please make sure that you have updated billet information on file with the school. This is especially important for our new families who may not have had an opportunity at the start of the school year to arrange for a billet. There is always the possibility that buses will run in the morning and because of changing weather and dropping temperatures, will not run in the afternoon. This means that students must have a **prearranged** place to stay.

Stay warm and wish for spring!

-Kim Sobkowicz and Elizabeth Pfeiffer

**Portfolio Night**

Our next portfolio nights will be March 18th and 19th. On this night we will also have our SCC and student leadership teams in attendance. They will be assisting parent with the completion of the Tell Them From Me survey, once again. We hope that by offering support and a place to take the survey that more parents will complete the TTFM this year. Last year we had 100% of students and teachers, and saw a huge increase in parent participation. This year we would love to see parents at 100% completion also! As always, if you are interested in meeting with a specific teacher(s), please contact the teacher(s) and set up an appointment. Parents of junior students may also visit with teachers at student led conferences in March. Parents of high school students may meet with semester 2 teachers in March. If you wish to meet with a semester 1 teacher, please set up an appointment anytime between now and the end of the semester.
SCC

Welcome to 2015! The School Community Council is ready to tackle several projects in the New Year. Please check the OHS website under the SCC tab for a more detailed description of our activities.

The SCC is involved in approaching the school division to implement consistent use of cameras on all of our buses, raising funds to offset startup costs of our new PAA labs, making changes to award ceremonies, and analyzing the school climate/culture.

It is very important that concerns are brought to the attention of a member of the SCC so we can be your voice. This is always strictly confidential and every member of the SCC is very conscious of keeping names and specific examples out of our discussions. Feel free to approach any of us informally or attend any of our meetings.

Our next meeting is January 15th, 2015 at 4:30pm at the high school. The two items we have limited the agenda to are the awards and the school climate. Please let Kim Sobkowicz or Elizabeth Pfeiffer know if you wish to attend, so we can have the necessary resources available for extra attendees.

SLC

The OHS Student Leadership Council hopes everyone had a happy and healthy break. We celebrated the season by having a spirit week where students and staff dressed up as Christmas trees and wore holiday head gear and pajamas. We also hosted our annual pancake breakfast on the last day of school before the break.

This is an event we look forward to every year, and thanks to the many students, staff, and SCC and Board volunteers, we were able to cook 900 pancakes that morning and feed everyone in the school...with leftovers! Our school clothing also arrived just before the break, and it looks great. We hope to have another clothing order in the spring if you did not get a chance to purchase clothing before Christmas.

As we start a new year, the SLC is busy planning more activities and events for our OHS community. Just a few events to look forward to are more free movie nights, spirit days, a dance, the day of pink, and fowl supper. We have a full schedule and are eager to get these projects underway. Happy New Year!

Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee gets into the full swing of the actual book design in January but there are always photos being taken around the school and at school functions throughout the year. Please let Mr. Dingle know if there is a special activity you would like him to take some pictures of!

Grade 6 Christmas Caroling

The Grade 6 classes enjoyed going caroling in December before they went on holidays. They sang songs at Variety Place and Luther Place, where they were welcomed by the community to spread their Christmas cheer!
IndEP

Happy New Year from IndEP! Things are going well at IndEP and we are looking forward to the semester change. I have really enjoyed working with the students here over the past 4 months, and look forward to working with them for the remainder of the year. Currently students at IndEP are working on a total of 13 different courses from the Grade 10-12 level. We are close to wrapping up semester 1 courses, and looking forward to adding a Phys. Ed. program next semester. Each student has goals set for course completion, and we are looking ahead planning future course loads leading up to graduation.

Having a positive environment for the students has been a priority for us, so before Christmas we hosted a family supper. The students hosted their families here for a turkey supper with all the fixings. It was well attended as more than 20 people were served, all in all, a great evening! Thanks to Mrs. Luegner for helping out, and thanks to Viv Hiscock for guiding us in the kitchen and preparing the Turkey!

Have a great January!

Wrestling

The OHS wrestling team is in full swing. The wrestling team traveled to Walter Murray on December 13th to compete in a preseason tournament. Reegan Barton, Taylor Derdall, Austin Bahnman, Jordan Field and Jeff Pshyk wrestled very well. Coach Larwood and Coach Leblanc are excited for the season. The next tournament is January 16th and 17th at Tommy Douglas Collegiate. Practices are still on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm at the RecPlex.

Senior Students vs. Staff Volleyball

The Seniors vs. Staff Mini Volleyball Tournament at lunch concluded before the holidays. Though the Staff Slashers came out of the Round Robin in first place, the Seniors managed to take them down in a close final game. Next year, the Slashers will work to regain their title!

Sr. A Girls Volleyball

The Senior A Girls Volleyball team had a fantastic season. They headed to Conferences in Maple Creek on Nov 8th where they had a close match with Rosetown, losing only by 2 points each set. They then handily defeated both Maple Creek and Kindersley, putting them in second place and on their way to Regionals. In Moose Jaw the following weekend, the team saw some strong teams and lost out in the Round Robin. The girls all played with a lot of heart and strength this year, improving every game. We are sad to lose our graduating players this year: Emily Akre, Shelby Allen, Keesha Eliason, Sarah Firby, Mikaela Hritzuk, and Ali Lockwood.

Jr. Girls Basketball

The Junior Girls Basketball season has started with coaches Joell Tiffin and Colette Charpentier. The girls will be practicing every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 pm - 5:15 pm. Their league games will be on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm. They are also registered in a few tournaments in the new year, including their home tournament on January 17th.
Drama

Right before Christmas break, the drama club picked their production for this school year: Peter Pan! The students are very excited to bring this play to OHS and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the scripts. This play calls for a cast of roughly 25 students, with large and small parts. There will also be a need for students to help with costumes, set design, and makeup! We hope to begin auditions soon; our anticipated performance dates are April 28th and 30th. Stay tuned for more information about when to sign up for auditions and stage crew.

Guidance Report

Important guidance information is emailed to parents that have a student in Grade 12. If you are not currently receiving this guidance update please email caroline.empey@sunwestsd.ca, to let me know. The December Guidance Newsletter, includes important information for students that are planning on attending post-secondary schools. Many students in the school have already applied to the post-secondary schools of their choice and are looking at applying for scholarships. If your son or daughter still needs help with applying, let them know that they can schedule an appointment with me. Deadlines for applications are listed in the newsletter and students should be making some final decisions on where they would like to apply, if they have not done so already. If you have any questions please send me an email. – Mrs. Caroline Empey