



# Fallingbrook



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Community Elementary School

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[www.fallingbrookes.ocdsb.ca](http://www.fallingbrookes.ocdsb.ca)

Principal:  
Vice –Principal:  
Superintendent:  
Trustee:

Christine Lanos  
Jennifer Anderson  
Neil Yorke-Slader  
Keith Penny

Office Administrator:  
Office Assistant:  
Chief Custodian:

Della Urquhart  
Kim Brockwell  
Andre Bergeron

### MARCH 2016

#### DATES to REMEMBER

#### **March 7-11- Canned Food Drive**

**March 7- Jersey Day!**

**March 8- Dance-A-Thon (JK-6)  
Beach Day!**

**March 9- Formal Day!**

**March 10- Inside Out Day!**

**March 11- Pajama Day**

**March 14-18- March Break**

**March 25 - Good Friday holiday**

**March 28 - Easter Monday holiday**

**April 11- 7:00 p.m. School Council**

**April 14- Gr. 7/8 Immunization #2**

**April 15- PD Day**

**April 20- 7:00 p.m. PTA meeting**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to March! The weather has been eventful to say the least! Here's hoping that the saying holds true.... In like a lion, and out like a lamb!

Our school continues to be a hub of daily activity. Numerous clubs continue to be offered every day for our students and the gym continues to be busy at recesses with basketball practices as our teams prepare for their tournaments. Thank you to our fabulous staff for all the extra hours in offering these varied opportunities to our students! You can read about some of these activities further on in this newsletter.

Next week will be exciting as it will be Spirit Week, including the Dance-a-thon for JK-gr. 6 students, which is on Tuesday, March 8. Thank you to Ms. Debbie Finlay-Parent for organizing this event once again this year. Thank you for supporting us in this fundraising event and students are encouraged to continue to collect pledges and then return the funds prior to the March Break. Funds raised are directly used to support field trips and transportation, classroom presentations, as well as other classroom related activities.

This year our School Learning Plan will focus is on helping our students improve their writing skills. As a professional learning community, our staff is proud of the efforts of our students so far in all areas of the curriculum and we continue to explore instructional strategies to help our students consistently improve their achievement. Stay tuned for more information!

As previously announced, it is with mixed emotions that I prepare to leave Fallingbrook to become the principal of the New Avalon South school set to open in September. For the past three years, I have been blessed to have been surrounded by terrific students, very supportive parents and volunteers, a very dedicated School Council and PTA, and a staff team who works in a committed way to offer great things for our students. I am confident that this great work will continue under the leadership of Josée Beaudry, your new principal. I leave Fallingbrook with a tremendous sense of pride of the work we have accomplished together and also with very fond memories of the time I have served as your Principal. Thank you for supporting me in this opportunity and I am hopeful that our paths will cross again in the future.

Have a wonderful March Break!

Christine Lanos ©  
Principal

**Office Changes!**

Della Urquhart, our awesome Office Administrator will be transferring to the New Avalon South school effective Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Della has been at Fallingbrook for two years and she has been a great addition to our school team! We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Tammy Caldwell, as our new Office Administrator.

**Congratulations on your retirement!**

As previously announced, Mrs. Kim Brockwell has retired effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Brockwell has been at Fallingbrook for 7 years and she has dedicated 21 years to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board as an office assistant. She will be missed and we wish her years of health and happiness in her retirement.

**NEW PD Day- Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

As a result of the negotiated settlement with Elementary teachers, a new PD day has been added to this school year calendar. Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> is a PD day and there is no school for students.

**Visitors in the school- A reminder**

At times parents and guardians will come to the school office to bring a forgotten lunch or to meet children at the end of the school day. For safety reasons and to help minimize disruptions to the instructional time in our classrooms, we are seeking your cooperation by not going to your child's classroom during the school day, unless previously arranged with the teacher. Our office staff is more than willing to have your child come to the office at a convenient time to collect any forgotten items. Thank you for your cooperation in this area as we try to preserve instructional time and build independence in all of our students.

**A Message from the Vice-Principal**

Thank you to our school community for all the donations you sent in for **Toonie Tuesday** and hat day. In one day, we raised \$600.00 for the Education Foundation! That beats last year's donations by \$80.00. It was impressive and fun to see students and staff wearing their various hats.

**Kindness week** was also a huge success. During the week of February 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Robinson's grade 7 and 8 students began a Pay It Forward wall. Students and staff who did kind deeds wrote down their deed and added it to the wall. It was great to see how the things are Fallingbrook Community does for each other.

**Pink Shirt Day (Canada)** was another important day we participated in on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This Anti-Bullying awareness day was very much recognized at our school. Students and staff came adorned in pink everything! We are such a spirited group and it was fantastic to see us united in a sea of pink in order to take a stand against bullying. Great job Fallingbrook!

Our Inclusive, Safe and Caring Committee met earlier in the week to discuss Character Education in March. We will be recognizing Perseverance. Students will be recognized for working hard and not giving up. They will receive shamrocks to place on our Character Tree in the foyer.

To also help in recognizing Perseverance, Ms. Robinsons grade 7 and 8 students will be running two important initiatives. We have many families in our community who are faced with many obstacles and don't give up. Our intermediate students have decided to show their caring and run a bake sale on Friday, March 4th. All proceeds raised from the bake sale will be going to the Orleans-Cumberland Resource Centre to be used for the food bank. All items will be sold for \$0.50.

The food bank is not only in need of money to run their program, but also canned food. Ms. Robinson's students will be running a canned food drive March 7th-11th. We will be accepting non-perishable food items.

Food bank items always in demand:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned juice
- Canned fruits
- Canned tomatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Spaghetti sauce
- Tomato paste
- Canned meats (ham, salmon, turkey and chicken)
- Canned Salmon / Tuna / Chicken
- Flour / Sugar / Rice

- Dry pasta
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Beans
- Vegetable oil
- Tomato / Apple Juice
- Canned fruits

- Soap / Shampoo / Toothpaste /
- Tampons / Sanitary napkins
- School Snacks (juice boxes, fruit cups)
- Granola bars, etc.
- Personal items (toilet paper, laundry detergent)
- Diapers sizes 5 and 6
- Pull-ups (L and XL), Goodnites

Let's help make a difference in our own community and drive away hunger. Together, we can make a difference!

In order to help celebrate the lead up to March Break we will be participating in Spirit Days. Our Spirit Days will be as follows;

- Monday, March 7th – Jersey Day - wear a jersey from your favorite sports team
- Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Beach Day (Dance-A-Thon) – wear your sunny clothes and let's pretend the warm weather has arrived!
- Wednesday, March 9th – Formal Day – come in your fancy clothes
- Thursday, March 10th – Inside Out Day – wear your clothes inside out
- Friday, March 11th - Pajama Day

We look forward to an exciting March! I hope you all enjoy a wonderful March Break for those of you who will be off on holidays. Thank you for your continued support.

Jennifer Anderson and the ISC Team

### **Dancethon 2016 – Tuesday, March 8, 2016**



Students in grades JK to 6 have been preparing for Dance-a-thon! Not only is this a healthy, active schools initiative, it is also a major fund-raising activity held to support cultural events and activities for all our students. In addition, funds raised also go to support the cost of buses for some of our division-wide field trips. We ask for your support in raising funds through this activity. Last year we raised over \$3000 and hope to surpass that this year. All students are encouraged to participate in the Dance-a-thon. However, for safety reasons it is important that students not go seeking donations door to door but rather to ask family members and neighbors known to them for support. All funds should be brought to school prior to March 11<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Ms. Debbie Finlay-Parent for organizing this fun activity once again this year!

### **Photography club (Mrs. Trigger)**

A new club has started up for the junior and intermediate students- a photography and yearbook club. There was an overwhelming response from the students with over 60 students signing up for the club. We are still in the planning process but it is apparent that the 6 digital cameras we have will not be enough. We would greatly appreciate the donation of any cameras that might be collecting dust at your house. Whether you would like to let us borrow it for the remainder of the year or donate them, we would gratefully accept them. We are hoping to get digital cameras with 3 Megapixels minimum. Thank you!



### **Moving? School organization for 2016/2017**

We are in the beginning stages of planning for next year. If your child is not returning to Fallingbrook in September because you are moving out of our attendance area, please let us know as soon as possible. This information will help us plan for September. Please also encourage any new neighbors in your area to come in to register as soon as possible or to give us a call and we will be pleased to guide them in this process and welcome them to our school community.

### **PTA news... Run 4 Fun...Save the date!**

Plans are underway for this year's Run4Fun event which will be held on **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Our dedicated PTA volunteers will be communicating with you in the near future to share information about this year's run. Save the date!

### **OCDSB News...**

#### **Proposed 2016-2017 School Year Calendar Subject to Ministry Approval**

For those of you how want to start planning for next year, the proposed school year calendar for the 2016-2017 school year is now available.

### **Budget Committee Meetings**

Budget planning for 2016-2017 is now underway. The Budget Committee will discuss a report on the budget situation and identifies the need for some budget reductions in the coming school year. The next Budget meeting is on **April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** in the boardroom.

### **Inspire and Motivate Learners to develop Resiliency and Advocacy Skills through Technology with D.J. Cunningham of Learnstyle - April 7th 7:00 p.m.**

D.J.'s presentation is centred on his personal life story and the lifelong impacts that his learning disability has had on him, also the vital role that educators, technology and differentiated learning have played. Furthermore, DJ's high level of acumen with SEA training and numerous products, the full suite of Google products and his own company's [LEARNstyle technology](#)/education products ensure a full picture presentation of the role of education and technology currently and in the future. For more information visit our [website](#).

### **Transportation - OSTA website**

A reminder that bus delay and cancellation notices can be found on a regular basis by:

- Visiting OSTA's [Parent Portal](#) (includes detailed information about delays)
- Following OSTA on Twitter @OttSchoolBus
- [Subscribing](#) to OSTA's mailing list to receive email notifications
- Monitoring local radio and television stations

Remember, when buses are cancelled, schools remain open. If you bring your child to school, please arrange for transportation home.

### **CHEO and CTB host the Healthy Kids Awards - March 23rd**

CHEO and CTV will be hosting the Healthy Kids Awards the evening of Wednesday, March 23rd. This event will recognize the people, programs, and organizations that help promote the healthy development of children and youth in our region. This is a family-friendly event with games and activities for children of all ages.

For additional information, please visit their [website](#).