



SEPTEMBER 2020

Oakwood Academy

Individualized Education JK-12



It is with great pleasure that we invite our Oakwood families back for another year at Oakwood Academy!

To all of the new and returning families joining us this year, I would like to send you a warm welcome, from a distance!

It has been a year that will go down in history. I am proud to be with all of you through these ever-changing times. Though we are not out of the woods quite yet, I am confident that our year moving forward will be one full of new and exciting events that will shape our future for years to come.

Health, safety and parent communication have always been top priorities at Oakwood, and this year is no different. Our new *Health and Safety Policies* have changed some of our daily routines but we continue to adapt and communicate in new ways to ensure that our standards and the needs of our families are met.

I am proud to be a part of such a close and caring community and I am looking forward to a wonderful year, working in new ways together. I

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 25
PD Day (No School)

September 30
Orange Shirt Day (Every
Child Matters)

October 9
PD Day (No School)

October 12
Thanksgiving (No School)

October 23
International Day

October 28
Casual Day (optional)

October 29
Picture Day

October 30
Halloween Spirit Day

October 30
Monthly VIRTUAL
Parent Coffee

encourage each family to connect with their teachers and therapists often to make certain you are planning together for new goals and experiences as a team.

I recognize that each family has faced different challenges over the last few months and returning was an important decision for you and your family. I would like to assure you that your team at Oakwood is here for you and will continue to work with you each step of the way to ensure that your child gets back on track in every way possible. Through these times, Oakwood has also endured some challenges and appreciates all of your support and understanding as we move forward together.

Thank you once again for allowing us to continue to work with your children and trusting us with their education, care and development. I look forward to working with each of you throughout the year as we continue on this journey together!

Sincerely,

Trillian Taylor,
Director/ Co-Founder



Wait, Watch, Wonder- An Important Daily Philosophy

Over the past six months we have adjusted our daily routines to ensure safety among ourselves and others, bringing about a new norm to our play, education and daily living. At the beginning of this pandemic, many of us were saddled with both information and questions. We questioned how we were going to create a space for ourselves and our students and, how we would talk to them about the state of the world. It was more important than ever to take a step back, evaluate our surroundings and wonder how we would move forward. In the *DIR* world, *Wait, Watch, and Wonder* are key steps into how we begin to observe a child's wonderment and interests in the world. We take the time to acknowledge who they are before we join in on their play and exploration. I believe there is also value in this phrase *Wait, Watch, and Wonder* beyond its application in education and child care: The beautiful thing about the *DIR* Model is that it can be applied to many aspects of our daily living and open our thought process to how we can take any moment to wait, watch, and wonder. We can practice this philosophy in our everyday lives as we adjust to the new norms of a socially-distanced school and work year. Let this be the reminder to give *ourselves* permission to wait, watch and wonder about our own situations. As parents and caregivers, you wait, watch, and wonder about *and* for your children every day of their lives. You do this naturally, as you notice their flow throughout the day and how you can make it easier. You wait to hear how their school day was, you watch to see how their emotions change when a challenge is presented and, you wonder how you can offer them support. I believe it is fair to say that over these past six months, you have been doing this more and with greater comfort and ease. You took in a situation with many unknowns and you did the *Floortime* thing: you allowed your children to lead and you found a way to join in their world, even when it was unknown and different. All the therapists and teachers at Oakwood thank you for your expertise. We look forward to continuing to work with you during this school year.

By: Ms. Nicola

Special Services - Spotlight on Music Therapy



Special services have enriched the beginning of the year for our students tremendously! During the music sessions, Ms. Christina incorporates a number of different instruments for students to play. She follows the students' lead through her singing and by playing the guitar as they sing and play together! Participating in music circles provides students the opportunity to strengthen their circles of communication, build relationships with other students and the music therapist, and express themselves creatively through music. Practicing rhythm and utilizing their gross-motor skills while playing instruments also enhances self-esteem while creating fun musical experiences!

By: Ms. Dorothy

Health and Safety: Covid-19 Policies and Reminders

- Please send your *Screening Questionnaire* electronically to hs@oakwoodacademy.ca by 8 AM. This must be completed prior to entry into the school
- Temperature checks are required upon entry to the school. For those doing in-home therapy and education, temperature checks will also be done upon arrival at the student's home and sent to the school before services can begin
- Please indicate on the screening questionnaire if your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, sore throat, sudden onset of cough, fatigue
- Please be mindful that each child has a designated drop-off and pick-up time which must be adhered to. Any unexpected 'lates' must be communicated to the teacher/therapist and supervisor.

Uniform Reminders

We would like to acknowledge all of our wonderful Oakwood students who have been wearing their uniforms throughout the beginning of the school year. Wearing the Oakwood school uniform not only promotes equality and school pride amongst the students, but encourages them to follow school rules and policies in a fashionable way! Please ensure that students wear the Oakwood track pants or grey dress pants along with the collared shirt, tunics are also acceptable as well as Oakwood Academy Phys. Ed. gym wear during gym/active periods. We encourage our students to bring extra uniform clothing in case of fun sensory/science activities or art activities, during which a change of clothing will be useful!

By: Ms. Dorothy

Spirit Day

On Friday, September 11, we had our first school *Spirit Day* of the year! Our students dressed in one of the three house colours -- blue, orange, or green. For our academic students this was a great chance for them to reference their peers and work on social problem-solving when deciding what colour to wear as a class. The students were in great spirits and everyone was excited to be back at school and see all the familiar faces of their peers -even if it was from a distance and with a mask!

By: Ms. Jodie

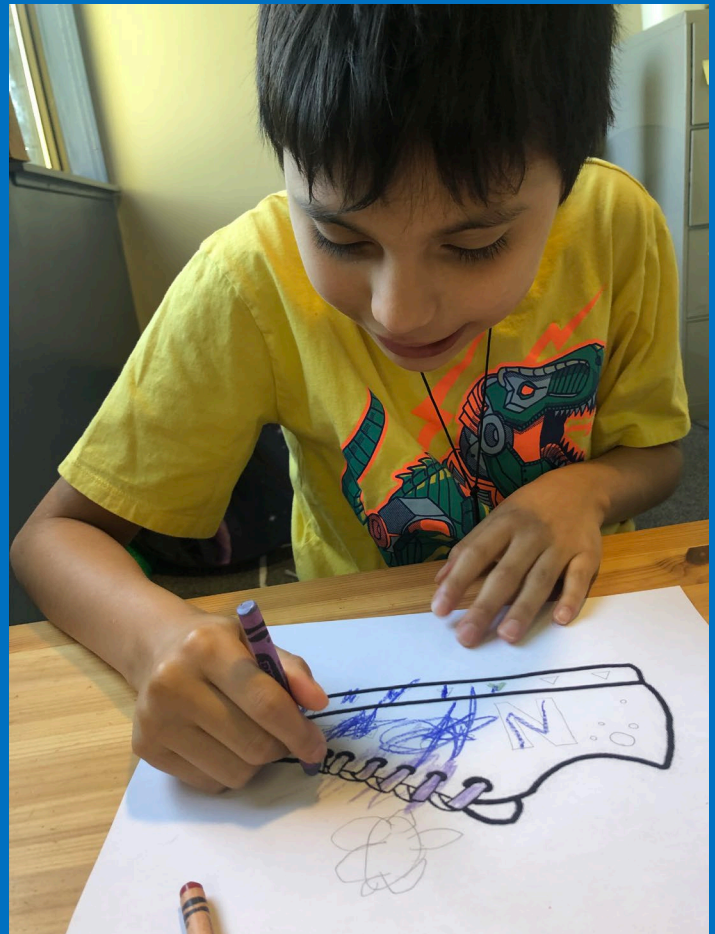
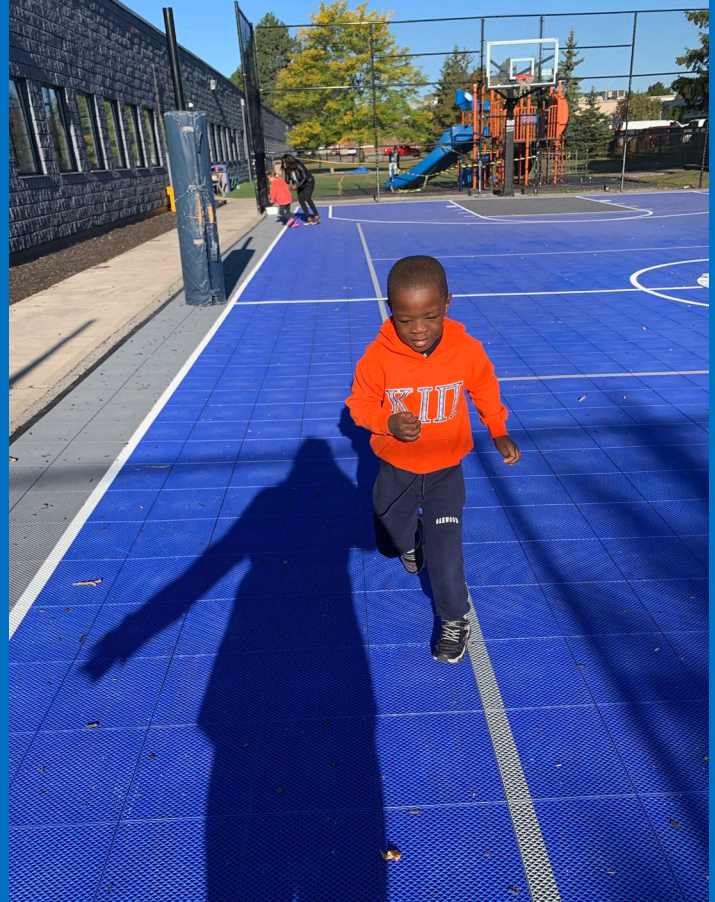
Terry Fox

Our annual Terry Fox Run was held on September 18! This year is the 40th anniversary for *Terry Fox School Run*. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were not able to participate in a school-wide walk. This year, everyone used their individual recess times to walk or run around the sports court and playground as many times as possible. We kept track of how many laps the students completed to measure the total distance that was walked. Oakwood completed a total of 14 km in laps!

Our students also received running shoe templates to decorate based on their own interests. The students explored various art mediums and materials to customize their shoes! There was also a cutting activity available for students that wanted to practice their fine motor skills, such as cutting out a maple leaf, as well as a word search that targets visual scanning skills.

The Oakwood team is so proud of how our students have remained in good spirits and have been so flexible with changes at the school. Our priority is to stay united as a school and community, while still remaining safe. Way to go, Oakwood!

By: Ms. Jodie and Ms. Erica



Covid-Friendly Outdoor Activities

While on a walk, scooter or bike ride in your neighborhood, collect some of nature's wonderful leaves to create *Animal Leaf Art*. This is a great activity to encourage your child to search for specific objects, observe the changes occurring as the season of fall is approaching, and get creative! Don't forget to wash your hands after your search!

Make a maze using sticks! This is a great activity to encourage creativity, enhance visual spatial skills and use gross motor skills to reach the final destination. You can encourage your child to also draw and plan out their maze before completing the fun challenge!



OAKWOOD ACADEMY

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The Oakwood Academy News is a monthly communication created and distributed electronically to members of the Oakwood Academy community during the academic year.

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