



JUNE 2021

Oakwood Academy

Individualized Education JK-12

Director's Message



As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who worked closely together to provide our students with continued learning both virtually and in person. By working together through these challenging times, we were able to provide care and education to our students and develop new abilities and closer relationships.

Reflections on our 2020-2021 School Year

With the lessons we've learned this past year - and the adaptations to learning made by our families and staff - we are looking towards the 2021-2022 school year with hope and resilience. But first, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the successes made possible this past school year:

- Despite the changes in daily schedules, all of our students have demonstrated their individual strengths and increasing flexibility

to programming and learning through these challenging times - **that's true development!** We are just as proud of them as you are!

- Our extended school calendar has allowed us to make up for all other missed school days due to various school closures across this 2020-2021 school year. The flexibility offered to families through attendance options and hybrid schedules is exemplary of what we aim to teach our students - that even though

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 1
Open Enrolment Begins

June 7
Track & Field Day

June 14-18
Spirit Week

June 18
End of Year Celebration
(rain date June 21)

June 18
Final Day for Summer Camp Registration

June 22
Last Day of School

June 23
Summer Break Begins

June 28 – August 6
Summer Camp (optional enrolment)

schedules may change and things may be different, we can rely on the support of the Oakwood community to move forward. This flexibility has also proven further that the *DIR Model* can be adapted to both home and school environments.

- Many families have continued to participate in a modified version of virtual school this year. This has proven to be a successful way for students to stay in touch and connect with their therapists and peers, all while in the safety of their own home.
- Through the availability of expanding technology, we integrated virtual dance and yoga classes into students' classrooms and homes. This has been a safe and accommodating way for students and families to practice mindfulness and keep active during these stressful times. Going beyond our regularly scheduled school programming, we were offered the opportunity to try novel activities. After hearing the positive feedback from families and therapists, we will be continuing this type of virtual instruction at Oakwood in the future.

Looking forward... to 2021-2022

With the insight we have gained, and the evolving landscape we navigated throughout this pandemic school year, we are excited to offer Oakwood families new ways to stay connected within the community in the 2021-2022 school year:

- *Oakwood Community Pass* - for all families of Oakwood to use at participating services for family fun discounts!
- *Monthly 50/50 Draws* for families and classrooms
- **New** outdoor sports and game instruction and programming
- and more surprises up our sleeve for 2022!

Even with the unfortunate loss of our camps and fundraising opportunities for the 2019-2020 school year, we came back this year with resourceful ways to provide for new program costs such as PPE, in-home programming fees, and classroom upgrades. Many of these resources would not be possible without your support, donations and the generously donated volunteer hours from staff and consultants.

We were also incredibly fortunate to have been able to run a successful school fundraiser this past April, with donations being made to ensure that our upcoming 2021-2022 school year will be supported through the addition of materials and equipment vital to our students' success.

June 2021

During the month of June, our students will be able to enjoy the play structure and other fun outdoor activities. Encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle is important for both physical and mental well-being. We are eager to offer more exciting activities over the summer months. Summer Camp will be running this year with three exciting themes for students to engage with over the months of July and August!

As our students continue to move up the developmental ladder, our Oakwood team celebrated this growth through an innovative *Spring Concert* and are looking forward to providing families with a (socially-distanced) *End of Year Celebration!* Our students of 2021 will also be honoured in our yearbook - an important memento for this truly unique year. June will also see the distribution of Term 2 Progress Reports and Homework packages curated by teachers and therapists, highlighting each student's success this year.

On the 1st of June, Oakwood also came together as a school community to recognize the lives of the 215 Indigenous children whose remains were found in Kamloops, British Columbia. We stand by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, and all Indigenous communities and families across Canada who are affected by this trauma. We believe that Every Child Matters, and dedicate ourselves to continually learning and educating both staff and students so that we may be the best allies we can be.

As we come to the end of this school year...

I continually reflect and recognize the successes, achievements and flexibility that Oakwood staff, parents and students have demonstrated. As a collaborative team, we value the importance of building strong relationships between home and school; we appreciate the support that we have received from our Oakwood families as we embark on the journey ahead! We hope you enjoy the remainder of the month of June and hope to see you this summer!

Take care,

Trillian Taylor, Director of Oakwood Academy

SPIRIT WEEK JUNE 14-18

Crayola Day: Wear your favourite colour - chalk art, hopscotch, obstacle courses, chalk letter matching, chalk sight words

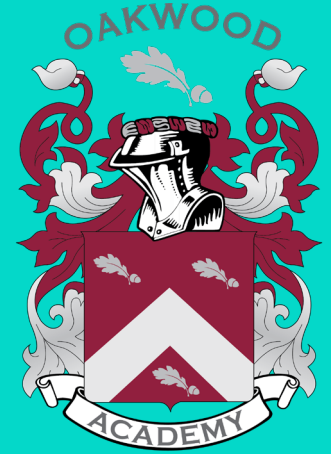
Water Day: Wear your favourite beach attire - water balloons, water bucket race

Animal Day: Dress up as your favourite animal - outdoor scavenger hunts, nature crafts

Olympic Day: Represent your cultural background or favourite country - outdoor sports and games

Neon Day: Wear bright colours - squirt gun painting, bubble painting

Ability Awareness Campaign: A Final Thank You



Thank you, Oakwood families...



For your philanthropy and dedication during our Ability Awareness campaign; you demonstrated to us your commitment and compassion for this school community and for that, we are truly grateful. Whether you donated money, participated in our awareness days and activities, or purchased goods through *Mom's Pantry* - it is clear that this community is filled with individuals who see the value in paying it forward. This year has forced us to evolve and adapt socially, economically and professionally. Your contribution has allowed us to adapt and evolve our services to better serve our students. Your generosity has given us the opportunity to purchase new sensory equipment and materials for classrooms and offer additional support to Oakwood Academy families over the coming year.

Although this past year has required navigating some choppy waters, we hope that Oakwood has been an anchor for you. We take every donation, every act of generosity as a gift. It is a gift that we look forward to investing back into the school to make it fulfilling for your child.

To the countless individuals who donated through *Mom's Pantry* - we thank you for your generosity and commitment to your child's own 'Recipe for Development'.

We would also like to highlight the following individuals who made additional monetary donations during our fundraising campaign:

*Dennis and Debi Brown
Darlene Kindiak
Bradley Howe*

Thank you for your care and philanthropy during this unprecedented year. Your donations will be directed towards the success and prosperity of our students. Oakwood Academy is fortunate to have an active community of parents, caregivers, grandparents and friends. We are inspired and encouraged by your dedication to learning and growing - the *Floortime* way.

Spring Concert

Over the month of May, students were busy creating and rehearsing for Oakwood's Virtual Spring Concert - *Munsch at Play!* Each classroom and cohort took a classic Robert Munsch story and wove it into a creative performance; some were storytimes and others were dramatic re-enactments! Students used props and items found within the school to create the Munsch story world, bringing to life silly and imaginative tales that have

tales that have spanned generations! We are so proud of our Oakwood students for their dedication, proving once again that the "show must go on!", even in our socially-distanced times. If you haven't done so already, grab some popcorn, check your inbox for the link to *Munsch at Play* and join our students in a storybook world of their own creation!

SUMMER CAMP 2021

Oakwood is excited to be bringing back our highly anticipated Summer Camp this year, with some slight modifications and adjustments to adhere to our school's health and safety policies. Through June 28 - August 6, Oakwood will be running three blocks of engaging and exciting programming, all of which will incorporate our students' continued learning and growth.

Our **three** themes are:

Block 1: Science Extravaganza June 28 – July 9, 2021

* Closed on July 1, 2021 for Canada Day Holiday

Block 2: All Stars July 12 – July 23, 2021

Block 3: Road Trip Adventures July 26 – August 6, 2021

*Closed on August 2, 2021 for Civic Holiday

Registration for Summer Camp 2021 is almost full, so we encourage you to contact us if you would like to enrol your child in some summer fun!

The final date to sign up for Summer Camp is June 18, 2021.

Please contact us with any questions you may have: admissions@oakwoodacademy.ca



End of Year Celebration

Join us on Friday, June 18, 2021 for a socially-distanced gathering celebrating our students' success, creativity and development this past school year!

We will unveil an Art Wall, featuring the creative works of our students and we hope you will join us!

Parents and families will be contacted for specific cohort attendance times and regulations, so that we may maintain social distancing and safety for our school community while we celebrate!



Stay At Home Club!

by Ms. Dorthy

As we stay safe within our homes and have limited resources available throughout stores at this time, here are a few ideas for activities and crafts to try out at home with the essential products that are currently available to us in stores! Explore and enjoy!

Bubble Lamp in a Ziploc Bag

For this experiment, you will need the following materials/ingredients:

- Ziploc sandwich bag
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- food colouring
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups vegetable or baby oil
- effervescent antacid tablet
- highlighter or black light (optional)



1. Pour the water into the bag, then add three drops of food colouring and mix it together.
2. Pour the oil into the bag and seal firmly.
3. Break one antacid tablet into pieces, drop it into the bag and seal firmly. Observe as carbon dioxide gas bubbles begin to form, creating a bubble lamp!

To take this activity a step further and create a glowing bubble lamp, check out the following link:

[Glowing Bubble Lamp](#)

Two Ingredient Silly Putty

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup clear gel-like soap
- food colouring (optional)
- a small bowl
- a spoon for mixing



1. Place your cornstarch and soap into the bowl and add a couple drops of food colouring (you can add more as you continue if you would like).
2. Mix the ingredients together with a spoon until it is too hard to mix, then use your fingers.
3. If you make this silly putty on a hot summer day, you may not need as much soap.
4. When your silly putty is moldable and still a bit slimy but no longer sticking to your fingers, it's ready to go!



Homemade Jam

by Ms. Nicola

With summer on the way and fresh fruit becoming more readily available, why not turn some of your freshly-picked berries and stone fruits into a delicious spread! Below are two different recipes for jam making, each of varying intensity and processing. Making jam is a wonderful shared activity which promotes curiosity, shared attention, engagement, social problem solving and, of course, taste testing!

Strawberry Freezer Jam

This easy jam only requires 4 ingredients, and will create a lasting collection of freezer-stable goodness!

You will need:

2 cups crushed fresh strawberries
4 cups sugar
1 (1.75 ounce) package dry pectin
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water

Method:

Mix crushed strawberries with sugar and let stand for 10 minutes (this is a great tactile activity which promotes hand strengthening, bilateral coordination and sensory exploration). Meanwhile, stir the pectin into the water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and boil for 1 minute. Stir the boiling water into the strawberries. Allow to stand for 3 minutes before pouring into jars or other storage containers (work on visual targeting and hand-eye coordination as you scoop and pour your jam into the prepared jars).

Place tops on the containers, and leave for 24 hours. Place into the freezer and store frozen until ready to use. Once taken out of the freezer, this jam will last for a month in the refrigerator!

Cucumber Mint Jam

This is a jam for the slightly more adventurous palette!

You will need:

- 4 cups chopped cucumber, peeled & seeded
- ½ cup lemon juice
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 box (1.75 oz.) of powdered pectin
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped mint

Method:

1. In a large pot, combine cucumbers, lemon juice, apple cider vinegar, and pectin. Bring to boil, mashing slightly with a spoon. Keep at a rolling boil for 1 minute (use this time to wonder about: how this jam will taste; if it will taste the same as strawberry jam; what it will smell like; what you can eat it with)
2. Add the sugar and bring to a boil again. Boil for 1 minute.
3. Remove from heat, skim off foam. Stir in mint.
4. Pour into jars, leaving 1/4" headspace. Process for 10 minutes (adjusting for elevation) in a boiling water bath.

Enjoy this unique jam on savory sandwiches, with cheese and crackers, or in a vinaigrette!





Things to do during a socially-distanced summer...

As we move into a summer with some restrictions and unknowns still present, here are a few resources and groups who will be offering exciting programming throughout the coming months!

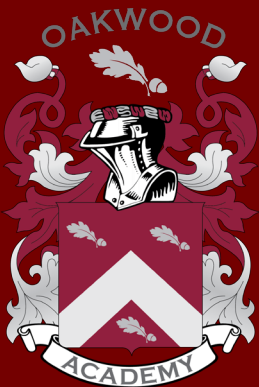
Project Autism Canada: Project Autism is a community-driven, volunteer-run group that offers multiple weekly classes and programming - all for free! A plethora of classes for all ages and abilities are offered online throughout the week, all taught by volunteer instructors with a passion for their craft! Some classes include: Music Production, Intro to Ukulele, Geography, Dance, Sensory Exploration, Cooking, Photography and much more: Check them out this summer!

[VIRTUAL CLASSES](#)

City of Toronto: The City of Toronto has a resource hub for virtual programming offered to people of all ages - whether you want to make a time capsule with your family, socialize with others during a fitness class, or explore (virtual) museums like the Aga Khan - there is something for everyone! All classes are free and most are intended for all ages. [City of Toronto](#)

Mississauga Public Library: The library always has amazing programming available for children and adults alike - but the Mississauga Public Library is doing something very special! 'Take-and-Make' kits are craft and activity kits being offered to children and adults for free during the pandemic. Children can create a catapult, grow their own Dill plant, or remake Da Vinci's bridge with popsicle sticks! We also encourage you to check out your local library to see what other cool programming is available throughout the summer.

[Take-and-Make Kits](#)



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