



October 2021

Oakwood Academy

Individualized Education JK-12

Message from our Program Directors



October has been full of Spooktacular surprises and we would like to thank our families and staff once again for adapting to changes to make this fall a continued success for our students! The changing autumn leaves, and Thanksgiving and Halloween-themed activities have brought joy and gratefulness to many of our students as we joined together this month. We would like to thank all of the families that participated in our "Colours for a Cause" fundraising initiative as well, and we are looking forward to celebrating inclusion and kindness school-wide on the upcoming World Kindness Day. As our educational programs are now in full swing, we encourage all of our families to take part in the additional Parent Support workshops with Hope McSwain and Dorthy Leja, to have an opportunity to connect with other families and gain valuable resources.

With cozy sweater weather upon us, we will also remind all families that we will be running activities both inside and outdoors. Please remember to have your child dressed appropriately for the weather each day.

Finally, we are happy to announce that Oakwood Academy has added a new communication tool for families to receive messages directly to their mobile device using the **Remind: School Communication App**. To receive important notifications from Oakwood via text, download the App on the App Store or Google Play or ask us for more information

Amy Cooke, Transition Program Director
Melanie Mendes, Academic Program Director

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 4
Outdoor Classroom Day

November 10
Remembrance Day Assembly

November 11
Remembrance Day (No School)

November 12
P.D. Day (No School)

November 15
World Kindness Day Recognition

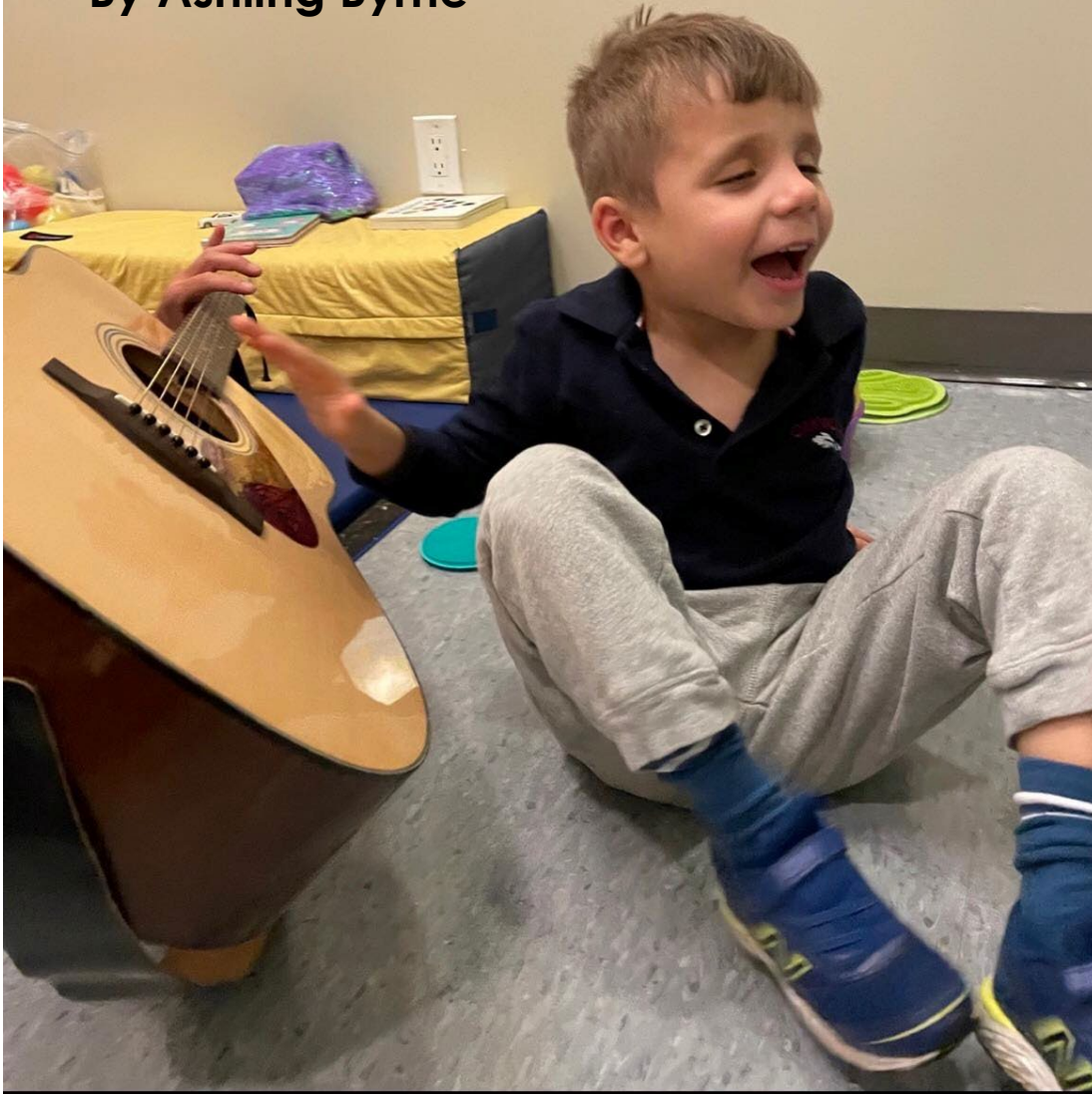
November 18
Picture Retake Day

November 19
Science Fair

November 24
Casual Day (Optional)

The Sound of Music at Oakwood Academy

By Ashling Byrne



As the Developmental Therapist and the Music Program Coordinator for the Transition Program at Oakwood Academy, I am excited about sharing what I have learned. I started my musical journey at the age of 6, through guitar and vocal lessons. I have always enjoyed communicating expressively and receptively through music. I also strongly felt that music provided me with the opportunity to build better relationships with myself and with others. Through my experience and studies in Early Childhood Education and Music, I have recognized and reflected upon firsthand how music engages and motivates individuals. This is why I am very excited for this year's Oakwood Transition Music Program: **The Sound of Oakwood**. This program will follow the *DIR® Model* by attuning to individual

interests. It will include music-based, interactive group activities that promote skills such as engagement, regulation, communication, gross and fine motor skills. I am determined to motivate, inspire and continue to build and strengthen relationships with the students of Oakwood!

If you have any old instruments to donate to the program, please contact abyrne@oakwoodacademy.ca



School Fundraising and Awareness Committee



by Jessica Difonzo

The School Fundraising and Awareness Committee (SFAC) would like to thank everyone who was able to participate in our **Colours for a Cause** launch. As a school, we were able to purchase over twenty t-shirts and raise money for *The Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund* which aims to build cultural understanding and create a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Parents and staff who are able and interested in participating in our **Colours for a Cause** events can submit their order forms to schoolfunds@oakwoodacademy.ca

Our upcoming awareness events include:

Anti-Bullying Awareness
Down Syndrome Awareness
Epilepsy and Seizure Awareness
Ability Awareness
Apraxia Awareness

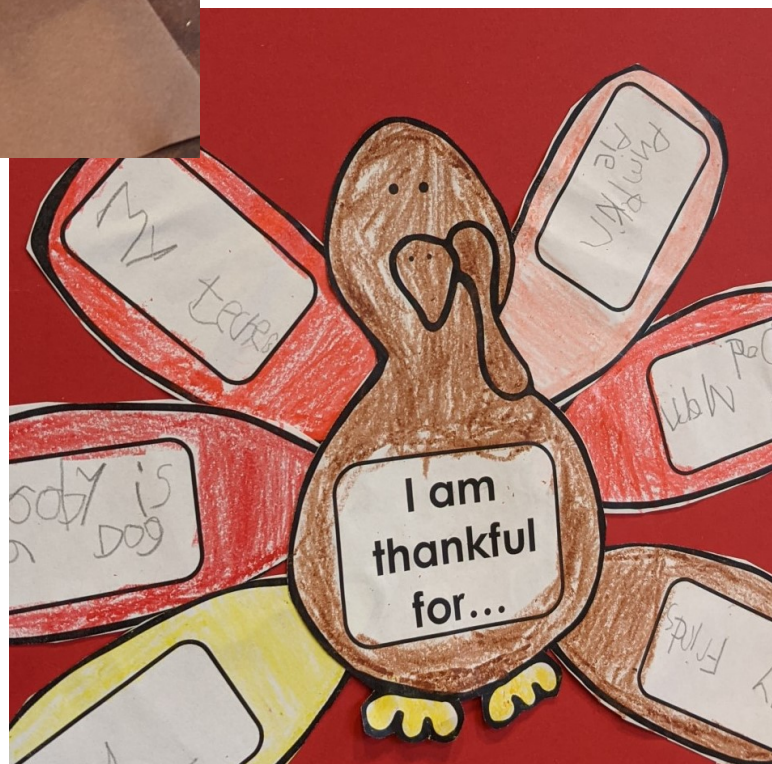
Donations from these events will go towards Oakwood Academy's **Ability Awareness** fundraiser as well as organizations related to the causes.

Grateful and Thankful!

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By Dorota Leja

During the month of October, Oakwood Academy's staff and students participated in a variety of autumn and Thanksgiving-themed activities. From thankful turkeys and bobbing apples to silly leaf hair, students embraced fall creatively! Our students worked on personal reflective writing, they utilized the outdoors for arts and crafts, and continued to bring a grateful attitude to school each and every day! A big thank you to all our Oakwood community for this fantastic October!



Explore Autumn

Continue to explore autumn and all it has to offer through this fun apple-themed activity at home! This is a great way to not only strengthen your child's fine motor and self-help skills, but also engage and support their curiosity and interest through observing what happens when you mix the materials together.

Apple Oobleck

Ingredients:

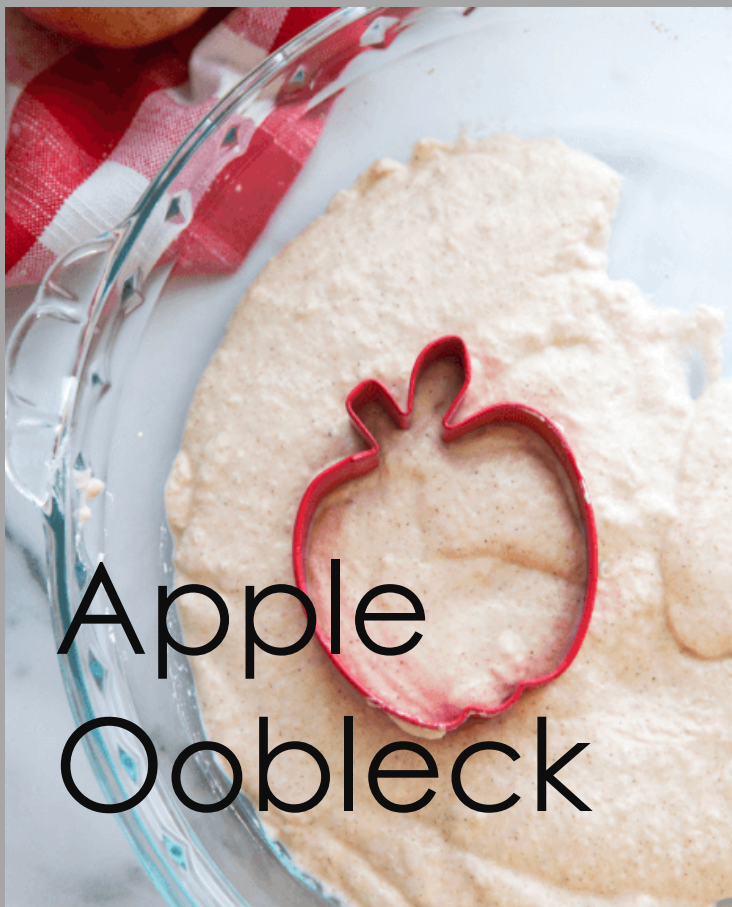
1 part water

2 parts cornstarch

Food colouring (red)

Cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves

1. Combine the water and food colouring.
2. Combine the cornstarch and spices.
(I prefer mostly cinnamon)
3. Mix together the water and cornstarch.
4. Pour into a sensory bin and enjoy!





Before & After School Care Program Update

By Abi Asaytuno

Due to the operational and staffing costs incurred when a parent/guardian is late, a late fee will be charged and the emergency contact person may be called to pick up the child(ren). When a child is not picked up at the agreed upon time, a late fee will be applied. If the child(ren) are picked up late repeatedly (more than twice), the Before & After School Care Program Supervisor will ask the parents to find alternative pick-up or child care arrangements. Upon the third disregard of school policies, a letter will be sent home to cancel their Before & After School Care Program agreement.

- The parent/guardian will be charged a rate per minute past the agreed upon time.
- Each time a parent/guardian is late, an increased rate per minute will apply.
- First late fee applied will be \$1 per minute. The fee for the second time late is \$2 per minute and so forth.
- Any time late after that, in a 30 calendar day period, the rate will be \$3 per minute.
- Should you arrive after the school is closed 2 or more times, you will no longer be eligible for the Before & After School Care Program service.
- If late 5 times in any seven-week period, the family faces removal from the school.

If you have any questions, please free to email me at aasaytuno@oakwoodacademy.ca



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