

2007 - 2022

CELEBRATING

15  
YEARS

OAKWOOD ACADEMY



JANUARY 2022

# Oakwood Academy

*Individualized Education JK-12*



## OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO OUR AMAZING & DEDICATED OAKWOOD FAMILIES...

We would like to offer our sincerest gratitude to our Oakwood families for their continued resilience, flexibility and understanding as we stand united while navigating these unprecedented times. As we reflect on 2021, and enter 2022, we are humbled by your choice to make Oakwood a part of your children's education and we remain inspired to dedicate all of our efforts to our students.

We hope you and your family were able to enjoy special holiday traditions during this past holiday season - whether old or new, in-person or virtually. From staying in and whipping up delicious homemade hot chocolate, to spending time outside building snow forts and having snowball fights, we hope you never lose your childlike sense of wonder - that feeling that anything is possible!

Thank you for making this past year so memorable. May you and your family have a Happy New Year!

Our warmest regards,  
The Oakwood Academy Team



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 14**

Valentine's  
Spirit Day  
(Dress in red, white or pink)

**February 15**

Sibling Photo Day  
(to be confirmed)

**February 17**

100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

**February 18**

P.D. Day  
(no school)

**February 21**

Family Day  
(no school)

**February 22**

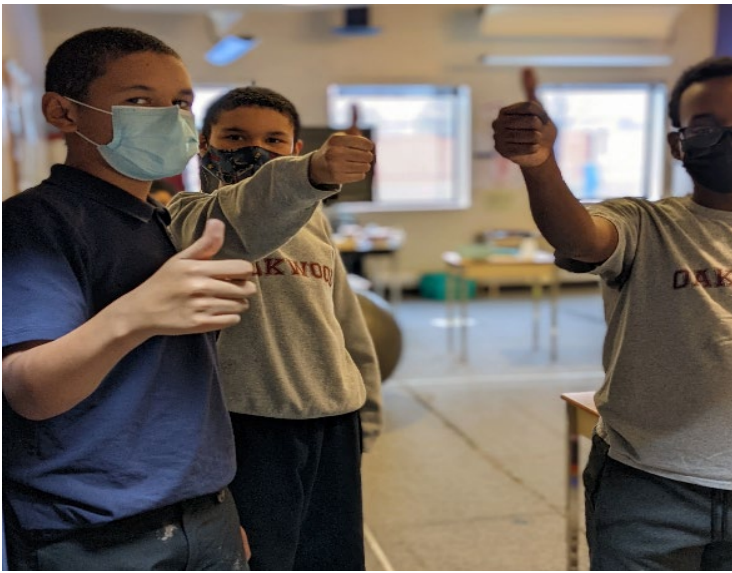
Casual Day  
(optional)

**February 23**

Anti-Bullying Day  
(Dress in Pink)

**February 28 -**

**March 4**  
Spirit Week



# Health and Safety Announcement

**Winter weather is in full swing!** Here are a few health and safety reminders to help keep your family and our school community safe this season:

- Screening forms must be sent to [HS@oakwoodacademy.ca](mailto:HS@oakwoodacademy.ca) by 8 am each morning.
- If your child does not pass screening, a Back to School Form must be filled out and submitted to [HS@oakwoodacademy.ca](mailto:HS@oakwoodacademy.ca) before your child returns to school.

- Our screening form, Back to School Form, and Health and Safety Policies and Procedures Manual can be found on our website: [www.oakwoodacademy.ca/covid19-policy-forms/](http://www.oakwoodacademy.ca/covid19-policy-forms/)
- Please check your child's temperature each morning and record it on our screening form. At school, we will also continue conducting temperature checks twice per day and frequent wellness checks throughout the day.
- Please arrive during your child's scheduled cohort time and maintain 6ft distance from other families. We ask that parents/guardians and students who are able to, wear masks during drop-off and pick-up times in order to maintain safety.
- Oakwood Academy is continuing to implement an Immunization Disclosure Policy and Mandatory Testing Policy for staff and faculty who are not fully vaccinated, as per guidelines from the Ministry of Education.

## New Year, New Guidelines

- With guidelines in Ontario changing rapidly, we are committed to providing you with up-to-date policy changes and information via email.
- We encourage all families to download the **Remind App** on their smartphones in order to receive direct messages from the school regarding emergency closures, important emails, and critical information.
- Recent changes to Ontario guidelines include shortened isolation periods and changes to close contact isolation rules.
  - Fully vaccinated staff and students as well as students 11 years old and younger must isolate for **5 days** if they have symptoms associated with COVID-19 or test positive.
  - Students over the age of 12 and staff who are partially vaccinated/unvaccinated OR immune compromised must isolate for **10 days** if they have symptoms associated with COVID-19 or test positive.
  - Individuals identified as close contacts of a positive case identified within the **school environment** will no longer have to isolate, but should continue to monitor for symptoms.
  - If your child or anyone in your household experiences symptoms, email [HS@oakwoodacademy.ca](mailto:HS@oakwoodacademy.ca) immediately, and we will provide you with further instructions.
  - Please see our [most recent screening form](#) for more details.

## Vaccination Information

- Vaccines are scientifically proven to be safe, effective, and the best way to stay protected from COVID-19 and its variants. They are an important tool to help stop the spread of the virus and further support a safe school environment.
- COVID-19 vaccines do not cause a coronavirus infection. They help build up immunity to the virus, so that your body will fight it off more easily. This can reduce the risk of developing COVID-19 or make the symptoms milder if you do get it, as well as lower the risk of transmitting the virus to others.
- The paediatric COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine is now available for children aged 5-11 years old, and the Pfizer vaccine continues to be available for children and youth ages 12 and older.
- Everyone aged 18 and older can book an appointment to receive their booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Book your or your child's vaccination by:
  - booking through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#)
  - calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at [1-833-943-3900](tel:1-833-943-3900) (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired: [1-866-797-0007](tel:1-866-797-0007))
  - contacting [participating pharmacies](#)
  - attending a walk-in vaccination clinic

If you have any questions or concerns regarding health and safety, please do not hesitate to reach out via email to [HS@oakwoodacademy.ca](mailto:HS@oakwoodacademy.ca). Happy New Year!





# Extending Interactions in the Kitchen

By: Hope McSwain

As parents, we can often be so busy with caring for our family that we find it hard to do multiple play times with our children. This article is all about how to support your child in extending interactions while in the kitchen.

If you have a bit of extra time, who doesn't love a helping hand in the kitchen! You can have your child help prepare some of the items for dinner.

Perhaps, they peel some of the carrots, pull apart the broccoli, scoop/play with some pasta noodles while you are preparing the other items. To encourage more communication, or lengthen the interaction, you might encourage them to help you put the broccoli in a bowl with you. To support them, use grand sound affect and visual affect to model how to put it in. For example, you might take a handful and pretend it's heavy and make sound effects to show "*It's so heavy*" then put it in and ask for help to finish adding it in. Using these sound cues and gestures is going to entice your child to share attention and engage in the activity with you.

Another great way to lengthen your interaction and spend more time bringing shared attention, engagement and circles of communication is having your child help you set the table. You might have a visual of a placemat on the table and item by item you have them set the table. You can use language such as, "Hm, I wonder where you can put the cup" or use gestures to point towards the picture of where it might go. You might put the cup or plate in the wrong spot and have your child express to you where to put it.

Finding small ways to lengthen the interaction is a great way to support your child in building their engagement and circles of communication.

Don't forget to attend our Bi-Monthly Virtual Parent Support Group on February 28, 2022. This month we will be looking into the importance of self-care.

Take good care!

The Indigo logo, featuring the word "Indigo" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue square background.

# Indigo Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who has purchased items through our Indigo Fundraiser page!

We have raised \$400 so far and are hoping to reach our \$1,000 goal! We ask that you consider purchasing items through our fundraising partnership with Indigo.

Every time you shop online using our group's fundraiser page, Oakwood earns cash back- **15% of all purchases of Indigo e-gift cards or 3% of any direct purchases on indigo.ca.**

If you purchase an e-gift card and then use it to pay for your purchase, Oakwood receives 18% in cash back!

Please share the link with your family and friends to help us with our fundraising mission! We appreciate the support!  
Happy shopping!

Link: [group's fundraiser page](https://www.indigo.ca/group/fundraiser)  
[indigo.ca](https://www.indigo.ca)

# Parent Support



Mark your calendars  
for the following  
Virtual Group  
Meetings in  
February!

**February 9** - DIR Q & A – There will be an open discussion where you can ask any questions related to the DIR ® Floortime Model. This group discussion will be run by Hope McSwain, Expert DIR ® Floortime Practitioner and Training Leader. **RSVP by Friday, February 4, 2022!**

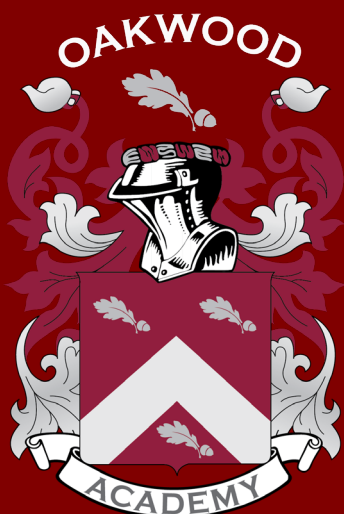
**February 28** – The Bi-Monthly Parent Support Group will be hosting a virtual session on the importance of self-care! We will discuss resources and ways to incorporate self-care into your routines. **RSVP by Thursday, February 24, 2022!**

If you would like more support, please reach out to Parent Support at [hmcswain@oakwoodacademy.ca](mailto:hmcswain@oakwoodacademy.ca).

We are here for you!







**OAKWOOD  
ACADEMY**

## 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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