

OTTER NEWS

September 9, 2022

Parents,

It has been a busy week as we welcomed students back to the building and finalized our school divisions and classrooms. It was so great to see smiling faces and hear laughter in our building again. Thank you, parents, for taking the time to get your child back into “school mode” again. My own children have been slow to make the adjustment and we have spent the week buying new clothes, getting haircuts, packing lunches, and dragging our kids out of bed in the morning. I imagine you can relate to my experience. I have tried my best to keep the newsletter concise, as I know you have been inundated with messages from me all weekend.

Thank you for all your support,
Mr. D. Woelders
Principal | North Otter

Upcoming Events	
Date	Event
September 12	Students begin in their new classrooms.
September 15	Grade 6/7 band registrations due.
September 19	First full day of Kindergarten
September 20	Terry Fox Run
September 23	School Improvement Day – students not in session
September 29	Orange Shirt Day
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – Statutory Holiday, students not in session

Class Placements

Students will start the day in their permanent classrooms beginning Monday, September 12th. You should receive an email from your child’s teacher welcoming them to the class and where you can find their classroom. **Kindergarten classes will continue with gradual entry next week and will begin full day instruction September 19th. Kindergarten placements will be announced at the end of the week.**

Band at North Otter

North Otter runs a beginner band program for any students in grade 6 or 7. No prior experience is required and grade 7s are welcome to join, even if they did not participate in grade 6. Mr. Follett has dropped off paper registration forms with students, but you can also find them online: <http://dwpoppymusic.com/elementaryband/>. We begin instrument fitting on Thursday, so we ask that all registrations be in before then. Student who do not take band will participate in an alternative exploration program. If there are any concerns about the cost of band, please know that we have supports to help with any expense of getting an instrument.

Parking at North Otter

Big thank you to all of our families for keeping our pick-up lanes and street parking so safe and calm. We know that bad weather results in more vehicles dropping students off but if we continue to implement the following strategies, we can keep the area moving.

- Reserve parking for parents of younger children that need to be walked to the classroom door.
- If you have intermediate students who know their way around the building, please drop them off earlier and/or down the street on 54th.
- Arrange a pick-up location at Steele Park or down the road on 54th so that you don't need to park your vehicle for an extended period.
- If you have an older child that can pick up your younger child, please do so and have them meet you at the drop and go.
- If you are in walking distance, take advantage of the warm weather and walk your child to school.
- Carpool when possible.

Pedestrians

Like parking, we recognize that moving around the building when walking your child to class can be a challenge. Teachers spend a great deal of time talking to students about parking lot safety and to always use sidewalks. We encourage parents to help us by modelling this for our kids. Please use sidewalks when you walk around the front of the building and avoid crossing the bus lanes.

Cyclists

In order to keep everyone safe, we ask that cyclists please walk their bikes when using the crosswalk and moving through the school grounds.

Staying Connected

Much of the communication this year will come from school-wide emails and information posted on the school website. Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date email address on MyEd. The calendar on our [school website](#) shows all the events as they are added or amended by our school staff and front office.

Volunteers Welcome

If you are interested in volunteering for future events, please complete a [volunteer form here](#)

Otter Athletics

We are excited to welcome back the volleyball and cross country teams at North Otter. This week we will be hosting a meeting for all grade 6 and 7 students interested in competing this year. Please encourage your child to attend the meeting and to give the sport a try. No prior experience is needed and it's a great way to connect with new friends.

Athletic fees will be \$20 and cover the cost of spirit wear and athletic gear (water bottle, bag, etc.).