



CONGRATULATIONS!!!! Oak Bridge Academy Grads!



June 2020 marked Oak Bridge Academy's first graduating class!

We were thrilled to celebrate with our graduating students in a memorable and meaningful way. Confident they are fully prepared to embark on the next step of their journey, the staff at Oak Bridge encourage them to tackle the challenges of high school with mindful intention. Our grads, each and every one, will be in our hearts forever.

Kathie's Corner

I am delighted to report that overall, our virtual online classes were an overwhelming success! Our students

continued to learn and flourish as we all - students, parents and teachers - persevered through 13-weeks of online learning! Bravo!

As we head into summer, I am compelled to share the most incredible school summer send-off ever imagined. Our students draw from all corners of Waterloo and Wellington Regions and beyond. Despite these daunting distances, Oak Bridge Academy staff cheerfully visited each student's home to personally wish them well and say so long for summer, all while maintaining social distancing rules, resisting hugs and high fives. The commitment of our staff and their devotion to our students never ceases to amaze me!

Despite the challenges of the current pandemic, Oak Bridge Academy's Board of Directors continues to plan for the future. Mindfulness - the daily practice of paying attention to the present moment, is foundational to Oak Bridge Academy's daily curriculum. Consistent with that philosophy in combination with our commitment to establish Oak Bridge Academy as a leader in special education for children with special needs, The Board of Directors



Kathie Shaw, MSW, BCBA (Principal)

unanimously agreed Oak Bridge Academy should actively pursue accreditation to become a certified Mindful School.

Moving toward that end, instructor Dannielle D'Amato, guided several of our students through a pilot 6 week virtual Mindful Group. The feedback from that pilot program was fantastic and I cannot wait to introduce the program to all of our students in the fall.

In closing I would like to thank parents, teaching staff and students for their patience through this uncertain and challenging time.

I would also like to thank our faithful donors! Without your continued support we could not exist. We are truly grateful for each and every one of you.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer,

Principal Kathie



SUMMER CAMP 2020

IT'S SO EXCITING!



Thanks to the generous donation of one of our donors, we are able to offer two, one week long, fun-filled, ACT-approved summer camps for some of our students. Donations such as this, support our students' development and we could not do it without you!

We are grateful to the Temple Shalom for allowing us to host camp activities

within your facility.

Though virtual learning and virtual connection have been an immeasurable blessing the past few months, they pale in comparison to the fun and adventure of side by side, face to face (socially distanced) camaraderie and community.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

At Oak Bridge Academy we take fundraising very seriously, but we take the health and well being of our community even MORE seriously. As such, large group, annual fundraising activities are temporarily 'on hold.'

Even though golf lends itself well to social distancing, the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament is also deferred until next year.

As provincial regulations allow, these fundraising events will resume, all the stronger for their absence!



Nonetheless, our socially distanced fundraising efforts continue.

Members of the Oak Bridge Academy Board of Directors are working hard behind the scenes writing and submitting grants and proposals for funding to enhance and augment our academic curriculum and secure funding for specialty training for Oak Bridge Academy staff.

A virtual paint night hosted by Lori Meeboer of Back Porch Originals had a bunch of budding artists mixing the acrylic like seasoned pros! Special thanks to Lori for donating her time and talents.



SAVE the TENTATIVE DATE Thursday Sept 17th, 2020

We are optimistic the **Third Annual Break Room Bar and Billiards Bursary Fundraiser** will be able to proceed given provincial phase three opening regulations.

Fingers crossed. Stay tuned for details.

OAK BRIDGE ACADEMY SWAG

T-shirts
Hoodies
and MORE!

[SHOP for OBA SWAG - Click Here](#)



Dr Karen's Take

To say the least, it has been an interesting few months. Covid -19 remains a significant global concern and it has turned the world upside down.

Fortunately for Canadians, it appears we have been successful in our endeavour to flatten the curve and with hopeful trepidation, society is slowly opening up. Uncertainty remains, as a 'new normal' begins to emerge and 'settle.'

Make no mistake, Oak Bridge Academy staff are amongst the most determined and imaginative individuals in Waterloo Region. Whatever that new normal may settle into, Oak Bridge Academy will meet it head on with flexibility and



**Dr Karen Backway, Retired Pediatrician
OBA Board Member**

enthusiasm. Already we are stronger, more resilient and more creative!

I believe, there are many gifts hidden in the wake of this pandemic.

GIFTS!!

Shift the spotlight of your focus and find the gifts sitting in the shadows just waiting to be discovered.

Have a safe, fun filled summer!
Dr Karen

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