



Stittsville Public School Council Newsletter - January 2023

Hello and welcome to, what I hope, is a more regular newsletter on what is happening with your school council.

As we adapt to the new normal some of our regular programs and events are back - the food program has a split year to allow parents greater choice and the spirit wear saw the greatest number of items we have ever sold. Thank you to Roybn for organizing the food program, Victoria for the Halloween Dance and Mel for spiritwear. Each of those things could only happen with the help of our volunteers (massive thank you from me), if you are interested in helping out at school (both council and staff run events) please email stittsvilleps.volunteers@gmail.com.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year we have several exciting things planned.

- 3 Mar - Movie night. Because of pupil numbers we are looking at two showings
- 12 May - the ever popular cake walk
- Various other fundraising events are in the pipeline.

The council meets every second Tuesday of the month, except for this January and March due to school holidays. The meetings are in the school library and anyone is welcome to attend. Whilst we do discuss council business we also get updates from the Board, the Principal and Staff, although sadly no more poems from Mrs Kerwin. You can give as much time as you can to council or just join us and see what we do.

Council is not just about fundraising, it is also a body that can advise the Principal on the running of the school. Additionally as your Chair I can advocate for you as a parent, I have experience within the school district having been the Chair of the Parents Involvement Committee (PIC). Speaking of the PIC, if there are issues as a parent you want to raise with the Trustees or District but don't feel they are council business I can put you in touch with the PIC which is mandated under Ontario Education regulation to be the parents voice to the board.

There are lots of resources at OCDSB and they aren't always well known. There's links for people to learn more about the board and what they can access to help them as parents. We are a community of parents at SPS and you can reach out to the council anytime. The council email address is sc-stittsvilleps@ocdsb.ca or you can send a note to school addressed to the Chair of the Council.

Martyn Reid

SPS Council Chair

Council meetings (1900 - 2100 in the school library)

17 January - moved one week out for Winter break

14 February

21 March - moved one week out for March Break

11 April - This meeting will see discussion on next school years program

9 May - Next school years plan for council up for approval

13 June - Last meeting of this council

September 2023 - Likely to be the Tue 19 September for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). We vote in the new council at this meeting and notice will be sent by the Principal at the start of the school year.

Useful Information

<https://stittsvilleps.ocdsb.ca> - The school website. From here you can access the [council webpages](#). We are updating at this time, so might not have the most up to date information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/spsocdsbparents> - a FB group for parents, run by parents. Not a council page nor affiliated with OCDSB.

<https://www.ocdsb.ca> The main website for the school district

[OCDSB PIC](#) | [OCDSB Parent Involvement Page](#) | [OCDSB - Support for families in elementary](#)

[OCDSB Parent Portal](#) Parents portal, the web version of the App ([OCDSB App](#))

Your Trustee is Lynn Scott (we are School Zone 1) - lynn.scott@ocdsb.ca. She is also the the Chair of the Board of Trustees - https://www.ocdsb.ca/board/meet_your_trustees

Ottawa Public Health

<https://www.parentinginottawa.ca> - Ottawa Public Health support to parents

[Parenting in Ottawa - Child Safety page](#)

The following are provided as an example of what is available for parents in Ottawa. If you know of other reputable organizations you have dealt with please let me know for the next newsletters.

[Family Services Ottawa](#) - an organization offering counseling and support to families

[ONFE](#) - Ottawa Network for Education (Charity focusing on Ottawa Education needs)

[Parent Resource Centre](#) Parent Resource Centre helps build confident, resilient families in Ottawa.

If you or someone you know needs helps you can call 24 hours a day:

- Mental Health Crisis Line: 613-722-6914 (within Ottawa) or 1-866-996-0991 (outside of Ottawa)

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: 613-238-3311

- Youth Services Bureau Crisis Line: 613-260-2360 (within Ottawa) or 1-877-377-7775 (eastern Ontario)

- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868