



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

40 Granite Ridge Drive,
Stittsville, Ontario
K2S 1Y9 Canada

Phone: (613) 836-2818
Fax: (613) 836-1806



Principal: Catherine Donnelly
Office Administrator: Gisele Waters
Trustee: Lynn Scott
Superintendent: Shawn Lehman

Vice Principal: Bruno Kondric
Office Assistant: Carolyn Robertson
Building Custodian: Peter Hammell

School Website: <http://stittsvilleps.ocdsb.ca>
Board Website: <http://www.ocdsb.on.ca>

April 2019

Message from the Principal

If you have questions about anything you read in the newsletter or about things that are happening at school that you are wondering about – please give me a call at 613-836-2818 or send an e-mail to catherine.donnelly@ocdsb.ca - I would be happy to connect!

The OCDSB and SPS are committed to creating inclusive, safe and caring environments. As part of this commitment we administer a school climate survey to students at least once every two years for students in grades 4 to 6. The purpose of a school climate survey is to better understand students' perceptions about bullying, safety at school, and student engagement. We know that when students feel safe and welcomed at school that they are more likely to achieve at higher levels and have a stronger sense of well-being. The data from this survey will be used to help school staff, School Council and our Safe and Caring Committee to develop strategies to prevent bullying and to promote safe and inclusive schools. The survey is completely anonymous; it does not include any student names. The survey is also voluntary; students can decide whether they want to complete the survey, and they can also choose to skip any question they do not want to answer. The survey results will be reported at an aggregate level only and will not be linked to any other student data.

Students who are in grades four to six at SPS will complete the OurSCHOOL Survey online at school between **April 23rd** and **May 10th, 2019**. Parents who do not want their child(ren) to complete the survey must advise the school in writing by **April 18th, 2019** using the [form](#) that can be accessed through this link.

EQAO Dates

Between May 21 and June 1st, grade 3 and 6 students will be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO's) Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Eco-Club at work! Help us save the environment!

We are thrilled to announce that Plastic Bag Grab challenge is back for 2019! Since 2016, more than 502,000 students across Canada have taken action to reduce plastic waste in their school communities while collecting more than 52 metric tonnes of single use plastic bags for recycling. **Now in its fourth year, the program will continue to focus on *reduce* and *reuse* – the most important step in the 3Rs hierarchy. As such, the challenge will reward schools that encourage and promote ideas and solutions that result in reducing how many bags are used and wasted in their communities.**

During Earth Week 2019 (April 15 - 26), SPS is asking families to send in their single use plastic bags. The Plastic Bag Grab challenge is an environmental awareness program that engages schools and students on the 3Rs hierarchy: reduce, reuse, and recycle and can be incorporated into existing curriculum.



Bicycles

With the nicer weather, children may be biking school. A reminder that upon entering the school grounds, students must walk their bicycles to the storage racks. This helps with rider and pedestrian safety. Bicycles should be locked to the racks. Please note that roller blades, skateboards, and wheelies, are not allowed on school property as they jeopardize the safety of students.



Yard Conditions

At this time of year, with the snow melted and the spring rains still with us, we monitor the yard conditions to address a number of items, including safety. If the fields are saturated with water, having almost 675 children on them can cause permanent damage to the turf, and cause very slippery, muddy conditions - so there may be times that the fields are out of bounds.

Grit left over from the winter covers the pavement areas and we have to wait until the pavement conditions allow for a “sweeper” machine to remove the grit. Of course every school in the system needs to be done so that takes time. Please know that we have this work completed as soon as is possible.

Lastly the play structures can't be opened until the frost is out of the ground and in the case of structures with sand underneath (which we have) the sand must be roto-tilled for safety reasons. We are looking forward to having the play structures open at the earliest possible date.



Parking Courtesy

Parents/guardians should be aware that there are no-parking signs in the vicinity of our school. Please be aware of this and if you are parked/and or waiting on the road be sure not to block access to neighbourhood driveways or make it difficult for our neighbours to get into their driveways or our buses to get into our bus loop.



Our Future Leaders – Stittsville’s Student Council!

We are very excited that members of student council had the opportunity to participate in a day long leadership camp. The leadership camp took place in the library. In the morning, Student Council members had the opportunity to participate in leadership games, activities and discussions. In the afternoon, student council members took what they learned and used those leadership skills to work towards a small presentation/lesson they will deliver to primary students. Thank you to Mme. Castonguay and Mrs. Turnbull for organizing this day.



Moving Over The Summer?

We are planning for next year. If your child will not be returning to Stittsville Public School in September 2019 because you are moving out of our attendance area, please let us know as soon as possible. Encourage any new neighbours to register on-line or come in to register at their earliest convenience. Give us a call, and we will be pleased to guide you through the registration process.

March “Gotcha” Awards

Students caught displaying exceptional positive character are given a “Gotcha” and recognized for promoting a positive school climate.

Congratulations to...

Alexander (Grade 1)
Defne (Grade 3)
Nour (Grade 3)

Gavin (Grade 4)
Eddie (Grade 4)
Raya (Grade 5)

Brody (Grade 4)
William (Grade 3)
Tyler (Grade 4)

For being Gotcha winners for **March**. Way to go!

News from the classrooms....

- Kindergarten is very appreciative of School Council support. They have their Scientists in the School workshops booked, their eggs arriving for the new incubators, and they have brand new outdoor play equipment (balls, bean bags, sidewalk chalk, animals, ribbons, and mini sticks). Our students are going to be writing to the farmer (in French) to ask for eggs next week using persuasive language. They are excited to put the letters in the mail! Don't tell the students but the eggs arrive after Easter!
- For 2 weeks, April 15th to the 26th SPS will be participating in the Grab Bag Challenge! Many of you that had children here last year might remember the mountain of bags in Mrs. Takahashi's room! Our Eco Team members will be going around the school collecting bags daily.
- Grade 2 and grade 3 classes will be enjoying a musical performance here at SPS on Wednesday, April 24. Junkyard Symphony will be performing their Rhythm Explosion!

"A grand display of smashing percussion, Junkyard Symphony's Rhythm Explosion is an awesome adventure into beat, tempo, timing and the various rhythmical styles of music. Add in some talented drumming, big ball bowling and plenty of audience participation and what you get is a fantastic percussive performance on recycled instruments!"

- Walking/Running club takes place at first recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the gym for Grades 3 and 4. As the yard improves, we hope to be walking outside! Mrs. O'Halloran, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. Currah and Mme Tessier.
- All grade 3 & 4 students will have a 3 day workshop from the group Tradansa. The workshop will focus on French Canadian dance culture: Discover French Canadian dance and our culture's artistic traditions! This workshop inspires the participants to develop an appreciation and skill for both the dance and for the francophone language in its rich cultural context.
- The coding club for grade 4 students started on March 27 and happens every Wednesday and Thursday (Mme Sheppard and Mme Reed)
- City Councillor Glen Gower was at SPS last Friday, to speak to our Grade 5 students, because the Grade 5 Social Studies curriculum includes a unit on government. The presentation started with information about Ottawa's 23 wards, Stittsville's boundaries, responsibilities of city councillors and municipal services students use in their daily lives. The presentation concluded with a Q & A and wow, our students asked some really great questions! Some students even raised concerns about sidewalks and crosswalks along their walk to school. Later in the day, Councillor Gower tweeted about his visit to SPS too.

- Grade 5 EFI classes will be heading to the Science and Technology museum on April 16 for a workshop about bridge building.
- Track & Field will take place Tuesday, May 14th. A volunteer sign up link will be sent out shortly. We do require MANY volunteers to ensure the day runs smoothly and appreciate any time that families can spare to help.
- Grade 5/6 boys and girls are trying out for our basketball teams. The team will consist of 15 players. The tournaments will take place on April 29th and 30th.
- Grade 6 students have begun their Pay it Forward assignments and they are very, very eager to get started and spread awareness and possibly volunteer with a multitude of amazing organisations.

Mabel's Labels

mabel's labels

A great solution to reducing “lost forever” items is to label, label, label! Stittsville PS is registered with Mabel's Labels as a fundraiser. You can order a wide variety of label items which makes it so much easier to locate lost items and for items to make it back to their original owners. You can order through the link below:

<https://mabelslabels.com/support-a-fundraiser/>

School Cash Online



School Cash Online helps parents and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily. By using School Cash Online, you help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into your school's bank account. This allows teachers and office staff to focus on helping students, and not counting cash. Plus, you get to stay informed of your child's activities and needs!

You are now able to register – a simple task that takes less than five minutes – by visiting <https://ocdsb.schoolcashonline.com>. Visit www.ocdsb.ca if you'd like more information and to view frequently asked questions. Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 or email: parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com