



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

December 2018

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!

From all of us at SPS - best wishes to all of you for a safe and happy holiday break!

Kindergarten Registration and Parent Info night - coming soon!

Kindergarten registration week for the 2018-2019 school year is coming up soon from January 21 - 28, 2019. While you can register for Kindergarten anytime it is extremely helpful if registration takes place during registration week so that the OCDSB can ensure there are the appropriate number of classes, teachers and early childhood educators in place for September. If you know of any parents whose child will be turning 4 years old by Dec 31, 2019 please let them know about registration week and our **Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, January 17th at 6:30 pm at Stittsville Public School.**

Ottawa Public Health – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is required to maintain and review the immunization records for all students under 18 years of age attending a school in Ottawa, in accordance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act (Act). Under the Act, students must be immunized against: measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis and meningococcal disease. Children born in 2010 or after must also be immunized for varicella. For more information about immunizations required to attend a school in Ottawa, please visit:

www.parentinginottawa.ca/immunization.

Parents are required to report all immunizations done at the doctor's office to OPH. Under this Act, OPH has the authority to suspend from attending school students for whom OPH does not have a record of immunization. If your child's immunization records are not up to date with OPH parents will be sent a letter to notify them of the steps to take. **Please note that OPH will suspend students from attending school if the immunizations are not received and updated by the deadline on the letter.**

Acts of Kindness "Gotchas"

Lighting up SPS with Acts of Kindness

The time of year leading up to the winter holidays reminds many of lights and kindness, so we have been brightening our school with acts of kindness.

From **November 29 to December 21**, staff and students are highlighting acts of kindness by making a conscious effort to appreciate the little ways we help each other. We have cut out a number of shapes representing different forms of light and students will have opportunities to write out the ways their classmates have brightened their day. Students will be able to give the light to the peer that made their day better in order to acknowledge their kindness. These lights will be added to the string of lights that will hang in the lobby of our school. This school community-building event will be a fantastic authentic writing opportunity for students, but we are really looking forward to seeing students focus on the *acts of kindness* this holiday season!

Natalie Tessier and Virginia O'Halloran



November "Gotcha" Awards

GOTCHA program:

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

Congratulations to our November GOTCHA winners...

Or S. (Kinder)

Aloe (Grade 4)

Maveric (Kinder)

Razeen (Grade 6)

Leo (Kinder)

Rhiannon (Grade 6)

Ruby (Grade 2)

Patrick (Grade 2)

Levi (Grade 3)

Way to go!!!

Safe and Caring: Pedestrian Safety

In December we hosted pedestrian safety workshops for our students in kindergarten to grade 4. These workshops, offered by OSTA (Ottawa Student Transport Authority), will help our students understand their roles and responsibilities when walking about in our community as pedestrians. These workshops will also help promote greater awareness for personal safety and the support our on-going efforts to bolster student well-being at SPS.



Bus Cancellations

Because of the inevitability of inclement winter weather, school buses may run late at times. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run after school.** Therefore, [if you drop your child off at school in the morning, you must come and pick them up at the 3:00 p.m. dismissal.](#) The school remains open. Please listen to local radio stations after 7 a.m. for cancellations or check the OCDSB website or OSTA website.

Eco Club News – Help save our Planet!

Canadian households produce a lot of plastic waste during the year but during the holidays that quantity doubles. That is why SPS will be having a Plastics Drive in January! With help from Enactus uOttawa-Poly, a student-run organization that aims to address the growing problem of plastic pollution, we will be having an assembly in January to start our 1 week drive. Please save your plastic bags, as well as solid plastic products that have been cleaned of their contents. Please stay tuned for exact dates.

Mme Kupo, Mme Castonguay and the Eco Team student members.



Snow Days Dismissal Procedures



All students will gather in the gym at 2:55 pm. Students will sit in a line, by grade or by after school program. At 3:00 students who normally walk to and from school will be dismissed and then parents who walk their children home or pick them up can enter the gym and pick up their

child(ren). We ask for your patience while the classes make their way into the gym – parents can wait in the lobby area until the bell on snow days.

Please note: if parents drop off students in the morning they must be back to the school in time for our 3:00 dismissal.

OCDSB Weather Guidelines

Extreme Weather and Temperatures

At certain temperature thresholds, the risks of frostbite and other cold weather injuries and illnesses increase. The District receives frostbite advisories and frostbite warnings from the City of Ottawa, which are distributed to schools from the Associate Director's office. A frostbite warning is in effect when a wind chill of -25 degrees Celsius or colder is forecast for the Ottawa area. In the event of extreme cold conditions, alternative arrangements related to outdoor activities may need to be made for the protection of students and staff – for example indoors or shortened recesses, outdoor field trip cancellations and indoor gym.

Snow Forts and Snow Hills

We do our best at SPS to balance having fun at recess and keeping safe – a delicate balance, especially in the winter time.

We could use your help in reinforcing the safety rules that have been established in order for all students to have fun outside playing in the forts and on the hills. Snow forts in particular are challenging to manage due to students who don't follow the snow fort rules or who get upset with others who aren't following the rules. Please discuss with your child that if play is not going well they should use their WITS (see next section below for what WITS is) and be sure to get help before a situation leads to name calling, pushing, shoving or other physical interactions. Another recommended strategy is to change to another activity, move to a different area of the yard or join a different group of friends. Please review the snow fort and snow hill rules with your child(ren).

Snow Forts:

- 1- Everyone is allowed in a fort.
- 2- Once a fort has been built the boulders stay with that fort.
- 3- No taking boulders from other forts.
- 4- No breaking other people's forts.
- 5- If there are issues/problems in the forts, the teacher on yard duty will close the forts and ask you to play elsewhere.
- 6- Students who are having trouble following the rules will be asked to play on the pavement.

Sliding on the hills: Each grade will have a specific day to slide down the hills.

Rules:

1. Form a line
2. One at a time
3. Wait until the person who has just gone, clears out of the way
4. On your bottoms only
5. Students who can't follow the rules will be asked to play on the pavement.

What is WITS?

WITS (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek Help) is a research based program designed to reduce or eliminate peer victimization (bullying). Click on the link below for more information.

<https://witsprogram.ca/pdfs/schools/media-resources/using-your-wits-at-home-a-resource-for-parents.pdf>



Book Fair Success – and Thanks!

SPS Fall Book Fair was very successful. Kudos go to our Parent/Grandparent and Student volunteer squad. Our sincere thanks to all our volunteers for their support. The funds from our Book Fair will be used to enhance our Non-Fiction collection.

Our Book Fair addressed readers of all levels. There were Picture Books for younger readers, Chapter Books for older readers, Friendship Tales, Stories of Adventure and Survival, Fun Facts, Science and much more.

The excitement about the thought of selecting a book all by oneself with the money given by parents and the feeling of independence, resulted in countless heartwarming expressions caught on our student's faces. Simply Priceless!! May the Love of Reading prosper in all our students, for years to come.



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



A quick and secure way to pay for student items online

We are pleased to inform you that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board will now be offering School Cash Online as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including everything from field trips to yearbooks. **Our goal is to have over 90 percent of our families using School Cash Online – we are at 56% percent right now – help us reach our goal – register today!**

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.schoolcashionline.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@schoolcashionline.com