



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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December 2019

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 2019-2020 school year is coming up soon from January 20 - 27, 2020. 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, 2020 please let them know about registration week and our **Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Stittsville Public School.**

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 will be brightening our school with acts of kindness.

From **November 28 to December 20**, staff and students will highlight 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, Helen Catselis and Virginia O'Halloran

Board Games that promote Math Skills

If you are looking for ways to support your child with math at home, check out these non-digital ideas below - these are some great math games that the whole family can play:

Prime Climb - is great for children 10 and up

<https://primeclimbgame.com/>

Blokus - is another great math game that promotes, spatial reasoning and rotational geometry

<http://www.learnmathwithgames.com/2018/06/22/blokus/>

Tiny Polka game is great for those with children in K-3; older siblings can play with them

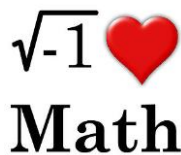
<https://tinypolkadot.com/> There is a guide for grown-ups on how to support the play

Other games that promote mental math skills.

If you have an old cribbage board game collecting dust in your house, get it out. Crib is a great game to develop mental math skills. The scoring of the making of 15 and counting to 31 with all the different card combination.

If you're a dart player, you know the skills needed to subtract for 501 down and the use of double and triple scores, along with combinations of numbers to get the needed scores.

Almost any board game can promote mental math skills, reasoning and strategy. This web site has a list of board games that support math learning and reasoning. <http://www.learnmathwithgames.com/> It also has a section on how each game connects to the Ontario Curriculum.



“Santa’s Seconds” Reminder

A reminder that the “**Santa’s Seconds**” event will be held on **Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

This initiative is designed to provide all students in our school the opportunity to “shop” for the holiday season for family, friends and loved ones. This is also a great opportunity for the students of Stittsville Public School to give back to their local community.

This year the money raised will be donated to a couple of local charities. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$1000.00 for each charity.

To this end, we are asking the SPS community to donate “**gently used or new**” items for our sale. Suggestions include toys, jewellery, books, puzzles, games, crafts and housewares. We are always in need of extra items for moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas. Also this year we **WILL** be accepting bath products (body/hand cream, bath soap, etc.) We respectfully ask that you do not send in any stuffies or aerosol sprays/perfumes. We are counting on your donations, so that all students can participate in this holiday shopping event. Once the number of donations is determined, we will assess the number of items each child can purchase. **All gifts will cost \$1.00.**



November “Gotcha” Awards

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

Miththiran	JK (Kerwin/Canthal)
Olivia	Grade 1 (Aristotle)
Jacob	Grade 1 (Castonguay)
Leighton	Grade 3 (Doherty)
Alyssa	Grade 3 (Doherty)
Neerav	Grade 4 (Kupo)
James	Grade 4 (Labelle)
Mackenzie	Grade 5 (Slewidge)
Raya	Grade 6 (Cuffari)

Congratulations to our November **GOTCHA** winners... [Way to go!!!](#)

Safe and Caring: Pedestrian Safety

Many classes participated in the Ottawa Safety Council Pedestrian Safety presentations in November.



Ottawa Student Transportation Authority – Looking to Hire School Bus Drivers

Ottawa is experiencing a school bus driver shortage. To build capacity in our market, a new School Bus Driver Preparatory Course has been developed in partnership with OCSB, OSTA and local operators.

The School Bus Driver Preparatory Course is designed to prepare potential candidates to successfully complete training with local school bus operators. The course covers essential certificates like First Aid, Health and Safety and WHMIS; basic school bus terminology and vehicle components; student behaviour management and sensitivity-training; a ride-along with a professional bus driver/trainer; a tour of dispatch and garage operations; and includes the opportunity to book an interview with potential employers in the Ottawa market.



“Me to We” Club – Fundraising Success!

Our Rafiki sales were incredible this year! This is a testament to our caring, kind community. During our four-day sale, we sold over 200 rafikis which means we raised over \$2000 for charity! (*Each bracelet was \$10). The students were full of smiles as they placed their orders!

33 food rafikis
47 water rafikis
24 health rafikis
55 education rafikis (black beads)
17 education rafikis (yellow beads)
27 opportunity rafikis

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.

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

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.

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? A Bullying Prevention and Intervention Program

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>



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 all of our families using School Cash Online — 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.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