



## STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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**Principal:** Catherine Donnelly  
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**School Website:** <http://stittsvilleps.ocdsb.ca>  
**Board Website:** <http://www.ocdsb.on.ca>

### February 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](mailto:catherine.donnelly@ocdsb.ca) - I would be happy to connect!

We experienced a record amount of snowfall in January and some record temperatures this year so far, resulting in a lot of indoor recesses. We are hoping for somewhat warmer weather ahead! I know parents sometimes wonder how weather decisions for recesses are made. We do check the wind chill and temperature each morning on the Environment Canada website and right before the first and second recess and whenever there is a weather advisory issued by Ottawa Public Health, and then we follow the Board policy regarding the applicable weather conditions. Another challenge we face in the winter is ice - both on the pavement and on the yard. Despite grit and salt there are times where it is not safe for students to be out due to icy conditions. If the yard is icy but the pavement is fine we have created a system whereby half of the students go out at each recess and play on the pavement area. We also do our best to educate (and encourage) students to dress appropriately for the weather (a challenging job for teachers and parents both!)

With Term 1 report cards sent home last week, you may have questions about what you can do to support your child with their progress. The report card provides information on student strengths and next steps and you are always welcome to contact your child's teachers as well. At home, reviewing the report card with your child, and helping them set goals for term 2, supports the school/home efforts to help students succeed.

Don't forget about the upcoming School Council sponsored Family Science/Math night with Scientists in Schools – **Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**. There is no cost to attend but please return the RSVP slip from the flyer that went home earlier this month. Hope to see you there!

Pink Shirt Day – Feb 27th

We look forward to celebrating Pink Shirt Day on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – a day to support anti-bullying in our society. Wear some pink to show your support!



*OCDSB Education Foundation – Toonie Tuesday Fundraiser*



**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**You can donate through School Cash Online! Instructions on how to sign up for School Cash On-line are included at the end of this newsletter.**

- When kids come to our schools with hungry tummies, we help feed them.
- When they can't afford winter boots or a coat, we find them warmth for the winter.
- When kids don't have a backpack full of supplies for school, we provide them.

More than 15,000 students in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) live in poverty. Every day these students come to school without vital medication, are hungry and do not have warm winter clothes due to socio-economic challenges out of their control.

The **Education Foundation of Ottawa (EFO)**, an independent charity, works with the OCDSB to help provide these students with the tools they need to learn and grow. We cannot do this alone. We need your help.

Now you can help too through our Toonie Tuesday fundraiser.

## January “Gotcha” awards

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

Emma A. (Grade 1)

Jesse (Grade 2)

Lily(Grade 3)

Zoe (Grade 3)

Fiona (grade 4)

Yousef (grade 4)

Anna (grade 5)

Musa (grade 6)

Zalanda (grade 6)

Congratulations to our January GOTCHA winners...Way to go!!!

## Safe and Caring: Student Well Being Plan

The committee met in January to review how the plan is going and below is an update on some of the initiatives/activities included in this year’s plan:

- The “Week of Inspirational Math” launched the year with growth mindset messages
- A student led math assembly with the theme of [#math4every1](#).
- December’s “Kindness” and January’s “Cooperation/W.I.T.S.” themes highlighted both the OCDSB community of character and bullying prevention strategies
- Student council students enjoyed going into classrooms to read aloud to younger classes about W.I.T.S. themes.
- Proud to Be Me Buddy Bench grant for kindergarten yard
- Collaborative Problem Solving presentation on PA day for staff
- Student announcements and activities during Bullying Prevention week
- School Council Pink Shirt Campaign
- Social Justice initiatives – Me to We and Pay it Forward
- Bus and pedestrian safety awareness
- Goulbourn Jubilee and Teens choir presentation – “A Better World”
- Cooligan Martial Arts presentation
- An Anti-bullying presentation funded by School Council
- ...and much more!

## Middle French Immersion Program registration period

### Middle French Immersion Registration Period - February 11th-19<sup>th</sup>

Middle French Immersion starts in grade 4. If your child has completed the grade 3 English/Core French Program, together you can choose to enter your child in the Middle French Immersion Program which is located at A. Lorne Cassidy ES. Please let us know if you are choosing that program for your child.

## Eco Club News - Help Save our Planet!

Students from Enactus University of Ottawa will be visiting Stittsville Public School on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Enactus University of Ottawa is a student run organization that creates and operates social enterprises and programs across Ottawa and beyond. They are currently conducting workshops in schools to educate students on the issue of plastic waste and their business solution to this issue.

Stittsville Public School will be taking part in a plastic recycle challenge following the presentation and workshops. Please see the attached flyer for the full details.



## 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.schoolcashionline.com>. Visit [www.ocdsb.ca](http://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](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com)

**Our goal is to have over 90 percent of our families using School Cash Online – we are at 58% percent right now – help us reach our goal – register today!**

## News from the Classrooms.....

- Grade 5 classes recently enjoyed some beautiful days going Cross-Country skiing at the Bill Mason Centre.
- Knitting & Crochet Club continues to meet on Friday mornings. We have recently had a few new members join, and now students are teaching and helping other students to learn to knit!
- Triple Ball has begun for Grades 5 & 6 students. Triple ball is a modified form of volleyball which promotes the development of both volleyball skills and the strategy of the game. The girls will attend a tournament February 27th and the boys on March 15th.
- On Thursday, February 7th, each grade 2 class had a presentation on Chinese New Year's in the Library with Mrs. Lam (our former librarian). Mrs. Lam discussed the food, clothing, celebrations (how to prepare and what they do on Chinese New Year) as it is a 15 day celebration. The children were very intrigued with her dragon that you would see in parades. The children all went home with a red envelope and fortune cookie.
- Intramural Scooter ball for grades 3 & 4 has begun. It takes place every Tuesday and Thursday.
- In conjunction with the Safe and Caring Schools committee planning, some grade six students went to visit various classes for a read-aloud of the book "Say Something" by Peggy Moss. The goal of this as to encourage the love of reading, and to bring some attention to a wonderful W.I.T.S. book. **A brief synopsis of the book is:** "A girl witnesses some children being ignored, teased and bullied at school. Although she watches these incidents, she never does these things herself. When one day she becomes the target of teasing, she realizes that being a silent bystander isn't enough". This was very well received by teachers and students. The Grade 6 students also very much enjoyed visiting the other classes in the school!
- Santa's Seconds Assembly: Representatives from two of the three receiving organisations came to the school. They not only received their cheques in front of all of the students in the school, but they also made student-friendly presentations about what their organisations do. It was wonderful for the students to understand on a deeper level where the money was sent, and who it is benefiting.
- Mrs. Goodyear's Grade Sixes visited Mrs. Kerwin's Grade Ones to teach them how to play several math games!

"We had a little visit for our big kid friends. Math games they brought, to no end!

They taught us well, what to play. Grade one math last Wednesday!

We had a ball with Mrs. Goodyear's kids. They were patient and didn't flip their lids!

We rolled the dice, we counted a lot. We added together, then wrote it on the spot!"

Mrs. Kerwin for Grade One Math to French Immersion

