



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

June 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!

A big thank you to School Council for organizing another amazing Fun Fair! It was great to see so many of our families enjoy the evening - thank you to the many volunteers who make this event possible.

The Fun Fair is a great way to celebrate the end of another year of school and before you know it our next school year will be starting. Check out our *First Day of School* procedures on the next page.

Please note: All Year 1 Kindergarten students will start school on Thursday, September 5, 2019. Year 2 Kindergarten students who attend Andrew Fleck Daycare will start on Thursday, September 5, 2019. All other Year 2 Kindergarten students will begin attending on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Our office reopens on Monday August 26, 2019. From all of us at SPS we wish you a safe and happy summer!

Goodbye to Mrs. Sembi

We are very sad to say goodbye to Mrs. Sembi who is leaving to move all the way across the country! Our library won't be the same and we want to thank her for all she has contributed to SPS and the love of reading!



First Day of School Procedures

First Day Procedures – **Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019**

ARRIVAL

Students will come to school, arriving between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m.:

- **Grade 1 students** who walk or are driven will say goodbye to family at the front door and, along with the bus students, enter through the front doors and go to the Kindergarten playground. Staff will be waiting to bring them to the playground. We respectfully ask that families do not enter the school – this helps greatly with ensuring security and a smooth entry process.
- **Grades 2, 3 and 4 students** will follow the same process but proceed to the gym.
- **Grades 5 and 6 students** will follow the same process but head to the second floor foyer.

In the gym and the second floor foyer, teachers will be waiting in front of a sign on the wall with their name and program (English or French Immersion). Students will find the teacher with the appropriate grade and program and will be organized into their classes. Homeroom teachers will take their students to their new classrooms. Support staff will be available to assist students who require help with finding their teacher.

*If you have a student starting **Junior or Senior Kindergarten**, classes do not start on **Tuesday, September 3rd**. For Junior Kindergarten students and Senior Kindergarten students, who are NEW to Stittsville PS, please consult your intake date on the letter you receive at the end of June from the main office.

All Year 1 Kindergarten students will start school on Thursday, September 5, 2019. Year 2 Kindergarten students who attend Andrew Fleck Daycare will also start on Thursday, September 5, 2019. All other Year 2 Kindergarten students will begin attending on Friday, September 6, 2019.

DISMISSAL:

Students who walk with a parent/guardian or get a drive home from school will meet their parents/guardians at 3:00 p.m. in the gym from **Tuesday, September 3rd until Friday, September 6th, 2019**. All other walkers will dismiss from the gym at 3:00 pm and walk home. Bus students will go to their assigned bus. Starting the week of **September 9th**, students who are picked up by a parent/caregiver, can meet at one of the entry points to the school as arranged by parents - for example the front of the school, the bike racks, the north and south pathways. We ask that parents do not wait on the yard or in the school as it interferes with traffic flow and the safety protocols for the before and after school daycare program.

For students who take the bus, information about your pick up location and time on **September 3rd, 2019**, use the “**Stop Finder**” located on the main page of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority website: www.ottawaschoolbus.ca The stop finder will link to the “**BusPlanner – Parent Portal**”. The parent enters the student’s last name, date of birth, school and grade in

order to access route and stop information. Route information will be available to parents as of mid-August.

Busing

We ask that parents do not drive their children to school on the first day if they normally take the bus. Our ability to ensure that students get on the right bus at the end of the day is directly linked with the system we have in place for their arrival on the buses in the morning. Our staff and a team of volunteers will be greeting students as they arrive off of the buses. When the students get off the bus we write their bus number on their hand as a double check that they are on the correct bus at the end of the day. If your child is on a different bus at the end of the day we will mark the end of day bus number on their hand during the day.

Lunch preparation for independent eaters!

Families of primary students (especially grade 1s) please practice using and opening all of the lunch items and containers your child will be bringing to school so they can access their food independently. Unlike in kindergarten, where there is an adult in each classroom during eating time, starting in grade 1, a teacher supervises several classes.



Fundraising and School Fees

Our school does not ask for a voluntary school fee but we do want parents to know that there are events and activities that are organized to enhance the learning in the classroom. Although field trips are a voluntary activity that teachers take on, typically there are about 2 class field trips a year. We try to keep costs under \$20 per trip to keep these activities reasonable and achievable for all and to manage the amount of time students are out of the classroom. We also bring in many activities at either no cost to parents/guardians or for a nominal fee or with the support of School Council. Our school also participates in a variety of fundraisers that support local and global communities.

Medication

On the last day of school parents are asked to pick up any oral medications stored in the office. For safety reasons, we will not return oral medication to your child to bring home at the end of the year. For those parents of children with a medical condition or who require medication during the school day, forms need to be newly completed by your physician and brought into the school office, along with the medications.

Students with Epi-pens and inhalers will bring home devices on the last day of school. New forms are required for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. You can pick up copies of the forms at the school office and they are also available on the school website. Please drop off completed forms to the office the week before school - August 26th to 30th, 2019. Thank you for your cooperation.

Safe and Caring Committee

Many students in our school community have life-threatening allergies to food products such as peanuts and tree nuts. The implementation of Sabrina's Law in May 2005 requires that we take all reasonable precautions to support and protect students with these allergies. In a classroom setting, cross-contamination is the greatest risk from this type of allergy. Cross-contamination is when a few crumbs from one child's snack are dropped and then picked up by an allergic child. ***Even a small amount can kill.***

When coming back to school in September, please check the ingredients of all foods your children bring to school to ensure they are peanut and tree nut free.

In addition to the above, there are some classes that will have a child(ren) with other allergies and for those classes a notice indicating the allergen will be sent home on the first day of school.



May and June Gotcha Awards

Congratulations to... For being Gotcha winners for **May & June.**

Sebastian (JK)
Kayson (JK)
Medhini (Sk)
Dexter (grade 1)
Eliana (grade 1)
Kyla M. (grade 1)
Evangeline (grade 2)
Maddie (grade 3)
Austin R. (grade 3)
Payton (Grade 4)
Samantha (grade 5)
Jasmine (grade 5)
Gabriela (grade 5)
Ellie (grade 5)
Caleb (grade 6)

Way to go!

A special thank you to our parent volunteer, Monica Viktora, who volunteers her time every month to help organize the GOTCHA program.

Virginia O'Halloran

Pedestrian Safety

Bus Loading/Unloading Zone

Buses load and unload in the half loop in front of the school. To ensure student safety, passenger vehicles are not permitted in this area between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.



“Kiss and Ride”

In the other parking lot there is a drop off zone where parents who drive their children to school can stop, help their child out of the car, and wave goodbye at the curb. To ensure safety at this very busy time of day you cannot leave your car and we ask that you move on as soon as your child is unloaded. **Please note that as a last resort, if there is a situation where this process is repeatedly not followed, a letter will be sent home and if there are further challenges, a trespass notice.** If you want to walk your child to the front door (kindergarten only) or a gate to the yard (grades 1-6), please park nearby or in the parking lot and then say goodbye to your child at the appropriate entry point. For kindergarten students there is an early childhood educator at the front entrance of the school and inside to guide kindergarten students to the kindergarten yard. All other students (grades 1-6) are to go around the school (not through the front door) to the yard and enter at the bell through their assigned entry doors.

These systems are in place to manage the safety of almost 700 students entering and exiting each day and while we appreciate that some parents want to accompany their child into the school this interferes with safety protocols and we respectfully ask that you say goodbye outside and wait outside at the end of day.



School Bus Information

www.ottawaschoolbus.ca

2019-20 Student Transportation Information:

Route information will be available to parents as of **August 19, 2019** via the online Parent Web Portal. Schools may have access to some routes prior to this date, through the school web portal.

Student Transportation Information can also be found using the **“Stop Finder”** located on the main page of our website, which will link to the **“BusPlanner - Parent Portal”**. The parent must enter the student’s last name, birthdate, school and grade in order to access route and stop information.

Kindergarten Staggered Entry and ID

School bus routes are planned according to the number of registered students in the data system from May to July. We continue to make changes in transportation throughout school start up. Routes are driven as planned as of the first day of school in September and drivers will stop at each stop, regardless of whether KG students are beginning that day or whether they are beginning later on in the week.

Please remind parents of new and returning KG students that they **MUST** make arrangements to have the **SAME** person meet their child at their stop every afternoon. Parents may identify one alternate person only. Failure to meet their child may result in termination of transportation services and/or their child being dropped off at the nearest police station.

School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day

School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day (First Rider Program) has been expanded and will run on **Sunday, August 25, 2019**. This important safety program is geared primarily for parents and children new to school bus transportation and/or who walk to school, although all elementary students are welcome to attend. Families can register online or call to attend one of the following sites:

Parents/Guardians can find more information on School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day on our website at <http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/helpful-resources/school-bus-pedestrian-safety-day/>. A flyer is attached for your convenience.

Lost and Found

There are a number of clothing and other items in the Lost and Found. All items that are not claimed by June 28th will be donated to a charity.



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 come in to register at their earliest convenience. Give us a call, and we will be pleased to guide you through the registration process.



Register All Summer Long!

New - Register All Summer Long!

Over the summer you can register all summer long at the OCDSB Administration Building at 133 Greenbank Road.

Please call the Admissions Department at **613-596-8730** to make an appointment. Please bring your child's proof of age and address, and health card to register.

If English is not your first language, you are new to Canada, returning from abroad or from a French language school board, please call our Family Reception Centre at **613-239-2416** to make an appointment.

For more information please visit the [OCDSB website](#).

Voluntary School Supplies

OCDSB SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has developed a common list of recommended personal use items for students in grades JK-3 and grades 4-8. This list of supplies is strictly voluntary; parents/guardians are not required to purchase or provide the items listed. As a result, it is a parent/guardian's choice to send the following items for use by their child for the first day of school in September.

- 12 pencils
- 2 erasers (preferably white)
- 1 package of crayons
- 1 package of coloured markers
- 1 metric ruler
- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- 2 glue sticks.

OCDSB SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST Grade 4 to Grade 8

- 12 pencils
- 2 erasers (preferably white)
- 1 metric ruler
- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- 2 glue sticks
- 3 ballpoint pens
- 1 package of coloured pencils
- 2 packages of 3-hole lined refill paper
- 6 duotangs
- 1 package of coloured markers

1 calculator
6 lined notebooks
2 highlighters

Parents may also choose to provide:

1 geometry set
3 binders
binder dividers

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

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