



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

March 2019

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!

April is World Autism Awareness month and the District will be celebrating Autism Awareness Day on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder that affects one in 66 children. It affects the way people interact and communicate with those around them. Each child and adult with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is unique and has their own strengths, gifts and needs. SPS is pleased to participate in celebrating the diversity of our students as we continue to promote inclusion and acceptance in our school.

Planning for Next Year begins soon!

It is at this time of year that we begin to plan for the next school year- everything from projecting how many students we anticipate will arrive, to how many teachers and other staff we will need, to creating a fundraising plan for the year, scheduling school events such as photo day and meet the teacher and much more!

Class Placements

Over the next few weeks we will begin the important and complex task of assigning learners to classes for September. When our staff meets, they consider many different criteria, for example: academic abilities, learning styles, work habits, social, emotional, behavioural and special learning needs, gender ratios and group dynamics. If you have any information that you would like to share with us to help with this placement, please send in writing to the principal, **no later than April 5th, 2019.** Considerable time, thought and expertise go into deciding the best placement for each student and the determining factors centre around what is best for student learning. Requests for specific teachers are not considered in the placement process.

EQAO Dates for 2019 – Grades 3 and 6

Our grade 3 and 6 students will be participating in EQAO provincial testing in reading, writing and mathematics during the period from **May 21 to June 3, 2019**. We ask your cooperation with not scheduling non-emergency medical, dental and other appointments or holidays during this period of time. EQAO results provide our school with valuable information about each student's progress as well as school wide progress so we benefit greatly from maximum student participation.

Goulbourn Middle School Family Night – Wed Mar 27th – Free!

The Goulbourn Middle School Greyhounds invite you and your family to our **FAMILY STEAM** (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATH) NIGHT!

WHEN: Wednesday March 27, 2019

TIME: PIZZA AT 5:30 **ACTIVITIES RUN FROM 6-7 PM**

WHERE: GOULBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHO: THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE IN GRADES K-8.

PLEASE RSVP AT:

<https://goo.gl/forms/28w5nFUzASEFCBdj2>



Community Fundraiser for SPS Family

A fundraiser has been organized to support *Marcie Stevens* who was one of the unfortunate victims of the Westboro Station, OC Transpo double-decker bus accident that happened in January.

There will be a family fundraiser "MARCIE STEVENS -- DONATE TO SKATE" on SATURDAY MARCH 30 FROM 6-7PM at the BELL SENSPLEX.

Cash and Cheque donations will be accepted for the Stevens family at this event. If your child plays hockey or ringette, please wear your jersey. Please promote this event to friends in our community.

Kindergarten Registration for September 2019

While you can register for Kindergarten anytime it is extremely helpful if registration takes place before April 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 they can register on-line or by dropping in to our school during office hours: 7:45 am to 3:45 pm.



Safe and Caring – Goulbourn Choir to visit SPS

Artistic Director of the community choir Goulbourn Jubilee Singers, Linda Crawford, and the Junior Jubilees and Teens choir will be visiting Stittsville in April! Their organization has been offering an opportunity for residents of Stittsville, Richmond, Munster, West Carleton, Nepean, and Kanata a chance to come together to share the power of choral music, for over 40 years! They currently have three ensembles: The Junior Jubilees (ages 7-14), the Teens (ages 12-16) and the Adults (ages 17 and up!) and they rehearse every Wednesday, in Kanata.

The **Junior Jubilees and Teens** will be performing a **FREE** short programme (approximately 30-minutes) for our school population, as part of their 5th annual school tour. This year's theme is **“Songs for a Better World”**. It will feature songs from many different countries and traditions, focusing on mutual cultural understanding and peace. The children will be singing in English, French, Arabic, and Hebrew! The concert provides students with an opportunity to see other children from across their community joining together in song.

Singing in a choir teaches youth the importance of good teamwork, and develops concentration and problem-solving skills. A good community youth choir brings together children from many different schools, and unites them in a safe, collaborative and empowering environment. For many children, singing in a community choir can be a life-changing experience!



February “Gotcha” Awards

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

Mei (grade 1)

Cale(grade 1)

Allie (grade 1)

Summer (grade 3)

Elsie (grade 3)

Jacob (grade 4)

Ryan (grade 4)

Arkan (grade 4)

Cienna (grade 5)

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

Yard Conditions

It has been another tough year for yard conditions – with the freeze-thaw cycle our field has been like an ice-rink and will soon be a mudpond! When these conditions occur we are required to close the field for safety reasons and if the pavement is also ice covered it can result in an indoor recess. When the pavement is free of ice we are rotating outside time with the primary classes having recess outside on the pavement for one recess and the junior classes outside for the other. Teachers also take classes out during the day for some fresh air. Spring is just around the corner and we look forward to having our full grounds available for play soon!



Ottawa Public Health Dental Screening

Lucy Charbonneau, a registered dental hygienist with Ottawa Public Health, will provide a dental screening using a tongue depressor on April 30 & May 1, 2019*, for grades JK, SK, 2 and other children as necessary. If your child’s grade is not selected, but you wish for the dental hygienist to see him/her, please advise the school. All children screened will bring home a report. Follow-up school visits by the dental hygienist for individual children may be done. The screening helps identify children with oral problems, dental needs and pain. Free dental care may

be possible, if eligible. THE SCREENING DOES NOT REPLACE REGULAR DENTAL VISITS WITH YOUR FAMILY DENTIST.

* Some date(s) may be subject to change

This dental screening is provided in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards from Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Personal and personal health information collected during the screenings will be used for the purposes of delivering, administering and managing screening services and for statistical purposes provided under Sections 5 and 7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (as amended) and the Ontario Public Health Standards (2018). Information may be used and shared among Ottawa Public Health authorized employees in the provision of dental screening services. Questions concerning the dental screening, the collection and use of this information or if you want to have your child excluded, call the Supervisor of Dental Health Promotion, Ottawa Public Health, 400-1580 Merivale Rd., Ottawa, ON, tel.: 613-580-2424 ext 26376.



Weekly OCDSB Newsletter

The OCDSB Communications department sends out a weekly update to parents by email. There are many useful links and information included and a great way to keep up to date on what is happening in the OCDSB.



News From the Classrooms....

February News

- Grade 5 classes 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!
- Grade 5 & 6 students' triple ball took place in February. Triple ball is a modified form of volleyball which promotes the development of both volleyball skills and the strategy of the game.

- On Thursday, February 7th, each class had a presentation on Chinese New Years 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 Scooterball for grades 3 & 4 was organized on Tuesdays and Thursdays in February.
- In conjunction with the Safe and Caring Schools work, 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 would be to encourage the love of reading, and to bring some attention to a wonderful WITS 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.

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!

Many thanks to Mrs. Goodyear's Grade Sixes for teaching us to play these Math Games! We can't wait for the next run! Mrs. Kerwin for Grade One Math to French Immersion

March News

- Grade one students had Artist Kate in for a workshop before the March Break to paint with the students. It was a great success!

- 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. This will take place from **April 9-11 in the gym.**
- Track & Field Day will be held on Tuesday, May 14th with the rain date on Wednesday, May 15th. All grade 3-6 students will participate as part of their physical education curriculum. It is a fun filled day. We will need volunteers to make this event run smoothly. Please note that 2 of the long distance running events will have tryouts the week before. The Regional Meet will be held at Earl of March High School on Tuesday, June 11th.
- Grade 5 and 6 members of Student Council will be participating in a full-day Leadership Camp this Thursday. It will be in the library and there will be various team-building and leadership activities planned for the students throughout the day.
- Grade 6 students' Pay it Forward Project will be beginning soon. Teachers will be meeting with students collectively as a Grade 6 team to introduce the project and outline how they can get involved in their society to help encourage them to become more socially aware and active. As we have done in past year, we do not require students to fundraise at all, but rather we ask them to become experts about an organisation and then discuss it in front of their peers and in front of the school in a Fair that happens in June where parents and other grades are invited to celebrate the great organisations that make our world wonderful.

Drummers were drumming from far and wide,
 Along the Stittsville countryside.
 Yes, they were the little Grade Ones.
 You could hear them parumpapapum!

Thank-you to parent council , it's clear,
 For helping to fund our musicians dear!
 They learned all about different sounds.
 They were engaged, all abound!

The library was full of lovely tapping.
 Following the beat, made it happening!
 It was a wonderful musical day.
 Thank-you again for letting us play!

With much appreciation from our Grade One Team.
 Mrs. Kerwin

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