



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

October 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!

It is hard to believe that we have over a month of school behind us already! September was a busy month with students settling into their new classes and participating in a lot of learning and fun! We also spent time reviewing our school rules and routines that help keep us safe. We started with a school wide assembly and continue to follow up at the classroom level with each class establishing class rules and routines.

We welcome parent help in supporting our safety efforts, especially with regard to transportation. Talking to your child about the importance of following the bus safety rules (i.e. sitting down in the seat, talking quietly, keeping hands and feet to oneself and listening to and being respectful of the driver) reinforces the school expectations for appropriate bus behavior.

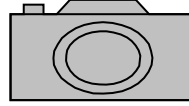
For parents who drive their child to and/or from school we need your cooperation in making sure you do not drive in the bus loop when the buses are waiting or loading, and to be sure to park your car in a parking spot if you plan on bringing your child into the school. The drop off/pick up loop is intended to be like a “kiss and go” area where you unload your child, say goodbye at the sidewalk and students walk in on their own. For our kindergarten students there is an Early Childhood Educator outside the front doors of the school to watch kindergarten students come in and to direct them to the kindergarten yard.

We have conducted three fire drills this fall with three more scheduled in the spring. We also practice our “lockdown” and “secure school” procedures twice each year so that students and staff are familiar with the process. Further information about the different types of procedures for emergencies can be found in the following pages.

Thank you for your efforts in support of student safety!

Photo Retake Day is November 1st

Our photo retake day is scheduled for November 1st in case your child was absent on photo day or, after receiving your photo proofs, you would like a retake.



Media Permission Form/Acceptable Use of Technology Form

If you haven't already, please complete the media permission form and acceptable use of technology form that can be accessed through the following links:

<https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/Media-School-Website-Consent-Form>

<https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/Use-of-Technology>

On-line Interview Booking coming in November

NEW!

This year we will be moving to an on-line interview booking system for the November 22nd and 23rd interview days. More news on how the system will work and how it can be accessed will be sent with the progress reports that go home on November 8th.

Orange Shirt Day

SPS celebrated Orange Shirt Day on September 28. This day marks the recognition that years ago, the Canadian government believed that Indigenous children should give up their culture and language. In order to make this happen, Indigenous children were taken from their families and sent to live in schools where they could only speak English (or French). Children missed their families and forgot how to speak their language. Today, we know that what the government did years ago was wrong, and we wear orange to remember those children and to remind us that it is okay to keep our traditions. More information on Orange Shirt Day can be found at:

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>



Terry Fox Walk

On Thursday, September 27th, SPS students, staff and families supported cancer research through the Terry Fox walk/run. Thank you to all families who donated for this important cause. Donations can still be made at the following link:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/StittsvillePSSStittsville>



Extra-Curricular Activities

- The girls and boys soccer teams enjoyed beautiful weather for their tournaments on October 9th and 10th. Fun was had by all and our students were great ambassadors for SPS!
- The cross country team will be off to their meet on October 23rd. This is one of our largest teams with over 85 students participating this year.
- The “Me to We” group is up and running with ideas on contributing to our local and world communities and they are starting with a Food Drive – details further on in the newsletter.
- Student council has been formed and is working on several initiatives for this year, including helping with our Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Our Eco-Club will be getting started in the coming weeks.
- Mrs. Sembi’s library helpers are busy already with helping to re-shelve books that come in daily.

Bus Safety

As part of our Safe and Caring work (student wellness plan) we have arranged for school bus safety presentations and a bus evacuation drill for all students. The programs were designed to provide Primary (JK-Grade 3) and Junior/Intermediate (Grade 4 – Grade 8) students in Ontario with training on how to be safe in and around a school bus. Such training is designed to actively promote and support appropriate student behaviour and contribute to a positive school climate.



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/>

Student Accident Insurance

Student Accident Insurance

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Parents may apply online at www.insuremykids.com, forms may be downloaded at www.binks.ca or hard copies may be picked up from the school office.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. If your child is involved in school related sports activities or is participating in any field trips out of the province you may wish to seriously consider the coverage options, which range from \$13.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

“Gotcha” Awards

GOTCHA program:

Once again, we will continue our “Gotcha!” program. Students caught displaying exceptional positive character are given a “Gotcha” and recognized for promoting a positive school climate. Congratulations to

Aleena P. (SK)

Marielle O. (Kindergarten)

Jemma A. (Kindergarten)

Calla C. (Grade 6)

Tyson O. (Grade 6)

Ansara D. (Grade 3)

Cadence L. (Grade 3)

Elena T. (Grade 3)

Aislinn M. (Grade 4)

...for being Gotcha winners for September. Way to go!!! A special thank you to our parent volunteer, Monica Viktora. Each month she volunteers her time to help organize the GOTCHA program.



Ministry of Education News

The Minister of Education has released a new elementary curriculum for **Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8 (2018)**. This curriculum includes *content for all strands and topics except the Growth and Development component of the Healthy Living strand, which is taken from the 1998 curriculum*. The Board of Trustees wrote to the Minister of Education to reiterate the importance of ensuring learning opportunities for students about healthy relationships, consent, online safety and mental health.

Our teachers will be developing lesson plans based on the expectations in the new curriculum and will continue to communicate with parents/guardians about what their children are learning and when various topics are to be addressed. For example, as per current practice, teachers will provide parents/guardians with a letter indicating the topics pertaining to the Growth and Development strand based on the expectations in the **Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8 (2018)**.

The OCDSB has a strong commitment to equity and to creating safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments. Our classrooms and schools will continue to reflect and support equity and diversity and actively create and provide an inclusive, safe and caring learning environment for all students and staff. For example learning resources will continue to reflect diversity and representation of our families and communities; schools will continue to support clubs and activities such as the Rainbow Youth Forum.

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.

Remembrance Day

We invite you to join us for our Remembrance Day ceremony being held on, Monday, November 12 at 11:30 am.



Me to We Group – Food Drive, Oct 15th to 19th

During the week of Monday, October 15th to Friday, October 19th the SPS *Me to We Group* will be collecting donations of non-perishable goods for families of students at Knoxdale Public School and Manordale Public School. Many families in this area were impacted by the tornado that struck the Arlington Woods and Craig Henry area.

Students and families who wish to donate are kindly asked to bring healthy non-perishable good(s) to school during those days and representatives of the group will come to collect them from their classes.

*We kindly ask that you please check the expiration dates on the bottom of the cans before sending them into school **“Please check the date before you donate.”***

Thank you very much for supporting the Me to We Group and our local O.C.D.S.B. sister schools.

The SPS Me to We Group

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 43% 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.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

Emergency Response Procedures

The OCDSB has several emergency response procedures, in addition to fire alarm procedures and evacuation plans, which can be implemented in response to a variety of situations. A “Shelter in Place” may be called in response to an emergency or threat that is occurring outside of the school/site building. A “Secure School” procedure may be called in response to external emergencies, possible or developing threats, hazards in the hallways and medical emergencies. A “Lockdown” procedure would be used in response to situations where there is an active, immediate threat to life. Students practice a lockdown procedure, followed by a secure school procedure, twice per school year.