



STITTSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Superintendent: Shawn Lehman

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Building Custodian: Peter Hammell

School Website: <http://stittsvilleps.ocdsb.ca>

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

September 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 contact your child’s teacher or give me a call at 613-836-2818 or send an e-mail to catherine.donnelly@ocdsb.ca - I would be happy to connect!

September is a busy month with students settling into their new classes and participating in a lot of learning and fun! We also spend time reviewing our school rules and routines that help keep us safe.

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 thank you for your cooperation in making sure you do not drive in the bus loop when the buses are waiting or loading. The drop off/pick up loop in the main parking area is intended to be like a “kiss and go” area where you drop off your child and students walk to the yard 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 noticed that the traffic flow is much smoother and safer this year – thank you all!

We will soon be conducting our first of three fire drills this fall with three more scheduled in the spring. We also practice our “lockdown” and “secure school” and “shelter in place” 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!

NEW! Reporting your child's absence

To help make our safe arrival program more efficient we have a new way to report student absences this year:

In addition to our 24 hour attendance line 613-836-2818, SPS has created an email address for parents to report their children's absences and lates. You can now send an email to: absentsps@ocdsb.ca to report when your child will be absent or late from school. Please include your [child's full name and the reason for the absence.](#)

Whether you choose to call or email, please report absences and lates prior to 8:30am.

Our New Strategic Plan

Building Brighter Futures Together at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Check out the OCDSB's strategic plan based on the pillars below. For a look at the full plan please visit the OCDSB website at www.ocdsb.ca



CULTURE OF INNOVATION

We will build a learning community where innovation and inquiry drive learning.



CULTURE OF CARING

We will advance equity and a sense of belonging to promote a safe and caring community.



CULTURE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We will strengthen our community through ethical leadership, equitable practice, and responsible stewardship.

Terry Fox Walk

On Thursday, September 26th (rain date Sep 27th at 2 pm) SPS students, staff and families will support cancer research through the Terry Fox walk/run. Our school goal this year is to raise \$2500. Donations can be made at: <http://www.terryfox.ca/S>



Orange Shirt Day

The OCDSB and SPS celebrate *Orange Shirt Day – this year on September 30*. 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 and reading about Orange Shirt Day can be found at:

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



MEDIA PERMISSION/USE OF TECHNOLOGY forms

Parent Action required:

Last week we sent an email with the links to the Media permission form and Use of Technology forms. If you haven't already, please click on the links below to let us know your media preferences and to allow your child to access school technology/computers.

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

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

Entrance/Exit routines

We move over 650 students in and out of the building multiple times a day and to do that safely we need to have a system in place. Students from grades 1 to 6 have an assigned door at the back of the school to enter and exit before, during and after school. Kindergarten students only enter and exit through the front doors - this keeps "people traffic" flowing smoothly and helps with establishing a regular routine for students. If you walk your child to and from school, or drive, please establish a location at one of the entrances to the yard (there are 4) or at the front of the school and be aware that they will be exiting from their assigned door at the back of the school and going around to meet you.

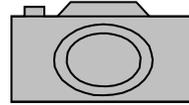
Yard Information

A reminder to students who walk, ride a bike, or are driven to and from school: do not arrive before 8:15 am as the daycare students are the only ones allowed on the school property until our school supervision starts at 8:15 am. After school all students should head home or to their bus immediately after school.



Photo Day is Friday, October 4th (retake day is Nov 1)

Photo day this year is on Friday, October 4th. 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.



Extra-Curricular Activities

- Girls and Boys Junior (gr 4-6) soccer started last week.
- Cross Country started this week (gr 3-6)

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 this link: <https://mabelslabels.com/support-a-fundraiser/>

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.

Ministry of Education News

OCDSB offers the Elementary International & Indigenous Languages Program at 19 elementary schools every Saturday morning starting September 7, 2019 till June 13 2020.

The IILP is mandated under the Ministry of Education and allows the students to expand their linguistic awareness with a maximum of two and a half hours of instruction per week per language. Experienced instructors provide instruction in 38 different languages to all interested students from JK to Grade 8.

Registrations are ongoing throughout the year and students of our Board are encouraged to explore these unique learning opportunities offered by our Board and learn other languages and cultures from around the world. Please check the website with additional information: InternationalLanguagesInOttawa.com

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 11 at 11:30 am.



From the classrooms...

Last year (JUNE):

In June the Grade 6s had a very successful Pay it Forward Fair in the gym where students, staff, parents and the community were invited to the gym to see what organisations students decided to create awareness for. This was our third year doing Pay it Forward.

Organisations include CHEO, autism awareness, the Humane Society, Canadian Alzheimer's and Cancer societies, other local animal organisations (like bird sanctuaries) and so much more!

- Approximately 460 hours of community service were celebrated by our amazing S.P.S students!!
- \$5489.70 collected and donated to various amazing local organizations!
- Various animal supplies (including food, stuffies, toys, beds, cleaning supplies) donated to multiple organizations!

This year many organisations came to see the displays that the students created and celebrate their successes!

Thank you to Parent Council and the parent volunteers who helped at our Grade 6 Leaving Ceremony. It went perfectly!

Last May and June, we spent many recesses and after school practices preparing for our Track and Field Team of 78 enthusiastic energetic athletes. Unfortunately, after much anticipation, we made it to the event only to be turned around due to the inclement weather. It had rained substantially the night before and it made the conditions unsafe. Unfortunately, with it being in mid-June they were unable to reschedule the event. The students were incredibly professional and showed an incredible amount of understanding and sportsmanship when they returned to class at 9:30 that morning. We look forward to competing again next June. The teachers that supported the Track and Field by helping with practices and preparation for the big event, in alphabetical order, were: Mrs Carson-Bell, Mme Craig, Mme Cuffari, Mr Currah, Mrs Doherty, Mme Slewidge and Mme Tessier

This year:

September is always a time filled with big emotions in Kindergarten! We are starting off the year with an inquiry on Monarch butterflies, migration, and flight. The students were super excited to see monarchs emerge from their chrysalis this week. We also have monarch caterpillars munching away on milkweed ready to soon make their own chrysalis in front of our students eyes! We purchased three kits for our seven classes that included 4 caterpillars and 2 monarchs. As always we thank parent council for supporting our inquiries in Kindergarten!

GOTCHA program continues this year... We will continue our Character Development Recognition program for all students. Students are recognized for displaying good character through our Gotcha program. Whenever staff catches a student demonstrating great character, they are given a yellow Gotcha! One side of the Gotcha goes home to show parents and the other Gotcha gets placed in our Gotcha box. Each month, 9 names are randomly drawn to receive a certificate and a prize. These students get their names announced in the school newsletter and on the morning announcements.

In the past, we have had a parent volunteer help with the organization of certificates. If there is a parent who is interested in volunteering their time once a month for about an hour, at school, please reach out to Virginia O'Halloran or Helen Catselis.

Grade 3 and 4 students will be having presentations from the Humane Society and will be going to the Bill Mason Centre in late September and early October.

School Cash 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 69 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.schoolcashionline.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@schoolcashionline.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.