



## **Message from the Director - Dr. Jennifer Adams**

### *Parental Involvement (October)*

At the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board we recognize the important role parents play in improving student learning. Last June, the Board approved a new, four-year [strategic plan](#). One of the four priorities of the plan, is Engagement. Within that priority one of the key objectives is to enhance parental engagement and to connect parents with their child's learning. How will we do this? One strategy is to enhance our Speakers' Series. Some of the topics relate to how our school district is transforming itself to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. On October 3rd, we had the opportunity to hear the internationally recognized leader in the development of education, creativity and innovation, [Sir Ken Robinson](#). On October 13th, we will hear from New York Times best selling author [Daniel Pink](#) as he speaks about fostering creative organizations through imagination, inspiration, and innovation. We have also partnered with the [Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario \(CHEO\)](#) to provide six forums for parents on the developmental stages of children. The first session on adolescence was held on September 19 with over 500 participants!

#### **What can you do?**

As a teacher and an elementary principal, I have often been asked, "What can I do to help my child in school?" Now as the mother of a 13 year old and an 8 year old with very different learning styles, I find myself asking the same question. Educators don't have all the answers, but research has shown that parental involvement has a positive impact on student learning. And the good news is that it doesn't have to look the same for every parent.

Recently, Associate Director, Walter Piovesan and I attended a meeting of the [Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils](#). These committed parents have chosen to be involved in their child's learning by helping us with school governance. As a district, we're so lucky to have that type of parental involvement. But there are many ways to be involved in your child's learning. Regularly talk with your child about what they are learning in school. Read with your child and help them make connections between what they are learning and the world around them. Interact with their teacher(s). These are all important ways of supporting your child's learning.

Our teachers, support staff, and administrators are committed to enhancing the ongoing assessment of your child's learning. Simply put, that means that educators are spending time determining the level of your child's achievement and identifying next steps for his or her learning. When the teacher, child, and the parents have a clear understanding of next steps, everyone can work together to attain them. So get involved! We're here to help in a way that makes sense for you and your child.

I am interested in hearing your thoughts on initiatives or on any other topics related to teaching and learning in the OCDSB. You can send your comments to [director@ocdsb.ca](mailto:director@ocdsb.ca). I will read each submission personally.

I wish you and your children a happy and successful school year with the OCDSB!

Sincerely,

Jennifer