



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

School Council Newsletter

January 20, 2017

WHAT'S NEW...

In November, People for Education (P4E) held their annual conference in Toronto. Like most conferences, there was a wide range of conference topics and speakers and these were all education related. Recently, [P4E posted some conference highlights](#) on their website and I thought you might be interested in reading them. It's a great list of reflections on key topics in public education and everyone at the OCDSB can be very proud that our **Student Trustee Kayvon Mihan** is one of the speaker's quoted.

"On **whether high school is preparing students for their future**, from Kayvon Mihan, chair of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association:

- A greater effort needs to be made to make the careers course more experiential and life based.
- Keep in mind the meaning of 40 hours of *community service*, and how volunteering doesn't mean just doing unpaid work for school service hours.
- The greatest civics lesson a student can learn is the one where they are experiencing what is *currently* going on in the world around them - be it municipally, provincially or federally.
- Have an open mind! Everybody is working hard to improve students' experience, and it's important to work *with* these individuals (board, ministry staff, trustees, MPPs etc.) instead of against them."

Kayvon's reflections provide a great foundation to these thoughts:

"On the **transition from high school to life**, from Bruce Lawson, Executive Director at the Counselling Foundation of Canada:

- In the last several decades, we have seen a dramatic transformation in the world of employment, with the erosion of traditional career paths; the World Economic Forum is calling it the "Fourth Industrial Revolution", where technology is changing every industry at a pace never before seen.
- Educational systems are starting to move towards competency-based approaches, which are meant to empower young people to navigate the unknown terrain of the future workplace.
- Given the majority of occupations that young people will face when they graduate high

school don't yet exist, we need a societal shift away from asking "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Instead, we need to ask questions that encourage them to self-reflect:

- What skills and competencies have you gained from your education? What about from your extracurricular activities?
- Based on what you've learned in school and your experiences in extracurricular activities, what have you learned about yourself? [Example: do you like working in teams? Are you a creative thinker? Do you like being the leader or being assigned task? Are you detail oriented?]

You can read more on the [P4E website](#).

High School Exams

Students in secondary school, grades 9-12, exams run from **Tuesday, January 23 through to Friday January 27, 2017**. Check your school website for a copy of the exam schedule. In the event that an individual secondary school must be closed on a day during the examination schedule, examinations scheduled to be written at that school on that day, will be written on the next day that the school is open. Semester 2 begins Tuesday, January 31, 2017. KidsHelpPhone has a great [tip sheet on studying](#) that you might want to share with your child. Parents can't do the studying, but they can help to remind students about the importance of having a study plan with enough time for proper meals, sleep and some physical activity.

High School Information Nights

All of our secondary schools host Grade 8 [Parent Information Nights](#). These sessions are an important opportunity for parents and students to learn more about high school and the programs and pathways best suited to your child's needs.

Adult High School

If you or someone you know is thinking of going back to school - Registration for semester 2 takes place in January and classes begin on Friday, February 3, 2017. Adult High School is open to residents of the City of Ottawa who are 18 years old or older. It is a full-time high school. Classes are held Monday to Friday from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. All of the courses are credit courses that can be used towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Call [613-239-2707](tel:613-239-2707) - to register for second semester early in the new year.

Kindergarten Information Nights

If your child will be age four or five by December 31, 2017, they are ready for junior or senior kindergarten starting September 2017. Students already in junior kindergarten do not have to re-register for senior kindergarten. Visit your local school to register. Information on our Kindergarten program can be found [here](#).

PA Day - January 30th

Monday, January 30 is an OCDSB PA Day for both Elementary and Secondary students. For

more information on holidays, exam dates and PA Days, check our

2017-2018 Student Transfer Application Period: February 6-17th, 2017

If your child wishes to submit a student transfer request, the application period is between February 6 and the 17th for next school year. Making a transfer request does not mean that your request will be approved but following the process is essential for consideration. Check [here](#) for the 4 basic steps to the process.

Middle French Immersion Registration Period - February 17th-23rd

Middle French Immersion starts in grade 4. If your child has completed the grade 3 English/Core French Program, together you can choose to enter your child in the Middle French Immersion Program.

Continuing Education Newsletter - January/February 2017

Take a look at the latest edition of the [Continuing Education Newsletter](#) and what is coming up in our department. It is interactive, so please click anywhere to be linked to our website for more information on all of our programs.

Ministry of Education's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework and Expansion Strategy

The Ministry of Education is developing a Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework and Expansion Strategy to support an integrated system of child care and early years programs focused on quality, affordability, access and responsiveness. The Framework builds on important achievements to date and will include an expansion strategy to deliver on the government's recently announced commitment to create 100,000 new child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers over the next five years.

To help guide the consultation, the Ministry has developed a discussion paper, [Building a Better Future: A Discussion Paper for Transforming Early Years and Child Care in Ontario](#). The paper outlines the current early years and child care system, provides an overview on the proposed approach and includes some key discussion questions. Parents, families, early years and child care partners, as well as the general public are invited to provide written feedback to the Ministry by January 31, 2017 by accessing the [online survey](#) or attend one of the Town Hall Sessions (one session in English and the other in French occurring simultaneously):

Location: Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON K1N 9J2

Date: **January 17, 2017**

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm (light refreshments will be provided)

Although these sessions aim to specifically to engage parents and families with children under 12 for their feedback, the sessions are open to everyone. Registration is not required.

Minister's Student Advisory Council (MSAC) applications are open

Students in grades 7-12 can apply to advise Ontario's Education Minister. [Apply online](#) today.

Deadline: February 9, 2017.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) Immunization

A reminder that parents are required to report all immunizations done at the doctor's office to OPH. Under this *Act*, OPH has the authority to suspend students from school. Due to the size of our District, OPH is dividing its surveillance campaign into two phases. The first phase of notification letters to parents alerting them of missing documentation was sent out on November 15, 2016 and the second on November 22, 2016. Suspensions for the first group will commence on February 8, 2017 and for the second group on February 22, 2017 so it is very important to ensure your child's immunizations are up to date. Immunization protects children from many serious diseases that are easily spread in schools. Learn more [here](#).

Updating your child's immunization record

Any time your child gets a vaccination or booster shot you need to update their record with Ottawa Public Health by:

- Completing the [Online Immunization Reporting](#) to Ottawa Public Health
- Fax: [613-580-9660](tel:613-580-9660)
- Mail: Immunization Program, 100 Constellation Dr., Ottawa, ON, K2G 6J8, 7th floor, mail code 26-44
- Phone [613-580-6744](tel:613-580-6744) Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm
- ImmunizeCA App: appottawa.immunize.ca

CANImmunize has also launched an action comic, *Immunity Warriors: Invasion of the Alien Zombies*, to educate elementary school students about the immune system and the role of immunization in defending against illness.

Math Facts

Math and Picture Books

Reading to your child is both a wonderful way to spend time together and also an effective way to engage your child in conversation. Students of all ages love stories and love to talk about stories. "Literature provides students with opportunities to make connections with their own lives, provides a context to think and practise mathematics, and enriches students' view of the world of mathematics." A Guide to Effective Instruction in Mathematics, Kindergarten to Grade 6.

Listed below are a few titles to begin the conversation about mathematics at home. These picture books are connected to several math strands of the Ontario mathematics curriculum from your child's report card:

- Caps for Sale, by Esphyr Slobodkina (Number Sense and Patterning)
- The Doorbell Rang, by Pat Hutchins (Number Sense)
- Count to 10 with a Mouse, by Margaret Wise Brown (Number Sense)
- Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There IS? by Robert Wells (Number Sense and Measurement)
- Actual Size, by Steve Jenkins (Measurement)
- One Grain of Rice, by Demi (Number Sense and Multiplication and Division)

- Grandfather Tang's Story, by Ann Tompert (Geometry)
- Stone Soup, by Heather Forest (Data Management and Probability)
- If you and your child are more comfortable in a language other than English, then read to your child in that language.

Your local public library may be helpful in choosing books connected to mathematics. The link below may also be helpful to access digital books online in a number of languages:
International Digital Library: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Reflections for School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees

Also from the P4E conference and I believe it also applies to school councils,

"On **working with Parent Involvement Committees**, from Josh Duijvestein, past-chair of the Halton Catholic Parent Involvement Committee:

- Make relationships with everyone, from superintendents to caretaker. The more people you know and have a relationship with, the easier it will be to navigate the system when you are trying to accomplish a task.
- Remember that everyone sitting around the volunteer table brings something different to the table. People around the parent volunteer table all have different levels of education and a different concept of how education should be for their children.
- People are volunteering their time; this is unpaid, so make it fun as well as productive."

Funding for Play Structures and Playgrounds

Funding is available to assist school communities in developing their school grounds and installing or replacing some of their play structures. Please submit your application using [Form 700](#), as soon as possible. Approval will take into account equity, special circumstances and other funding already in place. Project applications that did not receive funding in previous years will be carried over; however, it is important to update the application to reflect the current status. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Fournier at [613-596-8211 ext. 8690](tel:613-596-8211) or at daniel.fournier@ocdsb.ca.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings that Matter....

Board and Committee of the Whole Meetings

The next **Committee of the Whole Meeting** will be January 24th at 7:00 p.m.. There are several items of interest on this agenda including a report on the Elementary School Program Framework, the Complaints Resolution Policy and reports from the parent Involvement Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee. For more information about the meeting please read the full agenda [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings:

1/23/2017 [Parent Involvement Committee](#)
6:00 PM

1/23/2017 [Advisory Committee on the Arts](#)
7:00 PM

1/23/2017 [Alternative Schools Advisory Committee](#)
7:00 PM

1/25/2017 [Audit Committee](#)
7:00 PM

1/26/2017 [Advisory Committee on Equity](#)
6:00 PM

1/30/2017 [Committee of the Whole, Budget](#)
7:00 PM

Boardroom Highlights can be found [here](#).

EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Places to Go...Things to Remember

Speaker Series 2017

Parents, guardians and caregivers are invited to join us for our [free Speaker Series Presentations](#). The presentations will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please save the date; more details will be added to our website in the near future.

First Nations, Métis, Inuit event

Thursday, March 2nd

Rideau High School auditorium, 815 St. Laurent Boulevard

Gender Identity and Expression

Thursday, May 8th

Sir Robert Borden High School auditorium, 131 Greenbank Road.

Stay Connected

OCDSB staff, students and community members can view the District's [website](#). Keep in touch

by following us on [Twitter](#), visiting our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages, and watching our videos on [YouTube](#).

About the Newsletter

We get a lot of feedback about the newsletter and we are always happy to hear from you. Anyone can receive the newsletter. If you are not on our distribution list and would like to be please click [here](#) or email Communications@ocdsb.ca. At this time of year there are many changes on school council, please be sure to notify us about any change of email address.

Many people forward the newsletter to others in their community. If you forward this message, please delete all of the text from the "forward e-mail" link at the bottom left of the newsletter (just outside of the purple border). Otherwise, anyone who receives the message can click the opt-out button at the bottom of the newsletter and will actually unsubscribe your name from our distribution list. This may explain why some regular users are being dropped from our distribution list.