



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

School Council Newsletter

January 27, 2017

WHAT'S NEW...

This week the Parent Involvement Committee met and welcomed six new members! It is wonderful to have such an interested group of parents to advise on strategies related to parent engagement. The Committee elected a new Chair and Vice Chair. Congratulations to **Mr. Mostafizur Khan, Chair of PIC** and to **Ms. Carm Janneteau, Vice Chair of PIC**.

School Accommodation Reviews - UPDATE

Today, the District released the final staff recommendations for both the Western Area and the Eastern Secondary Pupil Accommodation Reviews. In September, the school board released a proposed plan for change. That plan was circulated for consultation. The feedback from the consultation was considered and that led to some changes between what was proposed and the final staff recommendations. In some cases, it was possible to make changes that were asked for by the community. Unfortunately, that was not always possible.

The final reports are very detailed and you can read either the [Western Area Review - Final Report](#) or the [Eastern Area Review - Final Report](#) from these links. There is more information on the district website at www.ocdsb.ca. There is also an executive summary for both the Western Area and the Eastern Secondary reviews which summarizes the report and recommendations and these are also on the website.

Where are we in the process?

This is the final staff recommendation. The final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees. The Board can approve the staff recommendation, modify the recommendation, or reject the staff recommendation.

When will the decisions be made?

There are two steps in the decision making process. The first step is for the Committee of the Whole to consider the report and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Committee of the Whole will consider the **Western Area Review report on Monday, February 13th. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.** They will hear delegations and then will debate the recommendations. If they don't finish on that night, the meeting will continue at 7:00 p.m. on February 14th. (**EASTERN SECONDARY REVIEW DATES - Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00 p.m.** and if necessary, Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.) The meetings are public and anyone can attend. They are held in the Boardroom at 133 Greenbank Road.

The recommendation by the Committee of the Whole has to be approved at a Board meeting. The Board for the **Western Area Review is scheduled for Monday, March 1st, 2017**. The Board meeting for the **Eastern Secondary Review is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017**.

How can I participate in the decision making process?

You can speak with your trustee or send an email to westernareareview@ocdsb.ca or easternsecondaryreview@ocdsb.ca. You also can sign up as a delegation at the Committee of the Whole meeting. If you want to sign up as a delegation, please send an email to Samantha.flynn@ocdsb.ca

Elementary School Program Framework Update

Many parents were interested in the Elementary School Program Framework. As a result of the excellent feedback received during consultation, many changes were made to the draft document. It was discussed at Committee of the Whole this week and additional amendments were made. The Board is scheduled to approve the final version on Tuesday, January 31st - you can read more about the discussion in the [minutes](#) which are posted on the agenda.

High School Exam Schedule Update - January 25 - January 31, 2017

Please note the change in dates for secondary school exams due to inclement weather. Secondary school exam period for grades 9-12, was extended through to **Tuesday, January 31, 2017 due to the cancellation of transportation on January 24th**. Check your school website for a copy of the exam schedule. Semester 2 now begins Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Monday, January 30th, 2017 is remains a PA day for all OCDSB schools.

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](#).

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.

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](#)
- Mail: Immunization Program, 100 Constellation Dr., Ottawa, ON, K2G 6J8, 7th floor, mail code 26-44
- Phone [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

Communicating with Children Using Math Language

Talking About Math: Talking about mathematics with your child - whatever his or her age - helps strengthen his or her mathematical reasoning and understanding. Some ways to keep the talk engaged and focused while you support your child include:

1. Revoice - Repeat what you heard your child say, then ask for clarification (e.g., "So you are saying it's an odd number?").
2. Repeat/Restate - Ask your child to restate your reasoning (e.g., "Can you repeat what

- I said in your own words?").
3. Reason - Ask your child to apply his or her own reasoning to someone else's reasoning (e.g., "Do you agree or disagree? Tell me why.").
 4. Adding On - Prompt your child to participate further (e.g., "What more would you add to that?").
 5. Think Time - Wait several seconds (try five) to give your child time to think (e.g., "Take some time to think."). You may be surprised by how hard it is to stay silent in that time!

SCHOOL COUNCIL BUSINESS

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 **Board Meeting** will be January 31st at 7:30 p.m.. There are several items of interest on this agenda including a report on the Elementary School Program Framework and the Complaints Resolution Policy. For more information about the meeting please read the full agenda [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings:

- 1/30/2017 Advisory Committee on the Arts
7:00 PM
- 1/30/2017 Committee of the Whole, Budget
7:00 PM
- 2/1/2017 Advisory Committee on Extended Day and Childcare Programs
7:00 PM
- 2/2/2017 Student Senate
6:30 PM
- 2/7/2017 Committee of the Whole, Public
7:30 PM
- 2/8/2017 Parent Involvement Committee
6:00 PM

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

EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Places to Go...Things to Remember

Agincourt Road Public School - Blues in the Schools Fundraiser - Feb 11th

Did you get your tickets yet? Blues in the Schools is bringing educators and local musicians to Agincourt for two weeks to expose our Grade 1-5 students to music and to encourage them how to use music as a positive outlet in the world. The fundraiser is next month - and it's going to be a rockin' good time!

When: Saturday, February 11, 2017

Where: Fatboys Southern Smokehouse (Byward Market)

What: 3 course meal with musical entertainment by Sussex (<http://sussexrocks.ca/>)

\$50 per person; \$40 per person vegetarian option

Invite your friends, family and neighbours to come! It's going to be a great time!

Order your tickets online at:

<https://agincourtroadpsfundraising.myshopify.com>

Questions? Email agincourt.executive@gmail.com

Kids 2 Innovate

Looking for something fun to do with your kids on January 30? Join the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)'s Innovation Lab to design what the future looks like for Canadian children.

ISED's Lab will be working with [Overlap](#) and [UNICEF Canada](#) to organize a one-day Children's Design Lab. Using the principles of design thinking, they will leverage the knowledge of the people in the room, both adults and children, to generate ideas, prototypes, and outcomes that can be used on a larger scale. Attendees can speak either French or English during the activity.

The day will be divided in two sessions:

Morning (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.): Ages 6-12 / Grades: SK - 6

Afternoon (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.): Ages 13-17 / Grades: 6-12

According to a comparative study from UNICEF, Canada ranks 17th out of 29 so-called wealthy countries when it comes to the well-being of children.

Kindness Week 2017

Be a part of the growing movement of Kindness in Ottawa! Kindness Week will be celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2017 and there are many ways for schools to get involved. This initiative has become a vibrant movement in our community, encouraging people to "choose to be kind" and recognizing those in our community who engage in everyday acts of kindness. Kindness Week 2017 takes place from February 17 to 24.

Students can volunteer their time, energy and talents to help a worthy cause. Some activities can be done alone; others should be done in groups or with a parent/guardian.

- * Shovel a driveway
- * Walk a dog
- * Carry someone's groceries
- * Send cards or art to kids in the hospital
- * The possibilities are endless

For more ideas or opportunities, contact 211 or Volunteer Ottawa.

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.