



**Stittsville PS
School Council Principal Report
September 28, 2021**

To submit a general school question to me prior to the next School Council meeting, please use [this form](#).

SPS Opening and Land Acknowledgement

On September 15th we welcomed Theland and Vince Kicknosway to provide a story, song and drumming to open our school and welcome the year together as a community. We were truly humbled to have these gifts shared with us. It was live streamed and recorded. You can see the recording [here](#).

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30th, SPS staff and students will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

Learning activities planned for September 30th will focus on developing student and staff understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action and commemorating those whose lives were impacted by residential school experiences. Below are some of the ways this day will be recognized at SPS:

- Opening exercises featuring a virtual opening address by Algonquin Knowledge Keeper Monique Manatch and a land acknowledgment by OCDSB Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, which you may join by clicking this [link](#) at 10:00 am on September 30th. **UPDATED**
- Age-appropriate learning activities to deepen understanding of truth and reconciliation, such as (please feel free to reach out directly to your child's teacher to get more information):
 - [Project of Heart](#) rock garden
 - Various read alouds in English and French: "I Am Not A Number", "Barren Ground", "The Secret Path", "A Stranger at Home", "Phyllis' Orange Shirt"
 - Using resources from the [First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada](#), including [Spirit Bear](#), [Shannen's Dream](#) and [Jordan's Principle](#)

- Reading and learning about the historical and ongoing impact of residential schools
- Sharing about what it means to feel safe, welcomed, and included in school
- Attending the National Truth and Reconciliation week events from Sept 27-30
- Learning about the role of Indigenous People as Water and Land Protectors, and Stewards of the Earth
- A school-wide art display to support Every Child Matters
- A virtual closing offered by Ms. Manatch, which you may join by clicking this [link](#) at 1:30 pm on September 30th. **UPDATED**

Please see [here](#) for the actions the District is taking.

This learning and work does not begin and end in one day. At SPS we are fully committed to decolonizing our thinking, our school systems, and our practices on an on-going basis. If you think we are not living up to this commitment, we welcome hearing from you.

Fernbank temporary boundary diversion

The Committee of the Whole approved the temporary diversion of **new** Fernbank students, K-6, to Stittsville PS to alleviate enrollment pressure on Westwind PS. This motion is now set to be voted on at the Board of Trustees meeting this evening.

Here is what is being presented to the Board:

- *A. THAT future students moving into the Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, who are in kindergarten (year 1) through grade 6 be directed to Stittsville Public School as of 4 October 2021, subject to sibling provisions outlined in Recommendations B and C to Report 21-065;*
- *B. THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who had older sibling(s) in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (2019-2020) attending John Young Elementary School be provided a one-time option to attend at John Young Elementary School;*
- *C. THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who currently (2021-2022) have older sibling(s) in year 1 kindergarten, year 2 kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 attending Westwind Public School be provided a one-time option to attend Westwind Public School;*
- *D. THAT Recommendations A through C to Report 21-065 shall remain in effect until such time as the new Fernbank elementary Page 234 of 268 12 school is opened or until other accommodation measures are approved;*
- *E. THAT upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school all of the students who reside within the Fernbank elementary school attendance boundary and are enrolled at John Young Elementary School, Westwind Public School or Stittsville Public School, move in a block (year 1 kindergarten through grade 5) to the new Fernbank elementary school; and*
- *F. THAT the only exception to the redirection outlined in Recommendation E to Report 21-065 shall be those students entering grade 6 and their younger siblings who are*

attending John Young Elementary school or Westwind Public School, having exercised a one-time option to remain.

Enrolment and school organization update

Our enrollment has been reviewed by our Planning Department and we are able to maintain our current staffing allocation and school organization. While we do expect some new registrations from the Fernbank area, the numbers will continue to be monitored over the course of the fall for any impact this will have on our site. If any adjustments need to be made, then this will be communicated to the community.

Kiss and Ride loop

With some of our school bus routes cancelled, we are seeing a noticeable increase in the amount of vehicle traffic at the school. This is leading to ongoing traffic congestion issues in the loop in front of the daycare that presents some serious safety issues. We are asking that families not use this loop so we can safely prioritize daycare families, our staff, our specialized transportation, and anyone with mobility issues requiring a parking permit.

OSTA has created some valuable supporting resources to all families in our board to help offset the traffic at schools: [Walk and Roll Meet Ups](#), and [Walk-a-Block](#) and we are asking for Council support to also message this to our K-6 families. We are continuing to monitor and are looking at adding staff to help supervise the area, but we may have to close this area between 8:15 and 8:30am, and again at 2:45 - 3:00pm if we cannot ensure a reasonable level of safety during drop-off and pick-up. We are also continuing to consult with Board staff, and the City of Ottawa to see if there are other measures we can use to ensure safety.

Virtual Meet the Staff

We will be holding virtual Meet the Staff sessions between October 4th and October 14th (except for Fridays). Teachers will host a session for the parents/caregivers of their students via Google Meet, and offer families a chance to learn about the programming and learning in their child's class, and to ask questions of the teacher. To respect families with multiple children, we will be coordinating the schedules of staff to avoid sibling conflicts as much as possible.

Individual teachers will be reaching out to families in the next few days to communicate the date for their particular Google Meet.

Revision of Appropriate Use of Technology policy

The District is undergoing a consultation and review of our current Appropriate Use of Technology policy (AUP) - P.100.IT. School Councils will have an opportunity to provide specific feedback on this process by November 30, 2021. More information will be shared with School Council Chairs in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, any member of the OCDSB community may share their general feedback or experiences with the AUP at this email address: aup.consultation@ocdsb.ca.

Video Licensing Agreement 2021-2022

In order for schools and schools councils to show copyright protected movies, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) has renewed their video licensing agreements with Criterion Pictures, and Audio Cine Films Inc. (ACF) for the 2021-2022 school year, effective 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. Councils will need passwords from the school to access these films.

Dates to Remember

October 4 - 14, 2021 - Virtual Meet the Staff

October 11, 2021 - Thanksgiving Monday - no school for students

October 21, 2021 - Term 1 Individual Education Plans go home to families