



**Stittsville PS
School Council Principal Report
January 11, 2021**

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

Staffing Update

Shannon McKelvie is our Acting VP for the time being. Leeanne Legare is taking over Shannon's class in the meantime.

Julia Dods, Samantha Dods, and ECE Leah Sirenko are the educator team for our new kindergarten class.

[Updated Covid Information:](#)

New Screening Tools

Here are the newly updated screening tools:

- [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) and
- [COVID-19 screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings](#)

Symptom List

The Covid-19 symptom list has been updated for daily active screening of staff and students in schools and child care and is more sensitive.

Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed below, should stay home until their symptoms are improving for 24 hours and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

What to do if you you have symptoms (OPH Updated Information - January 7, 2022)

- I have **one** of the following symptoms: fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, decrease/loss of smell and taste.
- I have **two** or more of the following symptoms: runny nose/nasal congestion, headache, extreme fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches/joint pain, gastrointestinal symptoms (such as vomiting or diarrhea).
- I have only **ONE** of the following symptoms: runny nose/nasal congestion, headache, extreme fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches/joint pain, Gastrointestinal symptoms (such as vomiting or diarrhea)

Isolation Requirements for Symptomatic Individuals

Anyone who has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or is a confirmed positive case must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status. Isolation requirements are based on age, vaccination status and immune health.

All household contacts must also isolate for the same duration as the person with symptoms, regardless of their vaccination status.

Masks and N95 Facepiece Respirators

The OCDSB has received N95 respirators for educators in Ontario who are working in person. Use of these N95s in place of the medical mask is optional, at the discretion of the worker. Educators who wish to use/wear an N95 type respirator may do so, provided the respirator does not have an exhalation valve, and has been approved for use as PPE by Health Canada or is approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

We expect an update shortly when both student and staff masks will arrive at SPS.

Change in Reporting Practices

Based on the new provincial direction, individuals are to assume Covid positivity based on symptoms and to self-isolate. At this time, isolation requirements are extended only to household contacts, unless public health directs otherwise. We continue to work with OPH on this.

Staffing Shortages

Because staff absenteeism may continue to rise and exceed the supply of replacement employees, there may be circumstances which make it necessary to temporarily close a classroom for in-person learning. This could be done for one class or multiple classes where it is necessary to ensure student safety. In most cases, the temporary closure of an in-person class would be supported by a pivot to virtual learning.

Whenever possible, the decision to close a class to in-person learning would be made the day before, rather than the morning of closure, in consultation with the Superintendent of Instruction. This provides parents/guardians with a more reasonable opportunity to make child care arrangements.

In these cases, the Principal or Vice-Principal would communicate the class closure to parents via email and where possible, through a post in the class Learning Management System.

We will be seeking more clarification from the Ministry prior to returning to in-person learning,

but we anticipate that this may be a reality for a time.

Kindergarten Promotion Evening

Elementary schools across the district will be hosting virtual Kindergarten Promotion Evenings between **Monday, 24 January to Friday, February 4, 2022**. Our promotion evening will take place Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 6:30pm.

The focus of this evening is primarily to speak to the kindergarten program in general in our District, but there are opportunities for families to get a sense of the SPS experience.

We would be grateful for the Council's help in promoting this evening with these resources please:

- The OCDSB has created a central questionnaire where parents can submit questions for all schools. Here is the **shareable questionnaire link**:
<https://forms.gle/MTnQLo7K3myDcXaB6>
- [OSTA Kindergarten Transportation Information 2022-23](#)
- The OCDSB's dedicated kindergarten webpage (ocdsb.ca/kindergarten) which also contains the [Guide to Kindergarten](#)

OSTA Proposal for Change in Bell Time

Last week a consultation survey went out to our community to collect feedback about a proposed bell time change to 8:40-3:10 for the 2022-2023 school year. OSTA is asking that the survey be completed by **Friday, January 14, 2021**.

[Proposed Bell Time Change Survey](#)

Fernbank School Update

Todd Thompson has been appointed as the Principal for the new Fernbank school. He is set to officially start February 1st.

Our Planning Department has already begun the process of sharing information with the Principals of John Young, Westwind and myself regarding registering for Fernbank for September. This info will go out this week to families of K-4 students currently living in the Fernbank area.

Some other general information:

- New Fernbank E.S. will open September 2022 as a Junior Kindergarten-Grade 5 English with Core French and Early French Immersion program school.
- Grade 6 will phase into the school for the September 2023 school year.
- School hours for the New Fernbank E.S. will be 9:20 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
- An Extended Day Program (EDP) will be offered at the new school for September 2022.
- It will have a student capacity of 628.

Important Dates:

Monday, January 17, 2022 - Official kick-off to kindergarten registration

Friday, January 21, 2022 - PD Day - no school for students

Thursday, January 27, 2022 - School Photo Day

Monday, January 31, 2022 - Friday, February 11, 2022 - Student transfer application period

Monday, February 7, 2022 - Middle French Immersion registration period

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 - Term 1 report cards go home