

## Ottawa Crescent Public School

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[www.ugdsb.on.ca/ottawacres](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ottawacres)

### January 2016

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Welcome Back! Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. We are looking forward to working with you in 2016 to continue making Ottawa Crescent Public School a wonderful learning environment for all.

December was a busy month at the school with field trips, teams, clubs and activities. Our annual Holiday Concert was well attended. Thank you to our talented staff for their dedication and commitment to the students and you the parents/guardians for your continued support of our school community.

We are back to working hard in all curriculum areas. The students are engaged in a variety of exciting learning opportunities and endeavours.

We look forward to a wonderful and productive January!

Allison Stoffman  
Principal

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### Kindergarten Registration

Please contact the office if you have a child or know of a child who will be turning 4 on or before December 31, 2016 (junior kindergarten) or 5 on or before December 31, 2016 (senior kindergarten). Kindergarten registration will be held February 1 - 5. If you are not able to come to the school during this time, please call Mrs. Hambleton, our office coordinator, to make other arrangements.

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### Thank You!

Thank you to Skyline for your generous donation to our Breakfast Program. If you, or someone you know, are interested in donating to this wonderful program please contact the office.



### Dress Appropriately for the Weather

When the cold weather is upon us, please remember to help your child/ren to dress appropriately for the winter temperatures. We keep a close eye on the wind chill, but recognize the important of outdoor play for our students. Snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, and jackets are a must!

## Parking and Student Safety

Thank you to all of the parents who have recognized and avoided the “No Stopping/No Parking zones around the school. Please note that the staff parking lot is not to be used for parents dropping off and picking up children. There is a drop off area near 61 and 63 Ottawa Crescent and walkways leading to Callander Drive and Laverne Avenue.

With heavy snowfall, our parking lot becomes even more difficult to navigate. Please ensure you use the neighbourhood street parking to ensure our students are safe.

As a safety precaution, we ask all parents and older siblings, who are coming to the school to pick up students, to please meet at an outside location. Students are asked to independently enter and exit through their assigned doors. Congested hallways at both entrance and exit times leads to confusion and presents safety risks for all students. Students are not to use the front doors for entry/exit.

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### Health Unit Tips

At this time of year, there is always an increase in the number of illnesses in schools and the community. This may be due to the fact that people are spending more time indoors, in close contact with others, as well as an increase in the type and number of viruses present in the community. Parents can help to minimize the spread of illnesses to other children and adults by:



- Ensuring that you and your children wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after coughing, sneezing, wiping a nose, after visiting the washroom before preparing meals. Teaching children to sing the alphabet while they wash their hands ensures that they was long enough to eliminate germs.
- Teaching your child to cover his or her mouth when coughing or sneezing and not to share food, drinks, or eating utensils with others.
- Ensuring that you or child drink lots of clear liquids when ill in order to prevent dehydration.
- Contacting your physician if your child has a fever greater than 39 degrees Celsius or if symptoms persist.

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### Head Lice

Head lice continues to be a community problem. They do not cause disease, but are a nuisance. The best protection against head lice is to check your child’s scalp under good lighting once a week. Teach children how head lice are spread and how to avoid them.

- Keep long hair tied back.
- Do not share headgear such as hats, scarves, hair clips, helmets or headphones.
- Do not use other people’s pillows, towels, combs, or brushes.
- Notify friends and community contacts when head lice are found.

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### Safety Patrol Duty

At minus 25 Celsius (including the wind chill), safety patrol duty is reduced to 5 minutes before students enter the school at 8:55 a.m. and 5 minutes only after the students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Parents and patrols should check the local radio stations or internet weather reports for temperature readings.

## What Do We Do At School On No Bus Days?

While very few our students come to school on the bus, many parents wonder what we do at school on those days when the buses don't run due to inclement weather. While some have the perception that nothing educational happens, we do ensure that student learning continues. Depending on attendance, we may not start new curriculum work so that the students who can't get here fall behind. At Ottawa Crescent you will find us participating in activities which includes continuing with current units of student studies and reviewing past work.



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### Warm Hands and Feet...

We often have students who have lost a glove/mitten, who have wet socks, or who have wet winter gear. If you can donate a pair of socks/mittens/gloves to the school, we would truly appreciate it. Please send items to the school office and we will make sure they get put to good use!

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### What Can You Do With Your Children When Schools In The Area Are Closed

If you are at home with your children on a day school is closed you can consider turning on the computer and checking out the following websites that are focused on learning and fun at the same time:

**Nrich Maths:**

<http://nrich.maths.org/public/index.php>

**National Library of Virtual Manipulatives** – free download

<http://www.mattmath.com/download.asp>

**Eduscapes**

<http://eduscapes.com>

**Discover Kids**

<http://kids.discovery.com>

**National Geographic For Kids**

[Http://kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)

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### Inclement Weather

#### Board Policy – Parents

It is a parent's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement weather or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- If a parent elects to drive their children to school, they are responsible for their pick-up at dismissal time.

**Children that walk to school are expected to come to school on bus cancellation days. If you choose to keep your child home on these days, please call the school before 9:00 a.m. to report their absence.**

#### Important Notes

- A reminder to listen to your local radio station in the event of inclement weather conditions.
- The following stations will broadcast school closures: CJOY 1460 AM, CIMJ 106.1 FM, CKKW 1090 FM< CFCA 105.3 FM, CHYM 570 AM

## **Welcome Back!**

Please join us as we welcome back Mrs. Nelles to our grade 2A class.

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### **Next School Council Meeting**

Ottawa Crescent Public School's next School Council Meeting  
will be held  
Monday, January 25 – 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! Babysitting is available.



# January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Drama Club 3:15 – 4:30	6 Sub Day	7	8 Pizza Day	9
10	11	12 Rooms 3/4/5 to River Run	13 Sub Day	14	15 Pizza Day	16
		18	19 Drama Club 3:15 – 4:30	20 Sub Day Rooms 2/14 to River Run	21 Pizza Day	22 P.D. Day – No School For Students
		23	24	25 6:30 p.m. School Council Meeting	26	27 Sub Day
31						30



Kindergarten Registration

February 1 – 5, 2016

**Be sure to follow us on Twitter - @OttawaCresPS**

# INQUIRY

## HOW TO SUPPORT INQUIRY AT HOME

Now-a-days "knowing stuff" is no longer enough. Any resourceful student with an iPad could sit in front of the TV and Google all the questions to Alex Trebek's responses on Jeopardy, and get them correct. We are moving away from simply "knowing content," to being able to apply knowledge in interesting, creative, and critical ways. To accomplish this, students and teachers need to ask the right questions. Asking the right questions is what inquiry is all about.

Children are great at asking questions. They are naturally curious, and are constantly asking questions to make sense of their world.



Instead of just telling your child the answer, try one of these strategies. First, you can get them to look up the answer. This will help them develop the ability to solve their own problems. Or, you can ask them "What do you think?" This will give you insight into what they already know, and then you can ask them more questions to guide them to an answer.

An inquiry-based approach is seen throughout the Ontario Curriculum. Students learn best when they are formulating their own questions and working towards solutions through discussion with their peers.

### A closed-question:

These are questions with a specific answer. Here are two examples:

Why do some stars twinkle?

What colours mix to make purple?

Closed-questions are great questions for your child to look-up in a book, or google.

### An open-question:

These are questions that could be answered in many ways. Here is an example:

How can we best support the Syrian refugees?

Open-questions are great questions for you to explore with your child. Discuss with them what they already know, and help them form their own answer.

## TIPS FOR INQUIRY AT HOME



- Resist providing the answer
- Resist giving a procedure (math)
- Ask questions to clarify their thinking
- Ask your child to explain the reasons behind their answer

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# Monthly Environmental Newsletter Inserts



## January's Environmental Theme: WASTE MINIMIZATION

In Canada, we create a lot of garbage. We throw away too much paper, plastic bags, food, old toys, electronics and much, much more! The good news is that at our school we have made a really good start to reducing some of our waste. We recycle paper, cardboard and containers made of metal, glass and plastic. We try to photocopy double-sided and use GOOS bins (bins that hold paper that is Good On One Side and can still be used). We do waste audits to see what we are throwing away and it seems we need to try to reduce our food waste as well as our packaging. Start thinking about bringing uneaten food from lunch back home to eat as a snack after school because we find perfectly good apples and other fruit, or even uneaten sandwiches, in the school garbage cans.

The best way to solve the problem of too much waste is to not create it in the first place. We have been talking about reducing the number of things we buy and buying items that can be reused instead of immediately being thrown away and taking up more landfill space. For example: use cloth towels instead of paper towels, borrow most books from the library instead of buying them new, use cloth bags instead of plastic bags, use litterless lunch containers and a metal water bottle that you can refill, and use reusable gift bags instead of wrapping paper. The list goes on and on - there are so many ways you can help to reduce waste!

We also need to let our government know that we don't want all that extra packaging when we buy things. Other countries have already banned all that unnecessary plastic, cardboard and Styrofoam that toys and cosmetics and games and food come covered with. So make a difference - write a persuasive letter to both the Ontario and Canadian Governments to ask them to be tougher on packaging laws. Our garbage dumps are filling up. They need to hear from you to stop all this waste!

***Slogan of the month:*** *Let's reduce our waste - our planet is worth it!*