

August 2017

Director's Blog

Like most of you, for me August is a time for relaxation and then preparation. I've enjoyed a holiday with my family; now it's time to prepare for the school year ahead. At the OCDSB, we have been working throughout the spring and summer to ensure that all of our students have a great start to the school year.

Here is a taste of what's been happening...

New School Communities:

Some of our schools will be welcoming new students and their families in September based on decisions made during the Student Learning and Accommodation process. Transition activities have taken place throughout the spring and will continue into the fall. Staff, school councils and student councils from the amalgamating schools have had the opportunity to meet and to take part in fun activities, all in the spirit of getting to know each other. Thanks as well to our Facilities staff who have been working hard to ensure that these schools are ready to go.

An exciting time for our new school communities!

Summer Construction Projects

Our facilities staff has been working all summer to complete renovations and additions to over 22 Ottawa-Carleton District schools. Added to that work was the completion of our newest elementary school Vimy Ridge. Much of the work will be complete for the first day school. Some larger projects will take a little more time to finish up but we are confident the outcome will result in a better learning and working environment for students and staff.

Our Youngest Learners

Once again this year, our students in the two year kindergarten program will be learning in a 50/50 bilingual environment. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to be immersed in both official languages in a play-based environment. Parents can then decide the program that best meets the need of their child at the OCDSB - English with Core French, Alternative with Core French, Early French Immersion and Middle French Immersion.

Welcoming New Students

The City of Ottawa continues to attract new families from across the country and around the world. The OCDSB has been registering new students throughout the summer at the central office. Families can also register their children directly at their home school. Our Family Reception Centre is welcoming and assessing new students who are coming to us from points around the world. This way, our staff have all the information needed to make sure these students have a happy and healthy start to school in our district.

Mathematics in the OCDSB

Like last year, all 120 elementary schools and 26 secondary schools will have School Learning Plans focussed on improving student achievement in mathematics. Our teachers and principals will continue to advance their learning about teaching mathematics and our students will continue to be engaged in a balanced numeracy program which includes both operational skills and problem solving.

New Look at the OCDSB Strategic Plan

Our Board is at the midway point of its 2015-2019 Strategic Plan. This plan is based on the foundational elements of our OCDSB Exit Outcomes. The Exit Outcomes are five characteristics and five skills that every student will have when they graduate from our school district. You'll be hearing lots more about them this year.

The plan itself is made up of five strategic objectives - learning, wellbeing, equity, engagement, and stewardship. Each year trustees and senior staff determine the important work that will be completed in each of these areas. I will tell you more about the work under each objective in upcoming blogs.

As you can see, it's an exciting year ahead in the OCDSB. Best wishes to all of you in preparing for the new school year!