



W.O. Mitchell E.S.
“Learning together, together to learn”
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www.sites.google.com/site/womitchellschool/



June 3, 2016



Issue # 10

W.O. MITCHELL IS A NUT AND SCENT RESTRICTED SCHOOL

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your donations of plants and your hard work on revitalizing the gardens around WOM. Our school looks fantastic! Many thanks to the Fearless Leader of our Garden Club, Gaye Ansell-Gosselin, for her incredible job in facilitating so many people and for all of the work that she has done personally to get this project going! Thanks to several keen families for their efforts: Cormier, Creighton, Jaakkimainen, Storm-Sproule, Villeneuve, Peck, Pelletier and MacLean. Mr. Lisi and Mr. Derouin were key leaders as well. Thanks to all the staff and students (especially the garden club members) who have been participating for a job well done! YOU ROCK!

Thank you so much for the incredible Staff Appreciation Lunch on May 18. Many of you contributed to this event by cooking, baking, donating money, shopping, setting up or cleaning up for this event. I have to say that the staff members truly felt like "rock stars"! Thank you to parent, Joanne Lee, for her amazing leadership for this event again!

Please join us at our Parent Volunteer Tea to be held on Wednesday, June 8 from 2:30-3:30 in the library. We are looking forward to thanking you for your partnership this year. Thank you for volunteering for field trips, School Council, lunch serving, supervising clubs, laminating, coordinating paperwork in the office, reading with children, popcorn sales, movie night, lost and found clothing sorting, library book shelving, head checks, Wom-a-Palooza, E-Waste day, Garden Club, Tree Watering, yard game painting, Toonie Tuesday, Staff Appreciation Lunch and likely a whole lot more! You make WOM a great place for kids to learn.

On February 9, 2016, The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board approved changes to the delivery of French instruction in kindergarten, introducing a 50% English, 50% French delivery model for all students in both years of kindergarten. The Two-Year Bilingual Kindergarten program will be implemented beginning in September 2016. All children, including those currently enrolled Junior Kindergarten, will receive 50% of their instruction in English and 50% of their instruction in French next year. Also, all classrooms will be JK/SK combined classes. The language of instruction for grades 1, 2 and 3 Early Immersion has also changed as mathematics will be taught in English. Plans are underway for professional development for teachers this month and new resources have been ordered.

Please join us for our annual spring gathering with a new name this year. Wom-a-Palooza is the new name for WOMfest and it includes many exciting changes. We hope to see you on Saturday, June 18 from 10-2. I would like to thank the parents, staff and student volunteers for their efforts on this day. A special thank you to parents, Sarah Kuiack, and Allison Doran, for their incredible leadership this year in bringing this event to the community! Please see the insert below for further details.

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Unfortunately, our Primary Special Needs Class has been closed for next year. There were a large number of vacancies in the program throughout the district and three classes have been closed by the Ottawa-Carleton District. We are very sorry to lose this program and have truly appreciated working with the children and families in the PSN. Thank you to teacher, Heather Shadbolt, and Educational Assistants, Anne McGinn, Jill Nansen, Karen Buckley and Victoria Butler for their excellent work over the past three years in the PSN. With this closure, we have lost one EA in our staffing for next year. Unfortunately, Victoria will be reassigned to a new school for the fall. We know that Victoria will do a great job helping our most exceptional pupils in a new location and we wish her all the best.

Lastly, we will be saying goodbye to a few other staff members at the end of this school year. Good luck to Early Childhood Educator, Sarah Ozanic, who is off for the year to travel. Thank you to a number of Long Term Occasional Teachers for their incredible work this year: Clive Gour, Caroline Dick, Sara LaPlante, and Sandra Janes. Thank you to casual replacement ECEs, Jo-Anne Geddes and Mary Ann Zvoko for their work in kindergarten this year. Farewell to contract teachers, Sue Brown and Ashley Costain. Ashley will be moving to Century PS. Sue, a long-time teacher at WOM, has accepted a position at the new school in Kanata North. I am sure that she will be a leader there. These ladies will be incredibly missed, and we certainly wish them all the best in their new schools. Good luck and best wishes to Angela Ferguson who will be away on maternity leave next year after the birth of her first child in September. Last, and certainly not least, we wish Jack Hanna a wonderful and well-deserved retirement "paddling off into the sunset" at the end of the month. Those who have had the pleasure of working and learning with Jack know that he has made a very positive impact on students, parents and colleagues during his career. I know you join me in wishing Jack a happy and healthy retirement.

Good luck to our Grade 8 students as they move to high school. We look forward to seeing the rest of you back here on September 6! Please accept my best wishes for a relaxing, fun, and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Heather Graham
Principal

New Website

W.O. Mitchell is proud to tell you that we have a new school website. The OCDSB has created a new website template for every school in the district. The goal of this initiative is to bring about consistencies within each school's site. We hope that our community finds the site clear and easy to navigate through to get information. A link to the new site is below. Brad Sokalski is the new webmaster and if you have any questions about it, please contact me.

<https://womitchelles.ocdsb.ca>

Lost and Found

Please have your child or yourself come in and go through our lost and found. It is overflowing with items that need a good home.

Trees and Gardens

Last year we added 13 new trees to our beautiful school landscaping. Over the summer, they required watering during dry weeks. We had a great team of volunteers from our school

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family take on the responsibility of ensuring that these new trees flourished over the 9 weeks of summer vacation. This year, under the guidance of Mrs. Ansell-Gosselin, the front flower beds have been revitalized and look fantastic. We are looking for teams of volunteers to water (and weed) both the trees and the gardens this summer between the hours of 8 and 3. You do not have to be able to commit to the entire summer solo; we are hoping to have enough volunteers to spread out the responsibility. If your family would be able to help, please contact Mrs. Ansell-Gosselin, Mrs. Shadbolt or Ms. Fried.

WOM-a-Palooza!

The countdown to WOM-a-Palooza is on!!! Join us Saturday, June 18th, from 10am-2pm to celebrate our school and our community! Wom-A-Palooza promises the return of many "WOMFest" faves (WOM's Got Talent, games, BBQ), but will feature new and exciting elements, including Father's Day activities, a Cake Walk, new games and inflatables, and a Petting Zoo!!

What you need to know:

COST

In support of our school, some activities will be cost-based:

- Nail Bar (\$2)
- Facepainting (\$2)
- Carnival games (\$1)
- Splash Tank (\$1)
- Raffles (\$1)
- Inflatables (\$2)
- BBQ (\$3 per beef/chicken/veggie burger, \$2 per hot dog, \$1 per watermelon slice, \$1 per bag of chips, \$1 per drink)
- Treats (\$2 per cotton candy, \$1 for baked goods, freezies and/or candy)
- Cake Walk (\$1 per ticket or 3/\$5)
- Toy Raffle (\$1 per ticket or 3/\$5)
- Mystery Bags (\$2)
- Class Baskets Silent Auction

*Wristbands will be available for purchase during WOM-a-Palooza for \$15, which provide one-time access to the Nail Bar, Facepainting, 5 Carnival Games, 1 Splash Tank visit, 1 "Guess How Many" ballot, 1 Raffle ballot, 3 Cake Walk ballots, 1 Mystery Bag and UNLIMITED Bounce House visits!!! Other activities will be completely **FREE**:

- Petting Zoo
- Martial Arts Demo
- Father's Day Games
- Father's Day Crafts
- Craft Corner
- Ottawa Police Services Information Booth (including Child Print Program and a visit from a Police motorcycle or cruiser!!)
- WOM's Got Talent

INFLATABLES

WOM-a-Palooza will feature 3 incredible inflatables: a 50ft Inflatable Obstacle Course (that's 10ft more than last year!), a Wrecking Ball bounce house and a Candyland Unit for toddlers, that includes a ball pit, slide and more! Use of inflatables requires a signed consent form from parents, as per OCDSB policy. Forms were sent home with children earlier this week, but will be available onsite at WOM-a-Palooza as well.

GAMES

WOM-a-Palooza will see the return of WOMFest's classic games, but will feature a new exciting game from our Inflatables vendor and will feature games designed and run by YOUR KIDS! Grade 7 & 8 students (teams are welcome!) are asked to submit their game ideas to womfest@womschoolcouncil.com. Up to 4 games will be chosen and winners will receive a budget of \$50 to build their game. Get cracking, kids!!

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BASKET AUCTION

WOM-a-Palooza will feature a Basket Auction created by WOM students and teachers. Themed baskets will be put together by many classes over the next few weeks and will be auctioned off in a Silent Auction. For more information, check the School Council website in the coming weeks, or check with your child to see if their class is participating!

WOM'S GOT TALENT

Shine those tap shoes and start practising your favourite Adele song, because WGT is back!! A student and family favourite, WOM's Got Talent showcases all the amazing talents of our children: dancing, singing, magic tricks, WHATEVER! Check your child's backpack in the coming days for more information on sign-ups, etc.

FATHER'S DAY CONTESTS

In honour of Father's Day weekend, WOM-a-Palooza will feature Father's Day 3-legged race contests (to be held at 11am, 12pm and 1pm), Father's Day crafts (card-making and more), and a WORST TIE contest (contestants to line up on stage for audience choice at 1:30pm). Got an Uncle or Grandpa who's like a dad? Got a mom pulling double-duty? Tell them to find a hideous tie and join us for some Father's Day fun and games!! Socks & sandals are encouraged.

For this and other information on WOM-a-Palooza, check out WOM-a-Palooza 2016 on Facebook, or visit our School Council Facebook page and/or group. See you June 18th!!

JUNE DATES TO NOTE

Swim to Survive - EF3B	June 7, 14 & 21
Volunteer Tea - Library 2:30- 3:30	Wed., June 8
EF6A Play Day - 12 - 2:30	Wed., June 8
Board Finals Track & Field - Grades 7 & 8	Wed., June 8
Junior Achievement - Grades 7 & 8	Wed. June 8
Intermediate Boys Soccer Tournament - KRC	Thurs., June 9
EF56A Play Day - 8 - 10:00	Thurs., June 9
PD day - <i>no school</i>	Fri., June 10
Intermediate Girls Soccer Tournament - KRC	Mon. June 13
Aviation Museum Field Trip - Grade 6's 12-2:30	Mon. June 13
Museum of History Field Trip- Grade 5's	Mon. June 13
Track & Field - Grade's 4, 5 & 6 Earl of March SS	Tues., June 14
Scientists In Schools - R23A	Tues., June 14
NAC Performance - Grades 1 - 3	Wed., June 15
Parliament Hill Field Trip - Grade 8's	Fri., June 17
Recognition Assembly - Gym 10:40 - 12	Mon., June 20
Fun Haven Field Trip - EF5A & EF56A	Tues., June 21
Fun Haven Field Trip - EF78A 10 - 2:30	Tues., June 21
We Bake For Change - Lobby ALL Day	Wed., June 22
Spirit Assembly - Gym 1- 2:30	Thurs., June 23
University of Ottawa field Trip - Grade 8's	Fri., June 24
Report Cards Go Home	Tues., June 28
Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony	Wed., June 29
Mavericks - Grade 6 - 8 8 - 12:00	Thurs., June 30
Last Day of School	Thurs., June 30