



W.O. Mitchell E.S.
“Learning together, together to learn”
Principal: Heather Graham
Vice Principal: Brad Sokalski
Office Administrator: Pauline Billington
Office Assistant: Jane Foster
Chief Custodian: Elio Lisi
Superintendent: Brett Reynolds
Trustee: Christine Boothby
<https://womitchelles.ocdsb.ca/Pages/home.aspx>



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

September 12, 2016



Issue # 1

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

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. With our first week complete, I wanted to take some time to welcome you to the new school year and to thank you for an incredibly smooth start up. This is my sixth year as Principal of W.O. Mitchell School and it is an honour and privilege to work in a partnership with you and your family.

I hope that you are able to join us for our Meet the Staff Evening at WOM, on Wednesday, September 21 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm. We will start outdoors in the yard (in the gym for inclement weather) with a social including music, cake, and juice (nut and gluten-free options will be available) from 5-5:45 pm. If you like, bring a picnic for your family at that time. Staff will then move into the learning spaces/classrooms from 5:45-6:30 and will be happy to host you there. We are looking forward to getting to know you better later this month!

Student safety is very important in every school. Visitors and volunteers are required to sign in at the office and wear proper identification while at the school. Please do not enter through a side or back door. Come through the front door and check in with the Office Administrators, Pauline and Jane. Thank you for keeping our school safe for our students.

The Ottawa-Carleton District has instituted a new field trip procedure. Starting this year, parents who are volunteering for field trips are required to fill out a Volunteer Waiver Form. Also, all volunteer drivers for sports teams/field trips must fill in a Volunteer Driver Form and bring your proof of insurance and drivers' license to our administrators to verify in the office. Thank you for your cooperation as we work through this new process.

I had the pleasure of participating in the Ontario Principals' Council Leading Educators Around the Planet (LEAP) Program in New Zealand this summer. This is an exchange program for principals and vice principals where administrators are paired with an overseas partner shadowing their work and completing an action research project. I investigated how schools in New Zealand foster "student voice" in the classroom. My exchange partner, Principal Shelly Fitness, will be working and researching with me here in Kanata from September 25-October 5. We will be visiting many classrooms throughout

Ottawa and other parts of Ontario at that time. Thanks in advance for welcoming my new colleague!

Finally, please consider joining the WOM School Council this year. This is a group of dedicated volunteers who give advice to administration and fundraised to improved resources at the school. They meet usually on the second Tuesday of every month in the library at 7 pm. This month, the first meeting of the year is September 20. School Council Elections are that evening. Thank you for coming out to support learning at WOM.

Sincerely,

Heather Graham
Principal

REPORTING ABSENCES

Please let the office know if your child **will not** be attending school or **will be late** either by leaving a message on the school **attendance line (613)271-1809** which is open 24 hours or by calling after 7:45 am. Please keep your child home if he/she is ill. It is a health risk to other students. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

PHOTO DAY



Don't forget to wear your smiles on **Friday, September 23, 2016** for School Photo Day. Retake day will be **October 13, 2016**

SCHOOL HOURS 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM

7:45	Yard supervision begins
10:00 – 10:20	Recess
10:20 – 10:40	Nutrition Break (snack)
12:20 – 12:45	Recess
12:45 – 1:10	Nutrition Break (lunch)
2:30	School Day Ends

KISS AND RIDE AND THE SCHOOL YARD: IT'S ALL ABOUT STUDENT SAFETY!

We have many walkers, students on bicycles, parents with strollers and children arriving by bus and by car. Safety is our first concern. School routines regarding traffic and boundaries make it possible for all our students to arrive safely at school, be secure on our yard, and depart promptly at the end of the day.

A crossing guard is stationed at Steeple Chase Drive and Springwater Drive to assist students and parents crossing Steeple Chase. Please remind your children to walk to this location in order to cross this busy street safely in the morning.

The Kiss and Ride area is used by school buses as well as parents who drive children to school and drop them off. Teachers are on duty at 7:45 am and will assist children exiting cars and direct them to the school yard where another duty teacher supervises them until the bell. If a parent needs to park for a minute or two, there is a parking lot off the street at

Mattawa Park (a short walk away). Please do not park in the Kiss and Ride area. This is a drive through area only.

The school parking lot is reserved for staff and volunteer parking during the school day. Access to the parking lot is closed off 15 minutes before and after school hours in order to ensure student safety as the children leave the school yard.

Now that the first week of school is over, all students are well established in the routines and knowledge of where and when to line up. We ask that parents respect all children's safety and security by remaining at the boundary of the school yard when you drop off your son or daughter in the morning. Duty teachers are on supervision and must ensure that only staff, children and visitors/ volunteers who have signed in at the front office are on school property during the school day. We also ask parents who pick up children after school to remember that the yard is often used until 2:30 pm by teachers and their classes; therefore the pavement and play structures at the back of the school are reserved for physical education and other school activities until the bell rings at the end of the day. Please wait until the bell before entering the yard. Your understanding and cooperation is much appreciated. Please note also that dogs are not permitted on school property.

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

We would like to remind parents that we have a number of students in our school at risk of anaphylaxis. Severe reactions can be brought on by extremely limited exposure to the allergen. Products containing nuts can be dangerous for those with life-threatening allergies. ***We ask that you exercise caution in the selection of items in your child's lunch/snacks.*** If your child requires an epi-pen, please be sure to give one to the office and one to be kept on your child. If you have any questions regarding medication/ administration of medication, please contact the school office. ***No student will be permitted to keep medication of any kind in their lockers or on their person wexcept epipens and inhalers that have the proper paper work in the office.***

Anaphylaxis



Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction caused by ingesting a food or drug. It can be life-threatening. While food is one of the most common allergens, medicine, insect stings and latex can also cause a reaction. School staff complete training every year on how to use an auto-injector in the case of an emergency, however, preventing a reaction from occurring is always the goal. We can all do our part to keep children with severe allergies safe at school. Parents can:

- Remember that most schools do not allow peanut butter and other peanut/tree nut products at school.
- Find out from your child's teacher if there are any other foods to avoid in your child's lunch box and what they are.
- Remind your child to never share food at school.
- Remind your child to wash their hands well with soap and water before leaving for school.

For more information contact Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 or visit www.ottawa.ca/health.



Ontario Electronic Stewardship



Clean out your basements and raid your closets! Better yet, buy that new flatscreen you've been wanting. We'll take your old one. Once again this year WOM will be partnering with Ontario Electronic Stewardship and Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy to collect and recycle all your old electronics and used clothing. Together we are committed to keeping as much as we can out of landfills.

Saturday October 1, 2016
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
WOM Kiss and Ride
Rain or shine

Please contact ewaste@womschoolcouncil.com with any questions
All proceeds go to improving WOM programs

Tick Information and Safety

You may have heard that the City of Ottawa has had a record number of tick problems this year. Ticks are very tiny insects that can bite animals and humans and transmit a bacteria causing Lyme disease. This has become a serious issue in Eastern Ontario. We have had some tick bites in this neighbourhood and have recently heard that a collected tick tested positive for Lyme disease. It is advisable to check your children vigilantly for signs of ticks or tick bites to reduce the chance of disease.

Please see this link for comprehensive information from the City of Ottawa on this subject.

<http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/public-health/disease-and-medical-conditions/lyme-disease>

Dates to Remember (for more updated information please visit our school website calendar @ <https://womitchelles.ocdsb.ca/Pages/home.aspx>)

School Council Meeting – 7 Pm Library	Tuesday, September 20
Meet the Staff Night - 5-6:30 pm	Wednesday, September 21
Picture Day	Friday, September 23
Baxter Conservation Area Field Trip – EF 4A & EF5A	Friday, September 23
Baxter Conservation Area Field Trip – EF56A & EF6A	Thursday, September 29
Baxter Conservation Area Field Trip – R78A & R8A	Friday, September 30
PA Day – <i>NO SCHOOL</i>	Friday, October 7
School Council Meeting – 7 PM Library	Tuesday, October 11
Picture Retake Day	Thursday, October 13

Staff 2016-2017

	Position
Ansell-Gosselin, Gaye	R12A Teacher
Bacon, Marie Helen	EF2A Teacher
Bell, Julie	EF3A Teacher
Billington, Pauline	Office Administrator
Blythe, Scott	R45A Teacher
Bottiglia, Natalie	EF1A Teacher
Bowen, Sarah	DD Teacher
Buckley, Karen	Educational Assistant
Costain, Ashley	EF1B Teacher
Cousins, Lisa	KJSA
Dennique, Angie	Early Childhood Educator
Fitze , Ian	Instrumental Music/Arts Teacher
Foster, Jane	Office Assistant
Fried, Tigra	EF78A Teacher
Graham, Heather	Principal
Hodgins, Dave	EF34A Teacher
Howell, Kelly	Early Childhood Educator
Hubbard, Gail	KJSB Teacher
Jessiman, Dan	R78A Teacher
Jessett, Lee	Educational Assistant
Kohut, Nancy	KJSC Teacher
Le Madec, Karin	EF6A Teacher
Lisi, Elio	Chief Custodian
McCallum, Adrew	Kindergarten/French Teacher
McGinn, Ann	Educational Assistant
McGrath, Heather	R56A/PE Teacher
McLeod, Chrissy	Early Childhood Educator
Mercier, Danielle	Library Tech
Nansen, Jill	Educational Assistant
Ottaviani, Cindy	Core French Teacher

Peters, Pam	Lunch Monitor
Pezoulas, Kelly	EF4A Teacher
Phillips, Kelley	R8A Teacher
Poirier, Nancy	English to French Teacher
Popowicz, Kayla	Early Childhood Educator
Powell, Nicole	EF56A Teacher
Pratt, Debbie	Learning Resource Teacher
Pu, Li	Early Childhood Educator
Ross, Deborah	Lunch Monitor
Sabiston, Mandy	EF2B Teacher
Sevigny, Lise	EF8A Teacher
Siddiq, Shipley	Early Childhood Educator
Shadbolt, Heather	R3A Teacher
Sokalski, Brad	Vice Principal/Learning Support Teacher
Stein, Barb	English To French Immersion Teacher
Tysick, Derek	R56A Teacher
Williams, Sian	Learning Support Teacher
Villeneuve, Lisa	EF5A Teacher
Zovko, Mary Ann	Early Childhood Educator

