

## **Parent Council: Principal's Report – March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**THANK YOU:** I would like to thank Council for financially supporting our request for games for indoor recess and for providing hot chocolate and snacks for our Winter Activity Day.

**PLANNING 2014–15:** Our staff spends a considerable amount of time making careful decisions about class placements for our students. We consider many factors in our efforts to create student groupings that will result in the best learning conditions for all. One of the things we like to consider is parental requests for student placements. While we cannot guarantee that requests will be fulfilled, having that information in April will ensure that it is considered. With that said, if you have a specific request for a placement for your child for next year, please notify me in writing along with the reasons for requesting by April 16<sup>th</sup>

If you know of anyone who is planning to attend Manor Park next year, please ask them to come in to register as soon as possible.

**HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION:** One of the district priorities for this year was to improve the infrastructure for home school communications. In April all elementary schools will be able to access a new SynreVoice service. SynreVoice has a product called School Connects which is used to send parents voice messages and email messages about school related activities, including attendance, newsletters, school council meetings, report card distribution, and other pertinent information.

**GIVE BACK TO SCHOOL:** Ottawa Reads has chosen our school for a beatification project which will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The idea proposed was to paint a mural in one of our washrooms. The Board has agreed to buy the paint required. We do require ideas for the mural. If you would like to contribute your ideas or if you are artistic and would like to come up with an original design, please let me know by March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**EDUCATION CONFERENCE:** The OCDSB is putting on a conference entitled Closing the Gap – Creativity, Diversity and Learning: Critical Connections. This event will take place on Friday, March 28 and will feature special guests Andy Hargreaves and Pasi Sahlbeg. I am pleased to say that Sharon Leslie and Nikolas Jukubinek will be joining me and teacher Maha Albari for a day of learning and conversation.

**WE HOST:** The Canada Homestay Network is looking for families willing to host an International student. There will be an information evening held at Manor Park on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**OSTA:** The Ottawa Student Transportation (OSTA) has been looking for ways to improve efficiency through bus routing. That can have an impact on school start times, or "bell times". OSTA has posted information regarding proposed bell time

changes as well as information about hazard zones on its website at [ <http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca> ][www.ottawaschoolbus.ca](http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca). All of the changes are proposed to be implemented for school year 2015–2016. Public consultation will occur in April and May 2014, through open houses and presentations. The dates, times and locations will be posted on the OSTA website as well as the board’s website. Parents, guardians and caregivers are encouraged to submit comments to a special email box [ <mailto:feedback@ottawaschoolbus.ca> ][feedback@ottawaschoolbus.ca](mailto:feedback@ottawaschoolbus.ca).

## **COMMUNITY MEMBER RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Take the Time to Recognize Someone through the Community Member Recognition Awards. There are so many people who make an incredible difference in our school communities. The district has several awards to recognize the work of parent and community volunteers. Nominations must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2014.

**Chair’s Award** – recognizes the substantial contribution of an OCDSB staff member and/or a community member to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Board over an extended period of years.

**Community Award** – recognizes the outstanding efforts of a member of the OCDSB community in developing a community initiative that directly supports the well-being of our students.

**School Council Volunteer**– recognizes the outstanding efforts of a school council or school council member for making a significant contribution to enhancing the learning experience of students at a school and/or system level.

**Volunteer of the Year Award** – recognizes the substantial contribution of a parent volunteer or community volunteer over an extended period of years or through a single significant initiative that has had a positive impact on students.

**Community Partnership Award** – recognizes the outstanding partnership/support from a community agency or business over an extended period of years or through a significant initiative that has directly benefited OCDSB students.

To get a nomination form, please see OCDSB [ [Link](http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/awards/Pages/default.aspx) ]<http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/awards/Pages/default.aspx> ] Procedure PR.636.GOV: Community Member Recognition Awards. For more information, please contact [ [Link](mailto:Maureen.Strittmatter@ocdsb.ca) ][Maureen.Strittmatter@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Maureen.Strittmatter@ocdsb.ca)

It’s time to put forward your favourite teachers! Canadian Family Magazine is now accepting nominations for its annual Teacher Awards. Now in its eighth year, the national program celebrates first-rate, community-nominated elementary and secondary school educators across the country. Nominations close on April 15, 2014. A panel of educational experts will shortlist 12 semi-finalists, to be announced on May 26, 2014. An online vote at [canadianfamily.ca](http://canadianfamily.ca) will determine the three winners.

For information on how to nominate your favourite teacher please email Samatha Alexander at [salexander@st.josephmedia.com](mailto:salexander@st.josephmedia.com)