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We now have an official name! The New Stittsville Elementary School will be named Westwind Public School. The school is named after one of the first developments in our school zone, called Westwind Farms. The school's library will be called the Daisey Jinkinson Library, after a beloved teacher who has taught in Stittsville for many years. Thanks to all families for your input throughout the naming process.

School Organization Update: Construction is moving ahead nicely and we look forward to opening our doors to over 480 students on September 6th, 2011.

Staffing is nearing completion. We are pleased to welcome several new staff, Kathy Charlebois – Office Assistant, Lesley Hepworth and Sara Jolicouer – Early Childhood Educators, Kelli Byce – Educational Assistant and Cindy Maclean - Librarian Technician.

Our planning for next year is well under way; however it will not be finalized until the very first day of school due to in-coming registrations in late August. As such, class lists and homerooms will not be available until the first day of school.

Summer Office Hours: Our school office will open the week of August 29th from 8:30 – 4:30 for information and registration. Please check the website regarding the location of the office and for updated information regarding the school.

Interim School Council: Thanks to parents for your ongoing participation in building our school culture and traditions. Your input, advice and enthusiasm in supporting our school initiatives have been greatly appreciated. We also extend thanks to our executive and members at large for your involvement and for taking the lead with our fundraising initiatives. Please check the website for the minutes of the last school council meeting which will be posted shortly.

Thank you to our sister schools A. Lorne Cassidy and Stittsville Public School which have generously donated monies and books to Westwind to assist in building our literacy collections. We greatly appreciate all the support the schools and respective school councils have provided.

Orientation Activities: Plans are underway for the Open House for our new school. The final date is dependent on when we are able to access the building. We will post this information on our website. Families and the broader community will have the opportunity to tour the building, meet new families and school staff.



Founding Families Project: In the fall our school council will initiate an orientation project entitled “Founding Families”. Chapters bookstore in Kanata will be having a Westwind Public School day on Friday, September 9th between 6 pm and 9 pm. Our school will receive 10% of the sales from the books purchased. The funds will be used to support field trips, Scientists in the Schools workshops, arts and cultural presentations. The council encourages students,

their families, staff and community members to support this project, by purchasing a favourite book which would be donated to the new library. A nameplate will be placed in each book indicating the donor. As one of our “Founding Families” you can take pride in knowing that you are enriching the lives of students and you will be remembered as an integral part of Westwind Public School's history.

Please watch your community newspaper and the September school newsletter for more information on this fundraising opportunity.

First Day of School: The first day of school is September 6th. Teachers will be in the school yard at the back of the building with signs indicating their name, grade and room numbers. Teachers will have class lists with them. Other staff will be available to support parents in locating the appropriate class. In the event of rain, we will move indoors. There will be signage at the main entrance indicating where classes will be congregating.

School Supplies: A common list of school supplies has been developed for students in grades JK-3 and grades 4-8 by the Board. This list of supplies is strictly voluntary. You can find the list on our schools’ webpage. If you choose to purchase the supplies listed please send them in with your child during the first week of school. If you have a child in kindergarten, the following items may be omitted from the list: 12 pencils and 1 metric ruler.



Extended Day Program: We have approximately 115 students registered for the Extended Day program. If you forwarded your registration form and have not received a confirmation please contact the Extended Day Program office at (613) 239-2378. If you are new to the area and you are interested in the extended day program, you may contact Eleanor Heap at the Extended Care office for a registration form.

School Year Calendar 2011-2012

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|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| First Day of School | September 6, 2011 | P.A. Day | Feb. 17, 2012 |
| Thanksgiving | October 10, 2011 | Family Day | Feb. 20, 2012 |
| P.A. Day | October 21, 2011 | March Break | March 12 – March 2012 |
| P.A. Day | November 18, 2011 | Good Friday | April 6, 2012 |
| Christmas Break | Dec. 26 – Jan. 6, 2012 | Easter Monday | April 9, 2012 |
| P.A. Day | January 20, 2012 | Victoria Day | May 21, 2012 |
| | | P.A. Day | June 8, 2012 |
| | | Last Day of School | June 28, 2012 |

Transportation Update

The information below is from the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority

Information for Parents/Guardians:

Transportation Route Schedules:

All 2011-2012 Transportation Route Schedules will be posted on the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority website at www.ottawaschoolbus.ca by mid-August.

In addition to the bus route schedules being posted, please note that there is also a **"Stop Locator"** feature on our website. This feature will allow parents to access bus stop information for their children starting in mid-August when it will be updated with the 2011-2012 bus route schedules. The **"Stop Locator"** feature returns bus stop and route information for eligible students who are assigned to regular "yellow school bus" service or for eligible students who are assigned to OC Transpo Service.

OC Transpo route schedules will also be made available through the OSTA website or can be found directly through the OC Transpo website at www.octranspo.com.

School Bus Safety Awareness Day (First Time Rider Program):

This year's School Bus Safety Awareness Day is scheduled for **Sunday, August 28, 2011** and will run at six sites across the city in 45 minute sessions from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This important safety program is geared primarily for parents and children new to school bus transportation and for all elementary school-aged children who ride a school bus. Families and students can register to attend at one of the following sites:

| School | Address | Contact for Registration |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Holy Trinity Catholic High School | 180 Katimavik Road, Kanata | 613.836.7725 |
| **École élémentaire catholique Saint-Joseph d'Orléans | 6664 rue Carriere, Orléans | 613.721.5500 |
| Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School | 1515 Tenth Line Road, Orléans | 613.835.2488 |
| St. Francis Xavier High School | 3740 Spratt Road, Ottawa | 613.749.3777 |
| ** École élémentaire publique Charlotte Lemieux | 2093 prom. Belair, Ottawa | 613.721.5500 |
| Woodroffe High School | 2410 Georgina Drive, Ottawa | 613.749.3777 |

** French presentation sites

Parents/Guardians can find more information on School Bus Safety Awareness Day on our website at www.ottawaschoolbus.ca.

Applications for Seat Availability:

Students who had been approved to access service under the Seat Availability provision for 2010-2011 will need to re-apply for service for the 2011-2012 school year. The **"Application for Access to Empty Seats on School Bus Vehicles"** form is available in the OSTA conference in BEAM as well as on the OSTA website at www.ottawaschoolbus.ca.

It remains the responsibility of the school principal to administer the empty seat provision at her/his school.

School principals are authorized to assign empty seats, to students not eligible for busing, on school bus vehicles serving their schools after October 1.

Transportation Information During the Summer Months:

Please note that the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority will be open during the summer months, with the exception of the following two weeks, July 25, 2011 – August 5, 2011. Please contact OSTA directly during the summer months if you have questions about transportation or changes to your children's address or caregiver information.

Transportation Information During the Fall:

Parents should be advising schools directly of any changes to student home or caregiver locations. Please remind parents that OSTA will require a minimum of three business days to implement a change to transportation services.

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions:

Please be reminded that three copies of the "***Life-threatening Medical Condition Emergency Transportation***" forms must be submitted to OSTA by September 30 of each year for all students who may require the emergency administration of epinephrine auto-injectors or other emergency medical attention during transportation to or from school. These forms will be processed and sent to the school bus operators. Forms are not to be given directly to the driver or transportation provider by parents/guardians or school staff.

Transportation Zones:

As you know, the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority has established four Transportation Zones within the City of Ottawa. These zones are: *West, Centre West, Centre East, and East.*

If you are not sure what zone your school is assigned to please check our website at www.ottawaschoolbus.ca and click on *School Directory* to display a complete listing of all schools and zones.

In addition to dedicated phone extensions, each Transportation Zone now has a dedicated email address that parents may also use to communicate any concerns they may have regarding their children's transportation arrangements in the fall:

| Transportation Zone | Telephone Contact | Email Contact |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| West Zone | 613.224.8800 ext. 2383 | <u>west@ottawaschoolbus.ca</u> |
| Centre West Zone | 613.224.8800 ext. 2382 | <u>centre.west@ottawaschoolbus.ca</u> |
| Centre East Zone | 613.224.8800 ext. 2381 | <u>centre.east@ottawaschoolbus.ca</u> |
| East Zone | 613.224.8800 ext. 2380 | <u>east@ottawaschoolbus.ca</u> |

We wish you all a safe and wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in September!