



Message from the Director - Dr. Jennifer Adams

Welcome to the OCDSB! (September)

Without a doubt, every family with school-aged children has been busy over the past weeks preparing for 'back to school'. I have memories of this exciting time of year that date back to my days in Northwestern Ontario as one of six siblings thinking about what to put in my school bag, what to wear on the first day, and who my teachers would be. Now, as a mother of two, this annual ritual continues.

This is an equally busy time of year for schools in the OCDSB. Our custodial staff has been working hard all summer to ensure that classrooms and schools are in top shape for students to learn. Some of our schools have been given significant upgrades and Stittsville will welcome a new school to their community - Westwind Elementary School has opened its doors to approximately 600 students in kindergarten to grade 5, with grade 6 starting in 2012.

Our principals and vice-principals have been busy staffing their schools, registering new students, and finalizing class lists and timetables. Our teachers are reading student files, reviewing curriculum documents, and preparing courses of study and lesson plans.

All this to say, OCDSB schools are ready to provide your children with a great year of learning!

A lot has been happening at the District level as well. Last December, twelve Trustees were elected to represent constituents in Ottawa and to provide policy direction to the school district for the next four years. In June, the Board approved a new four-year strategic plan for the OCDSB.

Why is the new strategic plan important for parents? Because it provides a blueprint for improvements to our core business - teaching and learning. In broad terms, the plan identifies a number of district goals to improve student learning and wellness. Four pillars – well-being, engagement, leadership, and learning – are the cornerstones to the plan.

For those who are interested in taking a closer look, you can see the plan and read more about the planning process on our website under [Strategic Plan 2011-2015](#).

Each month, I will use this site to keep you posted on the many initiatives taking place in our District. I am interested in hearing your thoughts on initiatives or on any other topics related to teaching and learning in the OCDSB. You can send your comments to director@ocdsb.ca. I will read each submission personally, and if a response is required, will direct it to the staff person who is most knowledgeable on the topic.

I wish you and your children a happy and successful school year with the OCDSB!

Sincerely,

Jennifer