



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Farley Mowat Public School

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October 4, 2018

### Principal and Vice Principal Message

It was a pleasure to see so many new and returning families in attendance at our annual Meet the Teacher on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The number of parents attending exceeded our expectations! The food trucks were a great success and provided an opportunity for families to get to know one another. Thanks again for all your support in attending this important event. If you did not have an opportunity to visit the school and your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to call to arrange a visit.

On Thursday, September, 28<sup>th</sup> the entire school participated in our Annual Terry Fox Day. The students had lots of fun and truly ran in Terry's footsteps. Thank you to Ms. Avery for coordinating this important event. Big thank you to the students who acted as our school DJ's playing favorite songs which motivated all students to participate. This truly is a character building activity.

Orange Day September 28<sup>th</sup>. People from all walks of life were wearing orange shirts to remember the experiences of former students of Residential Schools and to commit to ongoing reconciliation. Thank you to Ms. Cathcart for organizing this event.

Thank you to all staff, students and parents who donated food item for the one day food drive for families who lost power as a result of the tornado. The out pouring of your generosity and care for our community was overwhelming. KISSFM 105.3 was truly impressed with the amount of food items and cash donations.

This fall, students have experienced practicing fire drills, emptying the school and portables in less than three minutes. Just as we hold fire drills to prepare students to vacate the building as quickly as possible so do we also hold 'lockdown' practices - one will be held on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Our School Resource Officer will be present to assist and provide feedback to staff on our lock down procedures. A lockdown is held any time we would want the halls to be cleared of all traffic for a period of time in order to ensure that our students remain safe – this could include a medical emergency, a student in distress, or an unwanted visitor in the school. Teachers talk to students about the possible reasons for a lockdown in a reassuring manner. A lockdown is generally over within fifteen minutes. As with rehearsing a fire drill, the rehearsal of this procedure is necessary in order to ensure preparedness. These measures are consistent with the School Board's policy and procedures.

Currently we have 567 students. The good news is that class sizes have been approved by the Board and there will not be a reorganization of students to meet Ministry class sizes.

As we quickly approach Thanksgiving, we hope that you have a safe and restful long weekend with your family and friends.

Michael Malek  
Principal

Jennifer O'Doherty  
Vice Principal

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Parents may apply online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com), forms may be downloaded at [www.binks.ca](http://www.binks.ca) or hard copies may be picked up from the school office.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. If your child is involved in school related sports activities or is participating in any field trips out of the province you may wish to seriously consider the coverage options, which range from \$13.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

### **October 5<sup>th</sup> Professional Activity Day**

Teachers, Educational Assistants and Early Childhood Educators will participate in the Ministry of Education Fundamentals of Math training and focusing on our School Learning Plan. This year, students in Kindergarten to grade 6 will learn the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction with whole numbers and then independently apply their knowledge and skills when solving open, multi-step problems.

### **Picture Day is coming on Thursday, October 11**

Make it simple by ordering your portraits online using your Picture Day ID and child's first name to get started. If you prefer to order on paper, we will be sending an order form home as well.

**Remember to smile and have fun!"**

### **Character Education**

This month as part of our positive school climate we will continue working on Character Education with our students. Our goal is to promote appropriate social skills for children to succeed both academically and socially. This month students will be learning more about responsibility.



### **Arrive On Time**

Students are encouraged to arrive at school on time. The first few minutes of class are important organizational times. Students who arrive late miss the opportunity to become organized for the day and to hear important announcements. Students who are late after 8:35 am are required to report in the office, so that the attendance record can be corrected, and they will be issued a late slip to present to the classroom teacher. Kindergarten students are encouraged to arrive at 8:15 am so they can have outdoor play time while the weather is enjoyable.



### **Discussions with Teachers**

If you have a concern within the classroom setting, please arrange a meeting with the teacher at a mutually agreed upon time so that they can arrange their schedules to give you the time and attention you deserve. Parents are not allowed to sign in and proceed to the classroom to have an unscheduled meeting.

### **EQAO Results**

The final results from the 2017 - 2018 Ministry of Education's EQAO tests have been received. Staff received many hours of in-service last year and had the opportunity to revisit former strategies as well as implement new ones in their classrooms. That, along with parental support from home, has produced some great results. Individual student profiles will be sent home in October.

#### **Percentage Of All Students At Or Above The Provincial Standard (Levels 3 & 4) 2016 - 2017**

<b>Grade 3</b>	School	Board	Province		<b>Grade 6</b>	School	Board	Province
Reading	79	76	75		Reading	85	83	82
Writing	76	71	71		Writing	85	81	80
Math	59	61	61		Math	54	51	49

Children who achieve a level 3 or more are considered to be working at grade level.

The School Effectiveness Planning Committee will be analyzing these results, along with other pertinent material, to develop a School Improvement Plan. For 2018-2019, Farley Mowat Public School and The Ottawa Carleton District School Board will be focusing on Mathematics.

The complete report on the School District and the school's achievement can be found on the EQAO assessment website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). In the report, you can see how the school has done over time, the number of students at each achievement level, and other interesting data.

### **Fall Clothing**

Fall has arrived and with it, some more rainy weather. We ask that students come to school prepared to be outdoors on misty days as the fresh air is beneficial for them. As the mornings are frequently cold, it would be appreciated if you could also send your children) with mittens, a cap, and layered clothing. If they are drawn to mud puddles, extra socks and pants are also good ideas.

### **Drawstring Safety**

Drawstrings on jackets, sweatshirts and other clothing items pose a danger to children. They can become snagged on school bus handrails or doors and on playground equipment. Incidents of snagged drawstrings or toggles have resulted in injuries and even deaths. We urge you to inspect all of your children's clothing and eliminate these hazards wherever possible. The simplest solution is to remove all drawstrings from clothing.

### **Student Activity Fees**

Next year, we will not be collecting voluntary student activity fees. Student agendas and art supplies will be covered through the school consumable budget. Parents will be asked to cover the cost of field trips and performances.

### **Emergency Phone Numbers**

If an emergency situation arises and we need to close the school e.g. (power failure), or your child is injured or ill and needs to go home, it is critical that the office be able to reach you.

If you change your home or work number, or your child's emergency contacts change, please call the office with the new information as soon as possible so that we may update your child's record.

Your child's health and well-being are important to us.

### **School Bus Delays**

With the winter months approaching us, parents are reminded to listen to the local radio stations or news on television for any information on buses for Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

Please remember that if buses are cancelled in the morning, they are cancelled for the day.

Parents can also go on-line and review this "bus delay" information from the Ottawa School Transportation Authority (O.S.T.A.) website at [www.ottawaschoolbus.ca](http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca) This system is intended to provide all stakeholders with "up to the minute" information on bus delays (due to traffic conditions, weather delays, mechanical breakdowns, etc.), as well as the status of the bus routes servicing your school. School staff can still contact the bus company directly if you have concerns or require additional information about any bus delay at our school.

### **Yard Supervision**

Yard supervision begins at 8:15 a.m. Students are expected to leave for home immediately after school at 3:00 p.m. unless they are involved in an extra-curricular activity, which is supervised by a teacher.

Students are not permitted to eat outside as nutrition breaks are provided in each classroom. This is to reduce the risk of choking, minimize the possibility that our anaphylactic students will be exposed to a substance that is toxic to them as well as reducing the amount of garbage on the yard.

### **Term 1 Individual Education Plans**

For those students who have individual education plans (IEPs); the documents will be coming home on Tuesday, October 16th. One copy of the IEP will be sent home with your child. Please review the IEP. The single copy is for your records. Please sign page 5 of the IEP and send back to school to be filed in your child's Ontario Student Records. If you have any questions regarding this process please contact Kristin Cuttress, Learning Support Teacher.

### **Communication of Learning**

Junior and senior kindergarten students will receive a Communication of Learning report on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The Communication of Learning report covers transition to school, growth since September and next steps for success. Interviews will be held for junior and senior kindergarten students.

## **Progress Reports**

This year, students in grades 1-8 will receive an Elementary Progress Report Card. The Progress Report is designed to show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits during the fall of the school year, as well as a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. Progress Report Cards will be sent home with students on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Parent Teacher interviews will be scheduled for the evening of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the morning of November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Looking Ahead**

- **October 5<sup>th</sup>**: Professional Activity Day. Students do not attend school on this day
- **October 8<sup>th</sup>**: Thanksgiving Holiday. Students do not attend school on this day
- **October 11<sup>th</sup>**: Photo Day K-Grade 6
- **October 16<sup>th</sup>**: IEPS sent home with students
- **October 17<sup>th</sup>**: Farley Mowat Parent Council meeting in the library at 6:45 pm. Please join us and find more about how to get involved!
- **October 19<sup>th</sup>**: Practice Lock Down
- **Photo Retake Day**: November 8<sup>th</sup>