



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Henry Larsen Elementary School

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Principal: Christine Camus-Shepley **Superintendent:** Mary Jane Farrish 613-596-8211 Ext. 8821
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Office Assistant: Karen Cassidy **Website:** <https://henrylarsenes.ocdsb.ca>
Chief Custodian: Sandria Henry **Twitter:** @HenryLarsenE

“Through Caring and Sharing We Learn”

June 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems incredible that the school year will soon be coming to a close. These past few months during COVID-19 and school closures have been a time of huge adjustment and impact on everyone's lives, as we all adapt to different and new ways of staying safe and healthy, as well as incorporating new skills, with working from home and learning at home. We are definitely living in unprecedented times! We hope that all our families are staying healthy and well. We understand what a challenging time this has been for you. We very much miss our regular contact with our students and their families and look forward to being with everyone when we are back in schools.

At this time of the year, we always have a few good-byes to say to some staff members, as well as welcoming new staff who will be with us in September. Mrs. Rochow and I will be moving on to new adventures as we will both be retiring at the end of June. Mrs. Rochow has devoted many years of dedication and commitment to her students' learning and well-being throughout her career, both in the classroom and with her many hours spent with our award winning choirs. She has offered numerous opportunities to a vast number of students at all grade levels, to excel in vocal music and supported them in their academic learning. Mrs. Rochow will be greatly missed at Henry Larsen by staff, students and their families. We wish her enjoyment, relaxation and new adventures as she begins this new journey in life!

I have felt incredibly blessed to have been the Principal at Henry Larsen for the past seven and a half years. It has been a true joy to work with the students and their families, and with the amazing and dedicated staff at Henry Larsen. I have enormously enjoyed my 35 year career in education with the OCDSB. It has been a very fulfilling and incredible journey with children and their families, one that I would not have missed for the world. I have been touched and enriched by the lives of many.

We extend a very warm welcome to Amanda Pruner, who is the incoming Principal at Henry Larsen for September, 2020. Mrs. Pruner brings a wealth of experience to the position. I am confident that it will be a smooth transition for staff, students and their families, to work with Mrs. Pruner and Mrs. Morris as the Administrative team at Henry Larsen next year.

We are pleased to announce the following teachers who will be joining the Henry Larsen staff full-time in September: Ms. Stephanie Ranger, Ms. Danika King and Ms. Sarah Smith. Ms. Gina Pacheco is also joining the Henry Larsen staff as a 60% contract teacher and will also be teaching 40% at Convent Glen. All our staff members new to Henry Larsen are very much looking forward to being Henry Larsen Huskies!

Other staff that we are very pleased to welcome back to Henry Larsen in September: Mr. Emmanuel Abate will be a full time Educational Assistant (0.5 contract and 0.5 term), and Mr. Marco Gagliardi will be back with us on a half-time term position. Both are strong members of our team this year and we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them again next school year.

Finally, I would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to our School Council for their hard work and contributions to supporting our students and parents throughout the school year with various activities. We couldn't do the things we do, without this support.

Also, a HUGE thank you to our staff, wonderful students, caring parents/guardians and the entire Henry Larsen community for your ongoing commitment and teamwork. Thank you, in particular, for rising up to the challenge of navigating the new world of working and learning at home. We appreciate you!.

Have a wonderful and relaxing summer with your families!

Christine Camus-Shepley,
Principal
Christine.Camus-Shepley@ocdsb.ca



Access to Henry Larsen to Retrieve Students Belongings

Thank you to all those who filled in the Google Form to request an appointment to access the school to retrieve their child(ren)'s belongings. You will receive an email with your appointment time by Tuesday, June 16 at noon. If you do not receive an email, please email Dianne Morris (dianne.morris@ocdsb.ca).

If you did not fill in the Google Form by the due date/time (Saturday, June 13 at 8:00 pm), please use [this link](#) to make a late request and we will do our best to accommodate you in the time that we have left.



Tentative School Organization for 2020-2021	
2 Kindergarten Classes	
Grade 1	EFI
Grade 1/2	EFI
Grade 2	EFI
Grade 3	EFI
Grade 4	EFI
Grade 5/6	EFI
Grade 6	EFI
Grade 7	EFI
Grade 8	EFI
Grade 6	MFI
Grade 7/8	MFI
Grade 2/3/4/5	BIP - English
Grade 6/7	English
Grade 7/8	English

Racism and Discrimination are Unacceptable at Henry Larsen

As we hear in the news about events both in Canada and in other parts of the world, we know that these events are having a profound effect on those in our black community. We know that racism exists right here at home towards black, indigenous and people of colour. We have had students come to our office to report incidents to us that happen in the school yard and on social media. We have dealt with these issues as they arise, and we are very much aware that there is still more difficult and challenging work to be done.

Those of us in the white community need to look inward and to reflect on our own privilege, our own attitudes, our own life experiences and our own history as settlers in this country. We are still learning: how to be allies, how to say and do the right things, how to best support those in marginalized communities. We always want to hear feedback from students and families. We believe that education, both for ourselves as adults and for our students, along with providing safe spaces for open and honest communication, can help us along this learning journey together.

We are committed to fighting racism and discrimination at our school, as well as creating safe spaces for learning and talking together to ensure that every person feels valued and safe.

Christine Camus-Shepley, Principal
Dianne Morris, Vice-Principal



Transportation Communication

OSTA is working with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) and Ottawa Public Health (OPH) to develop a safe plan for bused students for the 2020/21 school year. We thank you for your patience as we navigate these uncertain times and will continue to update parents throughout the summer and beginning of the school year.

Parents can register for email notifications through the [OSTA Parent Web Portal](#) or follow OSTA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for news, updates, safety tips, bus delays and cancellations.

Information Accuracy Affects OSTA's Planning

Are you moving or changing daycare providers? Considering the Extended Day Program part-time or 5 days a week? Your decisions, and school data, affect OSTA's accuracy when we plan routes. During these complex times, **it is critical that parents give their school the most accurate information AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, to avoid extended waiting for a transportation change in the fall. OSTA is contemplating restricting changes this summer due to new processes that protect student health, and we are also anticipating increased operational pressures which will delay changes. So, get your information in to be sure your eligible child has a spot reserved on a bus.

Joint Custody and Transportation to Two Homes - Renewals

A temporary renewal form for existing variable transportation arrangements (Joint Custody) is now available online. Only one parent needs to complete the renewal form, providing there are no changes to the existing schedule, including access days and stop locations.

Renewal Joint Custody Forms must be submitted NO LATER THAN June 30th

NEW Joint Custody Transportation Forms, and any joint custody transportation changes, will only be accepted AFTER September 15, and then, only if the request can be safely accommodated and there is room on the required vehicle.

Empty Seats/Courtesy Seating - Suspended

In the event physical distancing becomes a requirement on yellow buses, the impact would significantly reduce available seating capacity. If this is the case, **OSTA will suspend the Empty Seat program** until such time as physical distancing on school buses is no longer required. We encourage parents to plan ahead and practice walking their children to school over the summer. Check OSTA's [website](#) for information on why the empty seat program has been suspended, Pedestrian Safety, Walking Routes and Walk-A-Block. OSTA would then resume the empty seat program as soon as it is feasible to do so.

OSTA Parent Web Portal Upgrade

OSTA's Parent Web Portal (Bus Stop Finder) has been upgraded! You will notice the Parent Web Portal has a new look and feel, and buttons or input fields may be in different locations. We encourage parents to go on the [Parent Web Portal](#) and test it out in June to prepare for next school year. Instructions on navigating the new Parent Web Portal are available on our [website](#).

Choosing to Drive? Let OSTA Know

Some parents may choose to drive their children to school in the fall, rather than letting them take the bus, or may not be sending their children to school at all. **OSTA will be circulating a request for parents to opt out of transportation during COVID-19 risk mitigation** to give those who really need transportation space on the bus. All services are expected to resume to normal standards once the COVID emergency protocols have been removed.

School Zone Safety and Walk-A-Block

As parents make decisions about how to get their children to school, we anticipate there will be an increase in car traffic around the school. We encourage students to walk to school as much as possible but if walking isn't an option, then we urge parents who drive their children to school to add **Walk-A-Block** to their routine. Try parking away from the school and walk the last block or two. Take some time this summer to plan your route by finding the five-minute walk radius around your school using google maps or check your school website for a Walk-A-Block Map. By planning ahead, you'll get a jump start on your back to school planning!

Pedestrian Safety – Walk to Your School Initiative

This summer, families in the walk zone are encouraged to safely spend time outside while familiarizing themselves with their route to school and learn more about the benefits of active transportation. Walking to school is a great way for children to get their daily quota of physical exercise. It also helps improve student behavior and students come to school prepared to learn. Visit OSTA's [Walk and Roll Zone](#) to find information on Walking Routes and Pedestrian Safety. Learn and practice pedestrian safety skills and discover routes to school before classes are back in session! #getyourwalkon #ottwalk2school.

Virtual School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Day

OSTA's Annual School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Day will be a virtual experience this year. New materials are being prepared and will be shared throughout the summer to prepare new riders, and to remind experienced riders of how to stay safe on the bus. OSTA will also be producing materials relating to physical distancing on the bus, as well as hygiene and germ safety while traveling. Stay tuned for more information to come.
