



Henry Larsen Elementary School

1750 Sunview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1C 5B3
Phone: 613-830-4634
Student Absentee Line: 613-830-0244
Fax: 613-830-4275



Principal: Amanda Pruner
Vice-Principal: Dianne Morris
Office Administrator: Rose Sharpe
Office Assistant: Elizabeth Francis
Chief Custodian: Geordie Jamieson

Superintendent: Mary Jane Farrish 613-596-8211 Ext. 8821
Trustee: Sandra Schwartz 613-868-5249
School Council Co-Chairs: Melody Currie and Billie Sabovich
School Council Email: sc-henrylarsenes@ocdsb.ca
Twitter: [@HenryLarsenE](https://twitter.com/HenryLarsenE)
Website: <https://henrylarsenes.ocdsb.ca>

“Through Caring and Sharing We Learn”

Here are the School Messenger emails that we have sent to families during the month of June, 2021:

4 June 2021

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

When walking past the school you may notice 215 hearts in the window at the front entrance. Our thoughts and hearts are with the 215 children who did not return home to their families. We are committed, as a staff and as a school, to deepening our learning about our country’s legacy of residential schools, the treatment of Indigenous people, and the intergenerational harm that has come from centuries of racism. We welcome all voices to help us in our learning; please reach out when you want to share with us.



With the announcement on Thursday from the Province comes a wave of emotions. We were devastated to say the least that we are not able to welcome students and staff back to the school for the last few weeks. We do have hope that this will mean a safer summer and September for all.

We still have many questions in terms of the pickup of student belongings from desks, cubbies and lockers, possible changes to graduation ceremony, chromebook returns, etc. We will share information with families once we know more.

Happy Pride Month:

Here is a photo of what the new OCDSB pride flag looks like at the school:



June is National Indigenous History Month

Each June, the OCDSB recognizes National Indigenous History Month. It is time to reflect upon the history, contributions, culture and strength of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and to learn about, celebrate and honour Indigenous knowledge, role models, and ways of knowing. To learn more about Indigenous Education at the OCDSB, [visit the OCDSB website](#).

At Henry Larsen, In addition to our land acknowledgment at the beginning of our morning announcements, we are using a version of [O Canada](#) this month that has a meaningful prelude before the singing of O Canada in Cree, French and English.

Elementary PA Day - Friday, June 4 **Today**

There was a PA Day on Friday, June 4th for all elementary students. No elementary classes took place today.

Report Cards for all grades to be available via email at the end of June. To access the report card, you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN). The OEN can be found on your child's previous report cards. Please verify that the school has your correct email. Visit ocdsb.ca/ReportCards to know more.

OCDSB 2021 Summer School - Registration is Open

The Grade 6-8 and Grade 9-12 Summer School Programs for 2021 are open for registration until June 24. Learn more at www.summerschoolinottawa.com.

Summer Virtual International Language Classes for K-8 Students: [Visit our website](#) for a full list of classes offered and registration information.

Important Dates:

Friday, June 4th - P.A. Day - no school for students

Monday, June 21st - National Indigenous People's Day

Wednesday, June 23rd - Report Cards sent home via School Messenger email

Friday, June 25th - Last Day of School

Thank you for your continued support. We are hopeful that this extended time of remote learning will help to allow for a more normal Fall for our students.

Have a Wonderful Weekend and Take Care,
Amanda and Dianne

11 June 2021

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

We were all in shock hearing of the murder of the Afzaal and Salman family in London, Ontario. The information coming from the news suggests that this attack was racially motivated and an act of hatred.

We recognize that these traumatising events will have an impact on our students, families and community. Our school board and staff are committed to supporting our children in a calm, understanding and caring environment, and although virtual, it remains a safe learning space.

If you have any questions, feel you would like support, or to access resources to help with challenging conversations at home, please let us know.

Our school sent an E-card to the Ottawa Muslim Association with our condolences. A copy of that E-Card is taped to the front door of the school.

A superintendent, Dorothy Baker, shares these words with all of us: "Let's all continue to relentlessly commit to anti-racism, anti-oppression, equity and human rights. This has to change."

Pickup of Belongings and Return of Chromebooks - More Information to Come:

We continue to work on plans for the end of the school year with evolving directions coming from the District and Province. We will keep families posted as soon as we can in terms of picking up materials from school and returning chromebooks. We will be in touch with our grade 8 families with details of the virtual leaving ceremony.

Tech Tip: What parents/guardians need to know about TikTok:



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips for Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media stardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Report Cards for all grades to be available via email at the end of June. To access the report card, you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN). The OEN can be found on your child's previous report cards. Please verify that the school has your correct email. Visit ocdsb.ca/ReportCards to know more.

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Important Dates:

Monday, June 21st - National Indigenous People's Day

Wednesday, June 23rd - Report Cards sent home

Friday, June 25th - last day of school

Take care, and have a wonderful weekend!

Amanda and Dianne

18 June 2021

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Thank you so much for your continued support! We can almost see the finish line.

All students who borrowed devices, are kindly asked to return their devices and chargers to the school so that we can begin the important process of cleaning, resetting and preparing the devices for the new school year.

This year, we have arranged for the safe drop off of OCDSB devices to occur on **Thursday June 24, 2021 and Friday June 25, 2021**.

Please do the [COVID screening](#) before coming to school.

Here is the plan for Henry Larsen:

In the interest of keeping everyone safe and allowing students to say a 5 minute voluntary goodbye to their educators and drop off/pick up items, here is our schedule:

Kindergarten both KJSA and KJSB- Friday, June 25th from 12:30-2:30.

- Outside on yard A
- Only students are permitted on the yard
- Masks are to be worn by students and staff
- Staff have bagged items on students' dots
- This is a 5 minute visit
- Families wishing to do a contactless drop-off and/or pickup can do so anytime next week between 8-4 at the front doors

Grades 1-2s Friday, June 25th from 8:30-9:30.

Grade 3s and 4s same thing but Friday, June 25th 10:00-11:00 am

- Same as above for kindergarten (please note the different time)

Grades 5-7

- students only will come into the school and go to their classroom to collect their items
- enter the front door only and students will sign in
- 5 minutes to empty lockers
- say goodbye to teachers in class
- students wear a mask

We understand that this may be difficult for families with multiple children in different classes, we will try our best to accommodate so that you don't have to come back to the school multiple times. Please contact the office or email us at henrylarsenes@ocdsb.ca so we can help.

Grade 8s (and the 7s from those classes) have been offered specific appointments on Thursday and Friday morning lasting 10 minutes (grade 7s - 5 minutes).

Schedule for the whole school is:

Yard A:

Grades 1-2s Friday, June 25th from 8:30-9:30.(outside in Yard A)

Grade 3s and 4s same thing but Friday, June 25th 10:00-11:00 am (Yard A)

KJSA and KJSB- Friday, June 25th from 12:30-2:30 (outside in Yard A)

Ring the doorbell and sign in at the front door:

Grade 6 MFI Tinney: Friday, June 25th 8:30-9:30 (inside Hall B)

Grade 6/7 EFI Learned: Friday, June 25th 10:00-11:00 (inside Hall B)

Grade 4/5 Leblanc: Friday, June 25th 11:30-12:30 (inside- Hall C)

Grade 5/6 EFI Brady: Friday, June 25th 1:00 to 2:30 (inside- Hall B)

Grade 6/7 English Ariola: Friday, June 25th 1:00 to 2:30 (inside- Hall C)

Grade 8s and 7s in those classes by individual appointment only (please see your child's teacher's email):

Grade 8 English Breuer: Thursday June 24th 9:00-12:00

Grade 7/8 EFI Lyons: Thursday June 24th 12:00-3:00

Grade 7/8 MFI Robinson: Friday June 25th 8:30-10:30

Report Cards:

Report cards for all grades will be available via email at the end of June. To access the report card, you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN). The OEN can be found on your child's previous report cards. Please verify that the school has your correct email. Visit ocdsb.ca/ReportCards to know more.

Indigenous Summer Learning 2021 Program:

This summer, the [OCDSB Indigenous Education team](#) will once again be leading a learning opportunity for Indigenous OCDSB students currently in Grade 8-12.

Students can earn an academic credit while learning from Indigenous teachers, Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders. This 6-week afternoon learning program includes virtual and Land-based experiential learning. This opportunity is ideal for Grade 8 Indigenous students looking to earn a credit while transitioning to Grade 9.

Schedule:

June 30 - July 30, 2021

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Registration link](#)

Sankofa Summer Academy for Black Youth:

In partnership with the Sankofa Centre of Excellence, the OCDSB Continuing Education department will offer a virtual reach ahead credit opportunity for African, Black and Caribbean Grade 8 students entering Grade 9 (or Gr. 9 students who have not completed Gr. 9 English). Eligible students will have the opportunity to earn an Academic English credit over the summer before they start high school. The course will be taught from an Afro-Centric perspective (Black writers and the history, culture, ideas, and values reflected in their work).

Course: ENG1D (English, Grade 9, Academic - destreamed)

Schedule:

June 30 - July 30, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[Registration link](#)

OCDSB 2021 Summer School:

For those families who registered their child, confirmation emails were sent by the board last Friday. If you did not receive a confirmation email, please let us know.

The Grade 6-8 and Grade 9-12 Summer School Programs for 2021 are open for registration until June 24. All summer school options will be virtual. Learn more at www.summerschoolinottawa.com.

OSTA End of Year Transportation Updates:

Please see below for information from OSTA.

Important Dates:

Monday, June 21st - National Indigenous People's Day

Wednesday, June 23rd - Report Cards sent home via School Messenger email

Thursday, June 24 and Friday, June 25th - asynchronous learning days, return of technology and pickup of student belongings

Thursday, September 9 - First day of school for students (2021-2022)

End of Year Transportation Updates

Transportation Communication

OSTA's priority is creating a transportation environment where students can feel safe and limit the transmission of the virus to the extent possible. OSTA, in consultation with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) and Ottawa Public Health (OPH), is reviewing the safe plan for bused students for the 2021/22 school year. We will continue to update parents and guardians throughout the summer and the 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? Or considering 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

Don't forget that the renewal process must be done every year! The renewal form for existing variable transportation arrangements (Joint Custody) is available [online](#). Only one parent needs to complete the renewal form, providing no changes to the existing schedule are required, including access days and stop locations. If there are any changes to your child(ren)'s information, then both TRA-T22A and TRA-T22B forms will have to be submitted with the new changes and signed by both parents.

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

Empty Seats/Courtesy Seating – Possible Suspension

If physical distancing continues to be a requirement on yellow buses, the impact would significantly reduce the available seating capacity. If this is the case, **OSTA will likely suspend the Empty Seat program** until physical distancing on school buses is no longer required. OSTA would then resume the empty seat program as soon as it is feasible to do so. This decision will be made at the end of August.

We encourage parents to plan ahead and practice walking their children to school over the summer. Please check our [active transportation](#) section for information on Pedestrian Safety, Walking Routes and Walk-A-Block.

OSTA Parent Web Portal Closed

OSTA's Parent Web Portal (Bus Stop Finder) will be closed from the end of June until mid-August. Please check our website and social media pages regularly for important transportation

announcements, deadlines and other vital information. The portal will reopen mid-August with next year's transportation information.

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. **Please opt out of student transportation by completing the [online form](#).** You will be helping 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 decide how to get their children to school, we anticipate 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, we urge parents who drive their children to school and add **Walk-A-Block** to their routine. Try parking away from the school and walking the last block or two. This summer, take some time to plan your route by finding the five-minute walk radius around your school using google maps or [download](#) your school's 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 an excellent way for children to get their daily quota of physical exercise. It also helps improve student behaviour, 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. We will be sharing safety materials throughout the summer to prepare new riders and remind experienced riders how to stay safe on the bus. OSTA will also be sharing materials relating to physical distancing on the bus, and hygiene and germ safety while travelling.

Walking School Bus Registration and Volunteers

Schools with Walking School Bus routes will be registering participants throughout June. [Walking School Bus Registration](#) and [Hybrid Walking School Bus Registration](#)

Teachers, parents, high school students and community members are welcome to apply to be a Volunteer Walking School Bus Leader to help kids learn pedestrian safety and engage in active transportation for the following schools: St Rita CS and Georges Vanier. Free training and flexible schedules. [Volunteer WSB Leader Registration](#)

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend!
Amanda and Dianne

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Happy Last Monday of the 2020-2021 school year!

An important note regarding Chromebooks for students who will be participating in virtual Summer School Programs:

Students who have technology signed out from the school may **KEEP** the chromebook for the month of July.

Today is National Indigenous People's Day:

Students have been learning about the beautiful and powerful contributions that Indigenous people in Canada have and continue to make in our communities. On the morning announcements, we have been sharing some artwork [from this linked article](#): *“Through illustration, each artist depicts their interpretation of community, National Indigenous History Month (NIHM) and National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD).”*

Here are some more resources:

[OCDSB Indigenous Education](#)

[Great Documentaries](#)

[Celebrating National Indigenous History Month](#)

A belated Happy Father's Day to all Fathers and Father Figures out there!



To all who fulfill the role of providing, guiding, cherishing, supporting, and caring for others of all ages and stages throughout your lives. We hope you had a great weekend.

Thank you and have a good night,
Amanda and Dianne

21 June 2021

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Merci!

We did it! We (families, students and staff at HLES) have made it through an unprecedented school year! This is one for the history books and will be one that we will all remember for a long time. Students have shown true growth in so many ways. We are so proud of them!

Thank you to all parents and guardians for your continued support through the school year.

It was so lovely to see so many students over the last two days who were able to come and collect their belongings. Have a safe, relaxing, and well deserved summer.

Mental Health Supports:

There is a new community service [1Call1Click.ca](https://www.1call1click.ca) that helps families to access mental health and addiction supports that are right for them. Other resources can be found [here](#) on the OCDSB website.

Please see the attached [memo from OSTA](#).

Important Dates:

Thursday, September 9 - First Day of School for Students 2021-2022

Until then, take care!

Amanda and Dianne