



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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 October, 2020:

2 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Thank you for another wonderful week! It was a wetter one than we've had up until now, but the students were dressed for the weather so we continued to learn and play outside in our lovely yard as much as possible.

Updates:

New signage on school property: The school board provided us with new signage to remind community members not to be in the school yard during school hours. This has not been a significant issue at our school but a visual reminder never hurts.

New Bike Rack: A new-to-us bike rack will be installed outside the gate for yard A to allow for primary students who require their parents'/guardians' assistance for locking up their bike. Thank you to Colonel By Secondary School for donating the rack. We will keep you posted as to when it is going to be installed.

New Daily Ottawa Public Health Self-Assessment TOOL for Students: As many of you have likely seen in the media, OPH is changing their COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool to align with the new Government of Ontario recommendations. I'm sure we will be receiving more information from OPH on this shortly.

OPH Form: Attestation for Return to School for Students Following Illness:

Ottawa Public Health has produced a letter for parents to help with the return to school. Called the "Attestation for Return to School/Childcare for Students Following Illness," the letter can be used by parents when:

- They can confirm their child has been diagnosed for a previous chronic condition, such as allergies or asthma.
- After being sent home, their child has seen a doctor or nurse practitioner who said the child's symptoms were not related to COVID-19.
- The child did not have a COVID-19 test, but completed 14 days of self-isolation from the date when they started feeling sick, has not had a fever for three full days and is feeling better.
- The child had a negative COVID-19 test after starting to feel sick and
- The child has not felt sick for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if experiencing vomiting or diarrhea) and has not been told by Ottawa Public Health or a healthcare provider to continue to self-isolate.

A copy of the form is here: ([attached](#))

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work with the evolving directions coming from OPH to keep our students and staff safe.

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 insuremykids.com or forms may be downloaded at binks.ca.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. The accident insurance coverage options range from \$17.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies to accidents that occur outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

School Council Updates: Stay tuned for our upcoming virtual school council meeting during the week of October 13th. Elections for positions for the 2020-2021 school year will be held at that time.

Meet the Staff Night: More information will be sent out early next week for a virtual meet the staff night that will be held the evening of Thursday October 8th via google meet.

Have a wonderful weekend!
Take Care and Be Safe,

Amanda and Dianne

5 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

A few updates for you this beautiful Tuesday:

Terry Fox Run: This Friday, we will be having our annual Terry Fox Run, celebrating the 40th anniversary of this special event.

Things will look a little different this year with our COVID restrictions, due to the need for social distancing. Some of the changes we've made are:

All cash donations must be done online, through the Terry Fox foundation's website. We are not able to collect any cash.

From 2:00 - 2:30 pm or from 2:30 - 3:00 pm, each class will run or walk in their designated area in our schoolyard.

This year, unfortunately, we are not able to invite parents and guardians to join our run with their children.

If you wish to make a donation, please click the "Donate" button in this link: [Terry Fox- Henry Larsen Donations](#)

Details for Meet the Staff Night: Thursday 8th October (5:00 - 6:30 pm)

Please join us for a virtual Meet the Staff Night!

We will be sending out an invitation to a Google Meet for our whole school presentation, and teachers will be sending out their own invitations for their individual classroom Google Meet.

The schedule:

5:00 - 5:20 - School / staff welcome

5:30 - 5:50 - Class presentations 1

6:00 - 6:20 - Class presentations 2

Sharing of information *in the event* of a positive case at any OCDSB school - A message from the OCDSB:

The OCDSB continues to work with Ottawa Public Health to inform school communities of positive cases. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case connected to students or staff, the principal will share an important letter from Ottawa Public Health with the school community noting that a case has been detected and what actions, if any, must be taken. Anyone who is considered a high-risk contact will receive a direct message. We are working with OPH to refine the process and ensure timely and accurate communication to families.

School Council: Our first School Council meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 14th from 6:30-8:30 pm via Google Meet. Elections will be held at that time for council positions. All are welcome and parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved! A separate email with more information regarding online elections and processes will follow.

High Performance A survey for your consideration on the HPA program:

OCDSB trustees at the Committee of the Whole meeting in the fall of 2019 requested that board staff begin an examination of the High Performance Athletic (HPA) Program with a view to potentially phasing it out. As part of that process, senior staff has taken the opportunity to collect information from students, parents and staff about their experiences relating to the program. This information will help to inform the discussion and the ultimate recommendation that is scheduled to go to the Board in November, 2020.

In June 2020 we completed a ThoughtExchange dialogue and conducted focus group discussions with John McCrae Secondary School staff, students, parents and a group of OCDSB administrators regarding the HPA Program. The last stage of the consultation involves a survey that will be posted on the website for anyone who chooses to participate. The survey will be posted on Wednesday, September 30th with a two week time period for responses.

The survey link can be located at: [survey](#)

We appreciate this questionnaire comes at a time that we are focused on the present, with many extracurricular sports currently postponed. However, we also need to continue our work to prepare for the future. This consultation is an important step to solicit your input on the OCDSB High Performance Athletic (HPA) program.

Important Dates Coming Up:

Thursday, October 8th- Virtual Meet the Staff Night 5-6:30 pm

Friday, October 9th - 40th Anniversary Terry Fox Run/Walk at Henry Larsen

Monday, October 12th - Thanksgiving Monday - School Closed

Wednesday, October 14th - Virtual School Council Meeting from 6:30-8:30 pm

Monday, October 26th - IEPs shared with families

9 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families:

Thank you for another wonderful week!

We were happy to have so many families join us for our first ever virtual Meet the Staff Night! We know everyone is very busy so we appreciate the time given!

We are trying our best and we know that families with us are trying their best to keep COVID-19 out of our school. It takes this collective effort; that being said, we know that it is in our community and we are not invincible and must maintain our high standards for following our safety protocols. Your children are experts and we have seen their amazing ability to adapt. Thank you again for your continued support with screening at home, keeping ill children at home, promoting handwashing and physical distancing. The situation in the community continues to evolve as do our directions from OPH.

School Council Updates:

Our first School Council meeting and AGM will be held on **Wednesday, October 14th from 6:30-8:30 pm via Google Meet**. Elections will be held at that time for council positions. All are welcome and parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved! A separate email with more information regarding how to nominate School Council members for regular and executive positions will follow shortly. The link to the Google Meet will be sent out via School Messenger email on Wednesday afternoon at approximately 4:00 pm.

Social Networking and Online Safety Webinar for Students from OCDSB:

A Session for grades 4 to 6 will be held on Wednesday, October 14th, at 7:30 p.m.

The OCDSB will also be livestreaming the session on our YouTube channel. This will allow for all families to join once we have reached the maximum capacity for the Zoom webinar. Students in both In-Person Learning and Remote Learning are welcome to attend.

Please click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:

<https://ocdsb.zoom.us/j/95558780476?pwd=eUpJSFNGazZsa1dSRk56dEMrdDh2Zz09>

Once we have reached capacity, you will be able to join using the streaming link below.

Livestream Link: <https://youtu.be/bLBS99jMU9A>

Please note that this session is not mandatory. (We know that our School Council meeting starts at 6:30 pm on the same evening, but we want to offer this presentation as well.)

Terry Fox Update:

We had a wonderful Terry Fox Run this afternoon. We know that it was different from years past but we were still able to participate as a school in this important event. So far we have raised over \$500 dollars this year through online donations!! Thank you Huskies!!! It's not too late to make an online donation: [Terry Fox- Henry Larsen Donation Page](#)

Important Dates Coming Up:

Monday, October 12th - Thanksgiving Monday - School Closed

Wednesday, October 14th - Virtual School Council Meeting from 6:30-8:30 pm

Wednesday, October 14th - Social Networking and Online Safety Webinar for Students at 7:30 pm

Monday, October 26th - IEPs shared with families

Have a wonderful and safe long weekend!

Amanda and Dianne

12 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families:

REMINDER SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting and AGM will be held TODAY, **Wednesday, October 14th from 6:30 pm via Google Meet**. Elections will be held at that time for council positions. All are welcome and parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved! A separate email with more information

regarding how to nominate School Council members for regular and executive positions was sent last Friday. The link to the Google Meet will be sent out via School Messenger email this afternoon at approximately 4:00 pm. Please join us if you are able!

VERIFICATION AND ONLINE FORMS

Please look for a verification form in your child's school bag this week. It is important that all the contact information in this form is accurate. Your emergency contact information is essential if we are unable to reach you and your child becomes ill. In any emergency situation such as evacuation or school closure, we must be able to communicate with you or with your emergency contact immediately.

Please review it carefully

Update any errors on the form

Sign and return it to school ASAP

Please also access the links below to confirm the Media Permission and Appropriate Use of Technology permission for your child. If you have more than one child, please complete one form for each child. These forms must be updated each year, so it is very important, especially for our older students who are using technology in the classroom, to have this form completed by you.

Appropriate Use of Technology form:

<https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/Use-of-Technology>

Media Permission form:

<https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/Media-School-Website-Consent-Form>

PARENT SURVEYS

Return to school survey

As a family with a student attending an OCDSB school in-person, the OCDSB wants to hear about your experiences. Tell us what is going well, and what could be different.

Please click here: [I'M READY TO PARTICIPATE](#)

Questions are framed to help us better understand the experiences of an individual child. Families with more than one child will need to use a different device for each response. For additional strategies and more information on how to participate, please review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). For any other questions, please email read@ocdsb.ca.

You can participate until the end of day Friday, October 16th.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

The PIC is an advisory committee to the Board, similar to a school council, but at the Board level. The Ministry of Education describes the role of the PIC as follows:

PICs are an important advisory body that operate as a direct link between parents and a board's director of education and its trustees. Where school councils focus on the local school

and community, Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) participate at the board level and focus on things that affect more than one school. PICs and school councils encourage parent involvement in their children's learning in support of student achievement and well-being.

Parent Involvement Committees build parent engagement by:

- *providing boards with advice on parent engagement and how to communicate with parents;*
- *developing strategies and initiatives to help boards engage more parents in their children's learning at home and at school;*
- *sharing information with, and supporting the work of, school councils within the boards.*

Interested parents should use the [online application form](#) to apply. Submissions are due no later than 4:00 pm on Friday 30 October 2020.

HEPA Filters for Isolation Room

As part of the District's Covid-19 measures to improve ventilation in schools, each school will be receiving HEPA filtration units for enhanced air filtration. These units are to be located in the 'Isolation Rooms' at each facility.

The **School Photo Day** originally scheduled for Oct. 14th has been rescheduled to a later date TBD.

Monday October 26: IEPs available on Parent Portal

16 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families:

It is hard to believe that we have already spent a month together! Thank you for your continued support as we work through an ever-changing landscape this Fall!

Just a few updates today:

We wanted to provide you with an updated version of the attestation letter. This is the letter you can use when your child is returning to school after having had symptom(s) of COVID-19.

[Updated Attestation letter link](#)

Virtual Cross Country:

We are in the process of organizing a virtual junior / intermediate cross country meet for our students. More information to follow soon.

Have a safe and wonderful weekend!!!

Amanda and Dianne

23 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families:

What a beautiful day today! A great way to end a busy week!

School Council Update:

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 pm via Google Meet. A link to the meeting will be sent out closer to that date. All are welcome!

Health and Safety:

Thank you for continuing to [screen your children](#) for possible symptoms of COVID-19. It's important that we do everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open. Thank you for your patience as we stay on top of OPH updates for screening and responding to illness.

Fire Drills Today:

Our students did a wonderful job with our first fire drill with new COVID-19 precautions in place. Recognizing that the overcrowding generally associated with total evacuation fire drills in schools may lead to an increased risk for COVID-19 transmission, the Ministry of Education has coordinated with the Ontario Fire Marshal to issue special directives to local assistants to the Fire Marshal. This directive provides flexibility during fire drills so that all occupants of the school do not need to evacuate simultaneously, to ensure COVID-19 physical distancing requirements are maintained. This approach will be deemed to comply with Fire Code requirements for schools by local fire departments.

In the event of a non-drill, all classes and staff would evacuate in accordance with our usual fire code plan.

Individual Education Plans (IEP's):

On Monday, October 26, Individual Education Plans will be shared with families of students who currently have an IEP. The document will be emailed to parents and guardians. The email is generated by our online IEP system, and may appear in your inbox or spam folder as an unfamiliar sender. Unfortunately, it does not appear as an Ottawa Carleton District School Board (ocdsb.ca) sender. Please keep an eye out for it.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of your child's IEP, please contact Henry Larsen's Learning Support Teacher, Kim Engelbrecht (kim.engelbrecht@ocdsb.ca).

Facilities Work at the School Today:

We have had some vandalism outside of the school involving the movement of the soccer posts. Police reports have been filed and Mr. Jamieson along with other facilities staff work to keep our school yard safe and clean. We do believe this happened outside of school hours, and we will continue to monitor.

We also had workers on the roof all day today clearing the drains, inspecting the roof and doing minor repairs.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone! Thank you for your continued support during this busy Fall!

Amanda and Dianne

29 October

Halloween Fun!

We have been provided with strict directions from the school board on what to do for Halloween in schools:

-no distribution of treats/shared food, only simple costumes (orange and black in Kinder), no makeup or props, no costume mask, no changing of clothes at school.

We still have some fun learning activities planned for the day!

Virtual Cross Country Meet:

For grades 3-8, our fantastic physical education teachers have organized a virtual cross country meet. Students have already begun training and those that are participating will partake on either Thursday, Nov. 5th or Friday, Nov 6th depending on the weather. Similar to our Terry Fox Run this year, unfortunately, families will not be able to join us and all social distancing/cohorting rules will still apply.

From the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority:

OSTA would like to have some information about how students and their parents/guardians are getting to school and the types of issues you have observed.

Please use this survey link to share your thoughts: [Student Travel and Traffic Survey](#)

Dressing for the Weather:

We continue to enjoy lots of learning and play time outside, so we ask that your children are dressed warmly, layers are best, and have appropriate footwear. Waterproof boots are recommended, and it is a good idea to bring a change of shoes and socks to school on wet or snowy days. We are trying to keep our floors clean and safe, as well as to limit lost or missing shoes, and keeping personal items from being touched by others.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Have a Good Evening!
Amanda and Dianne

30 October

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Happy Friday! It's hard to believe it's already November next week! Times flies when you're learning and having fun!

Here are updates from this week:

Literacy and Numeracy Homework Support Program for Grades 7 and 8 Students:

Continuing Education is pleased to announce that we are able to run our After School Literacy and Numeracy Homework support program in a virtual format this year.

Here is a link to a [flyer for all of the OCDSB Continuing Education Programs](#). Please use [this link to find more information about the Grade 7 and 8 program](#). Families can register their children for the grade 7 and 8 program using [this link](#).

The program is available to students in Grade 7 to 12 and will run Monday - Thursday from 3:45 to 7:30 pm. The first day of the program is Monday, November 2, 2020.

School Council Reminder:

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 pm via Google Meet. A link to the meeting will be sent out closer to that date. All are welcome!

Thank you! Together with our staff, we continue to support students with both their academics and with following our COVID-19 protocols. The students are doing a great job, and do need reminders from time to time. Thank you for continuing to support us by screening your children each morning and arriving quickly to the school when we have had to call for a pick up. We know this is not always easy and really appreciate it!

Have a wonderful and Safe weekend!

Amanda and Dianne

Here are some photos from today:





