



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Henry Larsen Elementary School

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“Through Caring and Sharing We Learn”

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

4 January

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

By now each of you will have heard from your child’s teacher regarding the plan for this week. If you have not, please reach out to them via email or call the school to connect with one of us in the office between 8am-4pm tomorrow.

We have been busy loaning chromebooks out to families who need them for their children to access remote learning. Please [fill out this form](#) if you would like to pick up a chromebook tomorrow. All chromebooks are to be returned to school once students are back to in person learning. At the moment, this is on Monday, January 11th.

Please let your child’s teacher know if you are experiencing a financial hardship and we will connect with our school social worker and see how we can help.

Just a reminder that you may be eligible for a one time payment from the Government of Ontario to help with additional costs: <https://www.iaccess.gov.on.ca/SupportForLearnersWeb/public/index.xhtml>

Please know that we understand the challenges that this move to remote learning presents for our families. Many of us here are also parents of school aged children, and we know that this is not easy for anyone. Please reach out if you have concerns or questions and we will do our best to support.

We sincerely look forward to welcoming back students in person on Monday, January 11th and appreciate your support, flexibility and understanding during these ever changing times!

Take Care,
Amanda and Dianne

8 January

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and flexibility this week as we moved to remote learning!

Some updates from this week:

If your child requires a chromebook to access remote learning [please fill out this form](#).

Henry Larsen Clothing Boutique Deadline Extended:

We are able to continue to [place orders](#) - the deadline has been extended until Saturday, January 16.

Henry Larsen Virtual Kindergarten Information Night: Thursday, January 21st at 6:00 pm - more details to come! If you have friends and neighbours looking for information on Kindergarten in the OCDSB, or you have a child in your family that will be ready for Kindergarten in September 2021, please share the information on the [OCDSB website](#). When they are ready to register, [here is the link](#) to do so. We look forward to welcoming new families to Henry Larsen in September!

Grade 8 Welcome to High School Information Sessions:

Families in our attendance area go to Cairine Wilson Secondary School. Their Welcome to High School Virtual Information Session is on Thursday, February 4 at 7:00 pm. More information will be sent out shortly, and you can see the [OCDSB website](#) for more details.

If your child is attending Henry Larsen Elementary School on a cross-boundary transfer, you can find your child's secondary school using the [school locator on the OCDSB website](#).

We hope that you have a good weekend!

Take care,

Amanda and Dianne

15 January 2021

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Some updates from this week:

Thank you for all of your continued support and flexibility as we finish our first full week of remote learning. We continue to be amazed at how hard the students are working, how creative and dedicated the educators, parents and guardians are who are supporting them through this journey.

School Schedule:

We are following the normal school day schedule and it is important to follow that schedule as much as possible. It will help to maintain a routine and prepare for a return to in-person learning. Having said

that, we also recognize that this is an extremely difficult time for families and we understand that everyone is doing their best. Please connect with your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns about the classroom schedule.

Google Meet Expectations:

Being up and ready to join in for learning is important. It has been so great to see so many of you sitting up and attending to your lessons.

Thank you

Please see the attached letter from Orleans Cumberland Community Resources Centre for our support with the food drive and monetary donations before the winter break.

Henry Larsen Clothing Boutique Deadline Extended:

We are able to continue to [place orders](#) - the deadline has been extended until Saturday, January 16 (tomorrow!).

Henry Larsen Virtual Kindergarten Information Night: Thursday, January 21st at 6:00 pm - more details to come! If you have friends and neighbours looking for information on Kindergarten in the OCDSB, or you have a child in your family that will be ready for Kindergarten in September 2021, please share the information on the [OCDSB website](#). When they are ready to register, [here is the link](#) to do so. We look forward to welcoming new families to Henry Larsen in September!

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If your child is attending Henry Larsen Elementary School on a cross-boundary transfer, you can find your child's secondary school using the [school locator on the OCDSB website](#).

Families may also choose for their child to attend [Ottawa Technical Secondary School](#). Their virtual information session is on Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm. More information about their programs can be found [here](#), and families can register for this information night using [this link](#).

Mrs. Dunn's Virtual Library:

Here is the link to [Mrs. Dunn's Virtual Library](#), in case you would like to visit her webpage!

Homework Support for grade 7-12 students:

We wanted to share/remind you that our Continuing Education department provides virtual homework support, at no cost in most subject areas Monday through Thursday from 3:45 pm until 7:30 pm. This is available to OCDSB students grades 7-12. If your child is interested in participating, please follow the link provided below. Once this is completed, your student will receive a code to enter the homework support program.

[2020/21 OCDSB After School Literacy/Numeracy Community Registration Form \(Virtual\)](#)

Elementary PA Day - Friday, January 22

Elementary schools will have a PA Day on Friday, January 22 for assessment, evaluation and report card preparation. There will be no **elementary remote or in-person classes on this day**.

Take care and be safe. At this time, the OCDSB plans to welcome students back into the building for in person learning on January 25th. There will be an important announcement on January 20 by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, who will advise the Ministry of Education on whether the plans to resume in-person learning in Ottawa on January 25th remain the same.

Have a wonderful and snowy weekend!

Amanda and Dianne

21 January 2021

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Some updates from this week:

By now you have heard that elementary schools in Ottawa, including Henry Larsen Elementary School, will not be returning to in person learning at this time. The Ministry of Education has not yet released a new date for elementary students to return to in person learning in Ottawa. Please look to the email [communications coming from the school board](#) that will keep all of us updated on this evolving situation. We understand this ever changing stressful situation impacts each family differently and we thank you for your continued support as we navigate this together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher if you require technical or financial support at this time.

Masks mandatory for all students in grades 1-8 at school, including on the bus:

When we return to in person learning, masks will be mandatory for all students in grade 1 through 8. This is new for our primary (grades 1-3) students, although many have been wearing them in the building even when they were not mandatory. We will have some cloth masks available at school for any students who might need them. If your child has extra masks to bring to school, that would be great for when masks get damp during outdoor learning or at recess.

Here is a [link to the information on OSTA's website](#) regarding masks on school transportation.

Daily Screening Reminder:

Reminder to please use [Ottawa Public Health Screening Tool for School or Child Care](#).

Mental Health Support:

[Counselling Connect](#) offers free phone or video counselling sessions for children, youth, adults and families.

Balancing Screen Time During COVID-19: Free OCDSB Speaker Series TONIGHT AT 6:30 pm:

On January 21st, the OCDSB will be hosting a virtual Speaker Series with Dr. Michael Cheng, child and family psychiatrist at CHEO, about the importance of balancing screen time during the COVID pandemic. Please click here to [learn more](#).

Date: January 21, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://ocdsb.zoom.us/j/99893924644?pwd=WVJMSXpZa2N1c3BPTVQ1SFdRaDZoUT09>

If Zoom reaches capacity, the session will also be streamed on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/7tpdOE_riUc

The recording of the event will also be available on our YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend.

Reminder: Our Kindergarten Information night tonight will be livestreamed. [Watch live on YouTube](#) on **January 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** A recording will be available after the event if you are unable to attend. If you have any questions about our school or Kindergarten program, we kindly ask that you [fill out our questionnaire](#). We will do our best to answer any questions during the livestream.

Reminder: PD Day Friday January 22nd No School tomorrow for in person or remote.

Have a wonderful and snowy weekend and we hope to be back together soon.

Take Care,

Amanda and Dianne

29 January

Greetings Henry Larsen Families,

Welcome back!! We are so excited to be welcoming your children back to in person learning. We have already had our students in our BIP class here at school, and we are so glad to be able to welcome back the rest of our school family. We are so proud of how our students have persevered during these challenging times. We know that it has been difficult for many of our students. Thank you to our families for all of your support! We know how challenging this remote learning time was for our hardworking families and educators.

Here is a reminder of the **newly enhanced health and safety protocols that the Ministry has mandated:**



Grades 1-3 students are now required to wear masks while at school and on the school transportation. We have extra cloth masks available in the classrooms and in the main office for students. All students are also encouraged to continue to wear their masks while outside at gym and recess, when physical distancing is not being maintained. This also represents a change and we will do our best to help support our students. Please consider sending in extra masks with your child as with the colder weather we are finding that the masks are getting wet. Again, we have extras in the office if needed.

Here is a [link to the information on OSTA's website](#) regarding masks on school transportation.

As we get ready to welcome students back into the building we want to remind everyone that the protocols put into place prior to the winter break are still here:

- Families must continue screen students prior to coming to school each day, using [Ottawa Public Health's screening tool](#)
- Only staff and students on school property and in the building
- Students use hand sanitizer when leaving a room or coming/going outside
- Students in grade 1-8 are required to wear masks; Kindergarten students are still encouraged to wear masks
- Students are cohorted, meaning that classes are not interacting with each other for in person learning activities or at recess
- Gym classes are still encouraged to take place outside but we are able to use the gym during inclement weather
- If your child presents with a symptom at school, we will call you for a pick up and you are asked to follow OPH's recommendations on testing/isolating.

As a school community we did very well with these protocols in the Fall. Families did a fantastic job of screening children before coming to school and would arrive as quickly as they could if we had to call for a pick up. We really appreciate the support, flexibility and understanding of our families as we work through keeping everyone safe!

Daily Screening Reminder:

Reminder to please use [Ottawa Public Health Screening Tool for School or Child Care](#).

Return of Chromebooks on Monday, February 1:

A friendly reminder that now that we are back to learning in person, please return the chromebooks and chargers that were loaned out to students during remote learning. Please return them in a ziplock bag.

There are two options for Chromebook returns:

1. your child(ren) can return the Chromebook(s) and charger(s) to the school, or
2. you can return the Chromebook by dropping it off at the school in the same way that it was picked up and the front entrance.

School Bus Transportation:

Friendly reminder to check the [OSTA website](#) to see if there are route cancellations.

Valentine's Day:

As a reminder, and in line with our previous holidays/celebrations, we are not able to share cards, treats, or materials between students for Valentines Day. We are planning some heartfelt kindness and friendship initiatives at school, and will share more information with you during the coming weeks. Thank you for your understanding.

Ontario Government Funding Opportunity:

Just a reminder that you may be eligible for a one time payment from the Government of Ontario to help with additional costs: <https://www.iaccess.gov.on.ca/SupportForLearnersWeb/public/index.xhtml>
The deadline to apply is February 8, 2021.

Mental Health Supports:

[Counselling Connect](#) offers free phone or video counselling sessions for children, youth, adults and families.

Mental Health and the COVID-19 Pandemic (from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health):

<https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-health-and-covid-19>

Reminder for Student Drop Off and Pick Up on Sunview Drive:

As we return to in person learning, we would like to send a quick reminder regarding traffic safety in front of the school at drop off and pick up times.

In front of Henry Larsen, on Sunview Drive, there is a lane for cars to pull over and stop when families are dropping off and picking up their children. Here are a few notes to keep in mind:

- There are **no U-turns** allowed on Sunview Drive.
- Please be mindful of the “**no stopping**” signs and do not stop your vehicle in these zones.
- Please use the drop-off lane as efficiently as possible by stopping as close to the vehicle in front of you as possible.

You can also use the parking lot at the end of the driveway closest to des Epinettes Avenue as a drop off location for your children.

Reminders for Grade 8 and Incoming Kindergarten Families:**Grade 8 Welcome to High School Information Session:**

Families in our attendance area go to [Cairine Wilson Secondary School](#). Their Welcome to High School Virtual Information Session is on Thursday, February 4 at 7:00 pm. More information will be sent out shortly, and you can see the [OCDSB website](#) for more details. Recordings of the sessions are available afterwards via the OCDSB website link.

If your child is attending Henry Larsen Elementary School on a cross-boundary transfer, you can find your child's secondary school using the [school locator on the OCDSB website](#).

Kindergarten Registration and Information Evening Video Recording:

Registration is now open for Kindergarten 2021. It's easy to register: visit the OCDSB [Registration page](#) to register online anytime. For more information about our program and registering for Kindergarten 2021, visit ocdsb.ca/kindergarten.

Our Henry Larsen Kindergarten Information session was recorded and is now available for watching at [this link](#).

Ottawa Public Library:

Here are some useful resources from the Ottawa Public Library:

- <https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/online-tutoring-and-homework-help-children>
- <https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/science-saturdays>

Important Dates:

School Council Google Meet - **Monday, February 1st**- all are welcome

Cairine Wilson SS Gr 8 Information night - **Thursday, Feb 4th**

Term 1 Report Cards Available in Parent Portal- **Thursday, February 11th**

P.D. Day - No school for students - **Friday, February 12th**

Family Day- School closed - **Monday, February 15th**

Toonie tuesday - **Tuesday, February 23rd** - more information to come

We hope that you have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing your children on Monday morning!

Take care,

Amanda and Dianne