

## First Message to our School Community

Dear Jockvale Elementary School Students and Families:

Welcome back to our returning students and to all new members of the Jaguar family! We hope that you had a fun and relaxing summer.

The start of every school year is an exciting time. A tremendous amount of energy goes into the beginning of the year, on all our parts – parents, students, educators, custodians and office staff. This time of year also presents opportunities for new beginnings- new teachers, new classmates and new challenges. We all want to start it right; to give students the best possible beginning to help them make it a successful, productive, and happy year.

As the first day of school approaches (Tuesday, September 3rd), for our **students in grades 1 to 6**, there are a few pieces of information you may find helpful.

### Junior Kindergarten (Year One) Students

Parents of our year one students will be invited into the school to meet with their child's classroom team (Teacher and Early Childhood Educators) on either September 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. Not only is this a great opportunity for our staff to gather important information about your child, it also provides our parents with the opportunity to ask important questions about this huge milestone! Our youngest Jaguars will join us officially on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Their Year Two classmates will join them on Friday!

### Senior Kindergarten (Year Two) Students

Our Senior Kindergarten students **registered in the Extended Day program** begin school on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> with their Year One classmates. All Year Two students officially begin their school year on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. We cannot wait to see you!

New SK students to Jockvale, along with their parents, will be invited into the school to meet with their child's classroom team (Teacher and Early Childhood Educator) on either September 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Bus Information

To access information regarding student transportation, including eligibility, bus stop locations and pick up and drop off times, please visit [ottawaschoolbus.ca](http://ottawaschoolbus.ca). Click on the parent portal to verify your child's personalized information. We strongly encourage that students take the bus on Tuesday to establish routines and to immediately identify any glitches.

### First Day of School for students in grades 1 to 6

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:20 am, students will be greeted at their buses or on the front yard by staff members and directed to the back yard to meet their teacher and classmates.

Our goal is to notify all students of their class placements electronically via our School Connects system by 6PM on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Should we encounter technological glitches; class lists will be posted on

the walls on the exterior of the building by the different entry doors for students and parents to review. To help students find their homerooms, we will also place chairs identifying the different homerooms on the blacktop. Teachers will stand beside a chair that corresponds to their class assignment.

In the event of rain, the same process will take place indoors. Students will be directed to the gym where class lists will be posted and staff will be available to help them find their teacher. Parents are welcome to walk their child indoors to the gymnasium to help their child find their teacher.

### School Supplies

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has developed a common list of recommended personal use items for students in grades JK-3 and grades 4-8. This list of supplies is strictly voluntary; parents/guardians are not required to purchase or provide the items listed. As a result, it is a parent/guardian's choice to send the following items for use by their child for the first day of school in September.

#### **JK to Grade 3**

- 12 pencils
- 2 erasers (preferably white)
- 1 package of crayons
- 1 package of coloured pencils
- 1 package of coloured markers
- 1 metric ruler
- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- 2 glue sticks

#### **Grades 4-6**

- 12 pencils
- 2 erasers (preferably white)
- 1 metric ruler
- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- 2 glue sticks
- 3 ballpoint pens
- 1 package of coloured pencils
- 2 packages of 3-hole lined refill paper
- 6 duotangs
- 1 package of coloured markers
- 1 calculator
- 6 lined notebooks
- 1 geometry set
- 2 highlighters

### Nutrition Breaks

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This year we have adjusted our nutrition break times slightly to honour student feedback from the recent OurSchool Survey. During the first nutrition break, students will begin with recess from 10:30 to 10:55 and then eat from 10:55 to 11:15. The second nutrition break will remain the same. Students will eat from 1:15-1:35 and then go outside to play from 1:35 to 2:00.

### Access to the School

As you are aware, student safety is our number one priority. Like almost all schools in the OCDSB, we have a security system enabling us to lock all doors during the school day. Upon arrival at the front door, please use the buzzer that is located on the right wall. A staff member will then ask you to identify yourself and express the reason for your visit to gain entry into the school. Thank you for your patience and for keeping our students safe!

After the first day, parents will be encouraged to drop off their children from the gates outside the Kindergarten yard. We have supervision on the yard as of 8:20, so no parents will be permitted on the yard at this time.

After school, parents are invited to pick up their child from the yard outside their child's dismissal door.

### Adjusted School Year Calendar

In 2016, the OCDSB instituted a district-wide adjusted school year calendar in order to address the lost instructional time due to School Holidays and P.A Days occurring on Mondays and Fridays. Once again this year, Jockvale will follow this adjusted school year calendar. There will be minimal impact for us as we do not follow a rotary timetable. Library times and indoor versus outdoor Physical Education may change. The calendar has been attached to this email for your reference. You will note that the first adjusted day is Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Rather than follow the Tuesday timetable, your child will follow the Friday schedule.

### Driving to School

Jockvale does not have its own parking lot or a "kiss and ride" drop off area. In order to allow for the safe arrival of our students, the bus loop is closed for traffic from **8:00am until 9:00am** and again from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**. Jockvale parents are invited to use the lot across from the driveway (by the arena) or at the back of the school between the high school and the library.

The parking in front of the school is designated for Jockvale Administration. The two accessible spaces are for those in possession of a permit. Please help our families in need by parking across the driveway (by the arena) or at the back of the school between the high school and the library.

### School Cash Online

Jockvale will once again be using School Cash Online as our primary method of ordering and paying for a variety of programs (school fee, food programs, field trips, etc.) throughout the school year. This convenient program allows you to shop and make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your own home. Please feel free to register at your convenience at <https://ocdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> .

### Meet the Teacher

Please mark your calendar! On Tuesday, September 17th, we will be hosting our annual Meet the Teacher event. Staff members will be available in their classrooms from 4:30 pm- 5:30 pm. We will then head outside from 5:30-6:30pm for informal conversation. Food trucks will be available throughout the evening so that you may purchase your dinner. We look forward to seeing you!

## School Council Meeting

On behalf of School Council, I would like to invite you to attend our first School Council meeting of the school year. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. During this meeting, we will hold our annual elections. All parents are welcome! This is the perfect opportunity to meet other members of the Jockvale community and to see how you can support the school's programs and events.

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports student success.

Enjoy the final week of August and your Labour Day weekend!

Robyn and Janis

Robyn Darragh and Janis St-Germain

Principal and Vice-Principal

Jockvale Elementary School

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