



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a wonderful March Break and had a chance to enjoy some quality time with your family and friends. We are excited to welcome the students back to school and get back into our regular routines.

This week all schools in our board are participating in **Standing Against Racism Week**. In age appropriate ways, students will be reflecting on racism, learn about the experiences of different races and have conversations about what each of us can do to stand against racism.

[Ash Wednesday and Shrove Tuesday](#)

A big thank you to Fr. Lindsay and Fr. John for leading our Ash Wednesday liturgy before the break. Thank you to our grade 6 leaders who did a great job helping with the readings.

We also enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, organized and cooked by our amazing OLF staff!

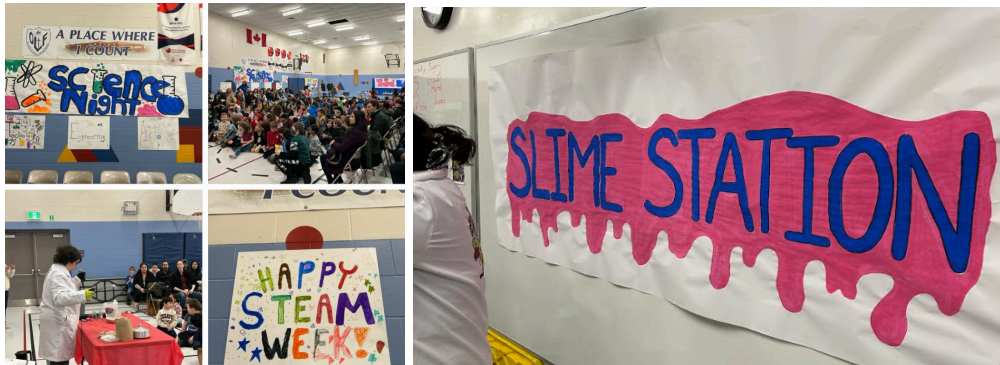


[OLF Lenten Project](#)

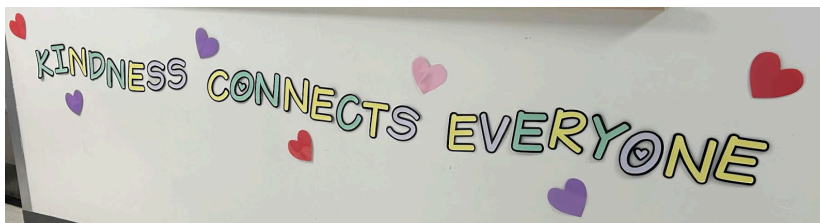
Our school is once again supporting the Ottawa Food Bank as our school wide Lenten initiative. We will be collecting much needed non-perishable food, cash and on-line donations to help support the Ottawa Food Bank and the important work that they do.

[OLF Family Science Night](#)

Our first OLF family science night was a huge success. Over 130 students participated in the evening organized and run by our amazing OLF School Council and parent volunteers. Thank you to all who were able to join us and to all who helped make the evening a success.



Our 'Kindness Connects Everyone' chain continues to grow at Our Lady of Fatima. Great job, Saints!



Kindergarten Registration is OPEN!!

If your child or someone you know turns four by December 31, 2025, they will be ready to start Kindergarten in September 2025. Please register as soon as possible! To register for kindergarten at Our Lady of Fatima, please [click this link](#). We are excited to welcome them to OLF!

[Kindergarten OCSB Information Page](#)

Thank you for making sure your children are at school on time to avoid disruptions to their learning and the learning of their classmates. As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sincerely,

Kevin Shannon

Principal

Important Dates

March 17 - 21 - Stand Up to Racism Week

March 18 - First Reconciliation @ 6:30pm, OLF Church

March 19 - Girl's Handball Tournament @ Oz Dome

March 27- Kindergarten Open House - 4:30 to 5:30 pm (for new registrations for September)

April 2nd- Dental Screening for -JK, SK, & Grade 2

April 18 - Good Friday - No School

April 21- Easter Monday - No School

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Games Club

The OLF games club is looking for the following games. If you happen to have these games that are not being used at home and are still in good shape, please consider donating them to the school.

- Twister
- Chess
- Uno
- Headbanz
- Sorry
- Connect 4

School Council Corner

- **Next Meeting: April 14th at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons**

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and involvement in making our school a vibrant and inclusive community! Please feel free to join us at our next meeting, April 14th at 6:30 in Learning Commons. Please email olfcouncil@gmail.com if you want to be added to the email list or have any feedback/questions.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish News

Check out the [Our Lady of Fatima Parish website](#) for parish news.

- Children's Liturgy is offered during the 11:30 Masses for children from 4 to 12, all are welcome
- Knights of Columbus Council 9742 invites all parishioners and visitors to join them for Breakfast after all Masses 8:30 am, 10:00am & 11:30 am on Sunday, March 23rd. (a good will donation of \$10 is suggested and appreciated)

Safety around the school at bell times - Keeping every one of our students safe on their journey to and from school everyday is a priority for everyone in our community. Prioritizing convenience, disobeying signage and poor road user habits have the potential to increase congestion and safety risks around the school. I encourage all families to take a moment to watch this short video [School Zone Safety PSA](#) the Ottawa Safety Council (OSC) - and share it with others. The video offers simple yet important tips for drivers, parents, students and pedestrians to help make school zones safer for everyone, including:

- Reducing speed and staying alert in school zones.
- Avoiding distractions, especially while walking, driving or crossing the street.
- Respecting the speed limits and no parking/stopping signs.

Check out the video here: <https://youtu.be/VRTVHliAttU>

Weather

Reminder to continue to monitor the **weather** and ensure students are dressed for the weather of the day. Splash pants and extra socks are a great idea during this wet time of year.

Lates- A reminder that students should be arriving at school between 7:45 and 8 am. When your child arrives late to school they are missing out on valuable learning and disrupting the learning of the other students. The office is busy in the morning, so please be patient if you do arrive late and only ring the bell once. Please do everything you can to ensure your children arrive to school on time.

Reduce the Spread of Respiratory Illnesses

Please read the document, [here](#) from Ottawa Public Health with regards to helping to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses.

OSTA News

With our winter weather comes the possibility of **bus cancellations**. Please be sure to check in the morning with the [OSTA website](#) for any delays and/or cancellations.

Parent Volunteers

Are you looking to be a Volunteer in your child's school? In order to be a volunteer (field trips, in class volunteering etc) , you must be approved and on the list with your child's school.

OCSB Volunteer Information:

Any Parents or Guardians wishing to volunteer at Our Lady of Fatima School, please email volunteers@ocsb.ca and put in the subject line: Volunteer at Our Lady of Fatima. They will then send you the instructions you need and make sure you are on the right rack.

If you completed a vulnerable sector check last year and are on our volunteer list, you do not need to apply for another vulnerable check. More details about the process can also be found here [OCSB Volunteer LINK](#)

Community News

- **Ottawa City Soccer Club Programs** - details can be found here <https://ottawacitysoccer.com/ourprograms>
- **Hannah Beach: The Power of Relationship and Play** -
 - This is an excellent [presentation](#) by Hannah Beach put on by CSPA (Catholic School Parents Association) on how essential play is to our children's well-being. Well worth watching.
 - For more on Hannah Beach, check out her blog. <https://hannahbeach.ca/get-inspired/blog/>
- Mental Health [Resource](#) for Parents and Caregivers

School Messenger

Most of our communication will be done through School Messenger. It is an efficient way to communicate with all of our school community. If you haven't done so, please go to <https://www.ocsb.ca/schoolmessenger> to sign up for an account. In order to receive communication, like this newsletter, please review your settings to **ensure that you are signed up to receive General messages**. The reason you are receiving this newsletter today is because we have sent it as an ***Emergency Message***. Please note that future messages will be sent as General as to not alarm families.

School Day Schedule:

Block 1 — 8:00 - 9:15

Morning Recess — 9:15 - 9:30

Block 2 — 9:30 - 10:45

Lunch Hour: Eating & Outdoor Time — 10:45 - 11:45

Block 3 — 11:45 - 1:00

Afternoon Recess — 1:00 - 1:15

Block 4 — 1:15 - 2:30

Dismissal/Pick-up – 2:30