

## **AED's Will Be in All OCDSB Schools - September 2018**

The OCDSB has announced plans to install Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) in all schools by September 2018. An AED is a [portable electronic device](#) that automatically diagnoses life-threatening [cardiac arrhythmias](#). This device not only saves time it saves lives.

Currently, the OCDSB has AEDs in all middle schools and approximately 35 of our elementary schools. The devices were strategically placed in school sites that hosted large sporting events or were regularly used by community organizations.

A detailed plan for the roll-out of AED's in the remaining elementary schools is being developed. We have received many questions about how individuals and school communities/councils may support this initiative. School councils interested in fundraising may raise funds, but the actual purchasing will be done centrally to ensure consistency of the units in our schools. Individuals may also consider making a donation to [The Mikey Network](#). The Mikey Network is running a fundraising campaign to support AEDs in schools in memory of Griffin Martin. Griffin was an 8 year old OCDSB student who died suddenly as a result of cardiac arrest.

According to the [Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada](#), as many as 45,000 Canadians experience a sudden cardiac arrest each year. Early access to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation (1 to 3 minutes after cardiac arrest) is vital. These actions may increase the chance of survival by 75% or more.

AEDs are small portable machines that:

- analyze the person's heart rhythm
- determine whether a shock is needed
- use voice or screen prompts to guide the rescuer through the process

It helps to be informed - we can all learn more about [identifying heart emergencies](#).