

Kars on the Rideau School Council Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Parents,

On behalf of School Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Bell Time Review – an update from the OCDSB

The start times at a number of schools in the district may change effective September 2015. These changes are commonly referred to as "Bell time" changes and are the result of a review of transportation services. Over the past year, the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) has conducted a system-wide review of bell times. The purpose of the review is to align the bell times in such a way that school bus service can be better managed. The "bell time" changes are divided into 2 categories; changes of 10 minutes or less and changes of 11 minutes or more. The main difference between the two categories is decision-making process. OSTA has the authority to make decisions about changes of 10 minutes or less. School Boards are responsible for making changes of 11 minutes or more. Read more about what changes have been already been approved, and what recommended changes remain outstanding.

The approved change for KotR by 15 minutes equal to an 8 am start time was approved by OSATA Board of Directors at the November 2014 meeting. A big thank you goes out to all those who played even just a small part in making this time shift happen.

New Website

If you've not already had a chance, please check out Council's new website at: <http://kotrcouncil.weebly.com/> for the latest news regarding Council and school activities. Many helpful links and useful blogs can also be found on the site including, information from the School Board and even busing delays.

Please feel free to use the "Contact us" feature for any questions, or to provide comments and suggestions. Check back often as the site is regularly maintained!

Traffic Safety

As we are a community school, we have a number of students and community members walking in the area of the school and through the parking lot at the beginning and end of each school day. Unsafe situations have been observed and, thankfully, no one has been injured as a result. As a preventative measure, we would ask that all drivers please exercise the utmost in care when driving in the area of the school and particularly in the school parking lot. As you all know, speed, distracted driving (texting, cellphone use, etc.) and impatience can put our students and community members at risk. We respectfully ask that drivers observe these critical considerations. Let's all do our part in avoiding an

unnecessary and unfortunate event. We thank you for your concern for the safety of all students and community members.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, either directly or through our amazing website [👉](#)

Sincerely,

Paula Panetta