Avalon Public School

2080 Portobello Road
Orléans, Ontario, K4A 0K5
Tel: (613) 834-7313 FAX: (613) 834-5274

September 2017

Principal: Martina Sherwood
Vice Principal: Kelly Haslam
Office Administrator: Anne Berkley
Administration Assistants: Pauline Koch

Superintendent: Mary Jane Farrish
Trustee: Keith Penny
Chief Custodian: Stevin Veroba
School Council Co-Chairs: Alison O'Rourke & Lesley Girouard

www.avalonps.ocdsb.ca

OCDSB Mission Statement
Educating for success – inspiring learning and building citizenship

PRINCIPAL & VICE-PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Welcome back to a new school year!! We are so happy to start the year with your wonderful children!

Over the summer, our custodial team worked hard to get our school ready for another school year. Our halls and classrooms were sparkling and ready for learning! In the office, our Office Administrator, Anne Berkley and Office Assistant, Pauline Koch have kept us organized and running smoothly.

The first few weeks of school are a time when we review expectations and routines. This year students in grades 1 to 6 have received an agenda to assist with organization and planning. At the front of the agenda you will find our Avalon Student Handbook. Students in Kindergarten received the Avalon Student Handbook in booklet form. Please take some time to review this information with your child.

During the first week of school we held Welcome Assemblies. Our focus was on the excellent character that we promote and celebrate at Avalon and the WITS Anti-Bullying program that continues to support our students in making excellent proactive choices for themselves when they experience challenges with peer relations. We also talked about Mindset. Last year we worked with our studenst to help them understand the difference between a Fixed Mindset and a Growth Mindset. Shifting thinking from, "I can't do this" to, "I can't do this yet" was our goal. We will continue to promote a Growth Mindset at Avalon this year.

At our Assemblies we also shared some of the findings of the OurSCHOOL Survey that grades 4 to 6 students completed in the spring. The survey was voluntary and confidential and students were asked questions related to school climate and safety, bullying, perception of school, sense of belonging. The data from this survey provided us with information to help us put some very clear plans in place for the school year. For example, some students indicated that during times of transition (between classes and exiting and entering from recess) they felt that they did not have an adult to turn to for support if needed. While visibility has always been a priority for our school team, because of this feedback, our school team worked to develop more structured routines for times of transition during the school day where visibility in halls and entrances to both classrooms and into the building are closely monitored. Having the OurSCHOOL Survey data, along with other sources of information our school team developed a set of Belief Statements that we shared with the students as well. Information about this is included in our newsletter.

On Thursday, September 14th we had the opportunity to welcome parents and guardians for Curriculum Night. We hope that this evening provided you with valuable information about the routines and experiences your children will have in the coming school year. Thank you to School Council for providing refreshments in our atrium.

There are many items in our first newsletter that address safety. Please review these items with your

children as appropriate. Your help in keeping our Avalon community safe is most appreciated.

We are so looking forward to an excellent school year filled with meaningful and engaging learning opportunities for your children. On behalf of the Avalon school team, we extend our best wishes to our families for a wonderful year and we thank you for entrusting your children with us. We look forward to working with you as partners in your children's education.

AT AVALON WE BELIEVE…

Our school team had the opportunity to engage in some very intentional work at the end of June in order prepare for our new school year. Knowing that we were opening as a smaller Kindergarten to Grade Six school this year, we saw a great opportunity to develop a common vision for our new school configuration. Over the course of the school year last year we looked at many pieces to help inform our planning forward. These included: OCDSB Exit Outcomes (a graphic describing these are at the end of the newsletter), the OCDSB Strategic Plan, our School Well-Being Plan, parent/guardian input and OurSCHOOL Survey data. As a result of this planning, we are moving forward into our school year committed to six belief statements:

We Believe

- In the well-being of the whole child.
- All staff are responsible for all students.
- Routine, structure and modeling will shape positive behavior.
- Explicit teaching of character traits will lead to a safe school and the development of good citizens.
- Building resilience in the Growth Mindset for both students and teachers.
- Setting high expectations and allowing multiple entry points and conditions to achieve them.

We look forward to bringing these belief statements to life this year and welcome your feedback and communication along the way!

OUR NEWSLETTER

Newsletters will be produced four times this year and distributed at the end of the following months: September, November, March and June.

MEET YOUR AVALON SCHOOL TEAM

Administration

Principal: Martina Sherwood
Vice Principal: Kelly Haslam

Support Staff

Office Administrator: Anne Berkley
Office Assistants: Pauline Koch
Chief Custodian: Stevin Veroba
Library Technician: Dawn Fanjoy

Special Education

Learning Support Teacher: Erin Clamen
Learning Resource Teacher: Juliet Robinson
English Second Language Teacher: Alicia Karn
Educational Assistants: Anita Gracey & Sara Quesnel-Raine

Kindergarten Team

Monique Charbonneau, Amanda Edge, Valda Goudie, Christine Harris, Pamela Majkowski, Vanessa Mercier, Sheryl Rupp

Homerooms

Grade 1 EFI: Chantal Demers
Grade 1/2 EFI: Annick Boustany
Grade 1/2 English: Stephanie Ettinger
Grade 1/2 English: Sandra Roy
Grade 2 EFI: Shari Langevin/Elizabeth Decontie
Grade 3 EFI: Françoise Havard
Grade 3 EFI: Katia Theriault
Grade 3 English: Vicki Monty/Dawn Cartier
Grade 4/5 EFI: Greg Burke
Grade 4/5 EFI: Ann Marcil
Grade 4 English: Cynthia Neale
Grade 5/6 English: Sarah Filsinger
Grade 5/6 English: Jessica Wilson
Grade 6 EFI: Jennifer Titley
**EFI – Early French Immersion Program (program entry point is Grade One)

Core French

Julie Cormier

Physical Education

Chris Lacasse

Science & Technology

Greg Burke

English & Math to French Immersion

Kelly Haslam
Alicia Karn

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2017/2018

Labour Day	September 4th, 2017
First day of school	September 5th, 2017
PA Day	October 6th, 2017
Thanksgiving	October 9th, 2017
PA Day	November 24th, 2017
Holiday Break	Dec. 25th, 2017–Jan. 5th, 2018
PA Day	January 26th, 2018
PA Day	February 16th, 2018
Family Day	February 19th, 2018
March Break	March 12th–March 16th, 2018
Good Friday	March 30th, 2018
Easter Monday	April 2nd, 2018
PA Day	April 27th, 2018
Victoria Day	May 21st, 2018
PA Day	June 8th, 2018
Last Day of Classes	June 28th, 2018
PA Day	June 29th, 2018

EQAO

Last week, grades 3 and 6 EQAO scores were released. Avalon, OCDSB and Provincial results (percentage of students at or above standard) are detailed below:

Grade 3

Subject	School	Board	Province
Reading	67	73	74
Writing	76	70	73
Math	48	58	62

Grade 6

Subject	School	Board	Province
Reading	90	84	81
Writing	75	79	79
Math	52	51	50

Complete details can be found at www.eqao.com . As a school team we will be taking time to unpack the details of these results and will use this information to help inform us in the development of our School Learning Plan.

RECESS AND LUNCH TIMES

8:00 am – Morning entry
10:00am – 10:45am – Recess & Nutrition Break
12:25pm – 1:10pm – Recess & Nutrition Break
2:30pm – Dismissal

THANK YOU FOR SIGNING IN!

To help to keep our school community safe, if you are a visitor to the school we require that you sign in at the office and wear a visitor tag. Thank you to our parents and guests who consistently follow this procedure. When we see your visitor tag we know that you have signed in. If we do not see your tag we will ask you to sign in and get a visitor tag.

YARD SUPERVISION, SCHOOL HOURS AND OFFICE INFORMATION

Our school hours are from 8:00am until 2:30pm. Supervision on the school yard in the morning begins at 7:45am. Therefore, please ensure that your child does not arrive at school earlier than 7:45am. There is no supervision following the end of the school day at 2:30pm. Office hours are from 7:30am until 3:30pm. While we do attempt to answer all telephone calls as they come in, from time to time you will have a message picked up by voice mail. We will return your call as soon as possible, but please do not leave any urgent calls on our voice mail. Last minute messages may not be transferred on time, and we request that if you want a change of routine, such as picking up your child before regular dismissal, to please send a note to the homeroom teacher.

Please note: The YMCA-YWCA is our Extended Day Program (EDP) provider. They use our school yard including the play structure after school until 6:00pm. As a result, students not enrolled in the Extended Day Program do not have access to the school yard or play structure after school and are expected to leave school property by 2:45pm.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP ROUTINES

The section of Portobello Blvd. in front of the school is designated as a no stopping area (and therefore no parking) from 7:00 – 9:00 am and from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. No stopping signs are posted indicating these times. For the safety of our students, we ask that all families respect this rule and not stop or park along Portobello Blvd. Parents/guardians should be accessing our "Kiss and Ride" area in the school parking lot off Aquaview. Drivers are asked to form a queue, move their vehicle through this queue until they are the first vehicle in the line where their child(ren) will get out of the car quickly and enter the school yard safely. Students should have their backpacks with them so that they do not delay the flow of the

Kiss and Ride. To ensure the safety of our students, vehicles are not to stop or park by the gates at the entrance to the yard. This area is posted as a no parking area. A reminder also, that the Avalon Y Parking area is not to be used as a drop off, pick up or parking area. Thank you for your help in keeping our kids safe!

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

We have a large number of students at Avalon who have life-threatening allergies. For this reason, we have communicated to the families of all children at our school to only send food items to school that are nut-free. Should your child be identified over the course of the year with a life-threatening allergy, please notify us immediately. We will then provide you with the information and paperwork required to document life-threatening allergies. These forms are also available through our website: www.avalonps.ocdsb.ca.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If you would like the school office staff to store and administer long-term prescription medications, it is mandatory to get your doctor to complete and sign the form available from the school office. These forms go into a medical log which must be updated annually at the start of every school year. This applies as well for students who have severe allergies and must use an Epi-pen. Medication will be administered to the students upon receipt of the completed form, signed by the doctor. This also applies to short-term prescription and over the counter medications.

ATTENDANCE LINE

If your child is going to be absent or arriving late, please call and leave a message on our 24-Hour Attendance Line at 613-834-7313 – Press 1. If the busses are cancelled and the school is open please call and advise us that your child will be staying at home even if your child is a bus rider. If your child is ill, please share the nature of the illness.

STREETPROOFING

With the beginning of a new school year, we are reviewing safety with our students and ask that you do the same at home. As a starting point, please take a moment to read the street proofing tips below (borrowed from the Ontario Principal's Council Bulletin) and adapt them for your use at home.

What's street proofing all about? It's about helping children identify and react to situations that are uncomfortable, unwelcome or even dangerous. Street proofing skills help students become more aware of their surroundings and those in it. They also help to build confidence and independence as students spend more time away from their parents. Schools, parents and guardians can help make personal safety second nature to a student's daily activities. We can't follow our children around everywhere, but we can teach them to trust their own instincts and "keep their radar up."

In an age-appropriate way, students should learn the following:

- Their name, age, telephone number and address
- A secret family password to identify when someone different will pick them up
- How to reach a parent, guardian or family contact in an emergency
- How to contact police, fire and ambulance personnel
- To let a parent or other responsible adult know where they will be at all times
- Never to say they are alone if they answer the phone
- Never to invite strangers into their home
- Not to enter anyone's home without a parent/guardian's permission
- Not to accept gifts from strangers
- To say "no" to an adult, especially if that person wants them to do something they have been taught is wrong
- That no one has the right to touch any part of his or her body that a bathing suit would cover. The exceptions may be people who are trying to keep them clean (assistance in the washroom) or healthy (doctors or nurses)
- Never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas ever to take shortcuts through empty parks or fields
- Never to approach or enter a stranger's car
- Never to hitchhike
- That adults should not be asking children or young people for help. A common technique to lure youngsters is to pretend to be searching for a lost puppy or kitten
- That if they become separated from parents at a store or in a mall, they should go to a cashier, security guard or counter clerk

- To report to a parent, school authority or police officer anyone who exposes private parts
- That police officers are their friends and that they can rely on them if they are in trouble
- That if someone does something bad to them, parents/guardians will not be angry with them, but will need to know what happened.

These "Tips" are also available on our School Website: www.avalonps.ocdsb.ca

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY

Student safety is our number one priority, and we appreciate your cooperation. With this in mind, please note:

Drawstrings on jackets, sweatshirts, clothing items pose a danger to your child, as well as scarves. They can become snagged on school bus handrails or doors, on playground equipment or other mechanical equipment and cause injury or death. We recommend removing drawstrings from clothing and using neck warmers in the winter instead of scarves.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOL

We welcome volunteers! Whether it's through your child's homeroom, or through a school council committee, volunteers are always needed. Your support is invaluable, and we hope that you will find it enriching as well to join us in our efforts to provide the best programs possible for your children. If you are interested in volunteering, you are encouraged to contact your child's homeroom teacher(s).

SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATIONS

If the school buses are cancelled due to inclement weather conditions, the Transportation Department of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board will have the cancellation announced by 6:15 a.m. on the following radio stations: CBC, CFRA, CHIN, CHRI-FM, JEWEL 98.5, BOB-FM, TEAM 1200, MAJIC 100, KISS-FM, CHEZ 106, 1310 News Radio, Y101, and Jack 96.9 The announcement is usually made early in the morning and/or late in the evening, it will also indicate if the schools are closed. Please note that if buses are cancelled in the morning, transportation at the end of the day will not operate. If the buses run in the morning, they will be running at the end of the day. If the schools remain open, students who are dropped off by the parents in the morning will have to be picked up by parents at dismissal time. Attendance is monitored on these days. **Please call the school at 613-834-7313 if your child will not be attending school on bus cancellation days.**

AVALON HAPPENINGS…EXTRA-CURRICULAR, EVENTS & NEWS

Avalon Sports

In the sports world, Avalon is once again very active. On September 28th, the whole school participated in the Terry Fox Walk. We are still counting the Toonies for Terry donations and will know soon whether or not our $500.00 goal was met. If our goal is met, Mrs. Roy will be dying her hair blue!! Check with your kids to see if they spot a teacher with blue hair in the coming days ☺

In cross-country, approximately 75 grades 3 to 6 students will be running on October 11th or 12th at Terry Fox Elementary School. The cross-country teams are coached by Mrs. Clamen, Mrs. Ettinger, M. Lacasse, Mme Marcil and Mme Theriault.

The boys and girls soccer team will compete for top honors on October 17th at François Dupuis Park. The 2 teams are coached by Mrs. Neale and M. Lacasse.

Good luck to all the athletes and coaches. GO LIONS GO!!!

WITS Anti-Bullying Initiative

We're proud to announce that Avalon's Primary and Junior students will continue to adopt the WITS anti-bullying initiative as part of our Safe and Caring Plan. The WITS program is a community-based approach to preventing peer victimization and it ties in perfectly to OCDSB's Character Education Wheel. Students interested in being part of our WITS team will be trained to help their peers to use their "WITS". Trained students will support their peers on the yard and in the

school. Junior students will also take turns visiting classrooms to read the WITS books to younger students.

The WITS primary program – **W**alk away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out and **S**eek help - provides common language that the children and the adults in their environments can use to talk about and respond to peer victimization. This program is intended for children in Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Although WITS/ LEADS programs are introduced at school, parents and caregivers have an important role to play at home. Talking about WITS/ LEADS at home teaches children to apply these strategies beyond the school walls, such as with a neighbour or sibling. Parents are encouraged to read the pamphlet "Using Your WITS at Home". The pamphlet can be accessed by using this link, http://www.witsprogram.ca/schools/printables/#brochures. Encourage your child to use their WITS at home when dealing with sibling or peer conflicts. Please check out the website: www.witsprogram.ca for more detailed information. There will be more to come in the following months.

We are looking forward to seeing this highly successful, research-based initiative continue to grow this year. Your support is needed for the success of the program and much appreciated.

We Are Looking For Some Donations…
This year we are starting some new initiatives and continuing some much loved initiatives and are reaching out to our families for support..

Avalon will soon be starting our first ever "Games Club" for primary and junior students. The club will run during recess, with separate times for primary students and junior students. The times for the clubs will be posted soon. Students are welcome to drop in whenever they would like to stay in and play a board game or cards with friends. To get our club up and running, we are looking for donations of gently used games that you might have around the house. They will be well used. Thank you for your help!

Avalon is setting up a Maker Space room in our school. This will be a room to engage students in a variety of creative and building activities such as Kinex, lego, Zoobs, Clics and even a green screen for videoing news etc. If you believe you have items no longer being used that you would like to donate to Avalon's Maker Space Room please send them in.

Skating experiences are just around the corner for our students! As always, we will happily accept donations of skates and non-expired CSA Approved helmets.

If you have any of the items detailed above and you would like to donate them we will happily receive them in the school office.

Green Team News
The Avalon Green Team will be starting up next week, for students in grades 4-6. Teacher leaders include Ann Marcil, Katia Theriault, Shari Langevin and Sandra Roy, care staffer Greg Lahaie, and our Principal and Vice Principal. The student team will develop an action plan for ongoing recycling including campaigns to improve sorting, continued development of gardens and promotion of environmental issues. We are always eager to have community involvement, perhaps from parents with an interest in gardening or the environment or grandparents who have gardening know-how and some time to be mentors, to our students. Please contact the office if you would like to be a part of our Green Team!

Science & Technology News From Mr. Burke
Both the Design and Technology club and the Robotics club will be starting up at the beginning of October. The Design and Tech club will run after school on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:45. Students who join will be involved in a variety of challenges and advanced building projects. At first it will be open to grade 5-6 students interested in signing up then depending on space will open up for grade 4's. Four members of the D&T club will be picked to compete in the upcoming Skills Canada qualifying competition January 30th. Sign up sheets will go home next week.

Robotics club will work with Lego robotics kits and will run Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays morning recess and snack in the Science Portable. Students will build and program robots that must accomplish

a variety of tasks including pushing objects, recognizing and following lines, and picking up items and "delivering them". Members of the robotics teams will have the opportunity to enter a few competitions throughout the school year including the school board's Skills Canada Qualifying competition January 30th.

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORMS

Prior to any school outing, students are provided with permission forms. It is the responsibility of the student to bring the form home, have it signed, and returned to the teacher by the deadline. In the event that a student has not returned the form, students will not be permitted to join the trip. These students will remain at school where an alternate program will be provided. Unfortunately, our busy office is not able to facilitate last minute phone calls and arrangements. Safety is our priority and is compromised when last minute changes occur.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Individual and class photos will be taken at the school on Wednesday, October 18th. Due to the background colour used, students are asked not to wear green. School photo retake day will be Monday, November 13th.

AVALON SCHOOL COUNCIL 2017-2018

We are pleased to present to you the Avalon School Council Executive members for the 2017-2018 school year.

Co-Chairs: Alison O'Rourke and Leslie Girouard
Treasurer: Katie Patterson
Secretary: Cynthia Longo

A MESSAGE FROM AVALON SCHOOL COUNCIL

Avalon Parent Council invites you to join us for **Family Movie Night on Thursday, October 5th**. The movie being shown is **Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie**. Doors open at 6pm and the movie will be begin at 6:30pm. Popcorn, candy and drinks will be on sale in the lobby & the movie will be shown in the gym. We will also be selling raffle tickets – the prize is the Captain Underpants DVD! Wear your PJs and bring your favourite pillow & blanket, money for treats and your parents! ***Please note that ALL students must be accompanied by an adult.***

Mark **Wednesday, October 11th** in your calendars for **Avalon Public School's Boston Pizza Night**! Help us achieve our fundraising goals by joining us at **Boston Pizza Orleans between 5-8pm**. Just put your receipt in the fundraiser box at the host stand after your meal and our school will receive a percentage of your bill. Looking forward to seeing students, parents and staff and this fun event!

Do you need some **Mabel's Labels** for your child's clothing, shoes or lunch containers? If so, please use the following link (***campaigns.mabelslabels.com***) when you place your order. Please choose **Avalon Public School (Orleans)** from the drop down menu and our school will receive a percentage of sales.

The Lunch Lady Lunch Program (thelunchlady.ca/) is available to all Avalon students every Thursday. You can create an account (create an account now) to order and pay online and a hot meal will be delivered to child's classroom. If you have any questions please email them at ottawaeast@thelunchlady.ca or by phone at 613-680-7001.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Forms can either be picked up from the school office or downloaded at http://www.binks.ca or you may apply online at http://www.insuremykids.com.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. If your child is involved in school related sports activities or is participating in any field trips out of the province you may wish to seriously consider the coverage options, which range from $13.00/year to

$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies outside of school hours. If you have questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

COOLER WEATHER

While we have yet to see it, the temperatures will soon be dropping and the days are often a little wetter. It's time to bring out our warm and snuggly clothes. Students are outside during the day and when dressed for the weather are much happier.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Remember when we all walked to school? Right now in Ottawa, only 20% of children use active means to travel to school. Decades ago that number was greater than 50%. Children who walk to school report feeling happier, get better grades, feel more relaxed, and less rushed on the trip to school. Active travel can also help improve their health in many ways. Consider ways to get your child to walk more.

Curb the trend and try this:

- **Walk and wheel to school.** Walk if the distance is less than 2 kilometres. Wheel if the distance is less than 7 kilometres.
- **Be a healthy role model as children watch & learn**. Research shows that active parents have active children.
- **Active kids are ready to learn.** When more time is spent being active, school marks actually go up!
- **Wear the gear. Be safe, be seen.** Walking and wheeling can be enjoyed safely when you follow the rules of the road and wear the right gear.

For more information contact Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 or visit www.ottawa.ca/health.

DENTAL SCREENINGS

Ottawa Public Health dental hygienists screen over 40,000 children every year at school. They look for those in need of dental care and help families get the care they need. The dental screening done at school does not replace regular check-ups at the dentist. Children can develop dental problems that parents may not know about. This year at Avalon the dental hygienist will be screening children in Year 1 and 2 of Kindergarten and Grade 2 on Tuesday, December 5th.

For more information on these clinics or the dental program, contact Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 or visit www.ottawa.ca/health.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE ☺

Thursday, October 5th, 6:30pm – Movie Night hosted by Avalon School Council
Friday, October 6th – Professional Activity Day (students do not attend school)
Monday, October 9th – Thanksgiving (school is closed)
Wednesday, October 11th – Boston Pizza Night Fundraiser
Monday, October 16th, 7pm – School Council meeting in Avalon Staffroom
Wednesday, October 18th – School Photo Day
Thursday, November 9th – Progress Reports go home
Friday, November 10th – Remembrance Day Ceremony (Times to be confirmed)
Monday, November 13th – School Photo Re-takes
Friday, November 24th – Parent Consultation / Interview Day (students do not attend school)
Tuesday December 5th – Dental Screening for Kindergarten (Year 1 & 2) and Grade 2 students.
December 25th – January 5th – Winter Holiday Break

OTTAWA-CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

EXIT OUTCOMES:
Characteristics and Skills We Want for Our Learners

CHARACTERISTICS

GOAL-ORIENTED

Students who are goal-oriented have self-motivation, diligence, initiative and a sense of responsibility.

RESILIENT

Students who are resilient face and overcome adversity and challenging situations. They take risks, learn from mistakes, persevere, and move forward confidently.

GLOBALLY AWARE

Students who are globally aware are empathetic and responsive in their contributions to the local and global community. They demonstrate cultural proficiency and act in a respectful, inclusive manner.

COLLABORATIVE

Students who are collaborative understand the importance of working cooperatively in a team setting. Collaboration values diverse perspectives and effectively utilizes each person's contributions.

INNOVATIVE/CREATIVE

Students who are innovative and creative have original thoughts and ideas that are of value and are acted upon. They understand that creativity is essential not only for solving problems, but also for improving where strengths already exist.

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKERS

Students who are critical thinkers engage in reflective and independent thinking. They identify the relevance, validity and importance of ideas using rational and intuitive processes. They understand the logical connections between ideas. They construct and evaluate arguments using criteria. They generate solutions and create new ways of thinking.

ACADEMICALLY DIVERSE

Students who are academically diverse have strong literacy and numeracy skills; they will also have acquired a full spectrum of skills through exposure to a wide range of subjects including the arts, sciences, financial literacy, physical education, the trades and technology, in keeping with student needs.

DIGITALLY FLUENT

Students who are digitally fluent know how to engage with technology to enhance their learning; this includes interacting with, creating and sharing information (individually or collaboratively) in a responsible and ethical way to support their learning.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

Students who are effective communicators are skilled at listening, speaking, questioning, and writing; they connect with people and know their audience.

ETHICAL DECISION-MAKERS

Students who are ethical decision makers model principles that govern their decisions through their actions. They embody honesty, respect and responsibility.