

## From the Raptor's Perch.

November 27, 2022

We hope everyone was able to take advantage of the three-days and warm weather over the weekend. Thank you to all the Vimy Families who attended Educator-Caregiver interviews last Thursday evening and Friday. Thanks also to our SCC student leaders thought of the great theme days to promote and celebrate our positive school spirit here at VRPS.

Please read an important message below from our School Council.

As part of our commitment to fostering a positive school community, we began our Raptor's Call initiative which recognizes and celebrates VRPS students in the school who are making a positive contribution and demonstrate true VRPS spirit. Many students were recognized last week and here in the office, we greatly enjoyed reading their names aloud over the morning announcements.

Enjoy the end of November and the start to December,

Trent Taniguchi, Andrew Thorp and Colin Halsall.

---

### In this edition of "From the Raptor's Perch"

- From School Council
- Spirit Wear
- Attendance/Notifying the school when your child will be absent
- From the District
- Upcoming Dates



#### FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL

It has been wonderful having parent council meetings in person this year and being able to offer parents to join virtually as well. We look forward to reconvening after the holidays on Tues. Jan 24, 2023. We have many new families at the school and have been working on putting together some information about the parent council.

With the amount of students we have, it is imperative that we have more parent volunteers involved in running council activities and events such as the lunch program, movie nights, and fun fair. These are important fundraisers to cover costs for the online reading and programs, staff appreciation, kinder yard equipment, etc.

Please see the attached document which is the 5Ws of Parent Council. Who we are, what we do and have done, and how you can get involved.

We would love to see you at our next meeting or you can reach out via the email below.

Thanks,

Kaveeta Ajwani and Ahmed Fawal

VRPS Co-Council Chairs

[vrps.chair@gmail.com](mailto:vrps.chair@gmail.com)

[https://vimyridgeps.ocdsb.ca/school\\_council](https://vimyridgeps.ocdsb.ca/school_council)



### VRPS SPIRIT WEAR

Vimy Ridge Public School has spirit! Every Friday is the day to show off your pride by wearing VRPS spirit wear. Our wonderful School Council has registered our school so that our school community can order from a variety of t-shirts, sweaters, pants and more at the following website:

<https://vimyridgepublicschool.entripyshops.com>



### ATTENDANCE/ NOTIFYING THE SCHOOL WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT

Thank you to parents and guardians for the improved rate of attendance reporting. It helps our office staff immensely when you use our [online attendance tool](#) to report your child away from school. Our number one priority is your child's safety. Please use our [online absence form here](#) (best way) or call the school at 613-425-4400 and leave a voicemail.



### FROM THE DISTRICT

Dear Families,

This was a challenging week for the OCDSB community. The Board of Trustees considered whether to mandate masking for students and staff. The meetings generated a lot of discussion, both inside and

outside of the Boardroom. After much debate, the motion did not pass. This means that wearing a mask in OCDSB schools and buildings is not mandatory, but it continues to be strongly encouraged.

There are several respiratory viruses circulating in our community and our health care system is under extreme pressure. Ottawa Public Health recommends masking in all indoor public settings as part of a series of strategies to prevent the spread of illness in our community. Additional measures include, monitoring for symptoms, staying home from school or work if sick, handwashing, and getting the COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot to protect yourself and others. These strategies are highlighted in a recent letter [to families](#) from Dr. Kieran Moore (CMOH) and in [this week's update](#) from Ottawa Public Health.

Public discourse and the debate of ideas is important. Critical thinking is important. Criticism, attacks, and abuse of others for their beliefs or ideas is not okay. As a community, we need to learn from and move past the difficult experiences of this week. We all deeply care about the health, wellness and education of students. They would be well-served by our commitment to listen, learn and engage with one another in a respectful manner, supporting the dignity of every person.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **December 6: Secondary Gifted Program Information Session**

Parents and guardians are welcome to join us December 6 at 6:00 p.m. for an information session about the OCDSB's Secondary Gifted Program. Attendees will learn about the program and application process, and will have the opportunity to ask questions. While those with a student in grade 8 might find the session most helpful, all parents and caregivers are invited to attend. [Save this link](#) to join the session on Google Meet.

### **December 8: All About High School Virtual Information Session**

Inviting all Grade 8-11 students and their families for the **All About High School Virtual Information Session** on **Thursday, December 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** This virtual conference, organized by OCDSB's *Innovation and Adolescent Learning* team, will provide details about the transition from Grade 8 to high school. [Learn more](#)

### **Supporting School Councils**

Are you a School Council member or interested in getting involved? Visit the OCDSB's [Supporting School Councils webpage](#) and subscribe to the newsletter to receive updates, tips, and resources – including our **new** [training video series](#) for councils. If you have questions about how to get involved in your School Council, please contact your principal.

## Pirurviapik Childcare Centre

The new Pirurviapik Childcare Centre has provided a space for Inuit infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to grow and learn through culturally enhanced programming. The Centre, which opened in September, is located at the OCDSB's Rideau Hub and operated by the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families. [Take a look inside the Centre.](#)

Last month, eight current and former OCDSB students were honoured at the 25th Annual RBC Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards for their achievements in arts and culture, academic perseverance, service and caring, and more. [Read about the recipients.](#)

## Dates to Remember

### December 1: Nunatsiavut Day

Nunatsiavut Day acknowledges the effective date of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, which came into effect in 2005. This agreement recognized Inuit ownership of 15,800 square kilometres of land and the creation of the 9,600 square kilometre Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve. Nunatsiavut is the first of the Inuit regions in Canada to achieve self-government, and means "Our Beautiful Land" in Inuktitut.

## Reminders

**November 30:** [Canterbury Arts Open House](#), 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**December 1:** [Ontario Universities' Virtual Information Session](#), 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**December 3:** [Brick and Masonry Information Session - Ottawa Technical Secondary School](#), 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



## UPCOMING DATES

- *The Cost of Silence: The 5 Faces of Bullying* presentation. - December 20th Grades 4-8
- School Photos- January 24th and 25th