



## A Message from VRPS

September 18, 2022

Dear VRPS Students and Families,

What a smooth start to the year! As we continue to adjust to routines and settle into this school year, we look forward to all of the events and activities to come that make VRPS an amazing place to learn and grow!

A reminder that our school bell rings at 9:15am. **This means that supervision of students begins at 9:00am.** Please do not send your child into the school yard until 9:00 am. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety of all of our students.

If your child is going to be late or absent please contact the office by phone or by using this [form](#) (also located on the website). Please save the school phone number and bookmark the form for when you will need it.



Learning and playing outside is an important part of your child's school experience. ***Please send your child to school dressed for the weather*** as we love to take advantage of the outdoors as much as possible. Students at VRPS will go outside for recess and physical education classes in a light rain.

Throughout the school year, schools across the District recognize and acknowledge events, celebrations and days and months of significance to members of our school communities.

Tomorrow, Monday September 19th, the District will recognize the passing of the Queen with a moment of silence at 1:00pm. September 19th also marks Powley Day, a day that commemorates the recognition of Métis rights. Please visit the OCDSB website or see the From the District section below for more information.

This year, VRPS is proud and excited to participate in the Terry Fox School Run. The date of the run will be confirmed this upcoming week. Terry never quit on his dream of a world

without cancer, and neither will we. VRPS is looking forward to a great day of outdoor activity in support of cancer research all while building fantastic school spirit!

A reminder that our [Meet the Staff](#) event will take place in-person on Thursday, September 29th from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Parents can come in, tour their child/children's classrooms and say hello to all of our fabulous educators! We hope to see you there! If you have any specific questions about your child's progress, please reach out to their educator by email.

As a school, we value the voice of all members of our school community. Parent involvement in the school community plays an important role in enriching the educational experience of our students. This year, [School Council elections](#) will take place in-person on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30pm. Links to the nomination and self-nomination forms for voting members of council were sent out earlier. We will send out a Google Meet Link for those who want to join us virtually.

We hope everyone has a wonderful week ahead and we look forward to welcoming our families on September 29th!

All the best,

Trent Taniguchi, Christine Cardill and Colin Halsall

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In this edition of “A Message from Vimy Ridge”

- Drop off/pick up
- School Verification Forms (e.g., media permission, acceptable use of technology, etc..)
- NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION:
- From the District



**DROP OFF/PICK UP:**

Thank you to our kindergarten parents for remaining on the grass area to allow lines to move easily into the school. It is important for your child’s teacher to know which gate your child will be picked up at and who will be picking up your child. Please communicate any changes to your normal pickup routine to your child’s teacher.

Please ensure that your vehicle is not parked in the bus lane in front of the school after 3:20pm.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping to keep everyone safe during these busy times of the day! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us directly.



**SCHOOL VERIFICATION FORMS:**

Our annual verifications forms, including: media permission, information verification and acceptable use of technology forms will be completed electronically this year. These links

have been sent home in a previous communication. In the meantime, if any of your contact information has changed, please inform the school as soon as possible so that we have your most up-to-date information.

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to complete the following forms.

#### TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

Please fill out each of these forms for each of your children

[Media release form](#)

[Appropriate Use of Technology form](#)



#### NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION:

On Thursday, September 30, staff and students at Barrhaven PS and across the District will reflect and participate in learning activities that honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Our BPS community is also invited to wear an orange t-shirt on that day as Orange Shirt Day is a movement across Canada helping to educate our students and communities on the history and legacy of Canadian Residential Schools.

#### FROM THE DISTRICT:

***Dear OCDSB Families,***

***OCDSB Welcomes Students Back to School***

***Last week we were thrilled to welcome our students back to school. Read our latest School News Story to see how classes across the OCDSB [kicked off the school year](#) with team activities, outdoor learning, and more.***

***September 19th - Powley Day***

***Métis communities celebrate Powley Day each year on September 19th, marking the anniversary of the landmark Métis rights victory at the Supreme Court of***

**Canada. Powley Day commemorates the most important Métis Rights recognition since the days of Louis Riel. [Learn more on our website.](#)**

### **September 19th - National Day of Mourning**

**Monday, September 19th has been designated as a day of mourning in observance of the death and funeral service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Ontario. All OCDSB schools and buildings will be open with regular learning taking place for students. The Province has directed all schools to observe a moment of silence in recognition of the life of the Queen at or around 1:00 p.m. on Monday. We respect that there may be many different feelings or opinions expressed over the passing of the Queen and the day of mourning. Some may experience a sense of loss with the death of a sovereign who served for 70 years. Others consider the Monarchy a representation of colonialism and oppression. We respect everyone's choice to participate or not participate in these activities. It is particularly important that we practice kindness and caring towards one another.**

### **Building a Safe and Caring Community**

**A recent video of a violent attack on a student in Ottawa has rightly prompted significant concerns from families and students about the safety of youths. The OCDSB condemns this act of senseless violence and is supporting the police and school investigations. Learn more about how we can work together to build a safe community. [Read our statement.](#)**

### **Membership Applications Open: OCDSB Parent Involvement Committee**

**Are you an OCDSB parent or guardian with a strong interest in and commitment to public education? Applications are now open for Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Membership for the 2022-2023 school year. PIC supports, encourages, and enhances parent engagement across the District in order to improve student achievement and well-being. Learn more about the duties of PIC members [on our website](#), and [apply online today](#).**

### **Additional Information about the 2022 Municipal Election**

**Here are a few helpful links from the City of Ottawa to help you prepare to cast your vote:**

- [Key dates, including advance poll dates](#)

- [“Who is Running in my Ward?”](#), a tool to help you learn more about the candidates who will be on your ballot
- [Information on who can vote](#)
- [Ward maps and school board zones](#)
- [Additional information for voters](#), like accessibility, voter identification, where and how to vote, and more.

Check out [“Kids Corner”](#) with your child(ren). You’ll find educational tools to help them learn about the democratic process. Kids of all ages can also visit any of the special advance voting locations to cast their own [“Voters in Training”](#) ballot.

*In case you missed it...*

September 24th Open Trails Day at MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre: MacSkimming is hosting an [Open Trails Day](#) on Saturday, September 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thank you,

*Camille Williams-Taylor*

*Director of Education*



**UPCOMING DATES:**

September 20th - School Council elections 6:30pm

September 29th- Meet the Staff event