

Good morning Rockcliffe Families,

As you start your weekend, we are in the final week ahead of the holidays. We look forward to a final virtual assembly next week to enjoy all the celebrations throughout this time of year.

We will continue to start our days with a land acknowledgement that our school is on unceded Algonquin Territory, and we thank the Algonquin Nation for hosting us on their land and the [sign language version](#) of O'Canada.

I would like to highlight a few key items as we end our week:

- **Covid measures:** As your family holiday plans come together, we encourage our RPPS families to be mindful of physical distancing and other Covid-safe guidelines. We ask that all families follow self-isolation requirements, especially if you have travelled outside of Canada over the holidays, when we return to school in January. Continue to work together to keep our school safe! See below for recommendations from OPH.
- **Staff appreciation.** Each year, many parents ask how to show appreciation to our staff who have worked tirelessly with their child in a given year. Gifts are not expected, nor required, and a kind email or hand-written note from a student is most appreciated.
 - To remain Covid-routine friendly, we ask that you consider low contact items, such as gift certificates, if you choose to send in holiday items to your child's teacher; there are also electronic ways to send these types of items. School Council also suggests that you consider supporting local businesses.
- **Safe arrival and dismissal.** During the school day, snowballs or snow throwing is not safe on our yard. We ask that parents reinforce these messages by not permitting students to throw snowballs at each other in the park adjacent to our school before or after school
- **School Council Meeting link.** We apologize for the link glitch during the School Council meeting this week. Moving forward, we will organize a form for those planning to attend to sign-up for meetings, in case technology causes issues in the future. Watch for the first School Council newsletter next week.
- **Letters to soldiers:** Thank you to classrooms around the school have written letters to our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members who are serving overseas and not able to come home for the holidays
- **Wall of Remembrance:** The RPPS Wall of Remembrance has moved down the hall to our showcase area to maintain the commemoration which resulted from the collective efforts of our students to honour the contributions of CAF members, past and present.
- **Equity corner:** To further our sharing on the diversity of literacy, thanks to one of our parents, I would like to encourage parents to consider how to diversify the books you read with your children at home with two links to Canadian indigenous children's books from [CBC News](#) and [Baby librarians](#).
- **Support for Learners.** Thanks to a fellow RPPS parent, I would like to flag a link to [Covid support](#) for families from the Ontario government. The deadline to apply is 15 January 2021.

The Principal jokes this week are sparked by our family cooking baking: 1) Why did the Oreo cookie go to the dentist? ...Because it lost its filling, 2) What does the gingerbread man use to make its bed?

... Cookie sheets, and 3) Why did the computer want to be friends with the cookie? ...Because they both have chips.

May your holiday plans be safe but uplifting.

Madame Mace, Proud Principal

[A reminder of recommendations from Ottawa Public Health \(OPH\) as the holidays approach:](#)

- keep the number of people you interact with small: those in your household plus essential supports.
- limit social gatherings to those who live in your household and those providing essential support services such as a caregiver.
- If you live alone (single parent, student, etc.), one or two contacts outside your home can be important social supports to draw on.
- Current provincial gathering limits are 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- These limits cannot be combined (for example: it is NOT permitted to host 35 people, with 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors)

Please refer to [Guidance for Social Gatherings During COVID-19](#) from OPH, as we all make decisions for how to celebrate our holidays.

Quick references for parents:

- [RPPS office request](#).
- 2020 morning routine: Get up. Eat breakfast. Check the weather. Conduct [Covid-19 screening](#). Go to school. Learn. Repeat.
- RPPS Instagram or Twitter: wetherockrpps