

Good afternoon Rockcliffe Families,

As you start your holidays, we wish all our RPPS families a restful holiday filled with mask-free and fresh air moments.

While we do not expect an extended school closure after the holidays, students have brought home their materials. If there is any news, I will be sending out regular updates. Regardless, I will send out a message on 2 January with any back-to-school information.

This week, each class also took time for holiday crafts, writing and other celebrations. We appreciated grade 2 creative writing with "What would you do if you were caught inside a snow globe?". Creativity at work! We also held small holiday assemblies; if you would like to watch them as a family, the links are here for you:

[Primary assembly](#)

[Junior assembly](#)

I would like to highlight a few key items as we start our holidays:

- **Covid measures:** As the holidays begin, we encourage our RPPS families to be diligent with physical distancing. We know our students miss sleepovers, but they will return! If you have travel outside of Canada over the holidays, please follow the self-isolation guidelines when we return to school. Let's continue to work together to keep our school safe! See below for recommendations from OPH.
- **Safe arrival and dismissal.** When we return in January, remind your child that morning entry involves walking directly to their class lines; students should whirlpool into place and they should not be stopping in groups.
- **School Council Meeting - 12 January.** If you would like to attend the next School Council meeting, [please complete this form](#) and you will receive a meeting invitation.
- **Equity corner:** To further our sharing on the diversity of literacy, thanks to another RPPS parent, the Festival of Literacy Diversity in Brampton that celebrates BIPOC authors and it offers a [monthly book recommendation for kids](#). BIPOC is an acronym, which stands for black, Indigenous and people of color.
- **Showing we care.** Thank you to RPPS for their generosity in donations of gift cards for our Christmas baskets which have been given to a local school. Together we raised over \$2000 to show how much we care for others this holiday season.
- **RPPS Holiday Scavenger Hunt.** Get outside for a safe RPPS holiday activity! The clues are ready and Council members will get them in place tomorrow. We will send out an email with the first clue. A dragon decal will be given to students who successfully complete the hunt over the holidays.
- **Colour your dragon!** Have you printed out your dragon outline yet? Thanks to Council for organizing the dragon window colouring project - we will watch for them appearing in windows around the neighbourhood.

The Principal jokes this week are sparked by the upcoming holidays: 1) What is every parent's favourite Christmas carol? ... Silent Night, 2) Why did the cow say on New Year's Eve? ...Happy Moo Year, and 3) How much did Santa's sleigh cost? ...Nothing, it was on the house.

May your holiday plans be mask-free, outdoors, and screen-free.

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