

Good day RPPS families,

Our last week of February! We are so pleased that our Toonie Tuesday efforts have raised over \$500 in support of the Education Foundation, and our Pink Shirt Day allowed us to highlight how we work to be good friends, kind friends and safe friends at RPPS.

This week, staff will be exploring activities and days for our “Un-March Break” (15 - 19 March). For example, one activity could involve students bringing a full cereal box to donate the Ottawa Food Bank but before we bring the boxes over, we’ll create a giant cereal domino down our main hall to celebrate our collective efforts.

### **Covid routines and reminders**

- **Single symptom.** OPH made an adjustment this week to protocols, in response to the new Covid variant. It is now recommended that any child displaying one symptom be taken for Covid testing. Students displaying symptom(s) will be separated from other students in our Wellness Room until they can be picked up by their parent. Please see the parent letters for more ([English version](#) / [French version](#)).
- **Covid Simulation.** CHEO and Ottawa Public Health staff were at RPPS this week to create a Covid simulation scenario and observe RPPS staff use of protocols. Their recommendations helped us make good adjustments to our routines, including how we don/doff PPE like gowns and gloves when a child is sick, how we communicate with each other, and how we clean up during a sick child incident. We received positive reviews for our existing routines but minor tweaks help strengthen our good work.
- **Cleaning versus Disinfecting.** At RPPS, we clean and disinfect student equipment and high-touch surfaces throughout the day. Cleaning is the physical action of removing debris from a surface, while disinfecting inactivates or kills microorganisms (germs) that may be present on surfaces and that cleaning does not remove. For example, PE equipment is cleaned and disinfected after each use each day but also before equipment goes to another class cohort for use.
- **Student absences.** Effective March 1, any COVID related absence will be coded with an 'A' for attendance purposes. This includes those students who have symptoms, have tested positive, have come in contact with someone who is positive or are self isolating. Schools will no longer code these absences with a 'G' code. Please continue to let us know the reason for your child’s absence when you call the RPPS attendance line or send an email.

### **Around RPPS**

- **Citizenship in the virtual world.** The OCDSB has created a [digital citizenship guide](#) for best practices and expectations for fostering a virtual learning environment, while respecting the privacy and learning of students and staff. This guide is also available on the [Remote Learning Technology Support](#) page.
- **Safe arrival.** A reminder to make a 3-1-1 report if you see unsafe conditions during arrival or dismissal via [City of Ottawa online](#).
- **Black History Month.** Thank you to all our educators and students who have taken time to learn, reflect and honour both important Canadian figures, but more importantly equity and

inclusion in our daily actions and words at RPPS. How we care for others is a 365 day project, not one limited to one month.

- **Outdoor Learning at RPPS.** Two of our educators have been featured on the OCDSB website for their work on [outdoor learning activities](#)
- **2021-2022 Planning.** The District will be sending out information regarding September options for students (InPerson / OCV). Parents will have additional opportunity to adjust plans after this communication; if we don't hear from you, we will assume that your child will be attending RPPS In-Person in the fall.

### **School Council**

- **School Council.** The next virtual School Council meeting is Tuesday, March 9 (7pm). To attend the March meeting, [complete this form](#).
- **March newsletter.** Watch for the Council newsletter next week, including updates on 100th anniversary logo contest, spring fundraising, and more.
- **RPPS clothing.** A new look is coming. Click on these links for a sneak peak at some of the options: [tshirt](#), [baseball shirt](#), [hoodie](#), [ball cap](#). Watch for more information about options and ordering.

This week's jokes connect to our bird-feeder kits and bird watching 1) When does a teacher carry birdseed?... *at parrot-teacher interview time*, 2) What do you give a sick bird?... *tweetmen*; and 3) Why do birds fly south for the winter?... *because it's too far to walk*.

Madame Mace, Proud Principal

### **Upcoming dates:**

- 9 March - School Council meeting
- 31 March - 100th anniversary logo contest deadline

### **Quick references for parents:**

- **Admissions**
  - [Request to change between InPerson and Virtual learning model](#)
  - [OCDSB School Locator](#)
  - [Online registration at the OCDSB](#)
- **School day**
  - RPPS attendance email: [absencerpps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:absencerpps@ocdsb.ca)
  - [OSTA website for bus cancellations and delays](#)
  - [Daily Covid self-assessment](#) for students
  - [How to Train your Dragon guide](#)
- **Support / Covid references**
  - OPH Parent Line: 613-580-6744
  - Family and Mental Health Support in our Community
  - [OCDSB - Mental Health and Community Supports](#)
  - [Kids Help Phone](#)
- **School Council**
  - [March School Council meeting sign-up form](#)
  - [Volunteer sign-up form](#)