

Good day RPPS families,

March has come in like a lion with unpredictable weather patterns - our yard is alternating between snowy and icy. A reminder to students (and families) to check that weather daily to ensure that students are dressed for the weather at recess.

ToonieTuesday update. RPPS has once again shown its caring ways. We have raised over \$795 for the Education Foundation. Now to turn our attention to the creative School Council fundraising in a pandemic plans (see below).

Covid routines and reminders

- **Single symptom.** A reminder of the updated Covid protocols and the need for testing if your child is displaying symptoms (parent letters in [English / French](#)). If your child has symptoms unrelated to Covid, they may return with the completion of an [attestation letter](#), which we provide on the back of the symptom letter when you pick up your child

Around RPPS

- **Be a good safe friend.** We have noticed students struggling with positive behaviour and choices in the past 2 weeks. It's a sign of a long winter. Take time to do a check-in with your child, and to talk about how to be a "good friend" and how to be a "safe friend". Our best recommendation is to spend family time together away from screen - games like cards give a chance for positive interactions between adults and children, but they also model listening, turn taking, and sharing - the qualities of good, safe friends.
- **Un-March Break.** We will share our "Un-March Break" (15 - 19 March) activities later this week. For now, we ask students to consider donating a full cereal box for the Ottawa Food Bank by Wednesday, 10 March to allow a resting period before we conduct our giant cereal domino down our main hall on Friday, 12 March. Physical distancing and other protocols will be in place, as part of the fun.
- **Safe arrival.** The City's idling by-law reminds us to keep our idling cars to 3 minutes of less. Help us with safe arrival by turning your car off during student drop-off or pick-up.
- **2021-2022 Student Learning Model.** The OCDSB [Elementary](#) guide gives more information on learning options (In-Person / OCV) for September 2021. RPPS families are asked to complete the [confirmation of student learning mode](#) (one per child) by 14 March. If you completed the RPPS survey in February, no action is required on your part, unless you wish to change your response. If we do not receive a response, your child will be assigned to InPerson attendance.

School Council

- **School Council.** Our virtual School Council meeting is this Tuesday, March 9 (7pm). To attend the March meeting, [complete this form](#) by 4:00 pm on 9 March.
- **March newsletter.** Click here for the [March Council newsletter](#). Highlights include:
 - March fundraising goals and Mace rises to the challenge
 - Traffic safety reminders
 - Council member profiles
 - 100th logo contest

- Book Fair Chair needed
- **How to talk to children about racism - Parent workshop.** Save the date - 18 March (7:30 pm). Destine Lord, a consultant, communicator, connector and facilitator living on the unceded territory of the Algonquin people, offers a 45-minute parent presentation followed by 15-minutes Q&A.

This week's jokes are March groaners: 1) Why did Mme. Mace groan when a student told her a joke about paper?... *because it was tearable*, 2) Why do potatoes make good detectives... *because they keep their eyes peeled*; and 3) What do you call a well-dressed lion?... *a dandy lion*.

Madame Mace, Proud Principal

Upcoming dates:

- 9 March - School Council meeting
- 11 March (6:30 pm) - [Parenting during a Pandemic](#) (Parent workshop shared by Manor Park)
- 18 March (7:30 pm) - How to Talk to Children about Racism (RPPS parent night)
- 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
 - [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](#)