

Good day RPPS families,

The Rockcliffe Park PS “rivers and lakes” have appeared on our yard with the warm temperatures. Another reminder to students (and families) to check that weather daily to ensure that students are dressed for the weather at recess with boots, splash pants, etc.

Help us reach a goal of 200 cereal boxes donated to the Ottawa Food Bank for our Friday cereal box domino challenge. Send boxes by Wednesday, 17 March.

We hope to see many parents and caregivers join us on Thursday (18 March; 7:30 pm): [How to Talk with your Children about Racism](#) (offered by Destine Lord). [Click here](#) to sign up - a GoogleMeet link will be sent to you.

Covid routines and reminders

- **Single symptom.** Thank you to parents who have followed Covid protocols and where needed, taken your child or testing. When you receive your results, you may share them with our attendance email (rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca) as part of sending your child back to school.
- **Spring Break travel.** If your family chooses to travel during “UnMarch Break” (15 - 19 March) or April Break (12 - 16 April), please ensure that you are following the OPH guidelines for self-isolation and quarantine to help us keep our school safe.
- **Staffing shortages and class closures.** To echo the board communication, there are days where RPPS is facing a shortage of replacement staff. Whenever there is a staff absence, we work hard to find a replacement. At times, our teachers do not receive their prep time on a given day as we look for solutions for classroom coverage; at others, the VP or P may be teaching in a classroom. The purpose of this message is to ensure parents are aware of the issue and have childcare plans in place. Should it become necessary for a school to close an in-person class, we will do our best to inform families affected as soon as possible via email and phone calls from the school, through the OCDSB social media, and through local media.

Around RPPS

- **Daylight Savings on Sunday.** Spring ahead on Sunday, March 14th and turn your clocks forward an hour.
- **Un-March Break.** Let's find ways to break our routines and mindset next week!
 - *Monday:* Feel Good Monday - Wear school colours (blue or white) / The real DJ Mace school dance in PM
 - *Tuesday:* Opposite Day - Wear clothes backwards, inside out, or mismatched!
 - *Wednesday:* Bingo Day (prizes: dragon decals); Cereal box donation deadline
 - *Thursday:* Destination Unknown Day - Wear clothing from another place or something you might wear on vacation; Travel theme trivia
 - *Friday:* Kindness Day - take the random acts of kindness challenge throughout the day; Cereal Box Dominoes challenge
- **Safe arrival.** Walk the block - plan some fresh air and a walk with your child as you arrive to school. Parking a block away from school keeps our arrival zone safe for all students, especially in Rockcliffe Park where sidewalks are limited.
- **Safe schools and lockdown drills.** Part of our safe school routines includes fire drills and lockdown drills. A lockdown is called when there is an active and immediate threat to student

safety; in a lockdown, staff secure classroom doors and a class hides out of sight. Next Tuesday, we will hold an assembly for students to review lockdown routines. We will not be practising a lockdown drill in person at this time to maintain physical distancing, but students will identify locations in their classrooms and other areas in the school where they can stay safe in the event a lockdown is called.

- **2021-2022 Student Learning Model.** Today is the deadline for confirmation of InPerson or Virtual school attendance for September 2021. Click here for the [confirmation of student learning mode](#) (one per child); if you have not previously completed the form. You may find more information in the OCDSB [Elementary](#) guide. If we do not receive a response, your child will be assigned to InPerson attendance.
- **Parent workshop recording:** If you missed the 11 March parent workshop "A year into pandemic parenting: Tools for stress management and emotion regulation" [here is a link to a recording](#).
 - We are all in this together and can use some coping strategies. This workshop was intended for parents of children of all ages and it covered the following topics:
 1. How families are doing during the pandemic
 2. Self-care: its importance and how to do it
 3. Top 3 parenting tips
 4. How to help your children with their emotions

School Council

- **School Council.** The next meeting is Tuesday, May 11 (7pm). To attend the May 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.** Help us reach our \$12,000 fundraising goal (go to [RPPS School Council online](#)). Mme. Mace is supporting our efforts for each goal we reach
 - \$ 3000 - Mme Mace will run the track wearing a superhero cape;
 - \$ 6000 - Mme Mace will sing a song to the students over the PA system;
 - \$ 9000 - Mme Mace will dress up as a snowman for the day;
 - \$ 12000 - Mme Mace will dye part of her hair blue.

This week's jokes are for spring break and our weather: 1) What do you call the weather when it's raining ducks and chickens?... *foul weather*, 2) Before Covid, where did sheep go for spring break?... *the baaaa-hamas*; and 3) What did the baker and family do over spring break?... *they loafed around*.

Madame Mace, Proud Principal

Upcoming dates:

- 15 - 19 March - UnMarch Break week
- 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 mode](#)

- [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*
 - Child with symptoms: parent letters [English](#) / [French](#)
 - [Attestation letter](#) to return your child to school without testing
 - 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*
 - [11 May School Council meeting sign-up form](#)
 - [Volunteer sign-up form](#)