

Good day RPPS families,

A rainy day to close our week - ask your child about the ducks who enjoyed paddling on the "lake" in front of the field house today.

Thank you to parents and students for their generous cereal box donations - we had [over 185 boxes donated](#) and set up by our special helpers. [Knock Down Hunger rolled down our hallway](#) before we take our donations to the Ottawa Food Bank.

Another thank you parents for generosity towards School Council fundraising; we have raised over \$3000 and today, Mme. Mace dressed up as Dragon Master super hero (compliments of a homemade cape from a parent) and [ran the track around the turning circle in the rain](#). Next goal: \$6000 and a karaoke song from Mme. Mace (who cannot sing) over the PA.

Take time this weekend to listen to the recording of [How to talk with your child about racism](#) thanks to our amazing School Council parent workshop. Visit the [School Council website for further resources](#).

### Covid routines and reminders

- **Masks on!** We are almost there - a mask free week at April Break. For now, all gr 1 - 6 students are asked for diligence of masks over noses at recess and throughout the day. Check the fit of your child's mask this weekend to make sure it is comfortable for them.
- **Keep RPPS safe.** With upcoming holidays and a week-long break approaching April 12-16, we must continue to follow public health guidelines. We remind families that this is not the time to host gatherings, playdates or sleepovers, or travel to see loved ones. Let's keep focused on the good habits we have developed and work to keep our school community protected and students and staff in school until the end of June.
- **Covid symptoms.** If your child is sent home with symptoms, you may book a Covid test online and we appreciate that you share the information with the office as soon as possible ([rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca)).
- Variant of concern. Please [see this link](#) for an updated parent letter from OPH for how the variants of concern were handled.

### Around RPPS

- **ECE appreciation.** As a school where we have many Early Childhood Educators (and in past years, Early Learning Assistants), I am delighted to see this [acknowledgement of their work](#) by our colleagues at Ottawa Public Health and the City of Ottawa (please take a minute to watch the video of appreciation). Let's join them in expressing our appreciation to all child care workers, Early Learning Assistants and Early Childhood Educators.
- **OSTA reminders.** Help your driver keep all students safe! Students are reminded to be at their bus stop 5 minutes ahead of the arrival time. The bus is not able to stop at other corners if you are late. It is also unsafe to run after a bus which has already left the stop.
- **Nominate a Volunteer for the [OCDSB Community Recognition Awards](#).** The OCDSB recognizes the valuable contributions of our community members, parents, and businesses. This year, our volunteers have shown outstanding commitment to supporting students with new, creative ways to be involved in our schools. It's time to celebrate the difference they make in the lives of our students. [Nominate a volunteer today!](#) The nomination deadline is 11:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021. We will be celebrating our award recipients virtually in the spring.
- **OCDSB Indigenous Youth Symposium - Virtual Event Series - March 31, 6:00 p.m.** Indigenous students and families in the OCDSB are invited to join the second event of this year's Indigenous Youth Symposium, where special guests Silla will share about their journey through music and the beauty of Inuit culture. If you are interested in attending, fill out the [registration form](#). Please reach out to Josh Lewis ([joshua.lewis@ocdsb.ca](mailto:joshua.lewis@ocdsb.ca)) or Kris Meawasige ([kris.meawasige@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kris.meawasige@ocdsb.ca)) for more information.

- **Ottawa Black Education Network (OBEN) - Stronger Together: Black Parents Network Session - March 27, 10:30 a.m.** The Ottawa Black Educators Network will be hosting the first Black Parents Network session on the topic of building relationships to support Black students. Black parents and parents of Black children are invited to join this interactive session. [Learn more and register.](#)
- **Autism Awareness Virtual Speaker Series - April 1, 8, and 22, 7:00 p.m.** April is World Autism Awareness Month. The goal of this month is building stronger, more inclusive communities for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). All OCDSB families and staff are invited to join us for a Speaker Series exploring strategies and supports for people with ASD. The series will feature keynote speaker Dr. Jed Baker, Social Skills Training Project, and a panel of community agencies. [Learn more and register.](#)
- **Panel Discussion: The Lived Experiences of Black Women in Canadian Societies - March 26, 7:00 p.m.** Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor will be the keynote speaker for a panel discussion on the lived experiences of Black Women, presented by the Afro-Caribbean Mentorship Program. [Learn more and register.](#)

### 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 fundraising goals continue.** Help us reach our \$12,000 fundraising goal (go to [RPPS School Council online](#)). Funds raised support our school in areas such as robotics club, a new sound system, recess equipment, the school garden, and books for the library. Mme. Mace is supporting our efforts for each goal we reach
  - \$ 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 represent today's super hero run this week: 1) Did you hear The Hulk has a new hit song?... *it was a smash hit*, 2) Where does spider man go on his spare time?... *onto the world wide web*; and 3) What do you call a super hero who likes to cook?... *a souper hero*.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Madame Mace, Proud Principal

### Upcoming dates:

- 31 March - 100th anniversary logo contest deadline
- 2 April - Good Friday (school closed)
- 5 April - Easter Monday (school closed)
- 12 - 16 April - Spring Break (school closed)

### 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
  - 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](#)