

Hello RPPS Families,

Week 2 of Remote Learning - take III. How does it feel different for your family this time around? We all miss being in the school learning together, not to mention our regular routines, but this school closure may not be met with the same emotions. Keep your child's teacher informed how you are doing.

Thanks to the families who joined us for Scientists in the School last night - it was a colourful workshop called CandyChemistry. We appreciate the School Council effort to create community events for our students.

Covid routines

- **Setting up for success online.** Staff have been working through some key reminders for success during Remote learning. The same expectations for learning and behaviour apply online; basically, if you were expected to do it at school or in class, you do the same thing now. Here are some typical ones being asked when working with students; use them as a checklist to review your own routines at home:
 - *Did you get dressed for school?* (translate: yes you need to wear a shirt while online)
 - *Did you eat before school? What are you eating at break?* (translate: yes breakfast is important, no, eating chips is not a good idea during class; eat healthy food at break time to help your brain)
 - *Did you leave your parents at home?* (translate: thank you parents for the login help, but please let children attend class; parents should not be interrupting lessons or answering for their child)
 - *Are you sitting at your "desk"?* (translate: yes, you should sit up during learning, rather than lying on your bed or upside down)
 - *Where is your classroom?* (translate: are the toys in your room distracting you? Do your parents check on you? Dining room table can work, *rather than bedrooms, if the space at home allows*)
 - *Are you present or distracted? Are you paying attention?* (translate: are you pretending to be here but really, you are on another tab playing games or watching videos with a camera off; while camera on is not required, it does let the teacher know your child is part of the lesson)
- **Chromebook distribution.** RPPS has now distributed over 90 Chromebooks for Remote Learning. We are down to our last few devices for loan ([RPPS Chromebook request form](#)). If your child's device is not working, we recommend first trying a shutdown / reboot, as Chromebooks do need this periodically for best performance. The [Chromebook Instructions for Parents](#) is a useful reference for you - it also includes contact information for tech support for you: csc.parent@ocdsb.ca / 613-596-8738.
- **Vaccines.** We are pleased to hear that 2500 educators across the City have already been vaccinated; we are waiting to hear more next week after the announcement that all education workers will be eligible for vaccination starting Monday.

RPPS news

- **RPPS play structures and grounds closed.** Dr. Vera Etches, issued an Order to require wearing masks at or within five metres of playground equipment in the City of Ottawa. This includes Play structures, Swings, Slides, Climbers, and Sand boxes. The play structures at the school remain closed; both because of the OPH guidelines but also because they have not yet been inspected after winter. We kindly ask that parents do not take their children to play on the play structures at the school.

- The use of OCDSB outdoor recreational amenities, including basketball courts, baseball diamonds and soccer fields, is also not permitted. [Learn more from OPH](#) or visit the [OCDSB Q&A page on the Stay-at-home order](#).
- **Mental Health Week (3 - 9 May)**. The pandemic (and the latest stay-at-home order) have challenged mental health in so many ways. Thanks for what you are doing to make good decisions for your family's self care. If your child is facing mental health challenges, we recommend calling the Parents' Lifeline: 613-321-3211 or visiting <https://www.pleo.on.ca/>. Here are some great resources for parents from School Mental Health Ontario:
 - [Supporting your Child's or Teen's Mental Health](#)
 - [Fun mental health activities to try at home](#)
 - [Tip Sheet on Noticing Mental Health Concerns](#)
 - [How to Talk With Your Child When you Feel Concerned They may be Struggling With a Mental Health Problem](#)
- **Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit**. Starting on April 26, the government began issuing payments of \$400 for each child or youth up to Grade 12; and \$500 for each child or youth up to age 21 with special needs. If you received a payment through the previous Ontario Support for Learners program, you do not need to apply for this additional payment. If you missed applying for the Support for Learners program, you will have the opportunity to apply from May 3-17, 2021. [Learn more](#).
- **#StrongerTogether - Education Week (3 - 7 May)**. Next week is Education Week in Ontario and the theme is #StrongerTogether. This past year has definitely reinforced our understanding of how important public education is for students, for families and for staff. Together, we have navigated so many transitions and worked together to support student learning and well-being.

School Council news

- **RPPS School Council April newsletter**. [Click here](#).
- **SpiritWear - 14 May deadline**. Have you ordered your cool new logo hoodie, toque, baseball cap, or tshirt yet? Time is running! Go to the [Spirit Store](#).

This week's jokes connect both the changing weather this time of year (snow, really?) and the roll out of vaccines (thanks to one of our gr 4 students for #2) 1) What did the summer say to the spring? *Help! I'm going to fall!* 2) What did the nurse have a red pen? ... *because she needed to draw blood* and 3) Why are trees so forgiving? ...*every spring they "turn over a new leaf"*.

With the snow starting to accumulate, I hope you are warm and safe inside perhaps playing cards or a family game together. Time to take a weekend screen break!

Madame Mace, Proud Screen-overloaded Principal

Upcoming dates:

- 24 May - Victoria Day (school closed)
- 25 June - Last day of school

Quick references for parents:

- *Council Links:*
 - [School Council Online Spirit Store](#)
 - [Donate to School Council fundraising](#)
 - [11 May School Council meeting sign-up form](#)
 - [How to Talk With Your Child About Racism \(Destine Lord\) - Recording](#) and its [Resource list](#)

- [Pandemic parenting: Tools for stress management and emotion regulation - Recording](#)
- *Admissions*
 - [OCDSB School Locator](#)
 - [Online registration at the OCDSB](#)
- *School day*
 - RPPS attendance email: absencerpps@ocdsb.ca
 - [OSTA website for bus cancellations and delays](#)
- *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](#)
 - Ottawa Immigrant COVID-19 Resource Line (OICRL) at 1-844-833-1234. Visit the [Ottawa Public Health Multilingual Resources for Diverse Communities page](#)
 -