

Good morning RPPS families,

Now that we have the answer: we are not returning to school, we will be forming plans for how to return epipens, how to gather Chromebooks, how to return any remaining student items, and what our grade 6 ceremony will look like. Stay tuned - information is coming. For now, thanks to our teachers who are working to continue Remote Learning; we have seen many recent virtual field trips connected to June's Indigenous History Month, an aquarium, and more. Students (and parents), we are so proud of the work you are doing to adapt and to learn.

From RPPS this week

- **Dragon Tales.** This week's [Dragon Tales title is Don't Eat That!](#) It features a bear as the main character once again. Watch the video to see how Mme. Mace found a helper to help read the book this week.
- **Bird watchers.** The eggs have hatched and the baby birds are growing. Check out the videos when they were [1 day old](#) and how quickly they have grown [a week later](#).
- **Residential schools.** My heart was heavy that I learned of the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at the site of the former residential school in Kamloops. This discovery brings up many emotions in our school community, whether for staff, students or parents. Take time to talk with your child. There have been a number of difficult topics in the news recently, which may be challenging for children, particularly those with lived experiences with these issues. MediaSmarts has guidance for parents on how to [help children and teens cope with media coverage of war and traumatic events](#).
 - We would like to share a poem which has brought comfort as we process those emotions and think about our actions moving forward:

When they buried the children
What they didn't know
They were lovingly embraced
By the land
Held and cradled in a mother's heart
The trees wept for them, with the wind they sang mourning songs
their mothers didn't know how to sing bending branches
to touch the earth around them.
The Creator cried for them the tears falling like rain.
Mother Earth held them until they could be found.
Now our voices sing the mourning songs, with the trees, the wind,
lift sacred fire ensure they are never forgotten as we sing JUSTICE
- Abigail Echo-Hawk

- We commit to remember and ensure the sad legacy of Canada's residential schools is not forgotten. Our first steps at RPPS include the following (and you are invited to take part):
 - **Flag at half mast.** Earlier this week, all OCDSB flags were lowered in honour of the lives of the 215 children.
 - **Ribbons.** There is a basket of orange ribbons near our front door; visit the school as a family to tie a ribbon on one of trees in our courtyard or along the fence on Springfield.
 - **Shoes.** As a symbol, we hope to collect 215 pairs of shoes as a symbolic gesture of our mourning and our support. Place a pair of shoes on the garden walls in the courtyard. We will donate the shoes to charity.

- **Every Child Matters Bench.** We are looking for a volunteer to paint one of our benches orange. It will remain a symbol at our school that every child matters, and we commit to keeping our school safe. Contact Mme. Mace if you would like to volunteer for this task (heather.mace@ocdsb.ca).

Rather than jokes this week, I'd like us all to think about the 5 things that we adore about our children and/or our students; even the moments that make your eyes roll. Let those thoughts settle around your heart. Take time together today to share a family story with each other.

Take good care,

Madame Mace, Proud Principal

Upcoming dates:

- 23 June - Report cards available to parents - do you know your child's OEN?
- 25 June - Last day of school

Quick references for parents:

- Council Links:
 - [Join the June Council meeting - everyone is welcome](#)
 - Dreaming of Book Fair - June raffle fundraiser ([click here to see flyer in another tab](#))
 - [CLICK HERE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS](#)
- Admissions
 - [OCDSB School Locator](#)
 - [Online registration at the OCDSB](#)
- School day
 - RPPS attendance email: absencerpps@ocdsb.ca 613-749-3992
 - [OSTA website for bus cancellations and delays](#)
- Community Support / Covid references
 - OPH Parent Line: 613-580-6744
 - [Covid Resource for Somali and Arabic speaking families](#) / 1-844-833-1234
 - [OCDSB - Mental Health and Community Supports](#)
 - [Kids Help Phone](#)

[A Kids Book About Racism by Jelani Memory](#)