

Happy Saturday RPPS families,

The school office re-opened this week and our class lists have been finalized. We are pleased to welcome Laura Thompson, our new office assistant. It's a big transition for us to return to RPPS together. Let's focus on a positive and safe return to school. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk with your child about returning to school. Focus on the joy of learning, seeing their friends and reconnecting with staff, and building routines;
- Practice hand washing;
- Practice wearing a mask;
- Keep the [Ottawa Public Health Self-Assessment Tool](#) handy for daily use. You can also learn more about [COVID-19 testing here](#).
- Check out these [Multilingual Resources](#) from Ottawa Public Health.
- For further resources to support your child, please visit [School Mental Health Ontario](#) and [KidsHelpPhone](#).

Here are some key RPPS updates:

**September school routines.** Parents and students are asked to review the [How to Train your Dragon guide](#) to familiarize yourself with our start-up routines.

**Homeroom placements and kindergarten intakes.** You will be hearing from your child's teacher after 4pm on Tuesday regarding their class placements. New kindergarten students (Year 1 or 2) will also hear information about their virtual intake meeting for 9 Sept or 10 Sept. All RPPS kindergarten students (Year 1 and 2) start on 13 Sept.

**School tour for new students (virtual):** For students new to RPPS, you are invited to a virtual school tour on Wednesday afternoon. [Complete this form](#) to put your child on our tour list.

**Safe arrival.** Our school yard is for use by staff and students during EDP and school day hours (07:00 - 18:00). We ask that parents remain off school property during the day, and at arrival and dismissal times. There are [designated student drop-off and pick-up spots](#) (Access 1 - 4 for gr 1- 6 students and gates on Springfield for kindergarten students). Make sure your child knows where you would like to meet them if you are picking them up after school.

**First day routines.** Homerooms will line up on the field with their class. Portables will line up on the pavement. All our staff will be available to help students find their way to homeroom lines. There will also be signs with the teacher's name on it. For younger children, one strategy is to write the teacher's name on a card for them to carry as they arrive.

**Student supplies.** While there is a school supply list on our school website, wait to hear from your child's teacher to avoid unnecessary materials. Students should bring a pencil case only on the first day of school; indoor shoes will not be required in September. Stuffed animals, toys and other soft material items should remain at home. The four most important things (label everything :) for students to bring are:

1. Backpack, snack and lunch

2. Mask
3. Refillable water bottle
4. Extra clothing for changing weather

**Masks.** All students from Kindergarten to grade 6 are required to wear a face mask (cloth or medical), on all vehicles, including school buses, vans and wheelchair buses and inside the school (i.e., classroom and hallways). They have the option to remove them at recess. Parents should review [mask wearing strategies with their child](#).

**Visitors and Volunteers.** Access to school is restricted to students and staff only.

**Ottawa Public Health guidelines:** All parents are asked to review the Ottawa Public Health guidelines for symptoms, testing and return to school ([English version](#) / [French version](#)). Parent should [screen their child](#) for symptoms every morning before school and ensure they stay home if they have symptoms.

**Vaccinations.** We are not able to provide specific information about staff vaccinations; as you will have seen from OCDSB communications, vaccinations are mandatory for staff.

**School Ventilation:** We have received another 9 HEPA filters for placement in designated areas around the school, including kindergarten and primary classrooms, staffroom, and the wellness room. The OCDSB has created [a school ventilation page](#) with further information.

**Dragon Tales:** [Click here to see Mme. Mace read Fox and Squirrel Make a Friend](#). This week's installment of Dragon Tales is about friends who find good ways of playing together to make sure everyone feels included. We know our RPPS students will find a number of ways to play when we return.. You can find all the Dragon Tales [on our school website](#).

**What is your dragon name?** Our dragons show many positive character traits. [Click here](#) for a way to pick a dragon name for your child ahead of the school year. Madame Mace is also known as Demon Swift Wings :) Students may look for 5 golden dragons who are hidden around the school once we are back in person.

This week's jokes are about dragons: 1) What do you do with a green dragon?... *wait until it ripens*, 2) What's big, scaly and bouncy?... *a dragon on a trampoline*, and 3) What is a dragon's favourite summer plan? ... *nothing, they just wing it*.

RPPS staff will continue to focus on professional learning on 7 and 8 September (PD days); our topics include literacy and numeracy, anti-racism and equity, bullying prevention, and health and safety. We all look forward to seeing our students back in person.

Madame Mace, Back-in-person Principal

### Key dates for parents

- 7- 8 September - PA days for staff
- 9 September - First day of class for gr 1 - 6 students
- 9 - 10 September - Kindergarten intake days

- 13 September - First day of class for all kindergarten students

### **Key links for parents**

- School office: 08:00 - 16:00 daily; rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca or 613-749-6357
- Student absence reporting: 613-749-3992 / absenceRPPS@ocdsb.ca
- [School supplies list / OCDSB website school supplies](#)
- [2021-2022 School year calendar](#)
- [Request to change learning model](#) (OCV <-> InPerson)
- [OCDSB School Locator](#)

### **Key Covid links**

- [Daily self-assessment for students](#)
- [OPH Out-of-province confirmation of vaccination](#)
- [City of Ottawa vaccination clinics](#)