

Happy Sunday RPPS families,

A bit of a winter wonderland outside on a sunny morning. Here are some key RPPS highlights for what is happening at our school and community:

- **RPPS related items**
 - **Parent talk - Save the date (27 Jan).** RPPS will be hosting a virtual talk on strategies to support your child with anxiety. Our school social worker, Joshua Hulley-Carroll, focuses on anxiety in his work with children. In his talk, he will be working through strategies parents can use with their children to help them navigate their emotions and their days. Watch for more information about the talk in January.
 - **School photos.** We received word that school photos may now proceed. We will be contacting our school photographer for a date in the new year. The direction at this time is for individual student photos only; no class photos and group photos are not permitted.
 - **Keep in touch - School Directory for families.** Each year School Council creates a parent school directory to help parents and students contact other children in your child's class. If you would like your name or information appear in this directory, [click here to complete the form](#) by 13 Dec.
 - **School Council meeting (14 Dec - note date change).** [Click here](#) to be added to the Google Meet at the December Council meeting. Contact School Council: sc-rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca.
- **Covid related items**
 - **Vaccinations for children.** Our public health nurse has shared COVID-19 Vaccine Info Sheet for Kids 5-11 [English version](#) or [French version](#). You may also visit the [OPH website for schedules and information](#) about booking your child's vaccine; OPH will be using RPPS for a vaccination clinic on 20 December.
 - **Rapid Antigen Testing Kits for Students.** Note that this is a Ministry of Education initiative; OPH has no involvement. RPPS will distribute 5 rapid testing kits for student use over the school holidays. The use of these kits will be voluntary. If you do not wish to receive these kits, please let your child's teacher know. The kits will be distributed on 16-17 Dec.
 - **Daily Self-assessment Confirmation for students.** Similar to September, when we return in January, you will be required that your child's daily assessment has been completed and they are confirmed to attend RPPS each day. We will be using the same electronic reporting system as we did in September.
 - **Support programs.** Our OPH nurse has pointed out 2 resources that are easily accessible to kids and their parents. The first – Kids help phone – helps with covid related anxiety issues and it's a 24/7 support initiative operated via text/phone. The second also supports family/children under 12 by providing a 40 -90 mins session.
 - [Kids Help Phone](#) - We're Here for you during Covid-19
 - [Counselling Connect](#)
 - **International Travel.** Families planning for international travel during the holidays should check current [federal protocols](#) that exist for travelers. International travel rules do change; make sure you consult Ottawa Public Health or federal authorities for updated information.

This week's jokes were inspired by our latest snowfall: 1) Why do mountains never get cold? ... *they have snow caps* , 2) What did the student say after they helped shovel the driveway?... *it was snow big deal*, and 3) How did the snowman get to school?... *by icicle*.

Madame Mace, Frosty Principal

Key dates for parents

- 14 December - School Council - virtual (7:00 pm)
- 16 - 17 December - Rapid antigen tests available for RPPS students
- 17 December - Last day of classes for students
- 20 - 31 December - Winter holidays (school closed)
- 3 January, 2022 - Back to class for 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](#)
- [How to Train your Dragon guide](#)

Key Covid links

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