

Dear RPPS families,

From classroom to online, from cold to warm, from snow to ice... yes, it's January, isn't it? We'd like to thank all students and staff for their work to transition to remote learning this past week. RPPS staff remains committed to student wellbeing and learning; please continue to reach out to school staff anytime. We are here to support our students. A few key details as we begin Week 2 of remote learning:

### Remote learning information

- **Call from the school.** We want to reach you! As our educators are working remotely, calls from the school may come up as No Caller ID, if we are using our personal or home phones.
- **Chromebooks.** We have given out over 120 devices, and we have loaned 20 to two other schools in need. There are a small number remaining upon request for RPPS students.
- **Kids and Omicron.** CHEO hosted a town hall for parents and caregivers last Thursday. The recording of the session [may be found here](#). You may also visit the [CHEO website](#) for more information.
- **Navigating Google and Remote learning.** It's not easy learning online! Here are the links to resources that might help. [You may also visit the OCDSB Remote Learning page to learn more.](#)
  - [Parent and Student Guide To Google Meet](#)
  - Google Meet / Hangouts Etiquette for students
    - [English version](#)
    - [Arabic version](#)
    - [French version](#)
  - [How Students can Join a Nicknamed Google Meet](#)
  - [Signing into Google and Getting into Google Classroom](#) - For parents (video)

### RPPS information

- **RPPS School Council meeting (18 Jan).** [Click here](#) to be added to the Google Meet at the January Council meeting. Contact School Council: [sc-rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:sc-rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca).
- **PD Day Reminder (21 January).** A reminder that 21 January is a PD day where staff will be focused on report card writing. There will be no school for students that day.
- **RPPS - Parent talk - 27 Jan (6:30 pm).** Strategies to support your child deal with anxiety. RPPS will be hosting a virtual talk for parents on strategies to support your child with anxiety. Our school social worker, Josh Hulley-Carroll, will share strategies to use with children as they learn about their emotions and navigate their days. [Click here](#) to be added to the list of participants.
- **Save the date - 3 Feb (6:00 pm).** RPPS Kindergarten Information Night. Yes, it's that time of year again. RPPS will be offering a virtual information night for families of students who will start kindergarten in September 2022. Please share with other families you know in the neighbourhood.

### Covid-related information

- **Students Access to 3 Ply Cloth Masks.** [Ottawa Public Health strongly recommends](#) wearing three-layer masks - RPPS families may look at purchasing these masks before we return to school. The Ministry will also provide a supply of masks for all students; we have not received them yet.
- **Vaccines Individuals ages 5+.** Follow Ottawa Public Health on social media for updates and visit their [vaccine page](#) to learn more about vaccine opportunities for your child. OPH has

created [a video with Dr. Kathy Keely, Ottawa pediatric doctor](#) with advice that the best way to reduce the spread and protect yourself and your family from COVID-19.

- **Mental Health and Well-being.** We are all navigating a range of emotions with the return to remote learning and the surge of Omicron. The OCDSB mental health team [has prepared some simple tips](#) to support students and parents with well-being during remote learning. We are all navigating a range of emotions. Learn more about these and other resources.
- **Self-assessment / Testing.** The provincial [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) will be updated to include a question regarding household members who tested positive on a rapid antigen test. When an individual tests positive on a rapid antigen test, any household members who are not fully vaccinated are also required to stay home while the individual seeks a confirmatory PCR test. As the testing requirements are changing rapidly, we encourage all families to get the most current information from the Ottawa Public Health website.

It seems more icy than snowy so far this month, so I have chosen jokes about snowmen in hopes that it encourages more snow for playing in. 1) Why did the snowman cross the road?... *because the chicken was frozen in the snowbank.* 2) How do snowmen get to school?... *by icicle,* and 3) How does a snowman say hello?... *it's ice to meet you.*

Thanks to parents who have shared information about vaccination clinics for educators in the city. Mme. Miller and I are off to Glebe CI to volunteer on Sunday afternoon. We appreciate the support from parents and professionals as we navigate this latest curve in Covid times.

Madame Mace, N95-wearing principal