

Dear RPPS families,

Mother Nature seems to be sending us a message with the impending storm tomorrow. Can anyone decipher it? We expect that the school will be opened as planned; however, buses may be cancelled. Parents are encouraged to monitor the [OCDSB](#) and [OSTA](#) websites - decisions are often posted by 6 AM.

A few key details as we begin InPerson tomorrow (17 Jan):

### **Back to InPerson information - Covid Items**

- **Daily Covid screening confirmation.** All RPPS students and parents are asked to work together to keep our school safe, healthy and open. Each day, parents are required to confirm that their child is able to attend school based on the Covid Screening for Schools and Daycare. These steps are as follows:
  - Complete the [Covid-19 School and Childcare screening](#)
  - Complete the [RPPS Form](#).
  - Repeat for each child who attends RPPS.
- **Masks.** Each student is required to wear a mask at school. The best mask for your child is one that fits well. Please check that it fits snugly around the nose and chin to help your child wear the mask throughout the school day.
  - We have received two 3-ply masks for each child. Thanks to office staff and parent volunteers, these will be sent home at the end of the day Monday. Masks should be washed before use.
  - If your child is absent, the masks may be picked up starting Tuesday at the main office during office hours.
  - [Click here](#) for instructions and reminders on mask fit and tips of washing masks.
- **Rapid Antigen and / PCR test kits.** RPPS has not yet received a shipment of RAT kits; we have a small number of PCR kits for use upon request by symptomatic students or staff.
- **HEPA filters and ventilation.** The ventilation system at RPPS is an updated system; we have had it inspected in both September 2020 and 2021. Portables have stand alone ventilation units. All ventilation units are regulated centrally by the board. The frequency that the system flushes fresh air throughout the school has been increased to 5 - 6 air changes per hour; the standard is 3 - 4. There are 15 HEPA filters in the school; there is one placed in every K - 2 classroom, as well as in high traffic areas like the main office and the Dragon's Den.. We are not able to receive units purchased by parents, nor from School Council.

### **Back to InPerson information - RPPS Items**

- **School attendance.** There are many factors to consider as we return InPerson. If you choose to keep your child home, we understand. We ask that you contact your child's teacher and the school's attendance line ([absencerpps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:absencerpps@ocdsb.ca))
  - This will help us support you, rather than completing attendance calls daily. Classroom staff will be able to offer asynchronous learning for students via GoogleClassrooms; it will not be the same as during our remote learning period but it will allow your child to continue learning in most areas while at home. There may be options for your child to do synchronous check-ins where appropriate.
- **Chromebook return.** If your child has a device on loan from the school, return it with them on the first day InPerson. Most students will return devices on 17 or 18 January, in some cases, the return may be delayed.

- **Morning arrival / dismissal.** Homeroom lines for morning arrival are now located on the pavement to adjust for winter weather. Each line is located near the door where each room enters the school. Pylons will be on the pavement to mark the locations.
- **Lunchtime and Eating routines.** Staff have been reviewing our entry and dismissal procedures, as well as eating routines, for how we can strengthen our routines to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19. We encourage you to review these routines with your child
  - When your mask is off, focus on eating. (we will designate "quiet eating times" to guide students)
  - When eating time is over, put your mask back on. When you are talking, your mask should be on. When you get out of your desk, your mask should be on.
  - When the whistle blows at recess, students should move directly to their class line location. They should not wait until they hear the bell. The bell indicates the time that lines start moving into the school.

### **RPPS information - non-Covid items**

- **RPPS School Council meeting (18 Jan).** [Click here](#) to be added to the Google Meet at the January Council meeting. The agenda for the meeting is [available here](#). Contact School Council: [sc-rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:sc-rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca).
- **Kindergarten Information Evening. February 4 (6pm).** Find out more about our kindergarten dragon teams! RPPS will be hosting a Kindergarten Information Session at 6pm on February 4. The session will share information about the OCDSB, Rockcliffe Park PS and its classrooms.
  - [Click here](#) to join the presentation on 4 Feb.
  - [Click here](#) to ask questions via a Parent Questionnaire before or during the presentation.
  - [Click here](#) to register your child online with the OCDSB.
  - After the presentation, email [rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca) with questions regarding registration or our programs. Please share this information with your friends and in the community.
- **RPPS - Parent talk - 27 Jan (6:30 pm).** Have you [signed up yet](#)? 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.
- **Final Terry Fox total.** \$10 390.00 for cancer research for our Terry Fox School Run. The Terry Fox Foundation is so grateful for our commitment and dedication. It is wonderful to see that Terry continues to inspire millions of students across the country.
- **RPPS Crossing Guard needed.** The Ottawa Safety Council is looking for crossing guards to support safe arrival and dismissal for the RPPS area. Help keep our kids safe on their way to and from school. Hours are connected to bell times in the morning (8:30) and afternoon (3:00). Visit [Crossing-Guard.ca](http://Crossing-Guard.ca) for more information and to apply.

As we approach our return together, my jokes turn to key ingredients parents need for supporting children learning at home: humour, coffee, and snow days. 1) The child said "Mom, I put all 100 pieces of the puzzle back in the box... Mom said, thanks but we only had 97 pieces for that puzzle... the child responded "*I know, I rounded up*". 2) A parent asked the barista for a mild roast... the barista responded with "*you have average sized ears*", and 3) The child said to their parent - I'm having computer issues. The parent asked, Hard drive?... the child responded "*no Daddy, we don't need to drive to school, it's my Chromebook.*"

Thanks to parents who have reached out - we feel your support and caring as we navigate these changes to our roles in helping your child learn.



Madame Mace, Principal of Mask Logistics - Be Kind, Be Brave... be a Dragon.

### **Key upcoming dates**

- 18 Jan - School Council
  - 21 Jan - PD day (no class for students)
  - 26 Jan - [Parent Talk](#): Strategies to support your child deal with anxiety
  - 4 Feb - RPPS Kindergarten Information Night
  - 16 Feb - Report cards home to parents
  - 18 Feb - PD day (no class for students)
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### **Mental health resources and supports**

The OCDSB has compiled a list of mental health and community supports [on our resources page](#).

For more information on taking care of our own mental health as well as that of our families, please visit the [Ottawa Public Health website](#).

[1Call1Click](#) a simple way to access mental health supports for children, youth and families

[Counselling Connect](#) free video or phone counselling sessions for children, youth and families

[Parents Lifeline of Eastern Ontario](#) Family peer support services 613-321-3211

[Distress Centre](#) Crisis line (24/7) 613-238-3311 in English and [Tel-Aide Outaouais](#) 613-741-6433 in French

[YSB Crisis Line](#) 613-260-2360 or online chat at [chat.yzb.ca](#)

[Hope for Wellness Helpline](#): Available for all Indigenous peoples across Canada, offers experienced and culturally competent counsellors 1-855-242-3310 or chat <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/>. Phone counselling is also available in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut.

[Kids Help Phone](#): Provides non-judgmental, inclusive services available to young people across Canada 24/7. 1-800-668-6868 or chat [www.kidshelpphone.ca/live-chat](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/live-chat)

[Black Youth Helpline](#) 1-833-294-8650