

Hello RPPS Families!

With the combination of Covid restrictions and Construction timelines, RPPS has not accessed its library collection and space in almost 2 years... we are down to the final details before we can start unpacking. We'll plan a virtual grande opening in the spring!

In the past week, we have seen a dramatic increase in violence in Ukraine. These events may be deeply upsetting for many students, families, and staff members. Our thoughts are with all of those impacted at this time.

The RPPS community includes families from various countries. As always, we remain committed to ensuring a sense of belonging and support for all of our students. The District has provided guidance to staff to help us navigate conversations that may arise in class about this conflict, in an age-appropriate manner, with compassion and care.

The [OCDSB website](#) offers suggestions on how to discuss these situations with your child. Please reach out to your child's teacher or the main office using our Handle with Care strategy if you have concerns how your child is managing

For now, a few key details for our week ahead:

Covid-related Items

- **PCR tests:** Any remaining test kits have been returned to OPH; these are no longer available at the school.
- **Yes, it's true... Daily Covid screening continues.** The screening and reporting continues this week for every child who attends RPPS; daily reminder will continue to be sent out to help you:
 - Complete the [Covid-19 School and Childcare screening](#)
 - Complete the [RPPS Form](#).
- **OCDSB Covid links**
 - Report positive student cases [via this link](#) / OCDSB dashboard: [General dashboard](#) / [Case collection data by school](#)

RPPS information - non-Covid items

- **Confirm your child's use of transportation (3 April deadline).** As a result of continuing driver shortages, OSTA has implemented [a mandatory confirmation process](#) asking parents/guardians to complete for every student eligible for transportation to confirm its use for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - [Click here](#) to visit the OSTA website and FAQs of the confirmation process.
 - [Click here](#) to check your child's eligibility for transportation:
 - 0.8 km or more - Junior and/or Senior Kindergarten
 - 1.6 km or more - Grades 1 to 6
 - [Click here](#) to complete the Transportation Confirmation form.
- **Toonie Tuesday.** WOW RPPS! We have raised over \$940 in support of the Education Foundation. Students in OCDSB across our city receive support from these funds.
- **RPPS School Council meeting (8 Mar).** [Click here](#) to see the Agenda for this week's meeting. [Click here](#) to be added to the Google Meet at the March Council meeting. Contact School Council: sc-rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca.
- **Outrageous Fashion Day (9 Mar).** It's time to check out the tickle trunk, the sparkle outfits, the funky patterns... On Wednesday, we look forward to seeing our RPPS students and staff in outrageous fashion outfits - fancy, tacky, colourful and more... all outfits are welcome..

- **Town Hall on Poverty and Homelessness (7 Mar).** Lisgar CI Student Council is hosting a virtual town hall on poverty and homelessness on 7 March (5:00 - 6:15 pm). The event will be live-streamed so all students, staff and parents can attend. [Click here](#) to join the livestream on Monday.
 - Their goal in organizing this town hall is to educate local communities, not only about what they can do personally to help alleviate poverty and homelessness (e.g., donations), but about how poverty and homelessness are social problems, related to inadequate political and economic policies, programs and institutions. It follows that solutions are social in origin, and may involve new and creative political and economic approaches, such as Universal Basic Income, investing in social programs and social housing, redistributing wealth through taxation, defunding the police, among other societal changes.
- **Right To Read Public Inquiry Report.** On 28 February, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released [its report on its Right to Read public inquiry](#). This review started in October 2019 and it looked into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The OCDSB was one of the eight sample English-language school boards selected for the inquiry.
 - The report highlights how learning to read is not a privilege but a basic and essential human right. The report includes 157 recommendations to the Ministry of Education, school boards and faculties of education on how to address systemic issues that affect the right to learn to read. The report combines research, human rights expertise and lived experience of students, parents and educators to provide recommendations on curriculum and instruction, early screening, reading interventions, accommodation, professional assessments and systemic issues. [Visit the OCDSB website](#) to learn how the OCDSB is responding.

This week's jokes are connected to computers we have been reviewing our Chromebook inventory: 1) What is a spider good computer programmer? *it knows all about the web*, 2) Why was the laptop late for school? ... *it had a hard drive*, and 3) Why did the computer go to the eye doctor?... *it needed to improve its web-sight*.



Madame Mace, Counting-down-to-March-Break Principal

Be Kind, Be Brave... Be a Dragon.

Key upcoming dates

- 8 Mar - School Council
- 9 Mar - Outrageous Fashion Day (will you go fancy, sequins or wacky? Let's get creative!)
- 14 - 18 March - March Break (no class for students)

Mental health resources and supports

The OCDSB has compiled a [list of mental health and community supports](#). 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.ysb.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.