

Happy RPPS families,

Spring seems to be upon us - I trust you and your family were able to get outside and enjoy the weather this weekend. The forecast for the week does seem to be daily rain - we'll try to get students outside as much as possible in between the rain drops.

RPPS information - Covid items

- **Rapid Antigen Test Kits.** Kits remain available from the Main Office (rockcliffeparkps@ocdsb.ca) for your child who is symptomatic. We will leave it for easy pick from the bin outside the office or send it home in a backpack.
- **Daily Covid Screening continues.** All students must complete the COVID-19 screening every morning and follow the instructions provided by [the screening tool](#). Please continue to support us in keeping our school healthy and safe.
- **Mask wearing.** All individuals are required to wear a mask inside OCDSB schools and buildings. This includes students, staff, and visitors (including parents picking up or dropping off children for EDP). Masks are not required outdoors. This is not a school based decision. For further information on mask requirements, please visit the [OCDSB Masks page](#).
- **Staff shortages continue.** We continue to experience shortages of replacement staff for teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators and office staff. These shortages are a challenge for our staff as our schedules are often changed to cover unfilled positions. In the event that I need to make the decision to close a homeroom class when there are insufficient solutions, I will send an email to parents prior to 7pm.

RPPS information - non-Covid items.

- **The Future of Book Fair (2 May - 7pm).** A parent meeting is being held tomorrow (2 May) at 7pm to discuss next steps for our beloved Book Fair after the disruptions of Covid. This event cannot run without the dedication and support of RPPS parents. Email rockcliffeparkbookfair@gmail.com prior to 6:00 pm to receive the meeting link.
- **May School Council meeting.** The May School Council meeting is scheduled for 10 May. If you would like to attend the meeting, [click here](#) and you will be added to the list of attendees.
- **Toonie Tuesday.** The Education Foundation would like to express appreciation to all Ottawa Schools after the 2022 Toonie Tuesday raised over \$68,000! RPPS contributed strongly to this effort by raising over \$9000. You can find an update on the [Education Foundation website](#).
- **Save the date (19 May - 7:00 - 8:00 pm).** Watch for upcoming information on our parent workshop presented by Vanessa The Math Guru. The workshop is called: How to Raise Kids Who Aren't Afraid of Math (Even If You Are)!
- **Photo retakes.** The school photographer has indicated that they are not able to schedule official retakes for RPPS (or other schools). If your child missed school photo day or to request a retake, LifeTouch is holding a Studio Day on 13 June. Call the Lifetouch office Unit 31 - 174 Colonnade Road) at 613-748-0100 to get on the waiting list. School photos can be ordered online via a code LifeTouch sends via email.

This week's jokes are connected to May flowers... 1) What did the flower say after they told a joke? *I was just pollen your leg*, 2) What do student say to the flower when it tripped? ... *are you feeling bouquet?*, and 3) Why are spring flowers like the letter 'a'?...*because bee's go after them*.



Madame Mace, Spring Garden Principal

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

Key upcoming dates

- 10 May - RPPS School Council
- Jewish Heritage Month
- Asian and South Asian Heritage Month

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.