

Hello RPPS families,

What a week as we navigate the challenges associated with the impacts of the storm and the emotions associated with the news of the tragic events at Robb Elementary School in Texas. From the staff at RPPS, we are thinking of all our families who have been impacted (and we miss our students). We send out condolences, warmth, and strength.

Rockcliffe Park PS remains without power. On our yard, the debris has been cleared away thanks to our hard-working custodial team. OCDSB staff will be meeting Sunday afternoon to review the list of sites that continue to be without power. I will plan to send out a message Sunday afternoon regarding Monday's status, and whether we will move to remote synchronous learning.

- **Financial support for food replacement from power outages.** I wanted to share this Ottawa resource in case you may need financial support for food replacement from power outages:
 - [Emergency Financial Food Aid for residents in need](#) (or call 311)
 - [Spoiled Food bins](#) have also been set up by the city
- **Changes to the OCDSB's Mandatory Masking Policy.** As per the Director's updates, effective Monday, May 30, 2022, the OCDSB will shift its policy on the wearing of masks from "mandatory" to "strongly encouraged". I know we will have different reactions and responses to this decision among parents, staff, and students. We continue to strongly encourage the wearing of masks and will respect decision-making made by students, families, and staff based on personal risk factors.
- **Ottawa Children's Festival - free tickets.** One of our parents has offered tickets to RPPS families to one of the shows at the Ottawa Children's Festival: [A Story of a House Shaped Like a Dot](#). Contact joni@ottawachildrensfestival.ca if you are interested.

Looking ahead to June, we have:

- **National Indigenous History Month**, a time to learn about and celebrate the beauty and brilliance of First Nations, Inuit and Métis People Throughout the month, and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st.
- **Pride Month**, an opportunity for all to celebrate diversity while learning about the contributions, achievements, histories of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and communities.
- The month of June is also Portuguese Heritage Month, Italian Heritage Month, and Brain Injury Awareness Month. June 1st is recognized as Intergenerational Day and International Day of Parents.

I would like to repeat a few reminders from the OCDSB's mental health team, of ways to keep our own and our children's mental health a priority throughout this time:

- Remember that during challenging times, the reaction of adults will set the tone for children. Ensure you have your own network of support as needed.
- Check in with your child and provide reassurance that they are safe
- Hear and validate their thoughts, feelings and emotions including uncomfortable ones such as fear, anger and frustration
- Maintain regular and predictable routines whenever possible
- Consider the impact of media exposure on your own and your child's well being and limit exposure as much as possible
- Focus on stories of the community coming together and talk about how best to contribute as a family
- Know your limits and reach out for support as needed.

Our “handle with care” strategy remains in place for both students and parents; please stay in touch with your child’s teacher and/or myself or Mme. Miller.

Take good care this weekend. I will be spending it with my family hauling tree limbs and being creative with BBQ meals.

Madame Mace, Storm-worn Principal