



Updates From School

Language	Translation
Arabic	إعلان هام: بإمكانك استخدام وسيلة ترجمة عند الرغبة
Chinese (simplified)	重要信息：您可能希望使用翻译工具。
English	Important message: you may wish to use a translation tool.
Farsi/Dari	پیام مهم: ممکن است بخواهید از یک ابزار ترجمه استفاده کنید
French	Message important: Vous pouvez utiliser un outil de traduction si désiré.
Tamil	முக்கிய செய்தி: நீங்கள் விரும்பினால் ஒரு மொழிபெயர்ப்பு கருவியைப் பயன்படுத்தலாம்.
Urdu	اہم پیغام: آپ ترجمے کا تول استعمال کرنا چاہتے ہو۔

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it will be December this week! Since our last newsletter, Progress Reports went home on November 16th. Following that, consultations/interviews with parents and educators, focused on progress and next steps. As a school team we always enjoy the opportunity to meet with you and your child(ren) to talk about their learning. The home school partnership is vital to success and we appreciate the time parents take to meet with us and discuss continued strategies and plans for your child(ren) to meet their full potential.

Here are a few reminders and safety items as the colder and snowy weather approaches:

Snowballs are always an issue when we experience our first few snowfalls. For the safety of all, snowball throwing is not permitted in our schoolyard. Please reinforce this with your child so that all of our students may enjoy a safe and fun time during recess.

With colder weather now with us, we ask that parents avoid sending children in with scarves, gloves or mittens on chords to help keep our kids safe. As an alternative, we recommend mittens with clips and neck warmers to keep our little ones warm.

As the days get colder the need for warm and dry clothing is essential. Children do go outside for recesses unless there is heavy rain or extremely cold temperatures. Light drizzle will see our students outdoors, and we hope that all will be dressed for the varying weather conditions that are part of our climate. It is a good idea to pack an extra set of dry clothes in your child's knapsack. Please remember to label your child's clothing.

We are very excited to share an upcoming event that our School Council has organized. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

- **December 21st -DRK's School Council will be hosting a winter celebration.** Please see the flyers below. We will start during the day by having our traditional "Trinkets and Treasures" gift sale. We then will open our doors in the evening for our families from 5:30-7:30pm. It will be lots of fun!
 - Trinkets and Treasures sale will continue
 - Popcorn and Pizza sale (a form will be going home soon)
 - Decorating Gingerbread house and Music
 - Silent Auction opportunity (amazing gifts from our community)
 - Gift basket draw

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are able to help with any of the items below, we would be greatly appreciative!

- 1) We are looking for donations of new or gently used toys, household items and gifts. Donations can be dropped off to our main office.
- 2) We need volunteers to help make this event a success! You do not need to volunteer for the entire time, we have short time slots available and you can sign up [here](#).

Join us for DRK School Council's

WINTER Celebration

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

5:30PM - 7:30PM
D. Roy Kennedy Gym

919 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa, ON K2A 3G9

Silent Auction, Trinkets & Treasures Sale, Gift Basket Raffle, Gingerbread Decorating,
Bake Sale, Music and more...

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CURRICULUM CORNER

In each edition of our "Updates from School" we want to share some of the learning and activities that students have been engaging in. We hope this gives you a glimpse into our classrooms.

Fall SPIRIT WEEK brought to you by our student council -October 30 to November 2

The student council supported by Amanda Sandall and Sara Camus organized a fun filled spirit week. Energy was high and there were smiles all around!

They started the week by creating a Trivia Day for each division which involved classes solving 20 questions together. The next day continued to be special that provided dances for each division kindergarten, primary, junior and intermediate. This was a huge hit with snacks and drinks to purchase. A follow up day was a recovery day and a focus on mental health. The student council named it 'Cozy Day' and encouraged students to wear comfy clothes and participate in 'Would You Rather' body break activities during the day. The final day was focused on building community within each class and to celebrate the whole school. Every class prepared a bulletin board to send a secret message located either in their classroom or outside on a hallway bulletin board. The council decided that they would have a non-homeroom teacher award a winner for each division based on the theme, creativity and originality.

Below you will find two art activities that were completed by some of our intermediate students during our fall spirit week.

This board was inspired by migrating birds.



Here is a fall bunting that was made during art class. Students went outside and found the ✨ best ✨ leaves and preserved them to hold onto fall a little longer.

Junior Division

The Junior educators have made it a priority to build community among their students. They have created teams of 4-6 students. Each group which is mixed grouping across classes, created a chant, a flag and a team mascot together. They hosted their first colour day on Thursday, November 2nd!



Veterans' Week, Indigenous Veterans' Day and Remembrance Day 2023

Mme. Carter, Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Gravel and some students organized a very meaningful service on November 10th, 2023. Many parents were welcomed into the ceremony. Each class made a wreath to honour the fallen. Many classes performed poems, songs, and skits to demonstrate their remembrance. Then, for closing, the entire school then placed their poppy on the large wreath out front of the school.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Each fall we review our emergency procedures. This also includes conducting fire drills and a lockdown practice. We will have one more fire drill next week and we are planning on having our lockdown practice also.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency, the school may need to contact parents. For this reason, it is imperative that you report any and all changes in your home, work or cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses as soon as possible to the office. It is also just as important to keep "emergency contacts" up to date.

LOST AND FOUND

We would like to remind parents that the school will NOT be responsible for any lost items such as trading cards, toy cars, or any other "collectable" toys. Electronics, jewelry or items with sentimental value should also be left at home, unless they have a special project at school such as show & tell.

We also recommend that you label all your children's clothing including coats, mittens, scarves and boots. If a lost item has a name on it, it can be returned to its rightful owner. We will continue to encourage all students to check the lost and found box when they are missing clothing items. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PARKING LOT

A reminder that our parking lot and van loop is "closed" at entry and dismissal. We ask parents and guardians to park on an adjacent street and walk to the school to pick up their child(ren). Safety is our number one priority and, as such, we thank you for your attention to this matter.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The School Council is an integral part of our school. The role of the School Community Council Members is to act as a link between the council and the community, and to support student achievement and well-being through an advisory role with the school principal. The School Council also supports parent engagement and communication between home and school. We welcome all parents/guardians that would like to join us to our next School Council meeting on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30pm in the library. We would love for you to join.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RESOURCES: FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ANTI-BULLYING

The Ministry of Education has created [helpful information on financial literacy and anti-bullying for parents and caregivers](#). These one-pagers are designed to highlight important issues or initiatives to keep parents and caregivers informed and help to support their children to reach their full potential.

Calendars and Planning for Important Dates

Please consult the OCDSB's [Elementary](#) and [Secondary](#) calendars for PA Days, holidays, exam dates, and more during the 2023-2024 School Year. In addition, schools avoid scheduling activities like evaluations and field trips on [certain religious/creed-based days of significance](#). Additional dates of significance can be found on our [MultiFaith Calendar](#), [Dates of Significance webpage](#), and on the [Government of Canada](#), [Ontario Government](#), and [United Nations](#) websites.

High School Information Sessions

If your child will be starting high school next year, we can help you get ready. We will be offering students and parents/caregivers a variety of opportunities to learn more about high school and all of the amazing programs we offer.

On November 29th, 2023, the OCDSB's Program, Learning and Innovation Department is hosting a virtual conference about subjects, programs, and other exciting aspects of high school. For registration and workshop details, [visit our website](#).

Also, starting in December, secondary schools across the OCDSB will be hosting high school information sessions for students and parents/guardians. It's a fantastic way to visit the school, meet staff, and learn how to prepare for this next step. Visit our [high school information sessions page](#) for the schedule and links to helpful tips and resources.

In case you missed it:

- November 29: [All About High School Virtual Information Night](#)
- December 5 - [OCDSB Speaker Series: Secondary Gifted Program Information Session](#)
- December 5 - [Virtual Information Session on International Learning Opportunities](#)

Thank you for being such wonderful partners in your child(ren)'s educational journey!

**Thank
you!**