



## 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 ٹول استعمال کرنا چاہتے ہو۔

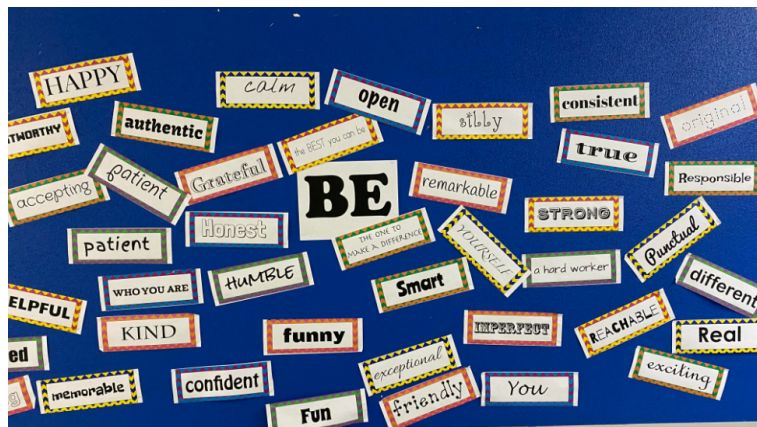
Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it is near the end of October already! Time has gone by very quickly. It has been such a pleasure getting to know your child(ren) and seeing them engaged in learning activities as well as many extra curricular sports and clubs! I would like to extend my thanks to our staff who give of their time to offer many opportunities to our students outside of the classroom setting.

We appreciate working with you in providing a quality educational program for your children. It has been wonderful to greet the students upon their return to school and to hear them share their updates and stories. I am thrilled to be the principal of D. Roy Kennedy and I look forward to working with you on your child's educational journey. D. Roy Kennedy is a vibrant school community with a culture of high expectations and a love of learning. We want our students to feel connected to the school, to know that they have a voice that is heard, and that they are valued at all times. It is essential that our school be a safe environment for our students where they are comfortable taking risks in their learning and that they are supported by the staff in achieving their goals. We also believe in open and responsive

communication. A strong partnership between home and school is important for your child(ren)'s success. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a concern or require clarification- we are here to help!

A focus for the first few weeks of school has been reconnecting our students to our school and building a sense of community both in the classroom and the school as a whole. At our first assemblies, we spoke about how we each play a role in making D. Roy the best place it can be. Our educators have continued this work through various activities that engage students in celebrating who they are, their strengths and goals they have for this year. Here are some pictures below to capture some amazing conversations in our classrooms.



## CURRICULUM CORNER

### Wrong Answers, Great Learning

Thomas Edison said that he did not fail at making the light bulb one thousand times, but rather that "the light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps."

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot... and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. That is why I succeed." (Michael Jordan)

Making mistakes is a natural part of all learning. Those who we consider to be "great" are clear that mistakes lead to learning. The latest research on mathematics shows that mistakes are a very important part of learning math! When a person makes an error in math and they have the opportunity to learn from it, they actually develop a much stronger understanding. In fact, the research states that students learn more from making mistakes than from getting all the right answers.

### DEVELOPING A GROWTH MINDSET



INSTEAD OF.....	TRY THINKING....
I'm not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

When your child makes an error, it offers insight into what understanding your child has about a mathematical idea. It allows parents and teachers to talk to the child about what they know, and ask questions to stretch their thinking around where they are currently developing their understanding. Parents can ask "How do you know that? What was your thinking here? Is there another way you could solve that? How did you think about X (an element they may be missing or have misunderstood)?" This conversation helps to develop the crucial skills of reasoning and communication and is therefore more helpful than simply showing a child how the math is done. When you support an attitude that values learning from mistakes, you are telling your child that mistakes are a valuable and natural ingredient in learning and lead to deeper understanding. Research shows that this attitude supports stronger achievement!



## HALLOWEEN

Tuesday, October 31st is Halloween. The focus is to keep activities fun and respectful for all students, and not too scary, especially for younger children. Students can choose whether or not to participate in Halloween-related activities.

If your child is wearing a costume, please:

- Avoid costumes that mimic the traditional attire of an ethnic, religious, racial or gender group. Pretending to be a member of a group is cultural appropriation and sends the message that cultural attire is a 'costume' to be donned for entertainment purposes.
- Avoid costumes that are intended to, or have the impact of, inciting, fear and anxiety, stereotyping, misrepresenting or making fun of an ethnic, religious, racial or gender group. As always, our student [dress code](#) is in effect.
- Please leave masks and accessories at home. They can not be brought to school. Thank you!

## PARKING LOT

A reminder that our parking lot 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.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We need your help! Our breakfast program runs every morning at D. Roy Kennedy PS. We rely on volunteers to keep this program running. If you are available between 8:30am and 9:30am on any day of the week, we would appreciate your help! Please call the office and ask to speak to Mrs. Clarke.

## **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, November 16th at 6:30 pm in the library. We would love for you to join.

## **NOVEMBER 3rd- PA DAY**

[Friday, November 3, 2023](#), is a Professional Activity Day for OCDSB school staff that focuses on key Ministry Priorities: Literacy and Numeracy; Curriculum Implementation; and Student Mental Health and Well-Being. Elementary students remain at home but schools remain open for school staff to engage in their learning and professional development.

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

We will be holding our Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11th at 10:00am in the large gym.



## **UPCOMING DATES**

October 30-November 2nd- Fall Fun Week brought to us by our student council

October 30th- Photo Day

November 3rd- PA Day (no school for students)

November 10th- Remembrance Day Ceremony

November 16th - School Council Meeting 6:30 pm

November 16th - Progress Reports issued

November 23rd - Photo Retakes

November 23rd - Parent-Teacher Conferences (after school)

November 24th - PA Day - Parent-Teacher Conferences Continued

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### November 1st: Canterbury Arts Open House (In-person)

Canterbury High School will be hosting an Arts Open House on **Wednesday, November 1st from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend this in-person event to learn more about the OCDSB's specialized arts programming, and about application procedures for the 2024-25 school year. For the participation link and more details, visit: <https://sites.google.com/ocdsb.ca/canterburyhs-arts/home>

## OCDSB FAMILY CONFERENCE

**[Click here to register](#)** For more information, visit [ocdsb.ca/FamilyConference](https://ocdsb.ca/FamilyConference)

Join us on Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the OCDSB Family Conference - *Educate, Engage, Empower - Enhancing Learning Together*. This year's conference will be held at [Brookfield High School](#).

Our keynote speaker is Ontario's first Poet Laureate, noted author, inspirational speaker, arts educator, and community leader [Randell Adjei](#). There will also be expert-led workshops with OCDSB staff and community partners on multiple topics with multilingual and sign-language support.

## In case you missed it...news from the OCDSB

### Canada Dental Benefit

The Government of Canada's [Canada Dental Benefit](#) may be able to help you with the costs of dental care. Applications for the second period are open. Eligible families can receive up to \$650, to help with expenses for their children under 12 who receive dental care between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

## 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 in our [MultiFaith calendar](#) and [on our website](#).

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for being such wonderful partners on your child(ren)'s educational journey. We appreciate all of your support as we work together to support all of our students.

