



Updates From School

Language	Translation
Arabic	إعلان هام: بإمكانك استخدام وسيلة ترجمة عند الرغبة
Chinese (simplified)	重要信息：您可能希望使用翻譯工具.
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,

The month of January flew by and with it came many exciting learning opportunities for our students. It is a pleasure to see our students engaged in their learning each day, as well as, involved in extracurricular activities and clubs. We are so proud of all of our students!

With the winter months, come wet socks and clothing. Please take a moment to pack some additional clothing in your child's school bag.

From time to time we have staffing changes part way through the year. We said goodbye to Ms. Hennigar last week. Ms. Hennigar has been such an important part of our school community for the last number of years and she will be missed here at D. Roy. We are also saying goodbye to Ms. Yam as Mrs. Landreville will be returning on Tuesday, February 20th. We want to thank Ms. Yam for her dedication to our students, each and every day. We wish them both well in their new opportunities.

Now more than ever, it is essential that we have all of your up to date contact information to reach you (mailing address, email address and phone numbers). We would ask that you please check that all of this information is current. You can do so through the Parent Portal on the OCDSB website.

Ensuring students arrive safely at school each day is our top priority. To enhance our existing absence-check procedure, we are introducing a new, more efficient student absence reporting system from SchoolMessenger called [SafeArrival](#).

What is SafeArrival?

SafeArrival is a new system for managing student absences. Families can report absences in advance using a mobile app, website, or toll-free phone line. These options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Why are we using SafeArrival?

- Enhances student safety.
- Helps families report student absences easily.
- Helps schools respond quickly to unexplained student absences.
- Makes notifications to families faster.

When will SafeArrival be implemented?

The system will go live starting soon, We will send a separate message with the exact date that D. Roy Kennedy will go live. After the system is live, please use the SafeArrival system to report student absences.

How to use SafeArrival?

You can report upcoming student absences using a mobile app, website, or toll-free phone line. To use the app or website, you need to sign up for SafeArrival. Please sign up using the email address that we have on file at the school for your child(ren). If you do not use that same email address, you will not be able to create an account, or may not be able to see the 'Attendance' option. You can sign up using any of the two options listed below.

Through the SchoolMessenger app:

1. Install the free SchoolMessenger app on your mobile device via [Apple's App Store](#), [Google's Play Store](#), [SchoolMessenger web portal](#) or access it from within the OCDSB app.
2. Open the SchoolMessenger app. Tap on *Sign Up*. Enter the same email address that you have provided to your school. Choose your password. Select *Location* as Canada. Tap *Sign Up*. You will receive a verification email. From this email, click the link to verify. This will open in a browser where you will be prompted to enter your login details. Log in and confirm your details.
3. Log in to your app with your email address and the password you just created and make sure the location is still set to Canada.
4. You are now all set up and ready to use the SafeArrival system.

Through the SchoolMessenger website:

1. Visit the [SchoolMessenger website](#).
2. Click on *Sign Up* (top right of the page). Enter the same email address that you have provided to your school. Choose your password. Select *Location* as Canada. Click *Sign Up*. You will receive a verification email. From this email, click the link to verify. This will open in a browser where you will be prompted to enter your login details. Log in and confirm your details.
3. When you log in, make sure the location is still set to Canada.
4. You are all set up and ready to use the SafeArrival system.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we implement this new system.

Please visit ocdsb.ca/SafeArrival for more information, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and tutorials.

GRADE 8 LEAVING CEREMONY

Please mark your calendars! Our Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony has been set for June 25th. This event will take place during the school day. More information to follow!

TERM ONE REPORT CARDS

Elementary report cards will be emailed on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. You need to enter the Ontario Education Number (OEN) to access the report card. For more information, visit ocdsb.ca/ReportCards.

Starting this school year (2023-2024), Language achievement will be shown as one overall grade or mark on the report card. Students will also receive specific comments that talk about their strengths, suggest next steps for improvement, with specific comments about progress in reading and writing. It will provide an overall look at achievement in Language. To find out more about Ontario's new Language Curriculum for Grades 1 to 8, check out the [Guide for Parents](#).

CALENDAR REMINDERS

A reminder that this Friday is a PA day and Monday, February 19th is Family Day. There is no school for students on both days.

PINK SHIRT DAY

Wednesday, February 28th is PINK SHIRT DAY.

What can we do?

- Lead by example
- Challenge your own assumptions

Encourage youth to report;

- Listen closely, respond quickly
- Be inclusive
- Reduce the chances for bullying
- Seek help/support

There is extensive research that shows a positive school climate:



PiNK SHiRT DAY



**BULLYING
STOPS
HERE!**

- has a profound impact on students' mental and physical health
- is linked to lower levels of drug use and less self-reports of psychiatric problems in students
- is correlated with decreased student absenteeism
- has a powerful influence on the motivation to learn
- mitigates the negative impact of the socio-economic context on academic success
- Contributes to less aggression and violence
- Increases student graduation rates

(National School Climate Center, School Climate Research Summary, Aug. 2012)

Be an Upstander! At D. Roy Kennedy, we encourage students to stand up against bullying by reporting it and seeking help. Together we have the ability to put a stop to bullying.

"60% of the time, bullying stops in *less than 10 seconds* when "upstanders" intervene."

Source: Kids Help Phone

EQAO

Mark your calendars! Our students in Grades 3 and 6 will participate in EQAO assessments this Spring. We would ask that you please avoid booking appointments for your child(ren) on these dates. More information to follow!

- Primary and Junior- June 3rd, June 4th, June 5th, June 6th (June 10th– make up date)

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

New Student Registration for 2024-2025 is open! If you have a child entering kindergarten, please ensure that you register them online as soon as possible. If your child is entering Grade 4 in September and you would like them to start in the Middle French Immersion program, please send back your form indicating your intent to register. Please share this information with friends and family as it greatly assists in our planning for next year when we have students who will be attending next year registered at this time.

FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

The OCDSB has compiled a [comprehensive list of French language resources](#) to help parents and caregivers support students registered in Core French and French Immersion. It includes digital

magazines, audiobooks, podcasts and more. You can choose resources based on grades and CEFR language levels.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our next School Council meeting will be taking place in the library at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 15th. We look forward to seeing you! Not a member of council? You are always welcome to join us at any meeting.

TOONIE TUESDAY

Toonie Tuesday is February 27th, 2024: Give A Little, Help A Lot!

\$2 can be the difference between nothing and something. The OCDSB [Toonie Tuesday campaign](#) has kicked off, and we're ready to make 2024 our best year yet! Did you know that requests for support have increased by 35%? Ottawa families need our help! Every dollar raised will support students' access to food, clothing, and meaningful activities.

OCDSB EVENTS

February 24: Black History Showcase: Honouring Black Excellence

Join us Saturday, February 24th as we host the [Black History Showcase: Honouring Black Excellence](#). This event is sponsored by the OCDSB's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team, in collaboration with Future Paths Network, V2V Project, and the Somali Centre for Family Services. This in-person event, celebrating Black culture and achievements will be held between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School.

February 27: Resource Fair - Transition Planning for Youth with Developmental Disabilities

Learning Support Services is organizing an in-person event for youth with developmental disabilities and their parents/caregivers to learn about the services and supports offered by organizations in Ottawa. This drop-in event will take place on Tuesday, February 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Confederation Education Center. OCDSB staff will be on-site to help guide families to connect with the type of services they need. [Learn more](#).

[Register Now!](#)

February 28: OCDSB Speaker Series: Combating Human Trafficking

Join us on Wednesday, February 28th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for a virtual panel discussion on tackling human trafficking. [The session](#) aims to equip parents/caregivers with the know-how to identify the warning signs and grooming behaviours and understand the factors making children vulnerable and susceptible to trafficking. We will also explore ways to collectively support parents/caregivers in safeguarding children. [Register Now](#).

As a school board, we are committed to working alongside students, families and community partners to help prevent, identify and recognize human trafficking. We have compiled an extensive list of [resources and helpful links](#) to help raise awareness and share vital information about this topic.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Please see the notes below from our Director of Education.

Introducing Engage OCDSB

Engage OCDSB is a new and innovative online tool to improve how we engage with you. This platform gives you the opportunity to provide feedback on policy and program reviews, accommodation reviews, new schools and capital projects, the budget process, and other initiatives you care about, at your convenience. Visit engage.ocdsb.ca to learn more and share your feedback on these consultations: Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy for Board Trustees - open for feedback until March 8, 2024.

Changes To The Student Transfer Appeal Process and Policy - open for feedback until March 8, 2024

Commencement Ceremonies and Awards Policy - open for feedback until March 29, 2024.

Elections for New Indigenous Student Trustee

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is introducing a new Indigenous Student Trustee position to represent First Nations, Metis and Inuit students as part of its Board of Trustees, following a motion passed by the Board. The new Indigenous Student Trustee will begin their term at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. This student trustee will help highlight the perspectives of Indigenous students during important conversations at the school board. They will work alongside the two other student trustees who are part of the Board.

There will be an election for Indigenous Student Trustee on February 28, 2024. First Nations, Metis and Inuit students who will be in Grades 11-12 in September 2024 are welcome to run for this position. All First Nations, Metis and Inuit secondary students are eligible to vote. Find out more information [on our website](#).

For more information, Indigenous students are invited to come to one of our student information sessions to learn more about the OCDSB's first Indigenous Student Trustee position. There are two upcoming information sessions you may sign up to attend:

February 15th, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. via Google Meet.

2024 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Awards

Do you know an amazing trustee, teacher, education worker, school administrator, student or community member who deserves to be recognized for making a difference in their local school or community?

Nominations are now open for the [2024 OPSBA Awards](#)! The nomination deadline is April 5, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., except for the Bernardine Yackman Memorial Award which is June 7, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

Celebrating Success

This winter, OCDSB students and staff have been recognized through many awards and competitions, including the Black History Ottawa Community Builder Awards, Loran Scholarship Finals, Advanced Placement Program, Teacher-Librarian Of The Year Award, Braille Creative Writing Contest, and International Rube Goldberg Contest. [Read more about the success stories we're celebrating!](#)

Gratitude: Tips from the YAC

The Youth Action Committee on Mental Health (YAC) has put together a list of ideas for students to practice gratitude and focus on the positive in their daily lives. Check out [five ways to practice gratitude and read more](#) about how gratitude helps improve mood and well-being.

Reminders:

Deadline Extended: OCDSB is Seeking Indigenous Community Member to Serve on the Special Education Advisory Council

The OCDSB is seeking an Indigenous Community Member to serve on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). There is currently one position available and the deadline to apply has been extended until February 29, 2024. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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

*Thank
you!*