



Roméo Dallaire P.S. Newsletter

December 2021

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

November was a month with a number of events. We had parent-teacher interviews; our Grade 3 students wrote the Gifted Screening test; we had a beautiful commemoration of our veterans during our Remembrance Day Assembly, and we had our first snow fall.

Please take time to review the Progress Report Cards with your child(ren). It is an opportunity to celebrate their successes and set goals for improvement as they learn throughout the year. The conversation about learning is one which is ongoing. Term one report cards will be distributed in the second week of February.

We thank our School Council who have played an important role in our success to date. Their contributions are felt in our school through their work "behind the scenes" to create fundraising opportunities which supported the purchase of 50 Chromebooks for our students. We are fortunate to have an incredibly vibrant learning community!

On behalf of the staff at RDPS, we wish all of the families in our community a safe and enjoyable holiday season. The last day of school this month is **Friday, December 17, 2021**. We return to school on **Monday, January 3, 2022**. We hope you enjoy valuable time with loved ones.

Sincerely,

Katherine Gousis
Principal

Sheryl Gray
Vice Principal

In the December Issue

- Footwear and Clothing
- Cold Weather

- Bus Cancellation Policy and Procedures and Emergency Weather Conditions
- Kiss 'N' Ride
- School Messages
- Grade 8 Students
- Upcoming Dates

Footwear and Clothing

Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes for school. Outdoor shoes track in mud and dirt and it can be very uncomfortable for the children to wear wet shoes and socks all day. Every student must have a clean pair of running shoes, with non-marking soles, for the Physical Education classes, which they can also wear as indoor shoes. Primary teachers may also ask students to bring in a change of clothing in the event they need clean/dry clothes during the day.

Cold Weather

With winter weather already here, we want to share a couple of important reminders.

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. For our invigorating winter days, it is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change of clothes is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid losing clothing, it is recommended that parents/guardians label all articles of clothing, including, but not limited to boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Cancelled Bus Procedure

YRDSB usually tries to keep schools open as much as possible. This year, however, given the importance of adhering to our [Health and Safety Guidelines](#), YRDSB has made the decision to **close schools to students when an inclement weather day is declared and school transportation is cancelled. Please do not send your child to school when an inclement weather day is declared. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an inclement weather day school closure.** Please note that before and after care programs will not be operating on inclement weather days. YRDSB recognizes that this may be an inconvenience for some families. This decision was not made lightly and made to prioritize the

health and safety of students, staff members and families.

Communication to families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance. Our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff members and families. If you have any questions, please speak with your school principal.

Transportation cancellations or school closures will also continue to be communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services website: schoolbuscity.com
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- The Edsby River
- [Board website](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on inclement weather days, please visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Kiss 'N' Ride

1. Please follow the on street parking by-laws and obey crossing guard and speed limits.
2. Have your child(ren) enter and exit the vehicle from the curb side of the loop (right, passenger side of vehicle only).
3. The Kiss 'N' Ride area is one way only.
4. There is a queue of cars. As such, it is important not block the sidewalk or driveway. Instead, drive around the block and re-approach. DO NOT make illegal U-TURNS in the school driveway, neighbouring driveways or at intersections.
5. Your child(ren) should have his/her backpack on his/her lap to ensure a quick and easy exit.
6. Please allow your child's transition of moving from inside the vehicle to the paved area to be quick and smooth. Never leave your car parked or unattended in the loop. If you need to park your car and enter the building, please do so in a parking spot within the parking lot.

School Messages



Our Eco Theme This Month

December Eco Theme: Reduce Your Footprint

With the onset of winter, we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. To lessen energy consumption, we recommend the following actions:

- 1) Keep exterior windows and doors closed.
- 2) Ensure weather stripping is around doors and windows.
- 3) Personal heaters are discouraged.
- 4) Ensure that vents and radiators are free of obstructions.
- 5) Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to keep warm and comfortable.
- 6) Use your blinds to assist in heating rooms.

Character Certificates

Each month, students are recognized by their teachers for demonstrating specific character traits. The following is a list of the monthly character traits.

September	RESPECT
October	RESPONSIBILITY
November	HONESTY
December	EMPATHY
January	FAIRNESS
February	INITIATIVE
March	PERSEVERANCE
April	INTEGRITY
May	COURAGE
June	OPTIMISM

RDPS Well-being Club – *Inclusion Flag Contest*

Student well-being representatives from each class meet weekly to discuss and implement well-being initiatives at school. In addition to facilitating recess games, the well-being club has also engaged the school community in an inclusion flag contest. RDPS students have been challenged to design a flag that represents the identities of our school and families in a visually impactful manner. Flags are due on December 13 and a contest winner will be selected on December 16. The winning flag will be reproduced on fabric and will become the official school flag.

Clubs at RDPS

Students have the opportunity to join a number of clubs that have started since September.

- Dance Club – Grades 4-8
- Dungeons and Dragons – Grade 7 & 8
- Eco Team – Grades 3-8
- Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) – Grades 6-8
- Running Club – Grades 3-8 (will resume in the spring)
- Volleyball Club – Grades 7 & 8
- Well-being Club – Grade 3-8

Grade 8 Students

Grade 8 Students will have Course Selection presentations early December and January. This year, information sessions will be virtual.

Upcoming Dates for December

- December 20 – January 1: Winter Break
- January 3: School Resumes
- January 24: Virtual School Council at 7:00 pm
- January 14: PA Day, no school for students