



REVIEW



February 19, 2021

Principal's Message:

We have enjoyed a fabulous first week back of f2f learning. I can't tell you how great it has been to meet students in person. Everyone has been so polite and welcoming. I am trying to learn names as quickly as possible and with this goal in mind, I have asked students to tell me their name every time they see me in the classroom, hallways, or outside. They are being very accommodating! If you see me outside in the morning or after school, please feel free to introduce yourself. We also have a virtual School Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 25th which is a great opportunity for you to join, meet myself and other families, and learn about some of the initiatives that are taking place in our school.

Next week, we will continue our learning of black excellence, highlighting and remembering the important ways that African, Caribbean, and Canadians who identify as Black have contributed to Canada's past, present and future. We will also celebrate Pink Shirt Day on February 24th with a very timely theme of, "Lift Each Other Up". Please encourage your child(ren) to share their learning with you at home.

This newsletter contains some important updates from our school and from the board. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email or by calling the school next week.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Stay safe and well,

Lindsey Maclean

lindsey.maclean@yrdsb.ca

Celebrating Black History

Every February, people in Canada are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities. Our students have been celebrating the strength and courage of Black Canadians and this week learned the following on the daily announcements:

Harriet Tubman was an escaped enslaved woman who became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, where she led enslaved people to freedom in the northern United States and Canada. In addition to being a conductor, Harriet Tubman was also a nurse, a war spy, and an advocate for women, and a civil rights activist. Harriet Tubman is one of the most recognized icons in history and her legacy has inspired countless people from every race and background.

Viola Desmond was a businesswoman, civil rights activist born in 1914 in Halifax, NS. Viola Desmond built a career and business as a beautician and was a mentor to young Black women in Nova Scotia through

her Desmond School of Beauty Culture. In 1946, Viola Desmond challenged racial discrimination when she refused to leave the segregated Whites-only section of a movie theatre. Viola was arrested and spent the night in jail. Desmond's courageous refusal to accept an act of racial discrimination provided inspiration to later generations of Black persons in Nova Scotia and in the rest of Canada. In December 2016, the Bank

of Canada announced that Viola Desmond would be the first Canadian woman to be featured by herself on the face of money. You can see Viola Desmond on the new Canadian \$10 bill.

Pink Shirt Day - February 24th



Pink Shirt Day is a globally recognized day in support of anti-bullying, upstanding behaviour and simple acts of kindness. On February 24, 2021, we are encouraged to practice kindness and wear pink to show that we do not tolerate any form of bullying. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and shown the importance of helping one another and advocating for those who need it. At RPPS we will encourage all of our students to “*lift each other up*” and continue our focus on teaching healthy self-esteem, empathy, compassion and kindness. Please remind your child(ren) to wear pink on the 24th!

Each day our announcements end with the following statement which directly aligns with what we are promoting on Pink Shirt Day: ***Here at Rouge Park where everyone matters and everyone belongs we want to remind you to be kind, to be safe, responsible, and to be respectful to yourself, to others and to the environment.***

Health and Safety Measures:

A reminder of the new Self-Screening Tool for students. Please ensure that you are evaluating your child's health prior to sending them to school each day. [The link to the COVID-19 Screening Tool lists all of the screening questions.](#) If staff or students have even ONE symptom they are required to stay home from school. At the elementary level, students will be screened by their parents at home, families do not need to submit an electronic or paper copy.

March 9th Wellness Evening:

Together with our School Council, we will be hosting a Virtual Wellness Evening on March 9th @ 6:30 p.m.. Please consider coming together for an evening of information and conversation with our school Psychologist and Social Worker about **Mental Health, Wellness, and Coping, Managing and Parenting** in the time of Covid. Resources for parents will be shared and questions will be answered. Please see the flyer below. Your participation is encouraged; please use this [Link](#) to send in your questions prior to the event.

School Council:

Our next **School Council Meeting** will be on **February 25, 2021 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm**. A link to the meeting and an agenda will be shared with you the day before the meeting. Please consider joining us; we value your voice as part of our community. Everyone is always welcome!

March Break

April is the new March! Please be advised that the Ministry announced that the date of the March Break has been changed to **April 12-16**. While this has been disappointing news to some parents and students, I'm sure we will be happy about it in April!

Are You Moving?

We are in the process of starting to set up for the September start of the 2021-2022 school year. If you know your child/children will be attending another school in September please email or call the school office to let us know.

Please Scroll Down



211 CENTRAL FACT SHEET

What is 2-1-1?

211 is a free service that connects individuals and families with the complete range of government, health, community and social services in their communities.

211 Central Quick Facts:

- 211 can be accessed by:
 - Phone (Call 2-1-1 / Toll-Free Number: 1-877-330-3213 / TTY: 1-888-340-1001)
 - Online (Search [211Central.ca](#) for Toronto, Peel and York Regions / [Durham.211Central.ca](#) for Durham Region / [211Ontario.ca](#) for province-wide / [211.ca](#) for nation-wide)
 - Text (Send an SMS to 21166 / Monday-Friday | 7am-9pm EST)
 - Live Chat ([211Ontario.ca/chat](#) / Monday-Friday | 7am-9pm EST)
 - E-mail (gethelp@211Ontario.ca / Monday-Friday | 7am-9pm EST)
- 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 (even on holidays) in 150+ languages
- When you dial 2-1-1, the line is answered by certified Service Navigators who will help you navigate the complexities of the human services system quickly and easily
- Contact 2-1-1 for information and referral to:
 - Health Services & Mental Health Supports
 - Income Support & Financial Assistance
 - Food Banks & Meal Programs
 - Housing Help
 - Seniors Support Services
 - [and more...](#)

Next time you are facing a non-emergency situation or are seeking community help and don't know where to turn, remember to contact 211! Help starts here.



Rouge Park P.S
Cornell Village P.S

An Evening of Information and Conversation

PARENT WEBINAR

We know this has been a challenging time for students and their families. In consultation with your schools' Administration and Parent Committees, we would like to offer a virtual Webinar to better support you in this time.

During this Webinar, we will discuss:

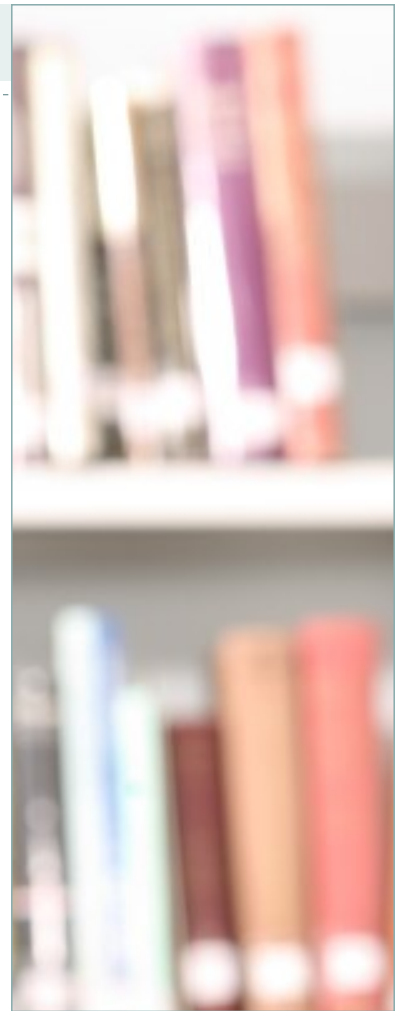
- ◆ Mental Health and Anxiety in Children
- ◆ Coping and Parenting during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- ◆ Resources to support Parents' Mental Wellness

This presentation is intended for Parents/Caregivers and **not** for Students.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION

Your participation in the presentation is encouraged. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Please follow this link to submit your questions:

<https://forms.gle/QgWPoeAddKtQXzza7>



WHEN

March 9, 2021
6:30-7:30pm

WHERE

Virtual Webinar
(link to follow)

PRESENTERS

Dr. Jason Bloom,
School Psychologist

Randie Berger, MSW
School Social Worker