



FROM THE WOLF PACK...

Barrhaven Public School

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October 11, 2021

Dear BPS Students and Families,

We wish all of our families a very Happy Thanksgiving and we hope that you are having a restful long weekend. We are so thankful to be part of such a vibrant and caring school community.

Parents are reminded to complete a [Covid-19 screening](#) before sending their child to school or daycare each day.

As mentioned in our Wolf Pack messaging last week, October marks Islamic Heritage Month. In addition, there are a number of other dates of significance to recognize in October, including, [Hispanic Heritage Month](#), [Learning Disabilities Awareness Month](#), and [Canadian Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month](#).

Though specific events and awareness months mark a jumping off point for learning and conversation, as a school community we recognize that this learning continues throughout the year and is woven into the curriculum in the classrooms and in the fabric of how we operate as a school community.

Our weekly Wolf Pack messaging as well as our school website <https://barrhavenps.ocdsb.ca/> are great places to stay informed about some of the learning/activities that take place at BPS.

Enjoy the beautiful week ahead,

Trent Taniguchi and Vanessa Ogungbemile

In this edition of "From The Wolf Pack":

- From the District
- Terry Fox Run
- Annual Verification Forms (e.g., media permission, acceptable use of technology, etc..)
- OSTA- opting out and route cancellation information
- BPS Spiritwear



FROM THE DISTRICT:

Dear OCDSB Families,

Reminder: Schools will be closed on Monday, October 11th for Thanksgiving. We hope you can find time this weekend to enjoy the beautiful fall weather, recharge, and connect with loved ones.

Please keep following COVID-19 safety measures this weekend. Ottawa Public Health recommends using [SocialWise public health practices](#), including masking and distancing, gathering outdoors when possible, and limiting the number of close contacts particularly indoors. Remember to think about whether family members or friends are vaccinated and the risks gatherings may pose to people who have not yet been or are unable to be vaccinated.

The actions we take will help to prevent the spread of the virus and keep schools open.

COVID-19 Updates and Public Health Information

Testing Update and New Options for Students

The [Ontario government announced](#) it would introduce rapid antigen testing (commonly known as rapid tests) for students in areas where the risk of COVID-19 is high. Ottawa Public Health is working with the provincial government, local school boards, and parents to explore how to implement this program in targeted schools and childcare facilities to test unvaccinated asymptomatic individuals. More information should be available soon.

Rapid antigen tests are not the same as a lab-based PCR test. Rapid antigen tests are used on asymptomatic individuals. Please note, rapid antigen screening does not replace a PCR test for those with

symptoms or who are high risk contacts. PCR testing through the take-home test kits program or through the assessment centre is still required. Ottawa Public Health and CHEO do offer free take-home PCR testing kits for students and staff at schools in Ottawa. These kits include a PCR test that can replace a visit to an assessment centre. The take-home test kits include a combined mouth and nose swab that is easily administered and non-invasive.

These free do-it-yourself take home test kits are now available for pick up at the CHEO Assessment Centre at Brewer Park (select the "Pick-up" option when [booking a test](#)). These kits have also been provided to all schools in Ottawa for students and staff who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or are identified as a high-risk contact.

Vaccines - Respecting Privacy

With so much discussion about vaccines, including the new [provincial passport system](#), we thought it might be helpful to do a quick refresh on vaccines and privacy. Information about vaccines is personal health information. Institutions and organizations must have legal authority to collect that information. The OCDSB has the legal authority to collect proof of vaccines from employees and visitors or other third parties who regularly attend our schools and buildings. School boards and other organizations can only use or disclose that information in the ways they are legally required to do so. What this means is that within the school district, information regarding vaccine attestations will be confidential and kept in a secure location, and only shared with those individuals who have a business need to know. Respecting privacy is important. Speculating on the vaccine status of others is inappropriate. In offices and classrooms, we all have a responsibility to respect the personal information of students and colleagues. This message has been shared with all school district staff. We encourage parents to engage in family conversations about the importance of respecting personal choices, protecting privacy and avoiding speculation and gossip about the personal health information of others.

Share Your Thoughts...

Trustee Electoral Zone Boundary Review

The OCDSB has 12 elected trustees and each trustee represents one electoral zone. These zones must be based on the City's ward boundaries. The City of Ottawa has adopted a new ward structure that will be used for the next three municipal elections. The OCDSB must adjust its trustee zone boundaries to align with these new wards. [Visit our consultation page](#) to learn more, review our preliminary electoral zone models, and share your feedback.

We will be hosting a virtual town hall meeting to share more details on Tuesday, November 2nd at 7:00 p.m. [You can register at this link.](#)

It is important to note a review of electoral zone boundaries does not impact on the school attendance boundary - where students go to school is not affected by electoral zone boundary changes.

Appropriate Use of Technology

We want to ensure students are safe online, use technology in a productive way, and are ready to contribute to today's expanding digital society. This is why the OCDSB is updating the Appropriate Use of Technology policy. We are looking for your input on what you feel is necessary in a revised Appropriate Use of Technology policy.

- [Learn more](#) about the review
- [Complete our Google Form](#) by November 30, 2021
- Write to us at aup.consultation@ocdsb.ca.

Safe Schools Consultations

In 2020-2021, the OCDSB conducted separate consultations concerning policies regarding Safe Schools and Police Involvement in Schools. Based on the feedback received through these consultations, staff determined that Policy P 043 SCO - Police Involvement in Schools should be incorporated into the revised Safe Schools policies. Please visit our [Safe Schools and School District School Code of Conduct Policy Review](#) page for more information along with the updated draft policies.

You are encouraged to review the draft policies and offer any additional feedback. We would like to thank students, parents, staff and community members for your contributions to these important consultations.

Elmdale Public School Re-opening

After a period of renovations and construction of a new addition, students returned to Elmdale Public School at the start of this school year. Interested in seeing the end results? Take a virtual tour: <https://elmdaleps.ocdsb.ca/>. On Wednesday, October 13 at 1:00 p.m., school staff will be hosting a virtual ceremony to celebrate. You can watch at: https://youtu.be/CzZ_F3I7Bt0.

Did you know...

This weekend, [World Mental Health Day](#) is October 10th, and [International Day of the Girl](#) is October 11th. We encourage you to read more about these dates, and we will be sharing more dates of significance in our future updates and on our social media channels.

In case you missed it...

OCDSB Fall 2021 Virtual Tutoring Program for Grades 7-12: The OCDSB's Fall 2021 Virtual Tutoring Program provides students with a supervised opportunity to complete, review, practice and receive support in a range of subject areas. The program begins October 4th and is free for OCDSB students in grades 7 to 12. More information is available [on our website](#).

Grade 11-12 Students can now register for the Launch 2021 Post-secondary Pathways Virtual Conference: The annual virtual conference is being held on October 21st and 22nd. Students will have the opportunity to attend workshops and connect with various post-secondary institutions, organizations, and employers. Watch this [preview video](#) to know more. For detailed information and registration, visit [this website](#).



TERRY FOX RUN:

We wanted to update you on the incredible efforts of our BPS school community. We have now raised \$765 online for Cancer research through our Terry Fox run event!

Donations will still be accepted online or with cash until Friday, October 15th. Thank you all for your support of this very important cause.

Fundraising Link:

<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=950162&langPref=en-CA>



ANNUAL VERIFICATION FORMS:

A friendly reminder to send in the paper copy of your information verification form if you haven't done so already. It is vitally important that we have all families' valid contact information. Below you will also find the links to the three forms that we ask parents to complete every year. **Please note: If you have more than one child at BPS, please make sure you fill in each link for each of your children.**

[Appropriate Use-of-Technology](#)

[Media-School-Website-Consent-Form](#)

[Form 122 -- Trip Participation](#)



OSTA- OPTING OUT AND ROUTE CANCELLATION INFORMATION:

OSTA has cancelled a number of yellow bus routes. Please review your child's information on the Parent Portal and then check the posted list for OCDSB Schools to confirm the route's status. There are currently some long term cancellations where there are no drivers for that route and throughout the year there could be some short term/daily cancellations. Please be sure to sign up for parent notification and check OSTA's website daily for any morning cancellations.

If your child will not be taking the bus, you can complete the opt out form following this link <https://bit.ly/3gWSPEV>.



BPS SPIRITWEAR:

Barrhaven Public School has spirit! Every Friday is the day to show off your pride by wearing BPS spirit wear. Families can order from a variety of t-shirts, sweaters, pants and more at the following website: <https://barrhavenpublicschool.entripyshops.com/>

Staff and students are also invited to wear school colours (blue and yellow) every Friday!



UPCOMING DATES:

October- Islamic Heritage Month

October- Hispanic Heritage Month

October- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

October- Canadian Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

October- Cyber Security Month