



Centennial Public School -February News!



Message from the principal

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and the Centennial Community,

It is difficult to believe that my first month at Centennial has come to an end; it has been truly wonderful! Some of my many highlights have included, watching the yard turn into a magical snow city, filled with igloo stores, snow people and tree villages. Seeing the curriculum come to life through creative story writing, hands on math activities, and interactive art projects such as Artist in Residence through the Listen Up Grant. My first School Council meeting was exciting, what an amazing and supportive Community we have. I have enjoyed building relationships with both staff and students, learning new things with and from them, such as how to use a Beeline device, how to play pickleball or how to find the angle of a shape with and without using a protractor. The school is a buzz and I am so thankful to be part of it. Hope you all keep well happy February.

Jenny

Jenny Dewan

Principal, Centennial P.S.

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Upcoming January Dates

February Dates

1-29 Black History Month

5 School closed to all students (strike action)

6 School closed to all students (strike action)

11 School Council Meeting (6:30 p.m. in the staffroom)

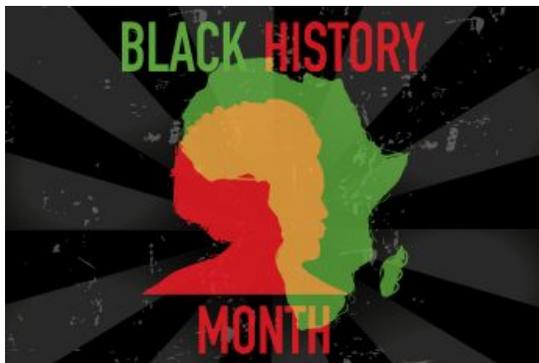
14 PA Day (no school for elementary students)

17 Family Day (no school for staff and students)

SCHOOL NEWS:

Black History Month

OCDSB celebrates 2020 Black History Month



Every February is recognized as Black History Month in Canada. It's a time to celebrate Black culture and history and to applaud the achievements and significant contributions Black Canadians have made to build Canada and to make this country the diverse, welcoming and the strong nation it is today. At Centennial Public School staff are involved in creative activities aimed to help educate students about Black history from engaging in a variety of arts, literature and exploratory projects.

The 2020 theme for Black History Month is 'Canadians of African Descent: Going forward, guided by the past.' This theme was inspired by the United Nations proclaiming the theme of

the International Decade (2015-2024) to be ‘People of African descent: recognition, justice and development’.

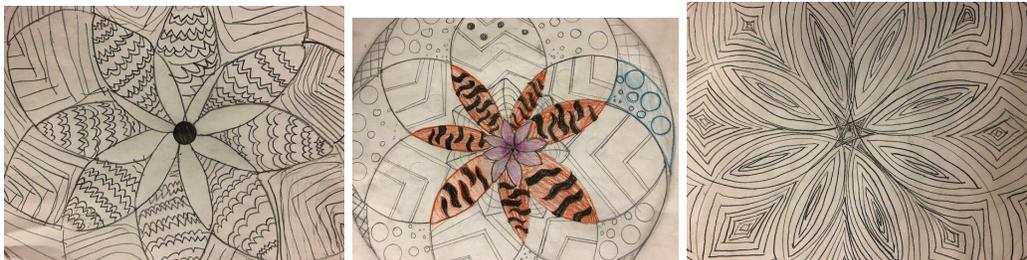
In May 2018, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board formally adopted 2015-2024 as the Decade for People of African Descent and two of the commitments are:

1. Reduce barriers to learning to improve equity of access and opportunity for students of African descent.
2. Intentionally adopt practices to create a safe and caring learning environment that respects, promotes, and protects the human rights of children of African descent.

Beyond embedding Black History in our everyday curriculum, OCDSB schools are planning events throughout the month. There are also numerous community events that are taking place.

The OCDSB is committed to promoting equity and inclusion in every one of our schools and workplaces, and we believe that honouring and sharing the rich cultural diversity within all of our schools and communities will help to dispel harmful biases and enlighten our understanding of each other. We encourage every member of the OCDSB to take part in celebrating Black History in 2020.

Artist in Residence -Junior Listen Up Project



Creativity is everywhere at Centennial Public School. The Junior students are entering into the third component of the year-long Listen Up Project. Our theme is Communication and students have been engaged through a variety of creative experiences. In the fall we welcomed spoken word poet Jamaal Jackson and composer Kelly-Marie Murphy and in February we will have the

opportunity to work with mural artist Claudia Salguero! Students will be working together to create beautiful mandalas that will be displayed throughout the school.

Kelly-Marie is busy composing songs, using ideas/themes from our students! We will be learning songs specifically written for Centennial to present on May 1, 2020 at our special event taking place at Dominion-Chalmers. Students will work with a professional conductor and the musicians from the Gryphon Trio to create a one-of-a-kind performance for all to enjoy!

Stay tuned for more exciting news about this project!



Labour Action Update

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) announced a full walkout at school boards, including the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), on two separate days next week – Wednesday, February 5th and Thursday, February 6. Unfortunately, this means that if no agreement is reached, all OCDSB elementary schools will be closed to students in grades K-8 on Wednesday, February 5th and Thursday, February 6. Parents should have contingency plans in place for childcare on both February 5th and February 6th.

The note below is from the Centretown Parents' Daycare:

In the event of a strike by ETFO, Centretown Parents' Daycare will be operating our preschool, kindergarten and school age programs within their normal hours.

PLEASE NOTE: As per usual, the preschool program will be open from 7:30 to 5:30. The kindergarten and school age programs will be open from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and from 3-5:30 p.m. **THERE WILL NOT BE CARE PROVIDED BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 3 P.M.**

Should you choose to use the morning program, your child must be picked up by 9:00 a.m. Should you choose to use the afternoon program you must bring your child between 3 and 3:15 p.m. We will close all programs at 5:30 p.m.

Kindergarten registration

Official Kindergarten registration is ongoing! The parent information session took place Thursday January 30th. If you were unable to attend this information session, the slide show from the session has now been posted on our school website <https://centennialps.ocdsb.ca/>. If have any questions/concerns about how to register or the registration period please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

Visitors to Centennial



We had two ministers visit our school recently. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (far right) and The Honourable Brad Trivers from Prince Edward Island (centre). We were also greeted by our new Superintendent of Instruction, Prince Duah (far left) and OCDSB Manager of the Early Learning Program Julie Cyr (second from left). For those of you who are wondering, I am in the pink jacket. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Centennial P.S. Gets a Facelift

As some of you may have noticed our school is currently being painted on the inside. Our hallways are getting brighter and our doors are now matching our stairwells. Our weather stripping is also being replaced to help complete this fresh new look. Thank you for your continued support throughout this transition period, please continue to refrain from touching areas where "fresh paint" signs are located. Students are eagerly anticipating this transformation and some staff have used this excitement to connect to the learning such as posing the question, *how many paint cans will it take to paint the school?*

Math: Inquiry, Moderation, Innovation and Dr. Nicki Newton



Staff and students continue to dive into Math! Staff gathered to discuss Dr. Nicki Newton's work on Math Running Records. Dr. Newton focuses on how we may use Math Running Records to assess students' basic fact fluency and increase student achievement. Like a GPS, Math Running Records helps to pinpoint exactly where students are in their understanding of basic math facts and then outline the next steps toward comprehensive fluency. Students look at applying their math learning in a variety of ways. Drawing cross curricular links between Math and Science, Social Studies, the Arts etc.

School Council

School Council held a successful movie night on January 23rd in the gym; This event brought out much of the Centennial Community! If you are interested in getting involved School Council is a great way to support the school. School Council is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday February 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the staff room. Hope to see you there!

Pocket Sized Encouragement



Did you know that there is a group who meets to talk about how to make the school a better place? Our wellbeing club is a grade 1-6 club supervised by Ms.Natalie, everyone is welcome!

The group discusses ways that they can help the Centennial community feel happy, engaged and cared about. This month they have created this pocket sized encouragement board; located just outside the office. Feel free to add notes of encouragement, take one if you need one or pass along a note from the board to a student, staff and/or community member who may be in need of encouragement. This is a great way to spread positivity around our school!

OTHER NEWS:

Novel Coronavirus

Update from OCDSB on Novel Coronavirus



Novel Coronavirus

Health authorities in Canada and around the world are monitoring the emerging situation regarding the Novel Coronavirus. We appreciate that parents and guardians may have questions about how this will be managed in schools.

The OCDSB takes guidance regarding health matters from federal and provincial health authorities as well as Ottawa Public Health (OPH), our local health authority. Parents are asked to follow these official sources for the latest updates on Novel Coronavirus.

Visit Ottawa Public Health's Novel Coronavirus web page for information on the virus and regular updates, as well as other useful links. You will also find tips on how to best prevent the spread of germs. As this is also flu season, we continue to remind students to follow

proper handwashing techniques. Signs are also around schools as reminders for students, staff and visitors as well.

Ottawa Public Health has provided the following information about the Coronavirus:

Currently, only persons who become ill within 14 days of having visited Wuhan, China or having been in close contact with someone who has a respiratory illness who has been to Wuhan within 14 days prior to their illness onset are considered at risk for Novel Coronavirus infection.

The risk of getting coronavirus is still low for Canada, and for Canadian travelers.

Common symptoms of infection include fever, cough and respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Please consider the following if you think you were in contact with the Novel Coronavirus:

1. Individuals who have developed symptoms within two weeks of travelling to Wuhan, are asked to call the hospital or the medical clinic prior to arriving.
2. Individuals who have been in contact with individuals who have developed symptoms within two weeks of travelling to Wuhan, are asked to call the hospital or the medical clinic prior to arriving.

For all families, including those that may be returning from overseas travel, please follow these recommendations from Ottawa Public Health to help reduce the spread of germs including the flu and the Novel Coronavirus:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth unless you have just washed your hands
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your arm, not your hand
- If you are ill and must visit a healthcare provider, call ahead or tell them right away when you arrive that you have a respiratory illness and wear a mask while waiting to be seen
- Avoid visiting people in hospitals or long-term care centres if you are sick

- **Get your flu shot**

Here are more tips on how to stop the spread of germs including the flu and the Novel Coronavirus.

Please review the following resources:

- **Ottawa Public Health Handwashing Poster (PDF)**
- **Public Health Agency of Canada – Coronavirus Factsheet (PDF)**

You can also learn more about the Novel Coronavirus on the Ontario Ministry of Health's Coronavirus website.

Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health has offered the following guidance during this time: "Students, parents and school communities should rest assured that the province is working together in close cooperation with its partners in both the education and health care sectors to ensure the continued safety and well-being of students and staff."

Speaker Series Presentation on Vaping



Have questions about Vaping? Come out to our free speaker series event, Vaping: What is it and How to Parent It.

E-cigarette use (vaping) among Ottawa's youth has surpassed tobacco use. This session, presented by Krista Oswald from Ottawa Public Health, will provide parents with facts on vaping, vape products, health effects and what we are seeing every day in schools. A candid

presentation on what youth are saying that, combined with the facts, will help parents to have an open talk at home.

Date: Thursday, February 6th, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sir Robert Borden High School - 131 Greenbank Road, Nepean

Learn more about our Speaker Series events:

<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=238219>

Right to Read Public Inquiry

Ontario Human Rights Commission: Right to Read Public Inquiry



The Right to Read inquiry is reaching out and hearing from parents, students and educators across the province about their experiences, challenges and concerns arising from their experience in Ontario's public education system.

The inquiry is also assessing whether school boards use scientific evidence-based approaches to meet students' right to read. The OHRC will assess school boards against five benchmarks that are part of an effective systematic approach to teaching all students to read:

- Universal design for learning (UDL)
- Mandatory early screening
- Reading intervention programs
- Effective accommodation
- Psycho-educational assessments (if required).

Students, parents & educators are asked to provide their feedback about their experience with reading disabilities in public schools as part of the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read Inquiry.

**A public hearing will be in Ottawa on March 10, 2020, at the Nepean Sportsplex:
1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean, ON, K2G 1W2**

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

Public hearing: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Notify the OHRC about accommodation needs by: February 25, 2020

Learn more about the survey and public sessions:

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-read-public-inquiry-on-reading-disabilities>