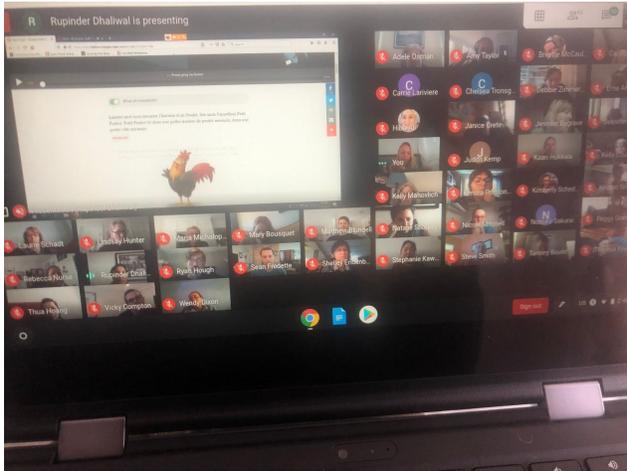




Centennial Public School - May News



Message from the principal

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

Our learning has definitely taken a new form this past month. Many of us have pushed ourselves to learn and do things we have never tried before. We know that what some find easy to learn, others find extremely difficult. Being patient with ourselves and one another in this period of new learning is truly important. As educators we must be flexible. Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time; whether it be to help teach your child a new concept/skill or support you with the technology, we will continue to do our best to support you. We miss you all and wish you and your families a wonderful month ahead. With May upon us, we hope you find time to get outside, enjoy the sunshine and fresh spring air.

Thinking of you all, keep well.

Jenny

Jenny Dewan

Principal, Centennial P.S.

Current contact: jenny.dewan@ocdsb.ca

Upcoming May dates and Religious Holidays:

May:

5 - Cinco de Mayo

10- Mother's Day

12- Lag B'Omer (Jewish)

18- Victoria Day

19- Lylat al-Qadr (Muslim)

21- Ascension Day (Christian)

24- Eid-al Fitr (Muslim)

29-Shavuot (Jewish)

31-Pentecost (Christian)

SCHOOL NEWS:

Check out our tribute to our Centennial Public School Community:



<https://youtu.be/hqIDCynSXil>

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS:



Over the past month we have delivered Chromebooks to nearly 70 families requiring technology in order to access online learning. These chromebooks are on loan from the school board in order to ensure every family has access to online learning. We have also provided necessary physical equipment to students in our Physical Support Program classes. If you are still without the equipment that you require please reach out to your child's teacher. Teachers have been in contact with you. They continue to do their best to meet the individual needs of their learners. Following the Ministry's guideline staff have prepared programming for 5 hours of learning per week for their students. K-3 will focus on Literacy and Mathematics while grades 4-6 will focus on Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies. The 5 hours of work per week should include time led by teachers, as well as time for students to be working on their learning tasks. If students cannot get the work done for any reason please do not worry. We understand that you are all doing your best to support your children at this time and that each situation is unique. No child will be penalized for work not done or lack of participation.

I worry my child will be behind when we return?!

Please do not worry about your child being behind. The wellbeing of you and your child(ren) continues to be our number one concern. Educators are skilled at differentiation. There may be gaps when we return, and we will work closely with you and your children to help close any gaps. We recommend that you continue to celebrate and recognize even small gains when supporting your children at home. Reading with your children, engaging in board games, card games, science experiments, art and/or music are excellent ways to extend your child's learning. Help your children ask critical questions and self evaluate their own learning. Teaching your children how to reflect on their own practice is a great skill to push them forward in their learning.

Looking ahead...2020/21

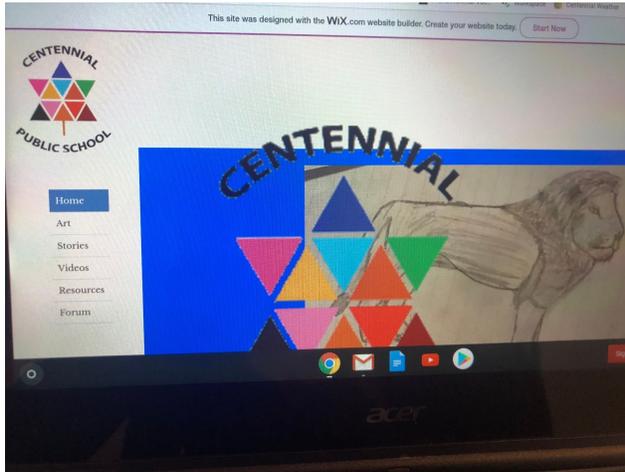
As we look ahead to the 2020/21 academic year, we look at creating classes for our new academic season. This process is very thoughtful and takes a lot of planning and discussion. In the planning for classes we look at a wide variety of factors to help create the most successful year for all students and staff. If you have any comments and/or considerations you would like us to make please email Jenny Dewan (jenny.dewan@ocdsb.ca) by May 11th 2020.

What can we expect moving forward?

The Ottawa Carleton District School Board's website has up to date information on the latest happenings with regards to our work from home initiative. We recommend that you check out the website every so often as it is updated daily as changes may arise.

https://ocdsb.ca/our_schools/novel_coronavirus_information_for_parents

Other ways to stay connected



Staff continue to find creative ways to help you and your children feel connected. Matthew Blundell (matthew.blundell@ocdsb.ca), a Centennial staff member, has agreed to take the lead on updating our new forum for sharing. Please check out the following link <https://centennialps.wixsite.com/mysite>, here staff and students may update videos, curriculum ideas and project ideas to support your children's learning from home. We have also made a place for students to connect with one another, share their art work and some of the neat things that they have been up to while at home. If you have any specific questions/concerns regarding this forum please feel free to reach out to Matt directly using the email above.

What about Individual Education Plans (IEP's) and The Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC's)?

At the moment staff continue to support and review the development of IEP's. If there is something that you feel your child needs in relation to their IEP please discuss this with your child's teacher. You may also reach out to our Learning Support Teacher (LST) Maria Michalopoulos. (maria.michalopoulos@ocdsb.ca). As per Ontario Regulation 191/98 we are to hold IPRC's on an annual basis. We are currently in the process of determining the best way forward given our current situation. Once the board has determined the process we will be sharing it with our Centennial family. Should you have questions/concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.

What about Summer School and Summer Learning Opportunities?

Our number one priority remains the well being of you and your families. As such decisions have been made with regards to both the Summer School and Summer Learning Opportunities provided by the OCDSB. Summer School: Secondary summer school (Reach Ahead and Credit Recovery) will proceed on a fully digital platform; no in class programming will be offered.

OCDSB registration will open on April 29. Work on credit rescue is underway and will continue into July. This will also be done within the LearnAtHome environment. Summer Learning Program (for ASD/DD students): The Summer Learning Program will not be offered in July 2020. Careful consideration was given to how the face-to-face nature of this program could be modified to operate and respect physical distancing requirements. Given the unique learning and medical needs of the participants, it is not currently possible to offer the program and meet the safety requirements of the current pandemic. Summer Camps: District operated summer camps will not be held. The planning for summer camps which includes programming, excursions, and learning opportunities in a supervised environment is not considered viable given the uncertainty of access to community services and parks during that period. Expanded learning programs for students and staff over the summer - Literacy and Numeracy (Elementary), CODE summer learning, Indigenous and International Languages Programs (IILP) and ESL (OCENET), summer institutes for teachers: These opportunities are being reviewed and redesigned with a view to offering them virtually or in a blended format.

How about the end of the year leaving ceremonies?

At the elementary level the leaving ceremonies which had routinely taken place in June will not take place this year. Work will begin with elementary schools, Program and Learning, and Communications to develop some resources and supports that allow for possible celebrations in a virtual way. We will miss all the students leaving us next year and wish them only the best in their new adventures! Well done, BRAVO!

Services Available

Specialized Health Support Services and Special Needs Programming

MCCSS funds a range of services and supports for children and youth with special education needs, including children and youth with autism. These services and supports are often delivered by local agencies and organizations, such as Children's Treatment Centres, or in the form of direct funding for families to purchase services from fee-for-service providers. Families can contact their children's service providers directly for updated information about what services may be available to them at this time. Links to publicly funded local service providers can be found at:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/index.aspx>.

Students who would have otherwise received school health professional or school health personal support services on school premises may be eligible for home care services. In recognition of the extended school closure, Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are working with families with children who are eligible for home care.

COVID UPDATE FROM THE MINISTRY:



NEWS

Ministry of Education

School Closures Extended to Keep Students, Staff and Families Safe

Students Will Still Be Able to Complete School Year

NEWS

April 26, 2020

TORONTO — Today, Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced that all publicly-funded schools will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020, as part of an effort to keep students, staff and families safe from COVID-19.

The extension was based on expert advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and health officials on the COVID-19 Command Table and is part of the government's ongoing effort to stop the spread of the virus. The advice was to extend school closures for an additional period of time to permit updated modelling and data to inform next steps, given the government's absolute commitment to safety.

"We will do whatever it takes to keep our students safe," said Minister Lecce. "The government is taking a careful approach which provides our medical experts the time to review the modelling and make the best decision for the safety of our students and the future of learning."

The government took immediate action to close schools in Ontario, the first in Canada to do so. The ministry continues to monitor the evolving situation and if necessary, the closure may be extended further to protect the health and safety of Ontario's school communities.

At the same time the Ontario government is taking steps to ensure learning can continue. In March the province unveiled its Learn at Home portal. It offers all students high-quality resources, featuring made-in-Ontario math and literacy resources, created by Ontario-certified educators, in both English and French. Elementary resources are designed to help young students learn at home with interactive activities that encourage participation through entertaining and stimulating digital content. High school content was designed with a focus on STEM courses and ensures core competencies and skills are reinforced.

At the end of March the Ministry of Education unveiled the second phase of Learn at Home to ensure the continuity of learning for students. This included providing clarity for parents, enhancing education supports and creating opportunities for educators to connect with students.

The government has also partnered with Rogers Communications and Apple to help meet the educational needs of students and families during the COVID-19 outbreak. iPads are being purchased and distributed by Ontario school boards, pre-equipped with free Rogers LTE wireless data. Apple is providing on-going support in French and English to teachers, parents and students, with a collection of resources to support learning and working from home. To date, over 20,000 iPads have been sent to targeted families in need. The free Rogers wireless data will be available until the end of June.

"Regardless of what transpires over the coming weeks, Ontario's students will be able to complete their school year with confidence," added Minister Lecce. "In particular, for students in their final year, we are removing all impediments to ensure students graduate and pursue post-secondary education."

Other Websites with helpful information for families:

Learning (general):

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home#section-0>

www.pearsoncanada.ca/athome

<https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/> (Fun site for reading in other languages)

Yoga and Meditation

- [New Horizon Kids Meditation](#)
- [Yogatown \(online classes\)](#)
- [Cosmic Kids Yoga](#)

Entertainment with a Learning Focus

- [Audible Stories for Children](#)
- [Fast Company - Drawing from Home](#)
- [Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden - An Online Safari Adventure!](#)
- [npr Virtual concerts](#)
- [Good Housekeeping Virtual Tours - Zoos, Museums, Theme Parks](#)
- [Collider Free Streaming Options - Movies and More!](#)
- [GNAG - Online Activities, Podcasts & Much More!](#)

Community Exercise Classes

- [GNAG - Online Activities, Podcasts & Much More!](#)
- [YMCA Health and Wellness Videos across Platforms](#)
- [GoNoodle - Games & Activities for Children](#)

Direct Learning Resources for Children

- [Learning Resources K-12](#)
- [The Canadian Homeschooler - Teaching Tools and Resources K - 12](#)

