



Centennial Public School

February News!

Message From the Principal

Dear Centennial Community,

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, it is always certain to be packed with much learning and fun. This month some of the excitement we look forward to includes: celebrating Black History, Valentines Day and Winter Carnival!!

The joy of learning can be felt throughout the school with displays of artwork, poetry, story writing and more; including this photo of artwork done by Ms. Prowse's class. Students are enjoying the snow, and building incredible snow structures in the yard. The Junior Classes continue to enjoy skating trips every week. We have welcomed many new students recently, which just adds to our school culture.

We wish you all a wonderful February and thank you for your continued support.

Take care,

Jenny Dewan

Principal, Centennial P.S.

jenny.dewan@ocdsb.ca



Important Dates

January 29th - February 9th

February (all month)

February 5th-9th

February 2nd

February 10th-24th

February 12th-15th

February 14th

February 15th

February 22nd

February 28th

February 16th

February 19th

Transfer Application Period

Black History Month

Middle French Immersion Registration Period

Groundhog Day

Lunar New Year

Winter Carnival

Valentine's Day

Elementary Report Card available online

School Council (7pm)

Pizza Day

PA Day (no school for students)

Ontario Family Day (no school for students)

***** Kindergarten registration is ongoing please register as soon as possible for the 2024/25 academic year*****

SCHOOL NEWS:

Black History Month

OCDSB celebrates 2024 Black History Month

Every February is recognized as Black History Month in Canada. It's a time to celebrate Black culture and history and applaud the achievements and significant contributions Black Canadians have made to build Canada and to make this country the diverse, welcoming and strong nation it is today. Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in learning opportunities, festivities, and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

While we recognize that indeed the realities of people of African descent must be reflected in school experiences all year long, the month of February provides a special time for focused reflection on the lived experiences of Black people, past and present.

The OCDSB acknowledges the historic and contemporary role of schools in Canada in perpetuating myths, doctrines, false science, and narratives that have resulted in strategies and behaviours which have compromised how children of African descent feel, think, grow, and actualize their potential, promise and purpose in the world.

In May 2018, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board formally adopted and committed to the intent of the UN Decade for People of African Descent. 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.

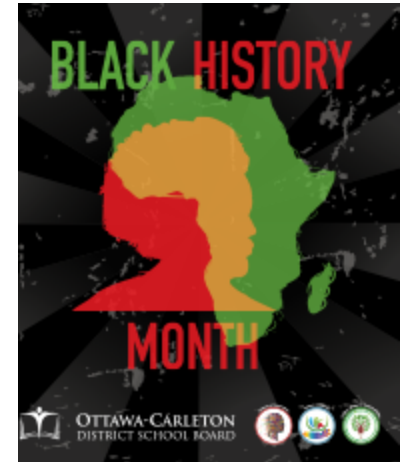
Beyond embedding Black history in our everyday curriculum, OCDSB schools are planning events throughout the month of February.

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, culture, and achievements, this month and throughout the year.

Several initiatives are currently underway to support us in working towards our commitments:

- **Black Excellence Day:** On January 15, 2024, students and staff members participated in the second annual Black Excellence Day. Schools hosted Black excellence events and participated in learning activities to celebrate the joys, narratives, accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians past and present.
- **Black Graduation Program:** The Black Graduation Program is a support program developed to disrupt barriers to achievement for Black students by providing culturally relevant and responsive support and services to assist Black students and their families.
- **Black Student Associations:** To support belonging, voice and engagement, there are Black Student Associations running in most secondary schools.

In addition to embedding Black history in our everyday curriculum, here are a few additional initiatives that will be taking place across the District over the next few months.



Join us Saturday, February 24th as we host the Black History Showcase: Honouring Black Excellence. This event is sponsored by the OCDSB's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team, in collaboration with Future Paths Network, V2V Project, and the Somali Centre for Family Services. This in-person event, celebrating Black culture and achievements will be held between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School.

What's happening:

- Panel Discussions
- Performances by OCDSB students and staff, and community members.
- Opportunities to interact with, and learn more about the work of OCDSB Black Student Unions.
- Community Partners and vendors sharing information about the services they offer.

Register Now!

Lunar New Year

To celebrate Lunar New Year we held a school-wide assembly. We also share in the celebration by integrating learning activities within our day to day classroom work. The school continues to be adorned by all the great work being done.



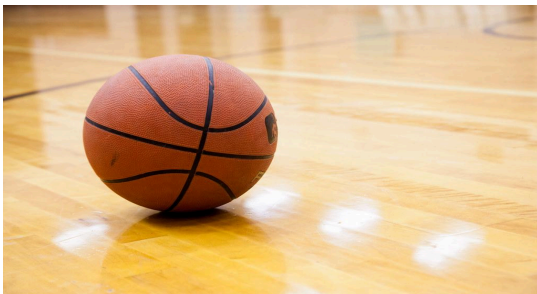
The Lunar New Year is an international holiday celebrated by many Asian cultures, but not all. People may know the holiday as Chinese New Year, Vietnam's Tết Nguyên Đán or South Korea's Seollal. Overall, over about 1.5 billion people across the world will take part in the festivities.



Centennial Public School Winter Carnival: Feb 12-15

Centennial Mini Carnaval d'Hiver/Centennial Mini Winter Carnival			
LUNDI le 12 fevrier	MARDI le 13 février	MERCREDI le 14 février	JEUDI le 15 février
Theme: School Spirit Day *Wear your Centennial Shirt Or another shirt that shows spirit	Theme: Winter Day *Wear your favorite tuque, scarf or other favorite hat	Theme: Valentine's Day *Wear Red. Pink or other valentine's related clothes	Theme: Pyjama Day/ Comfy clothes Day *Wear your comfiest clothes
Event: Junior Division Trivia 2:40-3:10	Event: Winter Play Day Rotation Mr. H and Mme H's classes will host all other classes. (Schedule and sign up coming soon)	Event: Gr. 6 classes Cross Country Skiing Various Valentine's activities	Event: Junior Division Leadership Assembly 100's Day activities in primary classes

Sports at Centennial PS



Basketball

Intramural Basketball will be starting in two weeks. Students will play weekly games and practice their skills like dribbling and passing with Mr.H. Centennial P.S. will bring two teams to the board tournament in late March or early April. Stay tuned for sign ups next week!



Ultimate

Centennial P.S. is pleased to announce a partnership with Ultimate Frisbee Ottawa. An ultimate coach will visit Centennial PS in late May to teach each Junior class the sport of Ultimate. Centennial will receive 10 Ultimate disks along with coaching material.

Reminder: Centennial is a Scent-Free Space

Fragrances and scents are found in a wide range of products including perfume, aftershave, deodorant, soap air fresheners, fabric softeners, laundry detergents, facial tissues, candles, etc. Exposure to fragrances and other scented products may trigger adverse health reactions (e.g., asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction and shortness of breath) in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities. Other less serious but equally debilitating symptoms include headache, sore throat, runny nose, sinus congestion, wheezing, dizziness, anxiety, nausea, fatigue, mental confusion and an inability to concentrate.



Building a fragrance/scent-free safe environment

In order to protect those individuals with sensitivities to fragrances and scents, and to possibly prevent others from developing such sensitivities, we are asking for your cooperation towards a fragrance/scent-free environment at this school. Employees, students and visitors are to please avoid the use of these products while at the school. Chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us. Today fragrances/scented products are made up of a complex mixture of chemicals which can contribute to indoor air quality problems and cause health problems.

What can you do to help?

- ***Demonstrate consideration for those who are sensitive to fragrances or scents.***
- ***Avoid using any/all scented products prior to entering the school.***
- ***Discuss this policy with your children.***

The success of our fragrance/scent-free initiative will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of everyone within our school community. Thank you for all your continued support.

Kindergarten Registration

Official Kindergarten registration is ongoing! The parent information session was held at the end of January and the slide deck shared is available on our school website <https://centennialps.ocdsb.ca/>. If you have any questions/concerns about how to register or the registration period please do not hesitate to contact the main office.



Transfer Application Period



Please note that the transfer application period is between Jan 29- Feb 9th for any who wish to request a transfer for next academic year. For more information please click on the following Student Transfer Parent Guide: [STUDENT TRANSFER](#)

If your home school is Centennial PS and you plan to have your child(ren) stay at Centennial next year then no further action is required. We will however reach out to all families of students currently in grade 3 to see what their intentions are for next year regarding Middle French Immersion (MFI). The MFI registration period is Feb 5-9. For more information please click on the following MFI program guide: [French as a Second Language Programs](#)

If you have further questions/concerns about this program please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom teacher. Students in SK moving to grade 1 will also have the choice to stay at Centennial English Program in grade 1 or transfer to their home Early French Immersion School. Finally, for those leaving Centennial and headed to grade 7 next year we will be connecting you with your feeder school so that you may gather information for a smooth transition.

School Council

Our School Council invites you to our next School Council Meeting Thursday February 22nd starting at 7pm. We welcome both new and returning parents to join us in conversations regarding how best to support our Centennial community. To participate in this Google Meet: meet.google.com/fvk-cwgp-kac



Pizza Days

Students are loving our pizza days. In order to run the days we NEED volunteers. If you are available to help out on any of the days below please email: kendra.shaw@rogers.com

Dates are as follows:

Feb 28, March 27, April 24, May 22 and June 19

THANK YOU!

Should we not receive enough volunteers these dates may need to be canceled. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Report Cards



On February 14th parents may access their child's report card through School Messenger. You will receive an email that will have a link to access your child's report card. We sent out cards last year with all student OEN numbers. We had asked you to please hang on to these numbers as moving forward you will need them

to access future report cards. If you no longer have this card and cannot recall your child's OEN please contact the office. With thanks.

Here is a little guide to help understand the grades on your child's report card:

Grade	Meaning
A	Exceeds expectations, working beyond grade level. This grade is given only rarely for work surpassing expectations.
B	Meeting grade-level expectations, this is great! It means your child is right on track.
C	Approaching expectations, next steps will be provided. Considering the year we've had, this is a reasonable place to be.
D	Progressing with difficulty, next steps will be provided. We have some catching up to do, but we'll keep working!
I	Insufficient Evidence for Assessment (usually due to extended absences, or no work completed)
R	Progressing with great difficulty and we need to make a plan. (you would have heard from me already if this was a possibility)

Community Supports Available & Community Fun

<https://crossroadschildren.ca/>

<https://www.centretownchc.org/>

