



Centennial Public School - April News



Principal's Message

Dear Centennial Community,

This photo is courtesy of Ms. Nikki's class. I think this is one of many visuals within our school that represents and celebrates our multiculturalism. This month we also celebrate both Autism Acceptance and Sikh Heritage Month, highlighting how wonderful it is to learn from one another and to celebrate our diversity. This month we also welcome the spring, there is beautiful energy with a focus on growth and renewal. This is often an exciting time of year when connections are made, learning has set in and critical and creative thinking dominates. On the playgrounds classes enjoy recess time together, solidifying friendships both old and new. Students are excitedly anticipating trips to Mer Bleue, exploring the National Art Gallery, and the museum of nature. There is so much that the city of Ottawa offers. We encourage all families to explore wildlife and the beauty within our own backyard.

Wishing you all a lovely April.

Take care,

Jenny

Important Dates in April

April is both Autism Acceptance Month and Sikh Heritage Month

April 1st: April Fools Day

April 2nd: World Autism Day

April 8th: Solar Eclipse (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS)

April 9: Author Timm Holmes comes to Centennial

April 9-10: Eid Al-Fitr

April 10th: International Day of Pink and Full School Community of Character Assembly

April 16th: Primary classes to the National Art Gallery

April 18th: School Council

April 22nd: World Earth Day

April 22-30: Passover

April 24th: Pizza Day!

April 25th: Kinder/PSPA to Experimental Farm

April 27th: School Council Meeting 7pm



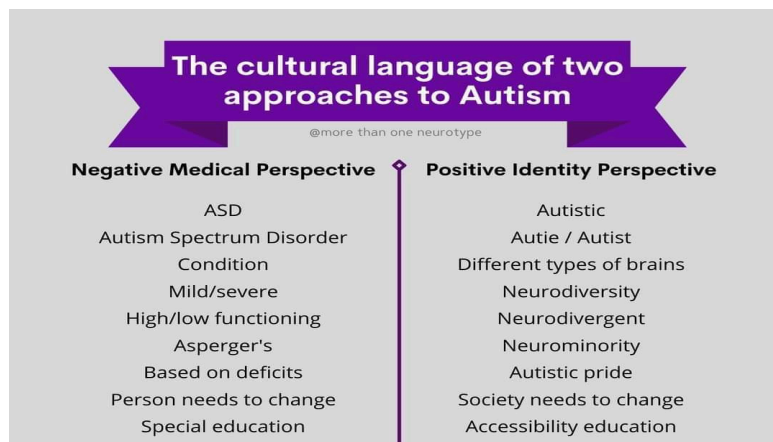
THEME DAYS IN SUPPORT OF AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

On Tuesday, April 4th we wear red to show acceptance and love for our autistic friends and family.

Wednesday April 5th we celebrate being passionate about working together, as a team. We do this by wearing something that shows a team we love!

On Thursday April 6th we were rainbow colours or rainbows. Our brains are all special and unique in their own way. To celebrate the neurodiversity of our community, we wore all the different colours of the rainbow!

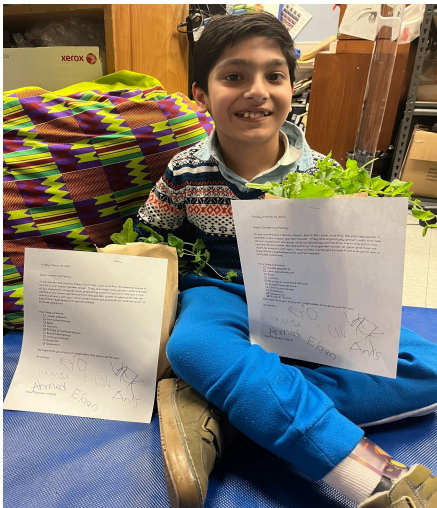
On Friday April 7th we'll wear our comfiest outfit or PJs. Autistic people feel sensory overload every day, so we will wear our comfiest clothes or our pajamas and really focus on what makes us feel comfy and calm.



Indoor Garden

The Junior Intermediate PSP Class has been working with the Classroom Gardens Program (supported by the Ottawa Network for Education,) to get our vermicomposting garden tower up and running. This is part of the Science, Social Studies/Geography and even the Math curricula - all related to sustainable food practices, ecosystems. We are hoping to include a little math by coding our microbits to have them run a water pump and create a self watering system.

The students have seen this project through from start to finish. They planted the seeds, tracked and tended to them. They helped transplant the seedlings into the garden tower and have been responsible for watering them several times a week. They collect compost daily and will help to put it into the center of the tower to feed our composting worms. This works to make nutrient rich soil to keep our plants fed and healthy. Eventually, they helped to harvest the veggies.



As a classroom goal, we decided that we would make 'salad bags' to send home with lucky Centennial Families who are picked in a random draw. Our goal was finally achieved at the end of March, and we sent home our first two 'salad bags' with 2 families. The students proudly wrote the letter explaining their project and attached it to the bags to go home. Our hope is that we will have more to give away to other families in the near future.



On Tuesday April 9th we are honoured to host Author and Edu-tainer Timm Holmes. He will be working with Centennial Public School Students to create their very own stories. Families are encouraged to take a look at his website to see all the wonderful story work our students will be exposed to during this special day:

<https://author-timm-holmes.square.site/>



Goodbye and Hello

April marks a change to Centennial Public Schools Custodial staff. We thank Andrew (chief custodian) for all the work and dedication he has put in the last few years. He will be missed. We wish him well on his newest adventure!

We welcome new Chief Custodian Stephan! It is actually a welcome back as Stephan did come to Centennial back in 2021 providing wonderful support to the school.

We are so lucky to have you such amazing Custodial staff!

Intramural Sports and Clubs

In April, we will be launching more clubs and activities! Interested students should pay attention to our morning announcements for updates. Interested students will continue to participate in Pickleball, supported by Mme. Stephanie and Mme. Peggy. Basketball and track and field are added things to look forward to this spring!



Outdoor Fun!

With Spring comes outdoor fun, mud puddles and wet fields. This can result in some very dirty pants! If you have splash pants and rubber boots at home please ensure your children are dressed appropriately. If your child does not have these please speak with them, providing reminders to make good choices when on the yard. We are noticing an increase in the number of students coming into the office wet and uncomfortable after recess. Thank you for your support with this.



Centennial PS PIZZA DAYS CONTINUE IN APRIL

A huge thank you to our School Council for continuing to offer Centennial PS Pizza Days. This month Pizza Day will take place on April 24th. Our School Council is run by community members, parents, and staff and meetings are held once a month. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** If you would like to come to our next Pizza Day please join us April 18th at 7pm. Use the following link: meet.google.com/bkj-bbaz-pat

Earth Day April 22nd, 2023



In honour of Earth Day students will be learning about all the ways what we do impacts the planet. This year at Centennial PS we have been trying to do our part in a variety of ways. One of the ways is that Mme Hunter's class has been running a recycling program, collecting all the recycling from each class each week. In honour of Earth Day we want to take a moment to thank her class for this great work. Ms. Kelly has also been recruiting others to recycle Markers! This month, let's challenge ourselves to take one small step to support planet health. That could be walking or biking one day instead of taking a bus/car, trying to reduce personal waste, or even turning off the lights more frequently.

Thank you all for your support in keeping our planet healthy.

Please see the website below for more information. <https://www.earthday.org/>

Sikh Heritage Month

April is Sikh Heritage Month, an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the history, culture, and many accomplishments of Sikh Canadians. April is an important month for the Sikh community. Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi/Baisakhi on April 13th, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. This holiday is also celebrated by people of the Hindu faith. This April marks ten years since the month was proclaimed as Sikh Heritage Month in the province of Ontario. Please join us in recognizing the contributions of Sikh Canadians in our district and across the province!



Additional Resources:

- [Sikh Heritage Month Event Calendar 2024](#)
- [Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada: Educational Resources](#)



MONDAY APRIL 8th: SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS

On Monday April 8, 2024, there will be a total solar eclipse. Ottawa, located in the Northern Region, will experience a partial solar eclipse. During a total or partial solar eclipse it is not safe to look directly at the sun without appropriate protective eye wear. Doing so may result in permanent eye damage.

The eclipse occurring on April 8 will last for 2 hours 23 minutes, beginning at 2:11p.m. and ending at 4:35 p.m. with the maximum point of the eclipse at 3:25 p.m. Virtually all school and program dismissal times occur during that window. To ensure student safety, many school districts, including those in Ottawa, have rescheduled a Professional Activity (PA) day to April 8, allowing students to stay home. Regrettably, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) does not have a PA day that can be moved.

After exploring several options and consulting with key stakeholders, **a local operational decision has been made to close all OCDSB schools on April 8th. Transportation will also be cancelled. In addition, OCDSB operated Extended Day Programs will not operate.**

Please note:

The OCDSB Toddler Preschool programs will operate as usual.
The OCDSB EarlyOn Child and Family Centres will operate as per usual.



Kindergarten Information

Will your child be 4 years old by December 31, 2024? You can register for Kindergarten at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. Kindergarten at the OCDSB is a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment where children learn to explore the world, solve problems and make friends.

We offer:

- A full-day, two-year, fully bilingual program with 50% English instruction and 50% French instruction;
- An emphasis on dynamic, play-based learning for a fun way to help children learn and discover; and
- A caring team of educators with each class having a teacher and early childhood educators.
- Extended Day Programs that provide your child with the opportunity to participate in activities that complement what happens during the regular school day.

Kindergarten at the OCDSB is supported by these wonderful community connections:

[Family Reception Centre](#)

[Ottawa Student Transportation Authority](#)

[OCDSB EarlyON Child and Family Centre](#)

What next?

1. [Attend a Parent Information Session](#)
2. [Register](#)
3. [Prepare for Kindergarten](#)

1. [Parent Information Sessions](#)

Your local school will be holding a parent information session. You will know more about our Kindergarten program, meet the principal and staff and get useful tips to help your child prepare for Kindergarten. To know about the time and date of the school near you, visit [OCDSB's Kindergarten Parent Information Nights webpage](#) or the school website.

2. [Register](#)

Registration for Kindergarten is an easy three-step process.

Find your School >> Complete the Registration forms >> Collect Documents.

For detailed information, including the immunization requirements, visit ocdsb.ca/register.

3. [Prepare for Kindergarten](#)

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting adventure for children and their families. But beginning something new can also cause big feelings. Your child might be excited, nervous, scared, curious, or even shy.

Some strategies that help prepare you and your child include...

- Talk with your child about their feelings
- Recognize your own feelings around this milestone and share them with friends and family
- Attend, virtually or in-person, the “Welcome to Kindergarten” opportunities at your child’s school
- Visit the school and the playground
- If your child takes the bus, attend the OSTA orientation day

For more information, visit our [website](#).