

## Week of February 6 - 10, 2023

Hello KOTR Families,

Mother Nature has certainly had her fun this week with the roller coaster weather! It's very unusual to have back-to-back bus cancellations, but our staff and students were busy with collaborative activities!

### Scents and fragrances

Due to health concerns and allergies among staff and students, perfumes, colognes, and any other scented products (hairspray, scented soaps or lotions) are **not** permitted at school. Students may bring stick deodorant (not aerosol) and keep it in their locker or school bag.

### Creating safe and inclusive spaces

"The OCDSB is a community that values acceptance, appreciation, cooperation, empathy, fairness, integrity, optimism, perseverance, respect, and responsibility. We are committed to building a community vested in human rights by:

- a) creating a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the inherent dignity, equality, and worth of each person;
- b) advancing equity and eliminating all forms of discrimination so that each person feels part of the OCDSB Community and is able to participate fully when learning, working, or accessing services;
- c) building trust through transparency and a commitment to accountability;
- d) remedying harm and working to restore relationships when we do not meet these standards; and,
- e) fostering spaces of belonging where everyone is valued and can thrive."

~ from the [OCDSB Human Rights Policy \(P.147.GOV\)](https://p.147.gov)

As Coyotes, we are committed to ensuring that all our students, staff, and families feel safe, and see themselves in the school experience. One of the ways we can work to ensure this is by understanding the power of our words and actions. The use of pejoratives\*, epithets\*\*, or slurs\*\*\* or any other words that bring harm to people belonging to human rights-protected groups have no place in our school. We are committed to teaching and learning about ways to uplift the voices of those who have historically been silenced, and to intervening when harm has been done. Please reach out to the school if you or your child has experienced any harm in relation to the use of pejoratives, epithets, or slurs.

\*A *pejorative* is a term that expresses contempt or disapproval of certain identities.

\*\*An *epithet* is a disparaging or abusive word or phrase used to describe people of certain identities.

\*\*\*A *slur* is a pejorative term used to describe Indigenous Peoples, racial, ethnic, religious, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation and/or disability attributes, etc.

### Menstrual Equity

While menstruation is a normal and healthy bodily function, for too many students, having a period can lead to feelings of shame and financial hardship. Thanks to the advocacy of students across the OCDSB, starting this month, our school will be providing students with free menstrual pads. The OCDSB Menstrual Equity initiative will focus on students starting in grade 4 and above, but anyone can take a pad if they need it.

Menstrual sanitary pads will be available in the following locations:

- Room 168
- Office

There will be posters to clearly identify where these products can be found. Students may ask for them if they feel comfortable but they don't have to. They can just take what they need. Product dispensers will also be installed in washrooms later this school year.

You can support our efforts by reminding your child that free pads are available at the school if they need them.

More information about the OCDSB Menstrual Equity Initiative can be found at [ocdsb.ca/me](https://ocdsb.ca/me). This website also includes links to resources from health organizations should you wish to discuss this topic with your child.

### **Join us on Saturday, Feb 11, 2023, for Black History: A Day of Celebration**

OCDSB invites parents/caregivers, students, staff and community members to join us on **February 11th, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**, for an **in-person** event to celebrate Black Excellence. This event, titled **Black History: A Day of Celebration**, will be held at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School.

The event will begin with a keynote address by **Meghan Stewart**, founder of [Mindfulness Meghan](#), located in Ottawa.

The event will be emceed by OCDSB students. The keynote will be followed by artistic performances by various OCDSB students and staff, and community members. There will also be information tables set up for participants to interact with and learn about the work of Black Excellence Student Clubs.

**[Register for the event](#)**

To learn more about this event, visit [our the OCDSB website](#).



**Upcoming Webinar for Parents and Caregivers:** [Introduction to Gender Identity and Expression](#)

Are you a parent or caregiver to a trans, gender diverse, or questioning child or youth? Do you have questions about gender diversity? Are you interested in learning more about creating inclusive environments for children and youth in your life?

Join us on Monday, February 13th from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. for a webinar on Gender Identity and Gender Expression with Kaeden Seburn, MSW. The webinar will explore questions about gender identity and gender expression and how parents and guardians can support young people to be themselves, regardless of age or gender.

**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

[Register Now](#)



**Dates to Remember:**

Friday, February 17 - PD Day - no school for students

Monday, February 20 - Family Day - no school for students

Wednesday, February 22 - Pink Shirt Day; Ash Wednesday