

Week of February 13 - 17, 2023

Hello KOTR Families,

It was a short but busy week here in the land of the Coyotes! We hope that this long weekend is restful for everyone!

A reminder that there is no school for students tomorrow (February 17th) or on Monday (February 20th).

We'll see you back at it on Tuesday!

Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces: The Language of Equity

"The words we use to speak about people have the power to:

- *Provide clarity **OR** obscure meaning*
- *Promote inclusion **OR** enforce exclusion*
- *Embrace difference **OR** limit connection*
- *Acknowledge issues **OR** excuse problematic behaviour*
- *Assign responsibility **OR** deny culpability*
- *Drive change **OR** maintain the status quo*

In short, language is powerful, and as we work towards creating more equitable outcomes at every level and in every corner of our society, it is essential that we commit to using language that supports those efforts. It is also imperative that we have a shared vocabulary to ensure our efforts are united in both direction and understanding.

This is why we are sharing our working definitions of some of the most important words, terms, and phrases in the language of equity."

From: <https://kojoinstitute.com/the-language-of-equity/>

Please visit the KOJO Institute to learn more about their [Glossary of Equity](#).

February Food Drive

We are beginning to collect non-perishable items for our February Food Drive to support the North Gower and Area Outreach Food Bank. Please see here for a list of items that have the most impact for those the organization supports:

PDF

We will be collecting donations between February 21st and February 28th.

Toonie Tuesday

We will be **collecting toonies** for the Education Foundation on Tuesday, February 28th - the last day of our food drive. To celebrate, we are inviting staff and students to "dress in twos" (or

threes, or fours...) or to wear their KOTR Family shirts to show their Coyote spirit on the 28th (and bring their toonies!).

OCDSB Parent/Caregiver School Climate Survey

We would like to hear your voice as part of the upcoming school climate survey!

In March 2023, we will be conducting the OCDSB Parent/Caregiver School Climate Survey. This is a **voluntary** and **anonymous** online survey for parents, guardians, and caregivers of students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. The purpose of the survey is to give parents, guardians and caregivers an opportunity to provide feedback about their family's and their child's experiences with the school.

To find out more information, please visit our [FAQ page](#) or contact schoolclimatesurvey@ocdsb.ca.

The above message has been translated in various languages:

[Arabic](#)
[French](#)
[Inuktitut](#)
[Pashto](#)
[Russian](#)
[Simplified Chinese](#)
[Somali](#)
[Spanish](#)
[Traditional Chinese](#)
[Turkish](#)
[Urdu](#)

NEW OCDSB Strategic Plan (2023-2027): Join the Conversation through our Electronic Feedback

Participate in an online conversation about what you think is important to support student learning and well-being at a time that works for you. You can participate in the language of your choice. Your thoughts will be shared, but your anonymity will be protected. There are some short survey questions and one open-ended question, which leads to an online conversation with others who are in the same group as you. If you did not receive an email invitation, you can still participate using the appropriate link below:

- [Students](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Parents/Caregivers and Community Members](#)

If you have questions, please contact strategicplan@ocdsb.ca or read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). You can participate until **11:59 p.m. Friday, February 24th, 2023**.

Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs

In collaboration with city and community partners, Ottawa Public Health offers free drop-in services to all residents of Ottawa at our accessible Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs. Come speak to Ottawa Public Health and City of Ottawa staff.

Services available

[Vaccination](#)

[Employment and Social Services](#)

[Dental Screening](#)

[Mental Health, Addictions and Substance Use Health](#)

[Parenting in Ottawa drop-ins](#)

Dates to Remember:

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

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

Tuesday, February 21 - Start of Food Drive

Wednesday, February 22 - Pink Shirt Day; Ash Wednesday

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns, or to share feedback.

Take good care,

Erin Paynter (she/her)
Principal

Lara Currie
Vice-Principal