

## **Weekly Family Update**

### **Week of November 4 - 8, 2024**

Hello KOTR Families!

Welcome to our school weekly newsletter! We are pleased to share some exciting updates and important information with you.

We want to wish a very Happy Diwali to all who celebrated this past Friday! Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is associated with a story about the destruction of evil by Lord Vishnu in one of his many manifestations.

November is recognized in Canada as Transgender Awareness Month. This month offers a chance to celebrate, uplift and learn about the experiences of Two Spirit, trans, and gender diverse identities.

November is also Holocaust Education Month, an important opportunity for our community to deepen our understanding of the Holocaust and its enduring, universal lessons on hate, humanity, and empathy.

As a community, we have an individual and collective responsibility to:

- **Understand:** Develop and deepen our own knowledge.
- **Educate:** Effectively teach students in age-appropriate and meaningful ways.
- **Disrupt and Support:** Actively work to prevent and disrupt all ongoing forms of hate, including antisemitism and transphobia, with sensitivity and resolve.

### **Words Matter Campaign**

KOTR is a proud member of the [Words Matter](#) Campaign with Harmony Movement. The campaign will have its “official” kick off next week after Remembrance Day.

Words Matter focuses on the impact of our words. Words are a powerful tool with which we can uplift others, or harm them. The words we use are a vehicle through which we can create and maintain lasting, respectful, and inclusive spaces where *everyone* can thrive.

All members of our community will have the opportunity to engage in learning around how words matter, including parents and caregivers. Please join us for a workshop led by Words Matter facilitators on Thursday, November 14th - bring your questions, your concerns, your stories. We want to engage in conversations about this topic as we know we are all invested in ensuring our school is a space where everyone belongs.

**ICYMI (In case you missed it):**

Please visit our [school website](#) for past Family Updates with information on:

- **Volunteers Needed!**
  - Holiday Maker Market, Saturday, November 16th: Sign up <https://volunteersignup.org/Q4HP8>
  - Scholastic Book Fair, Thursday, November 28th/Friday, November 29th: Sign up - <https://volunteersignup.org/RCWLE> Remembrance Day Slideshow
- Kars on the Rideau Second Annual Holiday Maker Market

Please see the [KOTR Family Calendar](#) for Upcoming Events!

Take good care,

Erin and Lara  
Principal and Vice-Principal  
[Kars on the Rideau PS](#)