



Roberta Bondar School Council

School Council Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians, Caregivers, and the Roberta Bondar Public School Community,

This school year has been a unique one, that our children will tell their children about in the future. One they will probably learn many lessons from and grow from.

Council was happy to support the school this year in many ways, including:

- putting the money we raised, primarily through pizza sales, back into the school
- building community through a movie night
- buying books for the library
- paying for *Scientists in School* - a program for each class in order to engage and inspire students
- holding a used book sale, including ensuring each child took home a free book to encourage a love of reading
- running the milk program
- supporting dance workshops
- purchasing much needed gym equipment,
- among many other projects

In this newsletter below we will cover the following topics:

- 1) Pizza Orders
 - 2) Milk Refunds
 - 3) [Ontario Support for Parents](#) (education strikes) - **deadline June 26, 2020**
 - 4) [Ontario Support for Families](#) (COVID school closures)
 - 5) Grade 8 T-shirts
 - 6) [Report Card registration](#) - **deadline June 24, 2020**
 - 7) [Free Virtual Summer International Language Classes Registration](#) - **deadline June 15**
 - 8) Unity in Diversity
 - 9) Thank you to staff
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Pizza Orders

An email went out on June 11 from Roberta Bondar School Council to every family who sent in a form and money for Session 3 of pizza. Due to the closure of the school the pizza program did not go ahead. If you placed an order and did not receive an email, please send an email to sc-robertabondarps@ocdsb.ca



Milk Refunds

Parents had just sent in forms and money before March break to order milk for the new term. Due to the school closure, we were unable to process the envelopes that came in. **Milk money will be returned when parents pick up their children's belongings left at the school.** We will have a table set up on the day that you pick your items up from school.

Ontario Support for Parents (education strikes)

This year there were some days that the school was closed due to strikes. At the time, the provincial government offered some funds to assist families. Under the [program](#), parents are eligible for a one-time per child payment of:

- \$200 for children aged 0 to 12
- \$250 for children or youth aged 0 to 21 with special needs

All online [applications](#) must be received before June 26, 2020.

Ontario Support for Families (COVID school closures)

The provincial government (Ministry of Education) is providing further [financial support to parents](#) to assist with the costs of educational resources during school and child care closures as a result of Ontario's declared emergency to stop the spread of COVID-19.

If you applied for the funds related to strikes using direct deposit early enough, then you will automatically have received this funding also. However, if you applied for the strike funds late or to receive it by cheque, then you might have to [apply for this support](#) separately.

Eligible families will receive a one-time per child payment of:

- \$200 for children aged 0 to 12
- \$250 for children or youth aged 0 to 21 with special needs

Grade 8 Graduation T-shirts for Sale

For those interested in purchasing a t-shirt or hoodie for graduating grade 8 students please keep an eye out for an email coming shortly.

Report Cards (Register by June 24)

To access report cards you must [register](#) with the OCDSB before June 24, 2020. Report cards will be available to parents on June 24 through a new secure online Report Card Portal. Parents will be able to login and see their child's report card.

Free Online International Languages Summer Program (Register before June 15)

The OCDSB is offering [Virtual Summer International Language Classes](#) through the Continuing Education department for children from grades 1 to grade 8. [Register online before June 15, 2020.](#)

The Summer International Language Classes will be offered from July 2 to July 24, 2020, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Students who are interested in learning an additional second language may register for afternoon classes offered between 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Languages offered: Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Chin, Dari, Greek, Hindi, Japanese, Kannada, Mandarin, Pashto, Persian (Farsi), Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu, and Vietnamese

Unity in Diversity

In our school we celebrate unity in diversity, the idea that we are more beautiful/strong because of our diversity. This is highlighted through the multicultural night normally held for parents/children/staff in May. Recently, School Council was asked to provide funds for English and French books and resources related to equity and race for the school library. We unanimously voted to support this initiative.

In light of recent world events, we are sharing the following resources with families to help them talk about important issues around race/racism/anti-racism with children. Some teachers have shared these resources with families. Please find some links below:

1. [Article for parents: Talking race with young children](#)
2. [Diversity Library - Diversity](#) [Diversity Library - Antiracism](#), [Diversity Library - FNMI](#): Books for children, both to be read by families, or for children to read/listen to on their own. Some may have challenging themes for children, or might be difficult for some families.
3. [Sesame Street: Talking to your children about racism](#)

Thank You to All Roberta Bondar Staff

It would not be a final newsletter without taking the opportunity to highlight ALL the staff - the heartbeat of our school. Our educators faced the additional challenge this year of teaching remotely - trying to connect with each student during these last few months at home. There have been some very funny videos and memes that parents around the world have shared as they have tried to navigate homeschooling, highlighting the value of our educators and the important role they play in society and the lives of our children.

We normally would have taken a day to prepare a potluck lunch to show our appreciation for all the staff, but unfortunately this was not possible this year. We are sure each child is taking the opportunity to thank and appreciate their teacher(s) and other staff in various ways. We want to take this opportunity to give a wholehearted **THANK YOU** to each member of the Roberta Bondar PS staff for everything they have done and will continue to do to educate and keep our children safe. Have a safe and healthy summer and we look forward to seeing everyone at school in September.

