



Riverside Public School | February 2026 Newsletter

**P. Atack - Principal, B. Tamasi – Vice Principal
K. Kramer – Administrative Assistant, L. McLean - Secretary
J. Beynon - Superintendent**

Principal's Message

Dear Riverside Families,

And just like that, it's February! January absolutely flew by. These last few days have brought a much needed break from the deep cold which meant several days of indoor recess. The recent blue sky and sunshine have been a welcome reprieve, and I'm told that groundhog, Warton Willie, is predicting an early spring! I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Custodians, Rob Govier and Rod Rollings, and the rest of our custodial staff for their concerted efforts to keep the walkways clear of snow and ice. Since the new year, Mr. Govier has greeted me outside each morning as he works to ensure community members can enter the building safely. The efforts of the team are greatly appreciated!

February marks the mid-point of the school year, with Term 2 officially beginning on February 6th. On February 20th, parents and guardians will receive Term 1 report cards. Report cards (gr. 1-8) and Kindergarten Communication of Learning, are one of the formalized means of sharing student progress, celebrations, and growth areas with families. While reading student report cards this week, I'm reminded that all students are capable of excellence. Excellence can be represented in many ways – and is not limited to a grade or report card indicator. Excellence can be demonstrated as significant progress, as improved effort or work habits, as character development, as leadership, or as contribution to school community. While you and your child are reviewing their report card, I ask that you take opportunity to not only consider growth areas and next steps for learning, but to celebrate their excellence.

As always, I thank you all for your partnership and support, and wish everyone a wonderful month ahead.

Sincerely,

Peter Atack

Principal, Riverside Public School



Riverside Public School | February 2026 Newsletter

Black History Month

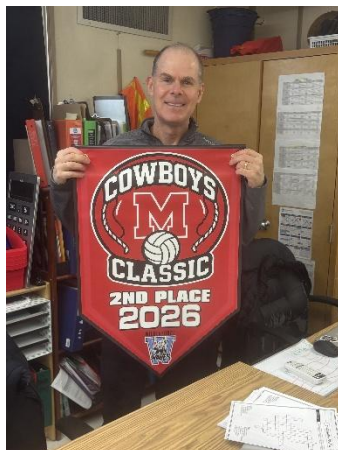
February is Black History Month, and the school community will be honouring the stories, achievements, and contributions of Black Canadians and Black communities around the world. In an elementary school, this month holds special importance as it gives students the opportunity to learn about diversity and celebrate the people who have helped shape our country and our world.

Classrooms will be exploring age-appropriate books, histories, innovations, and personal stories that highlight Black excellence in many forms—arts, science, social change, literature, and everyday leadership. These conversations help students build empathy, develop a sense of belonging, and understand that everyone's history is an important part of our shared history.



Volleyball Highlights

The Riverside PS community is very proud of the accomplishments of our Boys and Girls Volleyball teams. Both groups have shown tremendous dedication, teamwork, and growth throughout the season.



A special congratulations goes to our Boys Volleyball team for earning an impressive second-place finish at the Cowboy Classic Tournament at Medway Secondary School. Their hard work and sportsmanship were outstanding. We look forward to cheering on both teams at their upcoming 'Beast of the East' tournaments with the Boys playing on Friday, February 6th and the Girls playing on Friday, February 13th – both at Stoney Creek PS. We hope to see you there!

Thank you to our coaches Mr. Koop, Mr. Sanders, and Ms. Rees for their leadership and commitment. Our athletes benefit immensely from your support.



Riverside Public School | February 2026 Newsletter

Music Notes from Ms. Rees

What an incredible first term it has been with our Riverside Music Program! I am incredibly proud of the work our classes, choirs, and band have accomplished. A standing ovation goes out to our entire Ram population for the outstanding winter concerts they presented. Their dedication truly paid off, and we hope you enjoyed their performances as much as we did. A huge shout out goes to Madame Wyant, Mrs. Bryenton, Mrs. Flanagan, and Mr. Nussbaum for their leadership and contributions with our concerts! Bravo! I would also like to extend a heartfelt, thank you to the many incredible teachers that stayed after school to help, our wonderful custodial team and to our admin team for the many things they do behind the scenes! A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Atack and Mr. G. for their incredible help with the risers! Finally, thank you to the phenomenal staff for always supporting music and for being so flexible so we can pull off four concerts! I am so blessed to work with such a wonderful staff!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donations. We raised a little over **\$1,500**, which will allow us to repair several instruments, purchase new music for our upcoming competitions - as well as some new percussion instruments for our students to use. We cannot thank you enough for this special gift!

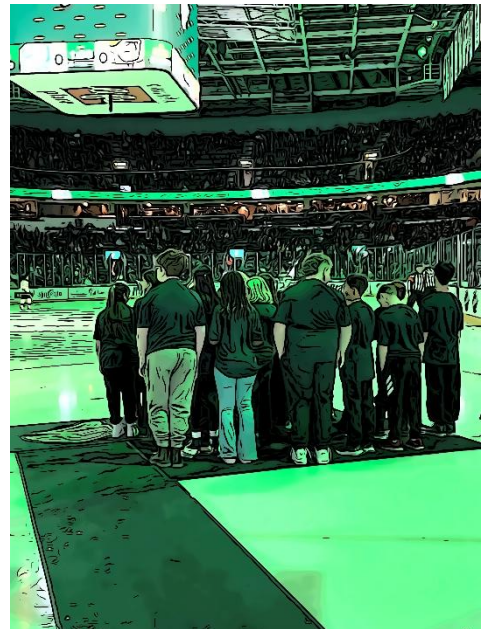
This past Friday night, our school had the honour of singing at the **London Knights Game**. We received many compliments from the London Knights Anthem Program person. *Bravo, Riverside!* I am so proud of you! To our parents and guardians—thank you for your generosity and for supporting this event. It means the world to me.

Save the Date:

Our Kiwanis Music Competition is now in full swing. At this time, I have been informed that our performances will take place during the **first two weeks of April**. As soon as I have a confirmed date, I will share the details with you.

Once again, thank you so much for your kindness and continued support. I am very blessed to work with your children and be a part of this wonderful school community.

With gratitude,
Ms. Rees





Riverside Public School | February 2026 Newsletter

CCAT & EQAO Assessment Preparation

As we move into February, our students are beginning their preparation for two important assessments: the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) for our Grade 3 students and Education Quality and Accountability Assessment (EQAO) for Grades 3 and 6. While these assessments provide helpful information about student learning, our focus is on ensuring students feel confident, supported, and ready to do their best.

In classrooms, teachers are guiding students through practice activities that build the skills these assessments measure—critical thinking, problem-solving, reading comprehension, and mathematical reasoning. Just as importantly, students are learning test-taking strategies, exploring sample questions, and developing the confidence to approach new challenges with a positive mindset.



We are proud of the hard work our students are doing each day and appreciate the partnership of our families as we prepare for the months ahead.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday, February 12, 2026 – K-3 Blast Off with Learning
- Friday, February 20, 2026 - Term 1 Report Cards Go Home
- Wednesday, February 25, 2026 – Purple People Assembly

2025-26 PA Days:

- Tuesday, September 2, 2025
- Friday, October 10, 2025
- Friday, November 14, 2025
- Friday, January 30, 2026
- Friday, April 24, 2026
- Friday, May 29, 2026
- Friday, June 26, 2026

2025-26 School Holidays:

Thanksgiving: October 13, 2025
Winter Break: December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026
Family Day: February 16, 2026
Spring Break: March 16 - March 20, 2026
Good Friday: April 3, 2026
Easter Monday: April 6, 2026
Victoria Day: May 18, 2026