



Riverside Public School | January 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,

I hope the new year has started smoothly for you and your families. At Riverside PS, this first week back has brought a welcome sense of calm after the busy stretch leading into the winter break. It has been wonderful to see students return ready to reconnect with their peers and teachers, and engage with their learning.



The first month of the new year provides a natural opportunity for classes to begin new projects and develop new skills. Walking through the school this week, I observed students thinking critically, collaborating, and developing personal goals and resolutions for the new year. Our staff are supporting this work through thoughtful planning and meaningful learning experiences that help students reflect on how far they've come and where they want to go next.

As the winter weather continues to be inconsistent and at times unpredictable, we appreciate families ensuring students are prepared for outdoor play and learning. Fresh air is an important part of the day, and being dressed warmly helps everyone enjoy their time outside.

Thank you for your continued involvement in school life. Whether through attending events, communicating with teachers, or supporting learning at home, your partnership makes a meaningful difference in your child's school experience.

Wishing you all a positive start to 2026, and a month filled with continued growth and positive routines at home and at school.

Sincerely,

Peter Atack

Principal, Riverside Public School



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Parking Lot Access and Student Safety – Important January Update

Beginning Monday, January 12th, Riverside PS will be introducing a new safety measure to help protect students and families during our busiest times of day. **Community members will no longer be permitted to enter the school parking lot between 8:45–9:00 a.m. and 3:15–3:45 p.m.** These times align with our highest volume of student arrivals and dismissals, when visibility and pedestrian traffic are at their peak.

To support this change:

- Pylons will be placed at the entrance to clearly indicate the temporary closure.
- Additional staff will be present whenever possible to help guide students and families.
- Vehicles displaying an Accessible Parking Permit will continue to have access to the parking lot at all times.

We also want to remind families that the portions of Pinetree Drive and Oak Park Drive nearest the school are designated as no parking / no stopping zones. These restrictions help keep sightlines clear for students crossing the road and ensure traffic can flow safely.

The attached image outlines the approximate areas on surrounding streets where families may safely drop off their child. In addition, we strongly encourage families to consider using the Oakridge Arena parking lot off Valetta Street, where a crossing guard is stationed daily to assist students heading to and from the school.

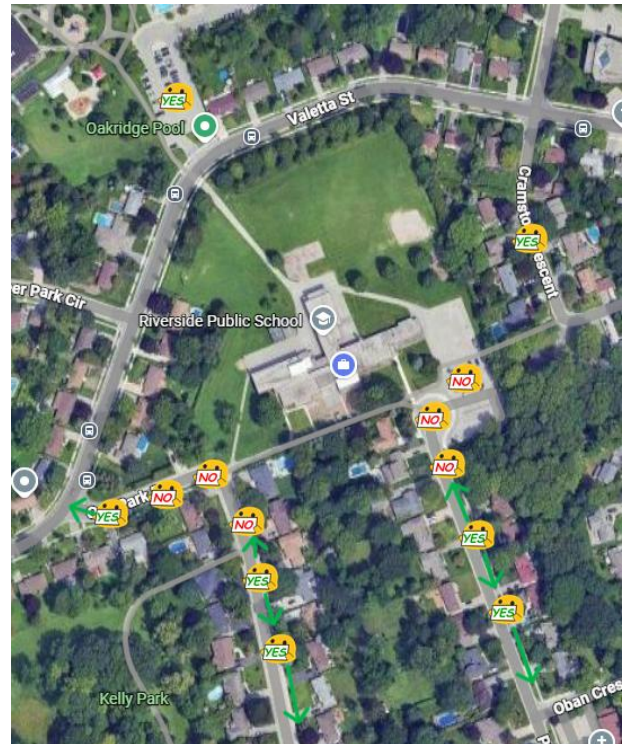
We understand that these changes may create some added inconvenience, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. By working together, we can help ensure a safer environment for all members of the Riverside community.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our students safe.

Highlights / Celebrations:

Holiday Concerts

December was filled with music, joy, and community as our school hosted four outstanding holiday concerts—two during the day and two in the evening. Each performance brought families together in remarkable numbers, with our gym packed full for every showing. The energy, enthusiasm, and support from our school community made these events truly special.





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A heartfelt thank you goes out to all staff who contributed their time, creativity, and care to make these concerts such a success. Your efforts shine through in moments like these. A special note of appreciation goes to Ms. Rees, whose coordination, leadership, and passion were instrumental in bringing these events to life.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a memorable celebration of the season!



Basketball Skills Showcase

In the final week of December, our school community came together for an energetic and memorable Basketball Skills Showcase, hosted by Mr. Campbell along with our girls and boys basketball teams. The event was a fantastic opportunity for our intermediate athletes to demonstrate their hard work, teamwork, and impressive skills on the court.



What made the showcase truly special was the involvement of students from across the school, who eagerly participated in a variety of fun basketball challenges. The excitement in the gym reached a whole new level with a friendly (and highly entertaining!) staff versus students game, which had the entire crowd cheering from start to finish.

A big thank you to Mr. Campbell and all student athletes for organizing such a spirited school-wide event. It was a wonderful celebration of athleticism, school pride, and community fun!



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School Improvement Goals in Action

The Riverside PS instructional priorities as related to the School Improvement and Equity Plan goals for the 2025-26 school year include explicit word study instruction guided by classroom assessment practices in Language, and math conversation (i.e. Math / Number Talks) in Math. This picture showcases grade 4 teacher, Mrs. Jovichevich, working with a small group of students during her Language block – engaged in a collaborative game that targets word-level reading skill development.



Upon return from the winter break, Ms. Tate asked her grade 5/6 students to share what has helped them to learn from September to December. Students posted their response on sticky notes on the door to the classroom and below is a sampling.

“I liked doing math talks because it helped me see how others think.”

“Math Talks were helpful.”

“One thing that is helpful is Math Talks”

“Math Talks are very helpful.”

“Math in the morning helps a lot.”

Research tells us that meaningful math discourse is an effective, high-impact teaching strategy in mathematics. It is encouraging to learn that students recognize the importance of this routine and even look forward to it at the start of each day.

Grade 8s Begin Preparing for High School

Our Grade 8 students have officially begun the exciting process of planning for their transition to Grade 9. In December, they met with the Head of Guidance from Oakridge Secondary School to learn about course selection and the steps ahead. Throughout January and early February, students will continue exploring pathways and thinking about the choices that best support their goals and interests.



Oakridge
Secondary School



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Families will also have an opportunity to review and approve selections before they are submitted. We appreciate the partnership of our Grade 8 families as we support students in this important next step.

Thank you to Mrs. Tamasi, our Vice Principal and Elementary Pathways Lead, for her guidance and support in helping our Grade 8s navigate this important next step.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Monday, January 12, 2026 - Home & School Association Meeting at 6:00pm
- Thursday, January 29, 2026 – School Spirit Day
- Friday, January 30, 2026 – PA Day
- Friday, January 30, 2026 – London Knights O Canada
- Friday, February 20, 2026 - Term 1 Report Cards Go Home

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