



Riverside Public School | October 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,

It is hard to believe that September has already come and gone, and that we are now welcoming October! The first month of the school year always seems to fly by, and it has been wonderful to see Riverside come alive once again with the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm of our students and staff.

Over the past few weeks, students and staff have been settling into routines, building new friendships, reconnecting with familiar faces, and creating positive classroom communities. There is a strong sense of belonging throughout the building, and it has been a pleasure to see students supporting one another and embracing new opportunities.

One of my favourite moments from September was watching students gather on the playground on the first day of school. The smiles, laughter, games, and conversations were a wonderful reminder of how important school is as a place for connection, friendship, and fun.



As I visit classrooms each day, I continue to be impressed by our students' curiosity, creativity, and eagerness to learn. Whether they are reading, writing, exploring new ideas, solving problems, or collaborating with classmates, students are already demonstrating the skills and positive attitudes that will help them succeed throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to a fantastic October at Riverside!

Sincerely,

Peter Atack

Principal, Riverside Public School



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School Spirit! Riverside Welcome Back Assembly

Our Riverside community came together at the end of the first week of school for our annual **Welcome Back Assembly**. Students had the opportunity to meet new staff members, review important school safety expectations, and learn about ways we can all help keep our playground and school grounds safe, including reminders about responsible bicycle and scooter use.

The assembly concluded with an inspiring video and song that encouraged students to believe in themselves, support one another, and take pride in being part of our school community. The positive message helped set the tone for an exciting year ahead as we work together, learn together, and celebrate what it means to be a Riverside Ram. **Go Rams!**



Celebrating our 2025-26 EQAO Results

We are proud to celebrate Riverside's 2025-26 EQAO results. Our students demonstrated **year-over-year growth in achievement across all three assessed areas (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) in both Grade 3 and Grade 6**. These results reflect the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong support of our families.

While we are pleased to see gains in achievement, there is another trend that is equally exciting. This year, more students reported that they **"like math"** in the student questionnaire portion of the assessment. In many ways, this is just as important as the achievement data itself. When students see themselves as capable mathematicians, enjoy engaging with mathematical thinking, and approach challenges with confidence, they are more likely to experience long-term success.

Research from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics highlights the importance of helping students experience confidence, curiosity, challenge, and joy in mathematics. As students develop positive attitudes toward math and see themselves as capable problem-solvers, they are more likely to engage deeply with learning and achieve success.



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As a school, we are proud not only of what our students know and can do, but also of the growing number who are discovering that mathematics can be engaging, meaningful, and even fun. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

We invite families to explore the Riverside EQAO results yourselves using the EQAO Interactive Dashboard - <https://www.eqao.com/interactive-dashboards/>.

Riverside Soccer Team

Congratulations to our Riverside Co-Ed Soccer Team for a fantastic season! Soccer is one of the shortest sports seasons of the school year, with only a handful of practices before a single tournament day. Despite the limited time together, our student-athletes demonstrated outstanding commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The team competed on the afternoon of September 23rd, representing Riverside with pride and determination. Their hard work paid off with an impressive fifth-place finish. Most importantly, our Rams supported one another, showed great effort, and displayed positive attitudes throughout the tournament.



Thank you to our players and coaches (Mrs. Mackinnon and Mr. Koop) for a great season. We are proud of the way you represented Riverside both on and off the field.

Music Notes from Ms. Rees

Hello Rams Music Families,

Ms. Rees needs your help! We are missing a number of Riverside Music T-shirts, and I would be so grateful if everyone could take a quick look at home to see if any have found their way into a closet, drawer, backpack, or one of those mysterious nooks and crannies where things like to hide! If you happen to find any Riverside sports jerseys as well, we would really appreciate having those returned too.

We are getting excited for our Riverside PS night at the London Knights game on **Friday, October 9, 2026!** If your Ram is attending, please meet us at **Gate 4 at 6:00 p.m. sharp.** Parking can be tricky around game time, so please plan ahead and allow yourself a little extra time.



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Please have your Ram wear their **Riverside Music T-shirt and black pants** so we can proudly represent Riverside together.

Thank you so much for taking the time to search for our missing shirts and jerseys, and especially for your continued support of the Riverside Music Program. Your support makes such a difference and helps us purchase new sheet music, repair instruments, and continue creating wonderful musical experiences for our students.

We are so grateful for our Music Rams families and cannot wait for this special evening together. Go Rams Go!

With gratitude,

Ms. Rees

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day

On September 30th, students and staff at Riverside Public School recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. Together, we took time to reflect, learn, and deepen our understanding of Indigenous peoples and cultures across Canada.

Across the school, students participated in age-appropriate learning activities focused on empathy, belonging, and the importance of ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, and respected. For example, in Ms. Yakubowski's Grade 4/5 class, students engaged in thoughtful discussions about what it means for all children to feel welcomed and cared for at school. In Ms. S. Fox's Grade 1/2 class, students learned about Phyllis Webstad and the story behind her orange shirt, helping them understand the message that *Every Child Matters*.

We are proud of the meaningful conversations that took place throughout the day and remain committed to fostering learning, respect, and understanding within our Riverside community. ❤️





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Riverside's Pollinator Pathways Project

You may have noticed a new wooden box on a black tarp in front of the school. This is the first step in our Pollinator Pathways Project. Over the next 8 months, students from Riverside will work with volunteers from P3 to build 3 garden boxes and plant many different species of plants that will attract and feed pollinators. We are very excited to watch how this project progresses and what pollinators we will have in our gardens.



Important Dates:

- Friday, October 2nd – Riverside Cross-Country Run PM
- Thursday, October 8th – TVDSB Regional Cross-Country Run
- Thursday, October 8th – Meet the Teacher / Family Event 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Thursday, October 8th – RHSA Spirit Wear Swap 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Friday, October 9th – Riverside Terry Fox Run AM
- Friday, October 9th – Riverside O Canada at the London Knights Game
- Wednesday, November 4th – Picture Day
- Wednesday, November 11th – Remembrance Day Assembly
- Monday, November 23rd – Grade 7 Vaccinations
- Thursday, November 26th – Picture Re-Take Day

2026-27 PA Days:

- Tuesday, September 2, 2026
- Wednesday, September 3, 2026
- Monday, October 26, 2026
- Friday, January 15, 2027
- Friday, April 16, 2027
- Friday, June 4, 2027
- Wednesday, June 30, 2027



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2026-27 School Holidays:

Thanksgiving: October 12, 2026

Winter Break: December 21, 2026 - January 1, 2027

Family Day: February 15, 2027

March Break: March 15 - 19, 2027

Good Friday: March 26, 2027

Easter Monday: March 29, 2027

Victoria Day: May 24, 2027