



A day in the life of an RPPS Kinder student

Play - each Kindergarten day includes at least two substantial blocks of uninterrupted play, as per the Kindergarten Program. As Educators, we set up inquiries that touch upon student interests or subjects we want to explore; we listen, observe and interact to provide social modelling, specific vocabulary and to scaffold ideas and thinking. We provide materials and space to encourage positive social interactions, creativity, discovery and perseverance.

Open Snack - during a block of play, our snack table is open. Students learn that they may take a break, have a seat and enjoy a healthy snack from their lunch. The snack table can be a quiet place to ponder their own thoughts or a safe space to chat with one or two new friends.

Recess - students play outside in the Kindergarten yard with students from all of the kindergarten classes. We play outside unless it is pouring rain or below -25°C with wind chill. **It is important children come to school dressed for the weather** so that recess is fun and exciting, rather than cold and wet.

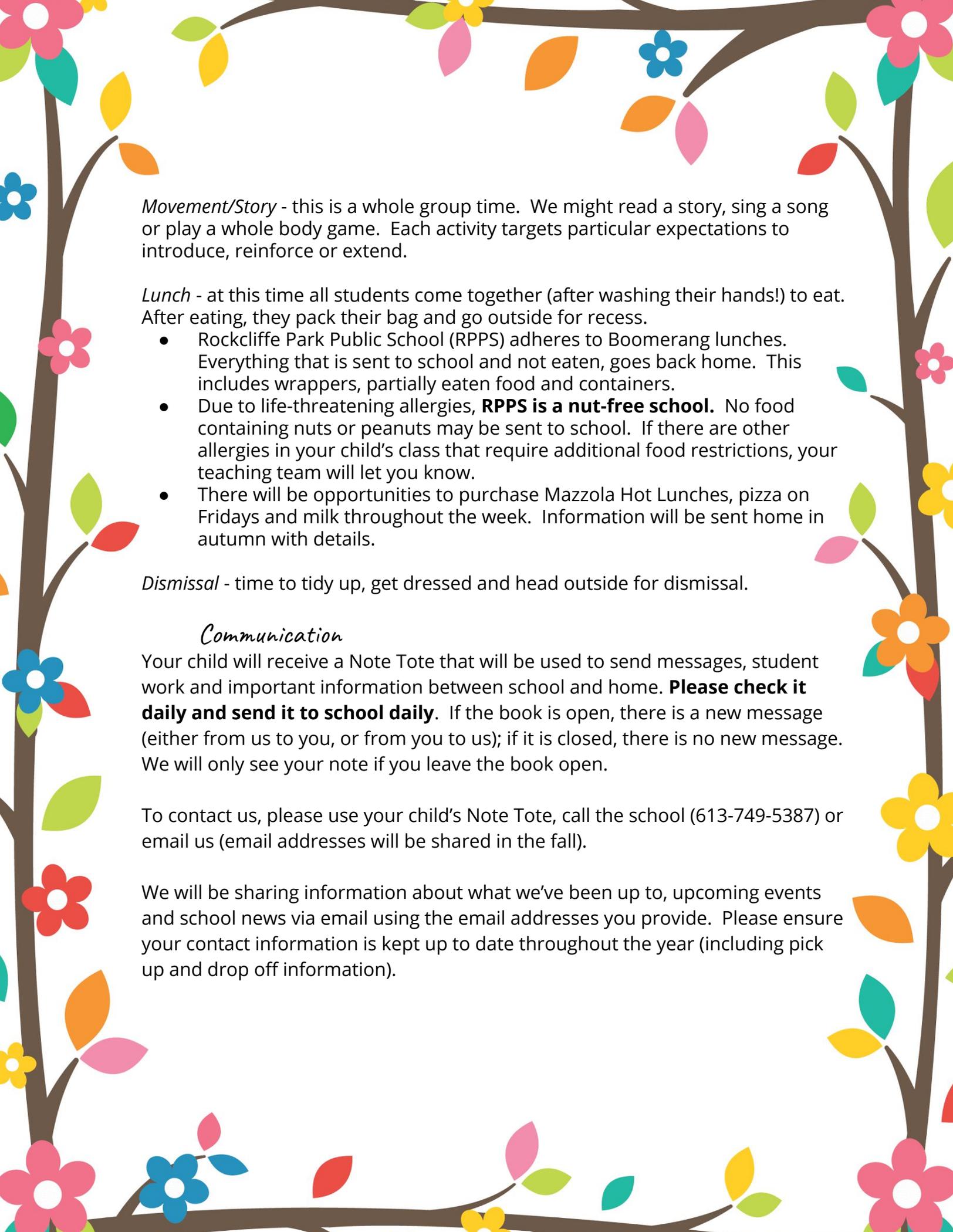
Outdoor Play - during the year we insert outdoor play throughout our week. This may involve the class playing in the Kindergarten yard, spending time under the cedar hedges in the big yard, running the track or visiting the large play structure.

Small Groups - a time for specific, educator-led learning. Materials are set out, or an activity is planned, to address a specific learning goal. It might be building puzzles to build spatial awareness, making snap cube letters to identify uppercase and lowercase letters, yoga to encourage self regulation, instruments to develop an awareness of rhythm or building materials to kickstart a STEM challenge.

Physical Education - students spend time in one of two school gyms, playing and moving to promote balance, cooperation, listening and coordination.

Library - once each week students can take out a book from the school library. It can be kept at home for a week and when it is returned, a new book can be selected.

Learning Buddies - we partner up with a Junior class, with each Kindergarten student having a Junior buddy. Together they read, write, create and explore depending on that day's focus.



Movement/Story - this is a whole group time. We might read a story, sing a song or play a whole body game. Each activity targets particular expectations to introduce, reinforce or extend.

Lunch - at this time all students come together (after washing their hands!) to eat. After eating, they pack their bag and go outside for recess.

- Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) adheres to Boomerang lunches. Everything that is sent to school and not eaten, goes back home. This includes wrappers, partially eaten food and containers.
- Due to life-threatening allergies, **RPPS is a nut-free school**. No food containing nuts or peanuts may be sent to school. If there are other allergies in your child's class that require additional food restrictions, your teaching team will let you know.
- There will be opportunities to purchase Mazzola Hot Lunches, pizza on Fridays and milk throughout the week. Information will be sent home in autumn with details.

Dismissal - time to tidy up, get dressed and head outside for dismissal.

Communication

Your child will receive a Note Tote that will be used to send messages, student work and important information between school and home. **Please check it daily and send it to school daily.** If the book is open, there is a new message (either from us to you, or from you to us); if it is closed, there is no new message. We will only see your note if you leave the book open.

To contact us, please use your child's Note Tote, call the school (613-749-5387) or email us (email addresses will be shared in the fall).

We will be sharing information about what we've been up to, upcoming events and school news via email using the email addresses you provide. Please ensure your contact information is kept up to date throughout the year (including pick up and drop off information).

What to Bring to School

Extra Clothing – in a large Ziplock bag to be kept at school. Please label all clothing. Include a change of underwear, socks, pants and a top. You may wish to change the sets of clothing according to the season. When accidents occur, we will send home all soiled clothing and kindly ask that you return a fresh set the following day. Extra socks and underwear often come in handy!

Backpack – with a zipper that your child can open and close independently. Please make sure your child's school bag is large enough to hold a lunch bag, library book, Note Tote and large artwork. Please refrain from choosing rolling or luggage-style bags as they can be difficult to hang in the cubbies.

Lunch Bag - that your child can independently open and close, and that fits the food your child will be eating throughout the school day.

Water Bottle – that your child can refill throughout the day. We do not have access to a water fountain in the kindergarten classrooms.

Indoor Shoes – these remain at school and will not be worn outside. These shoes should have velcro (no laces please) so your child can quickly and independently change them.

Sunscreen - If you'd like your child to apply sunscreen during the day, **please send in a labelled sunscreen lotion rather than a spray**. The spray ends up creating a slippery floor or (worse!) ends up in friends' eyes. Lotion only, please. We can help them squeeze out an appropriate amount, but children must rub it in on their own.

Toys - We kindly ask that you **do not** allow your child to bring toys or other personal items from home to school.

Allergies

If your child has a life threatening allergy, there is a form that must be completed and signed by your child's physician. The form (OCDSB 616 - Severe Life-Threat Allergy Proto Reg FULL VSN) can be found on www.rockcliffeparkps.ocdsb.ca under 'Parent Resources' and then 'Forms'. You can also obtain this form from the school office.

Absences

Our school's safe arrival procedure identifies students who are absent. If your child will be absent or late, please write us a message in the Note Tote in advance, telephone the school's attendance line at 613-749-3992 or email absenceRPPS@ocdsb.ca. Students who arrive later than 8:30a.m. must be signed in at the office and will then be picked up by an educator or classmates and brought to their classroom. If you are picking up your child early you must sign them out at the office. Your child's classroom will then be notified of your arrival and your child will be brought to the office.

Birthdays & Celebrations

As a Kindergarten Team we ask that food is not brought in to celebrate a birthday or holiday. Small non-edible treats (such as pencils or stickers) can be shared with classmates. If you have birthday party invitations please leave them in your child's Note Tote for us to share with the intended recipients through their own Note Totes.

Extended Day Program (EDP)

The school board offers an optional Extended Day program. Once they are registered, students can arrive as early as 7:00 a.m. and can stay as late as 6:00 p.m. Programming is planned and delivered by registered Early Childhood Educators. Snack is included in the afternoon program. Students must bring with them a pair of shoes to be used only for EDP. For more information please email earlylearning@ocdsb.ca.

Volunteering

Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. Whether it is making play dough at home with your child to send into our class, coming with us on a field trip, joining us in class to play or to share a skill or interest, the whole class will benefit from your participation in the classroom.

All visitors/parents are asked to sign in at the office and to obtain a visitor's badge. For safety reasons, we ask that all parents/guardians enter through the main doors at the front of the school.



Arrival

Your child can be dropped off in the Kindergarten yard (the fenced yard adjacent to Springfield) between 8:15 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. by a parent or guardian. Please ensure supervision has begun and that an educator is in the yard before dropping your child off. Inside the fence, the yard is for educators and students only. Students in the yard are under the supervision of duty educators.

Please arrive by 8:25a.m. so your child is not in a rush to enter the school at the 8:30a.m. bell. If you arrive after the 8:30a.m. bell, class doors will be locked and you will need to enter using the main entrance and sign your child in at the office. An educator or classmates will pick up your child and walk them to the classroom.

If it is inclement weather at the time of your arrival, students will enter the school through the main school door within the Kindergarten yard. There will be two educators on duty to welcome your child and situate them in their class line. No adults will be admitted through this door.

If you, as a parent or guardian, need to come into the school in the morning, you must enter through the school's main entrance and sign in at the office.

If your child arrives by school bus, they will be met at the bus by an educator who will then walk them to the Kindergarten yard.

Dismissal

Kindergarten dismissal begins at 2:50p.m. Students going home on the bus line up and are walked by an educator from the Kindergarten yard to their bus.

Students who are picked up by a parent or guardian wait in the Kindergarten yard. The gate is opened by an educator. When a parent or guardian arrives, students are invited to leave.

Students who attend EDP gather in a Kindergarten classroom with their EDP instructors. Students who attend Rockcliffe Park Daycare are collected by daycare staff and walked inside the building to the daycare.

If you need to pick up your child before this time, enter the school through the main entrance, let the office know why you are there and sign your child out. Your child will be brought to the office.

Please let your child's teaching team know if there are any changes to pickup.