

RODEN PUBLIC SCHOOL (RPS) NEWSLETTER

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Mr. C. O'Shaughnessy, Vice Principal
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Both RPS and EHAS share a building
and are both "allergy aware" and
Gold Level EcoSchools.

Nov. 14, 2013 - Vol. 6

SCHOOL NEWS – November's Character Education trait is Empathy.

Roden Email List

In an attempt to reduce paper and distribute school information electronically, we would like to continue compiling the Roden Email List. If you would like to receive school information via email, please email the following information to Mr. O'Shaughnessy (christopher.o'shaughnessy@tdsb.on.ca):

Parent's names (first and last) - Student's name(s) (first and last) and grade level - Email Address

Important School Information

One of the best ways to stay up to date with the most current school information is to check us out and/or follow us on Twitter. You can check at https://twitter.com/Equinox_Roden or sign-up for an account and follow us @Equinox_Roden. We share the latest school news and helpful information about learning & the community for parents AND children. Check us out and never miss a thing!

Call Out for ReadUp Volunteers

The very popular ReadUp Club for students in JK to Gr. 3 is looking for volunteers to read with children on Tuesdays 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in our library. No teaching experience is necessary and volunteers are given a quick training session on how to read with children. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please email or speak to Mr. O'Shaughnessy (christopher.o'shaughnessy@tdsb.on.ca) or simply show up in the library on Tuesdays.

Breakfast Club "Thank You's"

A big thank you goes out to Julie for the Ziplock Bags, Guillermo and Grandpa Larry for the two bushels of apples and the six dozen farm fresh eggs, Arlene Irwin for the two jumbo boxes of cereal, Dianne and Starbucks for the gourmet oatmeal raisin cookies, Jayden's mom for the microwave oven for Heather's Snack Room, Piero Guadagnolo from Dave and Charlotte's No Frills for their very generous donation of a \$50 gift card and Chef Elenora for her donation of 8 boxes of freezer bags and 3 boxes of compost bags.

Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes

If you are, or you know of a parent or adult family member in our school community who is interested in attending a free adult ESL class here at Roden PS, please contact the main office to leave your name, number/email address and times available – state either morning or afternoon or both. We will then contact you if we receive enough interest (between 10 and 25 adults). Times available are one hour any weekday between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. OR 12:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. This is another initiative on behalf of our Model Schools program.

The Report Card Process – Part One - The Teacher's Role

Teachers begin the process for writing report cards at the beginning of each term by choosing what subjects, learning skills and overall and specific expectations will be covered. Once numerous assessments have been completed for the various expectations, teachers begin the evaluation that translates into grades or marks in each subject and learning skill. In classes with detailed and frequent communication, these grades are rarely a surprise to students and/or parents.

Comments are then added that describe the expectation and level of achievement attained. For students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs), the marks/grades and comments may be modified based on the goals that are updated each term. These comments come from a mix of sources including curriculum documents, comment banks, colleagues and the teacher. Since students in the same class cover the same expectations, comments are often similar however good reports are written in a way that makes each one read as personal and unique.

Teachers will also look for trends in their reporting that could indicate strengths, areas of concern or other information that can inform their teaching and programming. The teacher and a colleague then edit each report to ensure they are complete and accurate before submitting to the principal for review. Look in the next newsletter for part two of this series - The Principal's Role.

Model Schools – Inner City (MSIC) Update

In addition to the above two initiatives around parent/community engagement with ESL and swim classes, we have also created a Model Schools bulletin board in our front foyer, purchased through MSIC funds several new computers as we work towards our goal of two computers in every classroom and very recently held a Vision Clinic for students and Parenting Centre families that may not have access to vision care. Two of our parents, Uzma Tabassum and Jennifer Stephen have volunteered to be our Parent Academy Representatives that attend the monthly meetings and share MSIC information with the principal and school council. School Council is also planning parent workshops this year based on feedback from the MSIC Parent Survey conducted this past spring. Look out for more information about upcoming workshops.

School Fees and Financial Support

We DO NOT charge our families any fees for **required** materials or programs in our school. These costs are covered through the school budget or through the generous financial support of our school council and/or community partners. Non-required materials and excursions are the only exception where we ask parents/guardians to provide some of the costs. As always, if any of our families are experiencing financial challenges that may not allow their child(ren) to fully participate in school activities, please contact a school staff member with whom you feel most comfortable and financial assistance will be provided. We want to ensure that students have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their school experience.

After-School Safety

After a number of after-school incidents of children being physically aggressive with each other and siblings, damaging school property and playing dangerously while parents and caregivers are nearby and not watching or allowing it to occur, we are kindly asking all our families to be extra vigilant and to abide by our Code of Conduct while on school property. Even though it may be after school hours, all people using our grounds must play safe and be properly supervised and we need the parents and caregivers of our students to help. Please closely supervise your children and don't allow them to play or act in a way that wouldn't be allowed during school hours.

Weather Guidelines

On all cold and/or wet days, we kindly ask parents to make sure their children are properly dressed for the weather and not to attend school before 8:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (if they go home for lunch). Please check the forecast BEFORE sending children to school to ensure they are properly dressed for the day's weather. During the cold winter months, it may be necessary for students to remain inside or have a reduced recess time, particularly when the wind chill falls below -20 degrees Celsius (according to Environment Canada). Decisions such as these are made after consulting TDSB policy, neighbouring schools as well as local conditions. Information about students who require special consideration due to medical conditions should be shared with school staff along **with** a note from the child's physician.

Adult Female-Only Swim Classes

If you are, or you know of adult female parents in our school community who are interested in a daytime female-only adult swim class at either Monarch Park CI or Queen Alexandra MS, please contact or have them contact the school office and leave their name, contact information and preferred location and time (mornings or afternoons). This is another initiative on behalf of our Model Schools program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 14	Reporting to Parents Evening, 4 to 8 p.m.
Nov. 15	Reporting to Parents Morning, 9 to 11:45 a.m. – No School for Students
Nov. 20	Photo Retake Day
Nov. 29	Pizza Lunch
Dec. 08	Equinox Winter Festival
Dec. 11	School Council Meetings, Roden @6pm and Equinox @7:20pm – Childcare Provided
Dec. 12	Roden Winter Concert