

RODEN PUBLIC SCHOOL (RPS) NEWSLETTER

Mr. M. Lasso, Principal
Mr. C. O'Shaughnessy, Vice Principal
Ms. C. Morley, Office Administrator
Ms. K. Carreiro, Clerical
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Both RPS and EHAS share a building
and are both "allergy aware" and
Gold Level EcoSchools.

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SCHOOL NEWS – December's Character Education trait is "Kindness and Caring".

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.

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 Two – The Principal's Role

In the last newsletter, we reviewed the teacher's role in the report-writing process but once it is passed to the office, the principal and vice principal's roles begin. The principal has a unique perspective of the entire grade, division and school while reviewing report cards. Trends, similarities and differences are sometimes noted that can indicate areas of strengths and/or needs for individual students, in classes, grades or divisions.

Once the reports come to the office, and they have been properly edited, they can be reviewed rather quickly. In the review, the principal will look for links between the grades and comments and continuity throughout each report. Missing grades and comments and any other errors may also be noted. Comments are also reviewed to ensure that they include strengths, areas of need and next

steps and make sense and are understandable to parents. Sometimes reports are returned to teachers and reviewed numerous times before being cleared for the final printing and signing.

Report cards are in essence, an extension of the teacher – their words on paper. Since these are the only formal reports given to parents each year and become part of each student's permanent record, it is our goal to have them paint a clear and accurate picture of each student.

Look in the next newsletter for part three in this series – The Parents' Role.

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.

Street Safety

Families that operate a vehicle to drop-off and pick-up children on our surrounding streets are kindly requested to be extra courteous of our neighbours and extremely vigilant of pedestrians and the school busses that pick-up and drop-off students. We have had a few close calls of late due to those in a rush, being on a cell phone and/or just carelessness. Think safety first!

Restorative Practices

When a student makes a poor choice about his or her actions the process we follow here at school often involves the use of Restorative Practices. These practices, used along with our progressive discipline interventions, are focused on restoring the relationships that were damaged as a result of the actions of those involved. Instead of punitive consequences not related to the situation, we use more "natural consequences" that occur as a result of the situation and assist the student(s) in learning what went wrong. Some of the practices we use are:

- Classroom "circles" to highlight a particular concern and discuss solutions.
- One to one, small group or large group discussions.
- Incident forms called "Think Sheets" that help students think about what happened and how it affected themselves and others – for younger students they may use "Think Pictures" to aid in the discussion of a particular situation.
- Debriefing sessions led by staff to review the "Think Sheets", the incident, what worked, what didn't work and how better choices can be made in the future – including an opportunity for all those involved to share their feelings with each other.
- Follow-up meetings with students involved in more serious situations to ensure good choices are continuing to be made.

Generous Contribution

The Equinox School community wishes to thank Mr. Simon Milberry for his most generous contribution of \$5 000 to Equinox School & Council. Mr. Milberry generously donates a portion of his commission from any sale referred through an Equinox family. We are very fortunate to have such generous community members to help us provide the best possible program for our students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 08 Equinox Winter Festival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 11 School Council Meetings, Roden @6pm and Equinox @7:20pm – Childcare Provided
- Dec. 12 Roden Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Equinox Winter Concert, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Teachers' Required Unpaid Day – No School for Students
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3 Winter Break