

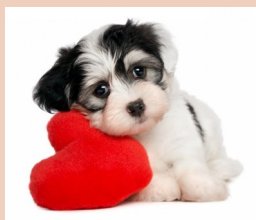


**Principal**  
Nancy Dodds

**Superintendent**  
Daniel Wu

**Trustee**  
Allan Tam

**Office Administrators**  
Carolyn Lee  
Vicki Hooper



## *Character Matters!*

Respect	Honesty
Empathy	Fairness
Initiative	Courage
Integrity	
Optimism	
Perseverance	
Responsibility	



# Little Rouge P.S.

571 Country Glen Road  
Markham, Ontario  
L6B 1E8

**905-202-5960** fax 905-202-5964  
[www.littlerouge.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://www.littlerouge.ps.yrdsb.ca)

ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY, 2015

## From the Principal's Desk

Thank you! I would like to extend a general thank you to all the members of our school community who contribute to making Little Rouge a wonderful and exciting place in which to learn and work. Students, staff and parents have been very supportive of our initiatives and policies and that support has made it possible to create a learning environment that is safe, welcoming and learner-centred.



Thank you to:

- The parents and students who have been so cooperative in making sure the students arrive at school on time.
- The parents who encourage their children to walk to school. Not only does it provide valuable exercise, but it reduces the traffic congestion in the school driveway.
- Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Hooper for being so welcoming to the community. They do a marvelous job of juggling their many responsibilities between phone calls and visitors and responding to the needs of teachers and students.
- The caretaking staff for working hard to keep our school clean, safe and free of any health hazards.
- Our students who have been playing safely in the playground (when they have been able to go outside) and who have made safety a priority in their interactions with each other.
- The students for working hard in class and doing your best
- The staff for all the hours you put into preparing for and teaching our students.

### Planning For the 2015-2016 School Year

We have already begun to plan for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. We are in the process of projecting the number of students who will be attending Little Rouge next year and considering possible organizations for the school. In order to help us be as accurate as possible, we would appreciate if you would advise us if you know that your children will not be attending here next year.

### Family Day – Monday, February 16th

Family Day is observed in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan on the third Monday of February. This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities.

**Little Rouge Public School will be closed on Family Day.**

#### **Things to do on Family Day:**

Family Day is a time to plan and take part in activities aimed at the whole family. These include: visiting the museum, watching movies, skating on outdoor ice rinks, taking a winter hike, playing board games or taking part in shared craft activities.



## School Council News



We hope everyone is keeping warm!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Samko and Miko fundraiser. Every dollar counts!

The Subway lunches have also allowed us to supply more money to enhance the education of our children. Keep watching for updates on where these funds will be going in the school.

Our next School Council Meeting is on Monday, February 9th from 7:00-8:00 pm in the staffroom. Hope to see you there!

## Medical Information:

**It's very important that the school be informed if your child has a medical condition.**

**If your child currently has a medical condition that you have not informed us about, please contact the office immediately. There are required forms that must be completed so that in the event of an emergency, all school staff will be prepared to take the necessary action.**

## Report Cards



Report cards will be sent home on February 19th. Regular communication between the home and school is necessary to improve student achievement and Report Cards provide us with the opportunity to communicate information about your children's learning. When reviewing your child's report card, pay close attention to the front page which reports on **Learning Skills and Work Habits**. Learning Skills and Work Habits are extremely important for success in and out of school. Although they are assessed on an ongoing basis and reported on at each reporting period, they are not used in determining the grades for the various subject areas. We do, however, know that there is a strong correlation between how well developed a student's learning skills are and how well he/she does in class. Thus, our teachers explicitly teach the learning skills to their students. The six skills/habits are briefly summarized below.

- **Responsibility** is shown when students fulfill commitments, complete and submit assignments and manage their own behaviour.
- **Organization** involves devising and following a coherent plan for completing work, prioritizing tasks, managing time, and effectively choosing and using resources.
- **Independent Work** involves completing a task with minimal teacher direction and/or peer support, following instructions, and revising work as necessary.
- **Collaboration** involves skills such as active listening, helping others to build and consolidate learning, giving and receiving quality feedback, and managing disagreements.
- **Initiative** is acting on new ideas and opportunities for learning with a sense of curiosity and the willingness to take risks.
- **Self-Regulation** involves students monitoring their behaviour and learning, such as attention skills, working memory, and thinking strategies.

As always, we encourage you to discuss concerns and questions related to your children's academic progress, the development of their learning skills, and their social/emotional well-being with the teacher at any time.

**Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home on Thursday, February 19th.**

## More On Report Cards - A Parent Guide to Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting of Elementary Students

### **ELEMENTARY REPORT CARDS**

The Elementary Provincial Report Card in February and June will contain letter grades/percentage marks. For students in Grades 1 to 6, student achievement will be reported as a letter grade (A, B, C, etc.) with a plus or minus sign as required and comments will indicate what the students have learned, strengths and next steps. For all students in Grades 7 and 8, student achievement will be reported as a percentage mark, along with descriptive comments about what the students have learned, their strengths and next steps. All students from Gr 1-8 will have comments related to how they are doing with regards to the development of their Learning Skills. This information will be on the front page of the report card.

### **HOW IS MY CHILD GRADED?**

Your child is assessed on demonstrated achievement in relation to Ontario Curriculum Expectations. The expectations for each grade can be found on the Ministry's website. Teachers use assessment and evaluation strategies that address both what students learn and how well they learn.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

When a student's achievement is based on expectations modified (i.e. changed) from the grade level curriculum expectations to support English language learning needs, teachers will indicate this by checking the "ESL/ELD" boxes on the provincial report cards for the appropriate subject(s)/strand(s).

### **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Reporting depends on the contents of each student's Individual Education Plan (e.g. alternative, modified or accommodations only). If the program is modified i.e. expectations have been changed, the IEP box will be checked. Additional information detailing the reporting requirements is available from the school.

### **ACHIEVEMENT CHART:**

The curriculum expectations are assessed using the categories identified on the Achievement Chart: Knowledge and Understanding, Communication, Organization, Application. Student work is evaluated using the following Levels of Achievement:

<b>Level 4</b>	<b>80% - 100%</b>	<b>A</b>	Student work exceeds the provincial standards, while still at grade level. Student has demonstrated a thorough and complete understanding of the required knowledge and skills.
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>70% - 79%</b>	<b>B</b>	Student work has met the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of most of the required knowledge and skills.
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>60% - 69%</b>	<b>C</b>	Student work is approaching the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of some of the required knowledge and skills.
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>50% - 59%</b>	<b>D</b>	Student work falls below the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of few of the required skills and knowledge.
<b>R</b>	<b>Below 50%</b>	<b>R</b>	Student has not demonstrated an understanding of the required skills and knowledge. Student will require remediation to improve.

## Character Rocket Rally

**January's character trait was Initiative.** "We act without being prompted by others. We are eager to do what needs to be done without having to be told to do it. We take the first step towards the achievement of a goal."

### Congratulations to our Initiative winners!

Ms. Robinson	JK/SK:	Eshaal, Alexander
Mrs. Smith	JK/SK:	Kyle, Jan-Nathan
Mrs. Wilder	JK/SK:	Marissa, Ava P.
Ms. West	JK/SK:	Ali, Abesha
Mrs. Whitten	SK/1:	Rojikha, Noah
Miss Neprily	1:	Ryan, Joelle
Ms. Murley	1:	Ria, Rowen
Mr. Gafar	2:	Shajiev, Isabelle
Mr. Shubert	2:	Tiffany, Brady
Miss Tse	2/3:	Henry, Nayana
Mrs. Cohen	3:	Frank, Deep
Ms. Ramkissoon	4:	Bilal, Ashiga
Ms. Buczkowski	4/5:	Roshana, Bryan
Ms. McHardy	5:	Melissa, Brendan
Mrs. Pickthall	5/6:	Bryan, Matthew
Mr. Brown	6/7:	Jason, Kas
Mr. Yusuf	7:	Shayaan, Kavi
Ms. Zappitelli	8:	Arnold, Peter
Mrs. Valkanis	CC:	Wikum



### In February, our focus is on Fairness.

We are sensitive to the needs of each individual. We treat each other as we wish to be treated ourselves. We interact with others without stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination. We stand up for human rights.

## *Empty Milk Bags*

*Room 132 is still collecting empty milk bags. These bags will be transformed into mats for the people in Haiti. Thank you to everyone who has been bringing bags in! Please keep those milk bags coming in! Drop them in the box in front of the office.*



## ECO FACTS!

Here are a couple of facts. Did you know.....

1. Laundry soaps are made to clean clothes in cold water, making it easier for you to reduce your hot water use, save money and reduce pollution.
2. Turning down your thermostat by 2 degrees can save you up to 6% on heating costs. Consider getting a programmable thermostat. It does the work for you by adjusting your furnace or air conditioner when you aren't at home.

## ECO NEWS!

The Eco-team has been working hard brainstorming and implementing initiatives at Little Rouge to learn and educate others about the environment, and to reduce our ecological footprint. Every week students from the Eco-team check all classrooms to ensure lights are out and computer monitors are off when classrooms are not being used. They are also checking that garbage, recycling, and green bin items are being sorted properly. Each class should be sure to sort garbage, recycling and compost properly as the Eco-team will begin delivering 'The Cleanest Classroom Award' each week to the class whose waste is kept to a minimum and who has sorted everything properly. At the end of the year we will draw a winning class from all the weekly winners who will get popcorn and a movie! Keep up the good work all year to increase your class's chance of winning!

We wanted to get some inside perspectives on where our environmental strengths and weaknesses are, and what action we can take to improve. To get some answers, we headed to one of our valued custodians. Here is a little of what he had to share.

**Q:** As a school, how much garbage do we accumulate each week?

**A:** At least five large bags each week.

**Q:** How are Little Rouge students at sorting their garbage, recycling, and compost?

**A:** They're pretty good, but could do better.

**Q:** Which division do you think has been doing the best job at sorting?

**A:** Junior

The custodians do a lot for our school, and also have a lot of insight into our environmental impact, so we are happy to have helpful custodians to work with us throughout the year. We also wanted to speak to another very important person, our Principal Ms. Dodds. She also took the time to meet with us so we could ask her about her ideas on how well we're helping our environment and where we can go from here. Here's a look into what she had to say.

**Q:** On a scale from 1-10, what eco-friendly rating would you give Little Rouge?

**A:** 7.5-8

**Q:** January is 'good on one side' or (GOOS) paper awareness month. Is there a good paper box in the office?

**A:** Yes, there are two.

**Q:** What are some of Little Rouge's strengths with environmental responsibility?

**A:** I think it's great that we have different bins for garbage, recycling, and compost, and actively monitor their use. I also like that we have 'good on one side' (GOOS) paper baskets all around the school to save on our paper use.

**Q:** What are some areas you think Little Rouge could improve on when it comes to the environment?

**A:** I think a good step would be to increase awareness about different environmental issues around the school. Sometimes when we aren't reminded by visuals, it can be hard to remember to be environmentally conscientious all the time. Having things like posters around the school to remind students to turn out the lights can be very helpful, hopefully that's something the Eco-team can do.

**Q:** Why do you think it's important that Little Rouge maintains its status as a certified eco-school?

**A:** A lot of times kids are even better than their parents at being environmentally conscientious. So gaining awareness and making good habits at school will hopefully carry over from students encouraging those practices at home.

### I Pledge Myself to LOL!

LOL with us Little Rouge! Each Friday all classrooms will eat with the lights out in an effort to reduce energy use at the school. It is a simple yet effective action, and could be kind of fun!



This message was brought to you by a few of the Eco-team members: Sameera, Ashani, Mikaela, Melissa, Aislinn, Aasiya, and Aasiyah.



## Be the Change



In January, the Be the Change team collected used shoes to donate to Soles 4 Souls, who will give them to people in need around the world. So far, they have collected 353 pairs of shoes! Thank you to everyone who donated these shoes! Now, Be the Change has set a new goal of 425 pairs of shoes, and **have extended the due date to Friday, February 6th.**

So, if you haven't already, please donate your gently used and unwanted shoes (any size, any type) before the deadline, to help Be the Change reach their new goal!

The Be the Change Team

## From the Volleyball Court....



The Junior Mixed Volleyball team finished their season on Wednesday, January 21st at the Area Tournament held at Little Rouge Public School. The team played very well in the tournament winning one and coming very close to winning 3 other games. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to drive to each game or made arrangements for their child to get to and from the game. We appreciate your dedication.

Congratulations on a great season!!!

Your Coaches,

Mrs. Smith and  
Mrs. Whitten



## Cold and Flu Prevention



Please have a discussion with your child about how to best prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. Stu-

dents need to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly if they are coughing and sneezing in their hands. They should cough or sneeze into a tissue if they have one. If not, they should cough or sneeze into their sleeve. Remind your child(ren) not

to share food or water bottles. Also, they should avoid sharing musical instruments unless they have sterilized the mouthpiece. If your child is not well, please keep her or him at home so as to help prevent the spread of flu and viruses.

## Kindergarten Registration for September 2015

### Kindergarten Registration Commenced on January 16, 2015

Kindergarten registration commenced on January 16, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2015, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. **A kindergarten information session for JK's and their parents will be held on Thursday, May 21st in the evening.** For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.



## Attendance —Safe Arrival

Ensuring the safety of your child(ren) is our priority.

**PLEASE REPORT ABSENCES DAILY.**

Attendance is taken both in the morning and the afternoon each day. If you know your child(ren) will be absent, please call the office as soon as possible. You can leave a message after hours at: **905-202-5960. Be sure to include their name, their teacher's name and reason for absence.**



In the case where we do not hear from a parent and we have been unable to reach a parent to verify an absence, it is the policy of York Region District School Board to contact the Police and report the child(ren) as missing.

## “ Tweet Sweet ” Presentation

Little Rouge P.S. is excited to welcome April Reimer to our school who will be sharing information with us about her "Tweet Sweet" Campaign. April is the wife of Toronto Maple Leafs goalie, James Reimer, and she will be sharing her experiences with cyber bullying and the negative aspects of social media. Tweet Sweet is a campaign April started to inspire and challenge the younger generation to spread positive messages through online social networks. We look forward to April 's visit to Little Rouge on February 13th!

### **KISS-AND-GO**



**The traffic flow through the school's parking lot is quite substantial before and after school and we need to be very concerned about safety of the children entering and exiting cars and those walking to or from the building.**

**Parents driving cars are asked to drop off/ pick students up in the kiss-and-go area only of the parking lot and to proceed with extreme caution through this area. Please have students exit the car on the side with the curb – not into the parking lot. When entering or exiting the kiss-and-go area please be careful to watch for students or staff who are walking by or supervising this area. We do not want anyone to be injured. Please do not enter the bus loop to drop off/pick up students. It is strictly to be used by school buses only.**

**Please DO NOT PARK in the bus loop and the kiss-and-go loop as these are designated fire routes. If you need to get out of your car, you must park your car in a parking spot. There are additional parking spots located on the road in front of the school as well.**

**The City of Markham parking enforcement could be making visits to the school area and we do not want any of our families being ticketed for parking illegally in the kiss-and-go and bus loops. As mentioned earlier, these are designated fire routes and the fine for stopping or parking in these loops is \$200. In addition, no one should be parking in the handicapped parking spots in the parking lot unless they have a permit. The fine for parking in a handicapped spot without a permit is \$350.**

***Your cooperation in these matters will ensure the safe arrival and departure of all our students, staff and parents.***

***Thank you!***

### **SCHOOL SUCCESS – What You Can Do To Help**

You are your child's first and most important teacher!

- **Tell your child that education comes first.** A parent's example, positive attitude and expectations can make all the difference.
- **Literacy for Learning.** Read to and with your child in your first language. If your first language is not English, it's okay to read in that language. Start in the pre-kindergarten years and never stop.
- **Find out your school's focus.** Literacy and math are 2 of our foci (as well as the York Region Board's).
- **Pay attention to character at home and at school.** Virtues such as hard work, responsibility and respect are essential to academic success.
- **Find out the school's expectations for behaviour.** This information is in our school calendar as well as in the start-up package that was sent home at the beginning of September.
- **Keep in close touch with teachers.** Meet with them, phone or write them. Work as a partnership.
- **Pay attention to homework.** Make sure your child does it and takes it seriously.
- **Look after your child's health.** See that he/she gets a good night's sleep and eats a nutritious breakfast.
- **Control the television.** Monitor what is being watched and how much. Discuss and reflect on what is being watched.
- **Monitor your child's agenda.** On a daily basis, review it with your child, sign it when homework is done and communicate with the teacher when necessary.

We at Little Rouge care about your child. We invite, and encourage you, to take an active role in your child's education.

\*\* Some information taken from the Educated Child: A Parent's Guide by William J. Bennett, Chester Finn Jr. and John Cribb Jr.: Touchstone, 1999

## **SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATION NOTICE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions are made by the Board and will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region.

**Please note: If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents in the morning will need to be picked up by parents at the end of the school day.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

**RADIO** AM Stations - 590, 640, 680, 860, 1010, 1050, 102.1, 1540, 1580,  
FM Stations - 88.5, 89.9, 92.5, 93.1, 94.1, 94.9, 95.9, 97.3, 98.1, 99.1, 99.9, 101.1, 104.5, 100.7, 107.1

**TELEVISION** CITY TV, THE A-CHANNEL, CFTO TV, THE WEATHER NETWORK, GLOBAL

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001.





## **Combined Grade Classrooms**

As you are aware, many schools in York Region and across the province have combined grade classrooms. A combined or split grade class contains students from two consecutive grades, for example, a grade 7/8 split class is comprised of students from grade 7 and 8. A large number of classes in York Region this year were combined grade classrooms.

### ***Why do combined classrooms exist?***

Frequently, combined grade organizations are the result of there being a cumbersome number of students at particular grade levels. Sometimes, there are too many students to form one class, but not enough students to form two classes. In these situations, students from two different grade levels are grouped together to form a combined class. Smaller schools are particularly challenged because of lower overall enrolment. In these cases, students may be in combined grades for several years in a row.

### ***Why was my child chosen for the combined class?***

When the school principal and staff consider students for a combined class, the following criteria may be considered:

- A balance according to gender
- Work habits, maturity, cooperation
- A balance of ability, interests and talent
- Social and behavioural considerations
- ESL or Special Education needs
- Learning styles of the student

### ***Are there any benefits to my child in a combined class?***

Educational research supports many benefits for students in combined classes, including:

- The development of independent learning skills
- Students learn from each other
- The enhancement of social/emotional development
- Leadership opportunities for students

### ***Are there any disadvantages to a combined class?***

No. An effective teacher and supportive parents provide a positive learning environment for children in any classroom organization. When student achievement is examined, the educational research has determined that there is no significant difference between single and combined or multi-grade classes.

### ***Will my child be prepared for the next grade if he/she is in a combined class?***

Yes. At the beginning of each school year, teachers use a variety of methods to assess the needs of each student regardless of the composition of the class. Using the Ontario Curriculum in each subject as a basis, the program is planned to meet the needs and abilities of all students in the class and to prepare students for the next grade.

### ***Is the achievement of students in a combined grade comparable to children in a straight grade?***

Educational literature shows that children in combined grade groupings function at a level that is comparable to children in a straight grade. Student achievement is not compromised. In addition, the research suggests that multi-age grouping is associated with a more positive self-concept and an enhanced attitude towards learning.

***Although we do not yet have our student numbers or staffing for 2015-2016, we know that Little Rouge P.S. will have a number of combined grade classrooms for the next school year.***

## **The 'Golden Garbage Can' Award**

*Each month the Caretakers present this award to the class who keeps their classroom tidy and clean and shows proper waste management through the sorting of organics, recycling and garbage on a daily basis during the month. They present the Golden Garbage Can at the monthly Rocket Rally.*

*For the month of January, the 'Golden Garbage Can' award was presented to Mr. Gafar's Grade 2 class! Congratulations!*

*Previous winners of this award are Mrs. Pickthall's Grade 5/6 class, Ms. Cavazzon's (Miss Tse's) Grade 2/3 class and Mrs. Whitten's SK/1 class. Congratulations to all of you as well.*



### **UPCOMING DATES:**

<b>Fri. Feb. 13</b>	<b>"Tweet Sweet" Presentation (Grades 4 – 8), 2 pm</b>
<b>Mon. Feb. 16</b>	<b>Family Day (NO SCHOOL)</b>
<b>Thurs. Feb. 19</b>	<b>Term 1 Reports go home</b>
<b>Tues. Feb. 24</b>	<b>Subway Lunch</b>
<b>Wed. Feb. 25</b>	<b>Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying) – students are encouraged to wear pink</b>
<b>Thurs. Feb. 26</b>	<b>Rocket Rally (Fairness)</b>
<b>Wed. Mar. 4</b>	<b>Grade 8 Grad Photos</b>
<b>Thurs. Mar. 5</b>	<b>Clarkson Cup (grades 4 – 8)</b>
<b>Tues. Mar. 10</b>	<b>Earth Rangers, 2 pm</b>
<b>Fri. Mar. 13</b>	<b>P.A. Day (NO SCHOOL)</b>
<b>Mon. Mar. 16 – Fri. Mar. 20</b>	<b>March Break (NO SCHOOL)</b>



*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*