



Principal
Nancy Dodds

Vice Principal
Lindsey Rhamey

Superintendent
Daniel Wu

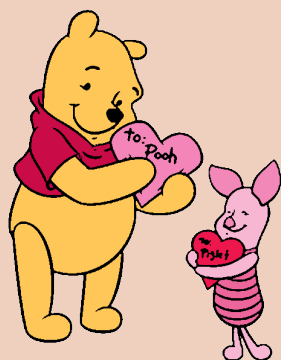
Trustee
Allan Tam

Office Administrators
Carolyn Lee
Vicki Hooper



Character Matters!

Respect	Honesty
Empathy	Fairness
Initiative	Courage
Integrity	
Optimism	
Perseverance	
Responsibility	



Little Rouge P.S.

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ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY, 2017

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 marvellous 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 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 2017-2018 School Year

We have already begun to plan for the upcoming 2017-2018 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 20th

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.



Vice-Principal Change

At the Board meeting last Tuesday night, Ms Rhamey was promoted to Principal at William Berczy P.S. effective Monday, February 6th. We are very excited for her and wish her all the best in her new role! We know she will be great! Please see her message below:

It is with mixed emotions that I will be leaving Little Rouge Public School to go to William Berczy Public School as Principal, effective February 6, 2017. It will be very sad to leave such a wonderful and supportive school community. I am honoured to have worked with Ms Dodds and the rest of the amazing staff, students and parents at Little Rouge as Vice Principal. For me, Little Rouge has fondly become my home away from home. Although I am excited to move on to a new school as Principal and I embrace the new challenges that will come with it, I will very much miss our Little Rouge Rockets! I have many fond memories that I will forever cherish of my short time at Little Rouge.

Ms. Rhamey

Beginning on Monday, February 6th we are getting a new Vice-Principal, Mr. Demacio. He comes highly recommended and I know the staff, students and parents will give him a warm Little Rouge welcome! Please see his message below:

Dear Students and Families of Little Rouge Public School,

My name is Jeff Demacio, and beginning on February 6th, I have the great honour of joining your school community as your new Vice Principal. I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to support your principal, Nancy Dodds, and the staff and students of Little Rouge.

I have been an educator in York Region for 13+ years now, after several years in the business world in the technology and publishing industries. I have taught in all grades throughout my career in a variety of roles. For the past three years I have been the VP at Legacy P.S. in Markham. I look forward to building a strong partnership with all of you this year.

On a personal note, my wife and I have two young boys in grades six and eight, and live in Durham region. I am involved in coaching hockey and have a love of sports, music, photography and the outdoors. Feel free to ask me about anything related to innovative technologies in education, because I love that too! I look forward to meeting you!

Jeff Demacio

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 and by calling 1-877-330-3001.



School Council News



After a very busy January, we are settling in to a quieter February. Thank you to all those parents who helped out with the Winter Games and Mathletes. Both were a huge success! We are so grateful for the parent volunteers who continue to support a variety of school initiatives. Also, a big thank you to the grade 7 and 8 students who provided leadership and joyfully served the younger students in our school. We appreciate your efforts and the example you set for your younger schoolmates. And thank you, Mrs. Chaudhary and your team for the many hours you devoted to the Winter Games. Your long hours and hard work are appreciated!

A new space on the bulletin board in the front foyer has been provided for School Council. Keep an eye out for upcoming events and important information.

And finally, as we wish Ms. Rhamey farewell, we also send with her our best wishes and congratulations as she begins her new role as Principal at William Berczy Public School. Ms. Rhamey, we are grateful for your efforts in working with all members of the Little Rouge Community. We wish you well!

From "farewell" to "welcome"...

Welcome to Mr. Demacio, coming to us from Legacy Public School. We look forward to working together with you and hope that you will soon feel right at home here at Little Rouge!

The next School Council meeting will be held on February 6 at 7:00pm. All parents are welcome!

Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning."

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

Allan Tam



**From the
Volleyball
Court....**



Congratulations to the Junior Co-Ed Volleyball Team for coming in first place at the Area Tournament. They worked together as a team and encouraged one another as they battled to take first. The coaches are very proud of all of you for your hard work and dedication this season. Congratulations to the following students: Bryan, Nathan, Bilal, Tasneem, Oliver, Ryan, Deep, Marae, Evelyn, Ashley H., Lauren, Ashley B., Mona and Megha.

Thank you to our dedicated coaches:
Mrs. Whitten, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Robinson.

Kindergarten Registration for September 2017



Kindergarten Registration Commenced on January 20, 2017

Kindergarten registration commenced on January 20, 2017 for the 2017-18 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2017, 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 11th, 6:00-7:30 pm.**

For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on February 15th. 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 Wednesday, February 15th.

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 EDUCATION

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:

Level 4	80% - 100%	A	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.
Level 3	70% - 79%	B	Student work has met the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of most of the required knowledge and skills.
Level 2	60% - 69%	C	Student work is approaching the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of some of the required knowledge and skills.
Level 1	50% - 59%	D	Student work falls below the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of few of the required skills and knowledge.
R	Below 50%	R	Student has not demonstrated an understanding of the required skills and knowledge. Student will require

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 2017-2018, we know that Little Rouge P.S. will have a number of combined grade classrooms for the next school year.

Literacy Ideas

ABC Life Literacy Canada encourages families to “**LEARN AT PLAY EVERY DAY**”. Engaging in literacy activities as a family improves a child’s skills and also helps adults keep their skills sharp. Here are a few ideas to get your family started from the [ABC Life Literacy Canada](http://www.abclifeliteracy.ca) website.

1. **Grocery Hunt:** Write a grocery list with your child and let kids find all the items in the store – a fun way to do the grocery shopping!
2. **Play and Tell:** While kids teach adults a new card game, adults share stories from their own childhood and even play a card game from when they were a kid.
3. **Home Restaurant:** Spice up mealtime and have kids create a menu by drawing food items or using grocery store flyers – kids can take orders too!
4. **Where's that Shape:** Have a shapes scavenger hunt by taking turns to find shapes indoors and outdoors. Then together make each shape with your body – kids and adults work together.
5. **Game Anyone?:** Playing a board game is a fun way to learn together as a family. Try the *Get Winston* game at FamilyLiteracyFirst.ca.
6. **Happy 150:** It's Canada's 150th birthday this year – that's a lot of candles! What would you do for your dream birthday party and where you would go? Now parents, your turn to tell kids about your dream birthday party.
7. **Bowled Over:** Make your own bowling game with 10 plastic cups and a tennis ball. Set up your cups and roll the ball to knock down the cups. Together count how many cups fall for each player, then how many cups in total fall for all players.
8. **Map it!:** Pretend your family is anywhere in the world – on a world map, point to a location. Find out more about that country. What language do they speak, what is the weather, what sports do they play?
9. **Animal Dance:** With kids and adults in a circle, each person takes turns to move like an animal and say what they're doing: “I hop like a bunny,” or “I stomp like a dinosaur.” After everyone has had their turn, start at the beginning again and this time together do the moves and say what you're doing.
10. **What do you mean?:** Write a sentence about something you want to tell your mom or dad. Cut the words out and tape each word to a building block and mix up the blocks. Can they figure out what you want to say?

Empty Milk Bags

Room 132 is still collecting empty milk bags. These bags will be transformed into mats for homeless people and for people in Haiti.

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing bags in!
It is much appreciated!

Please drop them in the box in front of the office.



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.

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!*

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' award at the monthly Rocket Rally. The name of the class who wins each month is written on the can.

For the **month of January**, the 'Golden Garbage Can' award was presented to **Ms. West's JK/SK class! Congratulations!**





ROCKET RALLY JANUARY 4As RECIPIENTS



Active Living

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Ryan	JK
Leah	SK
Brody	3
Logan	3
Melanie	3
Dev	4
Terry	4

Achievement

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Agshathie	SK
Campbell	SK
Colton	SK
Shaheer	1
Xavier	1
Zain	1
Addison	2
Harman	2
Ivy	2
Kenny	4
Chloe L.	6

Attitude

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Ainesh	JK
Isaiah	JK
Rebecca	JK
Adiran	SK
Alyssa	SK
Ayush	SK
Chloe	SK
Kaleb	SK
Metta	SK
Vithuran	1
Alex	2
Hebe	2
Kyle	2
Muhammad	2
Dennis	3
Maryam	3
Taryn	4
Tiya	5
Ashley H.	6
Jacob	6
Onis	6
Minahil	8
Shai	8

*All Gr. 7 and Gr. 8 students
(for their leadership & responsibility at the
Winter Games and Mathletes activities)

Arts

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Ashley W.	SK



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.

UPCOMING DATES:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Feb. 3 | P.A. Day (NO SCHOOL) |
| Feb. 6 | School Council meeting (all welcome), 7:00pm |
| Feb. 7 | Immunizations for grade 7's (Meningococcal vaccine) |
| Feb. 8 | Subway Lunch |
| Feb. 15 | Term 1 Report Cards go home |
| Feb. 20 | Family Day (NO SCHOOL) |
| Feb. 22 | Subway Lunch |
| Feb. 22 | Pink Shirt Day (for anti-bullying)
Students and staff encouraged to wear pink today. |
| Feb. 23 | Rocket Rally |
| Mar. 1 | Grade 8 Grad Photos |
| Mar. 3 | Earth Rangers, 11:15am |
| Mar. 6 – 10 | Jungle Sport all week (each class has different time slots) |
| Mar. 11 – 19 | March Break (NO SCHOOL) |