



# Little Rouge P.S.

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www.littlerouge.ps.yrdsb.ca

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**Principal**  
Nancy Dodds

**Vice Principal**  
David Valentim

**Superintendent**  
Daniel Wu

**Trustee**  
Allan Tam

**Office Administrators**  
Carolyn Lee  
Vicki Hooper



## Character Matters!

Respect Honesty  
Empathy Fairness  
Initiative Courage  
Integrity  
Optimism  
Perseverance  
Responsibility



## From the Principal's Desk



The staff and students continue to be extremely busy here at Little Rouge. As always, the cooperation and enthusiasm shown by the students and the commitment and professionalism demonstrated by the staff continues to impress me. Thank you parents for your continued support of the classroom and extra-curricular programs.

As the safety of your children is our priority, we have the following procedures in place:

- Students should enter and exit the school through their **assigned doors** (not the front doors, unless with an adult or if they are late).
- When picking up a student, please wait at the exit doors and do not proceed to the classrooms.
- All parents and visitors entering the school should use the front door and check in at the office. If you are volunteering or visiting the school, you should sign the book in the office and obtain a visitor/volunteer badge.

*Your cooperation in keeping our students safe is appreciated.*

At Little Rouge our focus continues to be student achievement and well being. Throughout this year, and in previous years, you may hear your child talk about learning goals and success criteria. Learning goals are brief statements based on the Ontario Curriculum that clearly identify for students what they are expected to know and do. Success criteria allow students to understand what success "looks like" and how to achieve it. Success criteria allow students to assess their work and monitor their progress and are used by teachers to provide descriptive feedback. It is important that our students are actively engaged in the learning process. There are many ways you can support your child at home by talking about their learning. Some questions that you can ask are: "What did you learn more about today? What did you improve at? What steps did you take to get there? What do you think you need to learn more about? Why? How did your new learning connect with what you already know?" We thank you for being our partners in education.

## Message from the Vice Principal

November, for many reasons, is a month for reflection especially when we think of Little Rouge and our community. We continue to value all the wonderful learning opportunities that have taken place in and out of the classrooms over the first few months. The great work that decorates our classrooms and hallways is extraordinary and we know this is a direct result of our dedicated teachers and our talented, skilled and conscientious students. Student engagement is paramount at Little Rouge. Our teachers believe strongly in providing our students with a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their talents and skills. Opportunities such as instrumental band, volleyball, cross country running, fundraising for important causes such as Terry Fox Run, Rocket Rally Assemblies, school dance/fundraiser, the planning of our Student Council and many other initiatives, make us realize that we have accomplished a great deal over a short period of time.

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## Message from the Vice Principal ... cont.

Our School Council meetings have been well attended and we thank those parents who were able to attend and participate in our meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the staffroom.

The Progress Reports will be sent home with your child(ren) on December 10th. It is important that all parents are familiar with the Report Card format and the expectations for parents, students and teachers. Furthermore, we encourage parents to ask questions about their child and how they can support them as they work toward their first term report card. We encourage all parent/guardians to become familiar with the Ontario Curriculum, understand how student achievement is addressed and familiarize themselves with strategies they can use at home to reinforce their children's learning. Please remember that serving the needs of our students are paramount and work best when we partner and collaborate together to do what is best for students.

Mr. Valentim



### Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is back!

It will begin on Monday, December 7th and run until Friday, December 11th. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily and students will be able to preview the Fair and make purchases with their classroom teachers during class time. Only students with money will be able to shop during recesses. For every book you purchase, funds go to our school to purchase new books for the library. Our goal is to sell 500 books which would put approximately 200 new books on our library shelves! Watch for the flyers with more information. See you at the Fair and thank you for helping us build a community of readers!



### Little Rouge School Website

Don't forget to check out our Little Rouge School website. It is full of great information; necessary documents and forms, an up-to-date calendar, links to useful websites, news from the York Region School Board and more. It is our goal to keep our website current as your one stop source of information. Please have a look and your feedback is welcome.

<http://www.littlerouge.ps.yrdsb.ca>



### Helping Hands Café

**What is it?** Once a month the 'Boys on a Mission', along with the help of Ms. Valkanis and Ms. Dellosa prepare a hot lunch that is sold to our Little Rouge Staff.

**Why?** Funds that are made will be donated to a good cause. The Helping Hands Café seeks to help others in need by donating our profits to those who need it more than we do. We want to reinforce empathy for our students and show them the benefits of charity work.

**What have we made?** Our Helping Hands Café served their first lunch for this year. It was Greek Lentil Soup and Garlic Bread. Mmmm.



A great big thank you to all our wonderful staff for supporting the people who really need it.

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

On November 11th students and staff attended our traditional Remembrance Day assembly. It gave us an opportunity to honour Canadians, and other people around the world, who have sacrificed their lives in the name of peace and freedom. Student performances were very impressive as they reinforced the message through drama, dance and music. It was a pleasure to have a number of parents and relatives join us for the assembly. Thank you to staff members for

their contributions and preparing the students for this special event and thank you to our special guest Ms. Roveda for playing the bagpipes. Thank you to Mrs. Pickthall for all her work organizing this special event.



## SAFE SCHOOL REMINDERS - Please Help Us Keep All Our Students Safe!

We have a number of safety procedures in place to try to keep your children as safe as possible while they are with us. Many of these procedures were outlined for you in our September Start-Up Newsletter. Below are a couple of procedures that we would like to, once again, bring to your attention:

### Little Rouge Strives to Be A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Due to the severe allergy to peanuts and/or nuts of several of our students, we are asking that **no peanuts or nut products** be brought into the school for snacks, lunches, or class parties. We are also asking that **no home-baked products** be brought into the school, either, as we are unable to guarantee the occurrence of cross-contamination by nut products in your home. If you are sending in store bought baked goods (e.g. cupcakes), please ensure that there is a **label from the vendor** indicating that the product is nut-free. Thank you for your support of our efforts to maintain a safe school environment for all of our students.

### SIGN IN/OUT For Visitors/Volunteers

We have noticed that from time to time parents/grandparents come to the school during recess and go right out to the yard to look for their children. For safety reasons, we ask that **all visitors and volunteers, whether family members or other community members, sign in at the main office when entering the school.** You will then get a "Visitor" badge to wear while you are here. If there is an urgent matter and you need to locate your child during recess, we will page your child from the office and have him/her come in from the yard to see you. Although it may be tempting to do so, please do not go straight from the parking lot to the yard. For the safety of the children, Staff on Yard Duty have been asked to approach any adults on the yard without a Visitor/Volunteer Badge to re-direct them to the office. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

### SAFE ARRIVAL

Ensuring the safety of your children is our priority. **PLEASE REPORT ABSENCES DAILY.**

Attendance is taken both in the morning and the afternoon each day. If you know your child will be absent, please call the office as soon as possible. You can leave a message after hours at: **905-202-5960**. 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 District School Board to contact the police and report the child as missing.

## French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2016 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 15, 2016. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2016, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

## Environmental Corner



December's eco theme is **Reduce Your Footprint**. This month at Little Rouge we want to get students thinking about ways they can reduce their environmental footprint – you can think of ways at home too!

With the onset of winter we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. Little Rouge's footprint increases in the winter time due to an increase in use of heating. To lessen energy consumption and reduce our footprint during the winter season and stay warm, try the following actions at school and at home:

1. Keep heat in the building by keeping doors and windows closed.
2. Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows. If it is damaged at school, please let your caretaking services team know so they can have it repaired.
3. Avoid using personal heaters.
4. Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
5. Wear warm clothing and dress in layers.
6. Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.

*Be sure to check out the Eco Board for some other ideas on how to reduce your footprint!*

### Indoor Shoes

Indoor shoes are essential to keep our classroom carpets and floors dry and clean. Please ensure that your child has a pair of shoes that can be left at school. Please also make sure that your child's name is inside the shoes. Children are not permitted to wear wet outdoor running shoes or boots in the classrooms. **Stocking feet are dangerous in the event of a fire drill.**



### Forks and Spoons

If your child stays at school for lunch and brings an item that requires a spoon or fork, please remember to send one with him/her. We have many students who come to the office to get an utensil from us and unfortunately, we have limited available. We suggest that you keep a plastic spoon or fork in your child's lunch bag each day so that he/she has one if needed.



### Cold Weather is on the Way

Please make sure your child(ren) dress(es) appropriately for the upcoming cold, winter weather. Warm boots, socks, pants, sweaters, coats, hats, mittens and scarves tucked inside the coat are very important for children of all ages to wear. Children will be expected to be outside during recess and lunch, so please make sure they are dressed for the weather.



As well, since we have approximately **500** students here at Little Rouge, and many children wear the same brands, colours and sizes of clothing, it would be very helpful if your child's name could be printed in ink in boots and labels of clothing. If your child has lost any items, please check our Lost and Found box just outside the Caretaker's office. It is always a good idea to send extra clothing with younger students as accidents do happen or they get wet on the way to school with rain or snow.

### Child Safety

When dropping off or signing out students please report to the office. Please ensure all other caregivers are aware of this procedure as we want to keep all our children safe.

### Lost and Found

We have a number of items in our lost and found box outside the caretakers' office. If your child is missing any items, please take a look at the box - we would like to find homes for everything.

### Lunch Assistant Positions

If you are interested in working as a Lunch Assistant at our school, please contact the school office at 905-202-5960. **We currently need people for occasional backup.**

These are paid positions and require one hour a day, over our lunch hour which is from 12:50-1:50 pm.

## 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.



### Safety Awareness and Preparedness

The York Region District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students. Throughout the course of the year, all schools in the York Region District School Board conduct emergency preparedness exercises. To date, we have already conducted three of six fire drills and one of our two practice Lockdown Drills. In advance of our first drill, we reviewed protocols during an emergency with all students so that they understand the purpose and know what to expect.





## **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 September**, the 'Golden Garbage Can' award was presented to **Mr. Gafar's Grade 2 class!** Congratulations!

For the **month of October**, the 'Golden Garbage Can' award was presented to **Mrs. Lemmon's Grade 5 class!** Congratulations!

For the **month of November**, the 'Golden Garbage Can' award was presented to **Mrs. Cohen's Grade 2/3 class!** Congratulations!



## **Character Rocket Rally**

**September's character trait was Respect.** "We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity, and positive regard. We honour the rights of others. We respect their belongings, the environment and the world around us."

Congratulations to our **Respect** winners!

Mrs. Wilder	JK/SK:	Teresa, Jillian
Ms. Robinson	JK/SK:	Kiera, Vithuran
Mrs. Smith	JK/SK:	Erika, Natalie
Ms. West	JK/SK:	Kaleb, Eshal
Mrs. Whitten	JK/SK:	Jayna, Sarah
Mrs. Pankhurst	1:	Yehya, Preethika
Mrs. Kurtes	1:	Rima, Ava
Mrs. Eisenberger	1/2:	Abdullah, Mika
Mr. Shubert	2:	Emily, Joelle
Mr. Gafar	2:	Ria, Tyler
Mrs. Cohen	2/3:	Anjalika, Abhilash
Ms. Tse	3:	Adi, Jesslyn
Miss Ducas	3/4:	Justin, Tiya
Mrs. Pickthall	4:	Nathan T, Marae
Mrs. Lemmon	5:	Anjali, Tasneem
Mr. Brown	5/6:	Ethan, Mercedez
Ms. Campbell	6/7:	Harleen, Nivethan
Mrs. Chaudhary	6/7:	Jayden S, Terra
Mr. Yusuf	7/8:	Zayn, Gopa
Mr. Cvitkovic	8:	Advaith, Abigail P



In **October**, our focus is on **Responsibility**.

"We are accountable for all our actions. We follow through on our commitments."

## Character Rocket Rally

October's character trait was **Responsibility**. "We are accountable for all our actions. We follow through on our commitments."

Congratulations to our **Responsibility** winners!

Mrs. Wilder	JK/SK:	Leah, Mercedes
Ms. Robinson	JK/SK:	Makayla, Ayush
Mrs. Smith	JK/SK:	Lily, Ryan L
Ms. West	JK/SK:	Chloe N, Mia
Mrs. Whitten	JK/SK:	Abigail, Jia
Mrs. Pankhurst	1:	Eshaal, Angad
Mrs. Kurtes	1:	Addison, Marissa
Mrs. Eisenberger	1/2:	Jodie, Ieaun
Mr. Shubert	2:	Harkomal, Affaan
Mr. Gafar	2:	Emma X, Rumman
Mrs. Cohen	2/3:	Tiffany, Eliot
Ms. Tse	3:	Anjali, Terry
Miss Ducas	3/4:	Avi, Aryana
Mrs. Pickthall	4:	Diyaa, Nathan W
Mrs. Lemmon	5:	Rishi, Yannis
Mr. Brown	5/6:	Evelyn, Mitchell
Ms. Campbell	6/7:	Izzah, Matthew L
Mrs. Chaudhary	6/7:	Ashlyn, Keziah
Mr. Yusuf	7/8:	Mustafa, Levina
Mr. Cvitkovic	8:	Shayaan, Sasha
Miss Kung	CC	Dhanyal, Kyle
Ms. Valkanis	CC	Justin



In November, our focus is on **Courage**.

"We face challenges directly. We seek help from others when necessary. We do the right thing even when it may be unpopular. We are able to recognize risks and danger and do not take unwise risks to gain the approval of those around us."

## Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 15, 2016



Kindergarten registration will commence on January 15, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB 's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, 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 parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

## School Council Updates

Anxiety and Mental Health Parent Information Session at William Armstrong Public School on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information contact 905-294-1262.



### SCHOOL COUNCIL'S HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS activities:

- \* **Samko & Miko Toy Warehouse Fundraiser** - Shop at either the Toronto or Richmond Hill locations of Samko & Miko Toy Warehouse from November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>, drop off your receipt in the mailbox located in the front hallway and we will receive 10% of all purchases made. It's that simple!
- \* **Subway Lunch** - our subway lunch program will continue in the New Year
- \* **Holly Jolly Photo Booth** - December 14<sup>th</sup> during both recesses. Students can get their photos taken on their own or with their "BFFs"
- \* **Chocolate House Raffle** - raffle tickets will be sold during recesses in the front foyer from Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Come and see this beautifully decorated Chocolate House which retails for \$95.00
- \* **Popcorn, candy canes, Carol Sing, Oh My!** -Snacks will be sold after our final Rocket Rally for 2015 on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Come and join in the fun as we sing carols and enjoy some holiday treats!

As we approach the holiday season please be reminded of the importance of the safety of all our children, especially on the roads in and around the school zone and on school property. Remember, we all have a responsibility to slow down and be extra careful while driving and walking.

Thank you for your participation in all of our initiatives. Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season! We look forward to seeing many of you at our next School Council meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

### *Message From Our Trustee*

It is that time of year when our schools brim with energy and excitement for the many diverse celebrations taking place across our region. I am always happy to join the festivities happening in our schools and appreciate the efforts of our students, staff and community members to bring the holiday season alive.

As we wind down 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their support of our students and staff over the past few months. A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. Our students, staff and community members have continued to demonstrate respect, character and commitment in their work and interactions over the last few months. As a trustee, I consider myself very fortunate to work with such supportive community and staff members.

On behalf of all of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

All the best for 2016!

**Allan Tam**



### **UPCOMING DATES:**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Dec. 2</b>    | <b>The Heritage School House Museum—Gr. 3's (Ms. Cavazzon's class)</b>                    |
| <b>Dec. 7-11</b> | <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 10</b>   | <b>Progress Report cards going home</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 10</b>   | <b>B.O.S.S. Parents' Night, 7-9pm</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 11</b>   | <b>Scientist in the School—Gr. 2's (Mr. Gafar's class)</b>                                |
| <b>Dec. 15</b>   | <b>The Heritage School House Museum—Gr. 3's<br/>(Ms. Ducas' and Mrs. Cohen's classes)</b> |
| <b>Dec. 16</b>   | <b>Immunizations—Menactra, Gr. 7's</b>  |
| <b>Dec. 17</b>   | <b>Rocket Rally—Empathy</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 21</b>   | <b>Winter Break Begins. Return to school on January 4th</b>                               |

