



# Little Rouge P.S.

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ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER, 2015

**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 Little Rouge staff would like to welcome back all of our families from last year, and to extend a very warm "Little Rouge Welcome" to all of our new families joining the school community. We certainly trust that everyone had a very relaxing and enjoyable summer. Our staff have worked very hard, to prepare the school and their classrooms to be ready for the students. I know you will agree with me that they have done a great job!

*The elementary years are crucial to your child's long-term success. In these years, children will learn to read, write, do mathematics, problem solve and work with others. They will learn appropriate work habits as well as the skills, knowledge and habits of mind needed for success in school and beyond. We believe a strong partnership between home and school is essential for this development.*

During school hours, teachers work with students and are committed to ensuring the success of each individual. By the end of kindergarten we expect students to have developed emergent literacy skills and by the end of grade one we expect every child to read. We work hard to ensure that all students achieve these goals. In addition to focused classroom teaching, we provide intensive instruction through our Reading Recovery and Special Education programs for students who need additional support. After school, parents have an important responsibility for supporting the work students do at school and for extending learning beyond the classroom. Parents demonstrate both through their words and actions that school is important and valuable. The time children spend outside of school with parents exceeds the time spent at school with teachers and it is very important for learning. The quality time parents spend with their children in a variety of activities, both in the home and on family outings, supports the quality programs which we implement in the school setting. Your child's education is a shared partnership. We look forward to working together with you to ensure your child's academic success.

## Message from the Vice Principal

Welcome Back to Little Rouge Public School. We welcome all returning families back and hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break with family and friends. We would also like to extend a special welcome to our new families who are joining our school community. September is an exciting time in schools. The halls and classrooms are filled with optimism and excitement over the start of the new school year.

Over the last few weeks, many families have arrived at the school office to register their children at Little Rouge P.S. for this school year. We believe the strong reputation that our school has and its success is a direct result of the solid values of hard work that have been instilled in our students at home and good working relationships on the part of the parent community and our school staff. Our staff works hard to build on these values and also provide a consistent learning experience across all grade levels that will allow each of our students to achieve success.

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## Message from the Vice Principal cont.

The school year 2015-2016 promises to be an exciting one. We as a school staff will work hard to provide a safe, challenging, and fun environment for every student. There will be lots of activities during and after school to motivate students to become part of school life. We have an amazing staff at Little Rouge and are looking forward to a great year learning and working together.

We would like to thank our custodial staff for all of their extraordinary work in getting the classrooms and school grounds ready for the start of the school year. We would also like to thank our office staff for their efforts to register new families and respond to various questions from parents. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to our teaching staff that have been in the last few weeks of August to prepare their classrooms and meet with colleagues to plan and prepare for the coming year. It will take very little time for our students to feel comfortable and focused on the year ahead.

Finally, the success of your child at school depends on close cooperation and ongoing communication between home and school. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to discuss anything. We are also available and always welcome your input and look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the entire staff, we look forward to working with our community to help students achieve and make this coming school year a most successful one.

**Mr. Valentim**  
**Vice Principal**

### **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.**

### **Photo Day**



**Our school photos will be taken on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Remember to bring your smiles!**

### **Lost and Found**

Now is the time to make sure your child's belongings are readily identified. Please take time to clearly label the items your child brings to school (e.g., indoor shoes, boots, backpacks, lunch bags). Doing this makes it much easier to return the lost items to the rightful owners.

### **Code of Behaviour/Expectations of Students**

Over the next few weeks, Ms Dodds, Mr. Valentim and the staff will be reviewing the code of behaviour and expectations for the students. In addition, reviewing and discussing the code of behaviour with your child would be appreciated. We are confident that the discussions at school and home will explain the policies and help to keep Little Rouge a safe place for our students to work and play.

## School Organization and Staff 2015-2016

Listed below are our classes for the new school year. Please keep in mind that with the Ministry Class Size Reduction Policy, we may have to do some re-organization by the end of September.

Assignment	Staff
JK/SK	Ms. Robinson
JK/SK	Mrs. Smith
JK/SK	Ms. West
JK/SK	Ms. Wilder
JK/SK	Mrs. Whitten
1	Mrs. Pankhurst
1	Mrs. Kurtes
1/2	Mrs. Eisenberger (Mrs. Peacock's LTO)
2	Mr. Gafar
2	Mr. Shubert
2/3	Mrs. Cohen
3	Miss Tse (Ms. Cavazzon's LTO)
3/4	Miss Ducas
4	Mrs. Pickthall
5	Mrs. Lemmon
5/6	Mr. Brown
6/7	Ms. Campbell
6/7	Mrs. Chaudhary
7/8	Mr. Yusuf
8	Mr. Cvitkovic (Ms. Zappitelli's LTO)
Special Education	Ms. Eaton
Special Education	Ms. de Bruijn
Special Education	Ms. Kaul
Special Education - Community Class	Miss Kung
Special Education - Community Class	Ms. Valkanis
The Arts	Mrs. Bayliss
English as a Second Language	Mrs. Kumar
Reading Recovery	Ms. Petsopoulos
French	Ms. Vandebek (Madame Lagerquist's LTO)

## School Organization and Staff 2015-2016 (cont)

French / Prep	Ms. Keon
Music	Mrs. Zwarich
Teacher Librarian	Mrs. Langhorst
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Lee
Secretary	Mrs. Hooper
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Shire
Educational Assistant	Ms. Delloso
Educational Assistant	Ms. Mok (Mrs. Palmisano's LTO)
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Blasby
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Magadi
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Bali
*DECE	Ms. Barron (with Ms. Robinson)
*DECE	Ms. Diamant (with Mrs. Whitten)
*DECE	Ms. Sheikh (with Ms. West)
*DECE	Ms. Zehra (with Mrs. Smith)
Caretaker (Lead)	Mr. Lehman
Caretaker	Mr. Lusty
Caretaker	Mr. Capone
Principal	Ms. Dodds
Vice Principal	Mr. Valentim

\* Designated Early Childhood Educator

**Please know that *all* the staff at Little Rouge are here to support your children!**

### Celebrating Character! Join us at our Monthly Rocket Rallies!

At the end of each month we take the time to come together in an assembly to celebrate various character traits. Each month showcases a different trait in a variety of ways, e.g. through song, dance, drama, media. Each month's assembly (Rocket Rally) is hosted by a grade team who takes the lead in preparing performances that teach the rest of us more about the specific character trait being showcased. Look for the date of each Rally on our school calendar and in our monthly newsletter - we would love for you to join us at any or all of our Rocket Rallies!

#### **September's Character Trait: RESPECT (Rocket Rally on September 30th)**

*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.*

**At Little Rouge Public School, Character Counts!**

## Little Rouge PS Schedule



School Starts	9:00 am
Recess	10:40—11:10
Lunch	12:50—1:50
Dismissal	3:30 pm

Please be reminded that supervision in the schoolyard will begin at 8:45 a.m. The entry bell will be at 8:55 a.m. with Opening Exercises commencing at 9:00 a.m. Please ensure students are at school on time so that they maximize their learning opportunities during instructional time.

## Forks and Spoons

Please make sure that your children have proper utensils to eat their snacks and lunches.

Thanks!



## 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.

## Indoor Shoes



Indoor shoes with non-marking soles 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 .**

## Dropping Off Children at School

Students who do not take a bus should be walking to school every day. Walking to school promotes a healthy lifestyle, encourages older students to be responsible for younger children, gives students an opportunity to socialize with friends, and much more. Fewer vehicles in front of the school reduces traffic congestion and lowers pollution levels in the schoolyard during drop-off times.

Teachers are on duty 15 minutes before the start of school in the morning (8:45 a.m.) and 20 minutes before school after the lunch hour (1:30 p.m.). Please ensure that the students do not arrive prior to these times as the yard will not be adequately supervised and we want all of our students to be safe.

**\*\*If you need to drop off your child by car, please use the loop around the parking lot. We ask that you do not use the bus loop due to limited space and safety. \*\***In the past at other schools there have been close calls and some scary incidents.

**\*\*Please do not park your car in our drive through lanes** as this significantly inconveniences other parents who are trying to get to work on time. Kindly **do not leave your cars running or idling** as it creates a harmful impact on the environment.

***Your cooperation in these matters will ensure the safe arrival and departure of all of our students. Thank you!***

## Lockdowns and Fire Drills

Every year the York Region District School Board recognizes Safety Week for one week in September. This year Safety Week is being held the week of September 28th-October 2nd.

During Safety Week, teachers may be discussing a variety of safety related topics with their students. Safety topics are also taught as part of the Physical Education and Health curriculum at various points in the school year.

A Lockdown Drill is also held during Safety Week. A Lockdown Drill is intended to prepare the students in the event of a real emergency. Although situations threatening the safety of our children are extremely rare, it is important that students know how to react. To minimize any fear, particularly with our younger students, teachers will be preparing their students ahead of time. One further Lockdown Drill will be held later in the year.

Throughout the school year, the students in all York Region schools participate in 6 fire drills. The first drill will be announced to the school and the others are “surprise” drills. In addition, the Markham Fire Department visits each school and has a “surprise” drill for us.



### School Bus Information



For school bus information please go online to: [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

This site will give you bus stops, pick-up and drop-off times. You must be at your designated pick-up 10 minutes prior to the stated time. To help ensure student safety, Student Transportation recommends Grades JK-1 students are met at the bus stop by a parent/guardian and age appropriate arrangements made for all other grades. If no adult is present the student will stay on the bus and be returned to the school where you must pick them up **immediately**.

**If buses are 10 minutes late or more please consult the website for late bus details, please do not call the school as we do not have any further details.**

During inclement weather if the buses DO NOT run in the morning, they will NOT run in the afternoon. If they do pick up in the morning they WILL drop off in the afternoon.

### On-Line Newsletter

At Little Rouge, we are an eco-school and have a major focus on the environment. One of the key ways in which we are hoping to make a positive impact is through reducing, reusing and recycling. In the area of reducing, we have made a commitment to use less paper and take advantage of electronic communication.

Our Little Rouge Public School Newsletter can be found on line on our school website: <http://www.littlerouge.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

It is published the **first** day of every month. **It is very important to read this as important information and dates are in this publication. A paper newsletter will not be sent home unless a parent sends us a note in writing requesting one.**

## Birthday Celebrations



Little Rouge P.S. is a Healthy School with a dedication to promoting healthy lifestyles. We believe that our school has a responsibility to foster lifelong healthy eating habits, and active living choices from a young age. We recognize that birthdays are important events for children of all ages. For health, religion and dietary/allergy reasons, food should not be provided for children's birthdays. Non-food items such as pencils, stickers, erasers etc. are instead a fun way for a child to celebrate a special day. Thank you for your support of this initiative and the well-being of our students.

Food for special classroom/school events and food sold for fundraising will be based on the Ministry guidelines in the food and beverage policy and staff will provide parents with information regarding these events.





## Little Rouge Public School is an EcoSchool!

Here at Little Rouge P.S. the environment is very important to us. As an EcoSchool we have made a school wide commitment to protect, think and learn about our environment by joining a program called Ontario EcoSchools. 'Ontario EcoSchools is a province wide environmental education program for Grades K-12 that helps students develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens. Developed and run by school boards, Ontario EcoSchools also helps improve school building operations to reduce environmental impacts.' Congratulations to Little Rouge for our many efforts to make our school and community a little bit "greener"! All of our hard work earned us a **SILVER certification** from Ontario EcoSchools this year.  
(<http://www.ontarioecoschools.org/>)

## What is Happening at Little Rouge P.S. to Make us an EcoSchool?

Litterless lunch campaign  
Classroom composting  
Paper conservation initiatives  
Cell phone and toner recycling  
Various energy conservation initiatives  
Plus lots more to start up this year!!!



### **School Council Elections for the 2015-2016 School Year Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Staffroom**



The York Region Board of Education has always believed that education is a shared responsibility involving a partnership of students, parents, staff and community. School Councils have been mandated by the Government of Ontario to be an advisory body which may make recommendations to the school principal or to the Board. The purpose is to support improved student learning and to support an increased sense of shared accountability for public education. Please consider taking an active role in our Council. We will meet for approximately one hour 6 times a year. We will be looking for a School Council Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as well as voting members and general membership.

#### **Chair:**

- Call Council meeting and organize the Agenda with input from the Principal
- Chair the meetings; facilitate committee work
- Communicate with the Principal on a regular basis regarding school issues
- Ensure that minutes are recorded, parents are consulted, fundraising meets Board policies, and the council Constitution is reviewed annually

#### **Treasurer:**

- Maintain accurate records of financial transactions (this is now done with the school's secretary as all funds go through the Board's Cash Net System)
- Provide a Financial Report to Council at each meeting

#### **Secretary:**

- Record the minutes of the meetings
- Provide a write-up of the minutes to members within 2 weeks of the meeting
- Ensure minutes are passed at the next meeting and amended as needed
- Post on school's website and Community Board for community viewing

#### **General Membership:**

- Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues
- Regularly attend school council meetings
- Participate in information and training programs
- Act as a link between the school council and the community
- Encourage the participation of all parents
- Participate on sub-committees that support the school's goals and contribute to a positive school climate for your children

**If you are interested in any of these positions, please complete the nomination form in the start up package and return it to the school. Elections or acclamations will occur at our first Council meeting on September 21, 2015.**

*Help make our school a place where your child loves to be!*

## Message from the Trustee

Welcome back to another school year.

I am happy to extend a warm welcome to our returning students and families and those who are new to our Board. I am the trustee for your child's school and your representative on the York Region District School Board of Trustees.

I am looking forward to continuing my work to ensure that all YRDSB students receive a high-quality education within safe, caring and inclusive learning environments.

In the coming year, trustees will continue to focus on the priorities that we set out in our Multi-Year Plan: student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.

We know that partnerships with families are essential to achieving this goal. Good schools become better schools when they are connected to parents and families.

I hope that you will find positive and meaningful ways to engage with your child's school over the course of the year. There will be many events and activities to look forward to throughout the year and many opportunities across the Region that support parent engagement.

2015-16 promises to be an exciting year. All the best for the upcoming school year!

**Allan Tam**

### ***SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS***

Ensuring a strong home school partnership is the key to success for our children. If you are interested in volunteering in a classroom or supporting with other programs please fill out the volunteer form in the start up package. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

### ***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.

## Welcome Aboard

Since the final newsletter went out in June we have had a few new staff join our Little Rouge team.

### Welcome to:

Mrs. Eisenberger (formerly Ms. Buczkowski) who will be teaching Mrs. Peacock's Gr. 1/2 class while she is on leave.

Ms. Keon who has been hired to teach French and Primary Prep coverage.

Ms. Mok will be an EA in our Community Class while Mrs. Palmisano is on maternity leave.

Ms. Sheikh who will be a DECE in our Kindergarten classroom.

Ms. Vandebek who will be teaching Madame Lagerquist's French classes while she is on maternity leave.





## Medic Alert's 'No Child Without' Program at our school

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency.

### MedicAlert membership;

- ☐ Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- ☐ Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour**

### Emergency Hotline.

- ☐ Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- ☐ Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed
- ☐ MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information go to [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca), or contact Rob Gordon at [rgordon@medicalert.ca](mailto:rgordon@medicalert.ca) or call 1-866-679-3217 ext. 1110.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, **call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.**

## **SAFE ARRIVAL - Please call the school if your child is going to be away or late - 905-202-5960**

If your child is going to be away from the school or will be arriving late for any reason, please contact the office with this information. If you are calling between 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. of the following morning, you can leave a message on our answering machine.

Confirming the whereabouts of every absent child can take quite awhile and could result in a child being missing for some time. **Board policy dictates that if a student has not arrived at school, and all attempts to contact the parents have been unsuccessful, then our next step will be to contact the police and report the child as missing.**

### **UPCOMING DATES**

September 28	PA/PT DAY (No School)
September 30	Terry Fox Run