



Little Rouge P.S.

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Markham, Ontario
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www.littlerouge.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER, 2016

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



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

I am really looking forward to working with the Little Rouge community in the new school year. Along with Ms. Dodds and the rest of the Little Rouge staff, I am committed to creating and fostering a warm, caring and supportive educational environment for your child. It will be exciting to get to know all of you!

Ms. Lindsey Rhamey

Photo Day



Our school photos will be taken on **Friday, October 14th.**
Remember to bring your smiles!

Welcomes and Good-byes

Since the final newsletter went out in June, we have had a few more staff changes.

We would like to welcome the following staff:



Welcome to Ms. Vandebek who will be teaching French and prep coverage to some of our classes. She has done some previous teaching at Little Rouge and brings wonderful knowledge and ideas to our school.

Welcome to Miss Dattoo who will be joining our grade 1 team and covering for Mrs. Pankhurst's maternity leave. She comes highly recommended to us from Wendat Village P.S.

Welcome to Mrs. Broughton who will be part of our Special Education team and working with our junior students and community classes. She is joining us from Terry Fox P.S. and brings a wealth of skills and experience which will be a great addition to our Little Rouge community.

Welcome to Mr. Williams who is joining us as a DECE on our Kindergarten team. He will be working with our youngest students and brings a variety of experiences to this team.

Welcome to Ms. Pragalathan who is joining our Kindergarten team as a DECE. She will also be working with our little ones and brings a variety of skills to this group.

Welcome to Mr. Snoddon who is joining our caretaking team. He comes to us highly recommended from E.T. Crowle P.S.

We have to say good-bye to the following staff:

Best wishes to Ms. Kaul as she leaves us to join the staff at Aldergrove P.S. We will miss her but know she will enjoy her full time position teaching Special Education. The staff and students wish her all the best at her new school!

Best wishes to Mrs. Pankhurst as she leaves for her maternity leave. We wish her all the best as she prepares for her baby's arrival in October. We look forward to seeing her back in September 2017 when her maternity leave is over.

Best wishes to Mr. Capone who is joining the caretaking team at Central Park P.S. We will miss him at Little Rouge but wish him all the best at his new school!



Monthly Rocket Rallies!

In order to better meet the needs of students, parents and staff, we've decided to change the format of our monthly "Rocket Rallies". We hope that by making these changes we can create interest and motivation for students to set achievable goals, add a more personal touch to the awards, and include more parents in the audience.

What will stay the same:

- Date would still be at end of every month (last Thursday)
- student awards will be given out, "good news", school announcements and information (what's coming up in near future/ looking forward to the next month)

Here are some of the changes:

- Separate Rocket Rallies for K-3 and 4 to 8
- 30 - 40 minutes (one period)
- First assembly will begin at 9:10
- Student awards will highlight the 4 A's (Active Living, Arts, Achievement, Attitude) - this can be recognized in classrooms, on teams/clubs, and throughout the school. Students will have input into who can receive awards as well

We are very excited about these changes and know the students and parents will be as well!

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!

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.

School Organization and Staff 2016-2017

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 | Miss Kung |
| JK/SK | Mrs. Whitten |
| 1 | Miss Datoos (LTO for Mrs. Pankhurst) |
| 1 | Miss Petsopoulos |
| 1 | Mrs. Wilder |
| 1/2 | Mr. Gafar |
| 2 | Mrs. Cohen |
| 2/3 | Mr. Shubert |
| 3 | Ms. Cavazzon |
| 3 | Miss Ducas |
| 3/4 | Ms. Zappitelli |
| 4 | Mrs. Lagerquist |
| 4/5 | Mr. Brown |
| 5/6 | Mrs. Peacock |
| 6 | Mrs. Pickthall |
| 7 | Mr. Yusuf |
| 7/8 | Ms. Campbell |
| 7/8 | Mrs. Chaudhary |
| Special Education | Ms. Eaton |
| Special Education | Ms. de Bruijn |
| Special Education | Mrs. Broughton |
| Special Education - Community Class | Mrs. Morant |
| Special Education - Community Class | Ms. Valkanis |
| The Arts | Mrs. Bayliss |
| English as a Second Language | Mrs. Kumar |
| Reading Recovery | Mrs. Kurtes & Ms. de Bruijn |
| French / Prep | Ms. Vandebek |

School Organization and Staff 2016-2017 (cont)

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Music | Mrs. Zwarich |
| Teacher Librarian | Mrs. Langhorst |
| Administrative Assistant | Mrs. Lee |
| Secretary | Mrs. Hooper |
| Educational Assistant | Mrs. Shire |
| Educational Assistant | Ms. Dellosa |
| Educational Assistant | Mrs. Blasby |
| Educational Assistant | Mrs. Magadi |
| Educational Assistant | Mrs. Bali |
| CYW | Mrs. Derrell |
| *DECE | Ms. Pragalathan (with Ms. Robinson) |
| *DECE | Ms. Diamant (with Mrs. Whitten) |
| *DECE | Mr. Williams (with Ms. West) |
| *DECE | Ms. Zehra (with Mrs. Smith) |
| *DECE | TBA (with Miss Kung) |
| Caretaker (Lead) | Mr. Lehman |
| Caretaker | Mr. Lusty |
| Caretaker | Mr. Theodorou |
| Caretaker | Mr. Snodden |
| Principal | Ms. Dodds |
| Vice Principal | Ms. Rhamey |

* Designated Early Childhood Educator

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

Code of Behaviour/Expectations of Students

Over the next few weeks, Ms. Dodds, Ms. Rhamey 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.

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.

A Police Vulnerable Sector Check will be required.

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.

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.

ALL VISITORS
PLEASE
REPORT TO
THE OFFICE

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 .**

Parent Meetings with Staff

As a continued measure of safety in the school, we would like to remind all parents that if they have scheduled a meeting with a staff member, they should report to the office to sign in our visitor book and get a visitor badge. As well, please let Mrs. Hooper or Mrs. Lee who you are meeting with and they will call up to the staff member to ensure that he/she is ready for your meeting. Once this has happened, you are welcome to head up to the classroom. Thank you for your support in following this procedure.

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.

Message from our Trustee

As we start another school year, we are very pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you all enjoyed the hot summer months and are looking forward to the start of school.

There is a lot to look forward to in the months ahead and many ways for families to engage with their child's learning. There is a strong connection between parent and family engagement and student achievement and well-being, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get involved.

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 parents and families are essential to achieving these goals. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference to your child's learning.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

Allan Tam

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 26-30.

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

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 2016-2017 School Year Monday, October 3, 2016 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 October 3, 2016.

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

Police Checks for Volunteers

At our May 2016 School Council meeting the issue of police checks for volunteers was discussed. This includes volunteers who help in the school, go on class trips and drive students to sporting activities or other events.



According to the YRDSB Policy and Procedure #280 Volunteers in our Schools, it is best practice that all volunteers hold a valid PVSC (Police Vulnerable Sector Check). The School Council members voted and agreed that this policy should be put in place at Little Rouge for the safety and security of the students, as well as the volunteers themselves.

Volunteers are an important part of the Little Rouge school community and we hope that you will see the importance of having this done and continue to support the students and staff through volunteering both in and out of the school setting.

Please see the details below of how to obtain a police check. If you would like to get one done over the summer so that it can be ready for the beginning of school, please call the office and we can send a letter home that you will need to take with you to get the check completed. If you already have a police check that has been done for another organization, please bring the original copy to the school so that we can determine whether or not it satisfies our board's policy.

Cost – There is \$30 fee provided the school supplies a letter stating that the person is going to be volunteering in the school (upon request, we will provide you with a school letter).

How to get one:

- A) In person – Richmond Hill – Yonge/Elgin Mills – 10720 Yonge Street (the Stouffville location is now closed) - if everything is fine with the police check it can usually be done in about 10 minutes (Hours M-F – 8 – 6, Sat. 8 – 4)
- B) On-line – takes about 7 – 10 days. You would be notified when it is ready and can pick it up at the nearest police station but must bring ID (see below for acceptable ID) – most stations open 24 hours

ID is required for in person or online application

You will need to provide 2 pieces of government ID – one with a photo so passports and driver's licenses are fine but no health cards or SIN cards.

If a person does not have a driver's license they can bring a recent piece of mail with their address on it but they still require photo ID.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please call the office. Thank you.

Character Rocket Rally

June's character trait was Optimism. "We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future."

Congratulations to our Optimism winners!

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Wilder | JK/SK: | Lucas, Sujit, Ira |
| Ms. Robinson | JK/SK: | Kai, Christy |
| Mrs. Smith | JK/SK: | Vienna, Kishan, Ezekiel |
| Ms. West | JK/SK: | Marcus, Abena |
| Mrs. Whitten | JK/SK: | Charlie, Kyle |
| Mrs. Pankhurst | 1: | Calvin, Preethika |
| Mrs. Kurtes | 1: | Alex |
| Ms. Sherman/ Ms. Feng | 1/2: | Rojikha, Abesha |
| Mr. Shubert | 2: | Nidhi, Wendy |
| Mr. Gafar | 2: | Arujan, Emma M, Siri |
| Mrs. Cohen | 2/3: | Henry, Brady |
| Ms. Cavazzon | 3: | Tanya, Darren |
| Miss Ducas | 3/4: | Vera, Jayden |
| Mrs. Pickthall | 4: | Adam, Ethan |
| Mrs. Lemmon | 5: | Mona, Jessica |
| Mr. Brown | 5/6: | Aakash, Ashani |
| Ms. Campbell | 6/7: | Jessie H, Matthew D. |
| Mrs. Chaudhary | 6/7: | Keziah, Theesik |
| Mr. Yusuf | 7/8: | Waheed, Jacob |
| Ms. Zappitelli | 8: | Abigail P, Kavi |
| Ms. Valkanis | CC: | Jeffrey, Justin |



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.



For the month of June, the 'Golden Garbage Can' award was presented to **Ms. Zappitelli's Gr. 8 class!** Congratulations!

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.

MedicAlert'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 14th 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. or contact Rob Gordon at 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.**

UPCOMING DATES:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Sept. 7 | Grade 7 's to Vivien Outdoor Ed Centre |
| Sept. 8 | Mrs. Lagerquist 's Grade 4' s to Vivien Outdoor Ed Centre |
| Sept. 9 | Ms. Zappitelli and Mr. Brown 's Grade 4 's to Vivien Outdoor Ed Centre |
| Sept. 12 | Mrs. Cohen 's Grade 2 's to Vivien Outdoor Ed Centre |
| Sept. 13 | Mr. Gafar and Mr. Shubert' s Grade 2 's to Vivien Outdoor Ed Centre |
| Sept. 26 | P.A. Day (NO SCHOOL) |
| Sept. 27 – 30 | Book Fair |
| Sept. 29 | Curriculum Night |
| Sept. 30 | Terry Fox Run |
| Oct. 3 | School Council Elections, 7:00pm |
| Oct. 14 | School Photo Day |

