

Ramer Wood Public School

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From the Office

September 2019

A Welcome Message...

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all returning families after what we hope was a fun filled, relaxing summer break with your family and friends. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Kindergarten students and to all new students and families who are joining our school community. We are excited to begin the 2019—2020 school year with you and look forward to another year of learning and growing.

As a staff, we continue to be strongly committed to the Board's foci of Mathematics, Modern Learning and Mental health with the foundation of a culture of respect, equity and inclusive practices. In addition, we strive to make connections related to current global and societal issues. By helping children see connections between what they are learning and the work around them, it is hoped that they will begin to think critically and have a passion for learning. As we begin the New School Year we ask that you work with your child to instill good habits such as getting up early enough to have a good breakfast and getting to school on time. Arriving even a few minutes' late means missing valuable instruction during period 1 class at 8:45 am, as we have moved our morning announcement time to just before morning recess.

To help our families stay informed, each student was provided with our 2019—2020 'Start-up Package' to the School Year. This package contains useful information for students and parents to reference throughout the course of the year. Please check for accuracy of your phone & cell numbers and email addresses. Often we may send out email blasts during the week(s), when important information is required to get to families in a timely manner. The school newsletter is another wonderful source of information. It will be posted online on our school website and sent to our contacts via email each month.

At Ramer Wood P.S., the Staff is committed to developing programs to help your child. As parents/guardians, you play an important role. We encourage you to support your child's education by getting involved in the life of the school. At home you can provide your child with various opportunities to learn, such as, talking about what they are learning each day at school, using the internet together to research topics of interest or even making a grocery list.

We welcome the following new staff this year to Ramer Wood Public School: Mr. Tsutsumi, Ms. Gauss, Ms. Brown and Ms. Sin.

Welcome back, Ms. Giannoulis and Ms. Tubesam!

SAVE THE DATES:

School Council Meeting and Election Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a member of the Office team should you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you in supporting all students at Ramer Wood Public School.

Yours very truly,
Carol Pink
Principal

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School Day Hours

8:30 a.m. - Supervision Begins
 8:43 a.m. - Line up Bell
 8:45 a.m. - Entry Bell
 8:45 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. - Instructional Time
 10:25 a.m. - 10:55 a.m. - Announcements / Recess
 10:55 a.m. - 12:35 p.m. - Instructional Time
 12:35 p.m. - 1:35 p.m. - Lunch
 1:33 p.m. - Line up Bell
 1:35 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. - Instructional Time
3:15 p.m. - Dismissal

Upcoming School Holidays

Thanksgiving – October 14, 2019
 Winter Break – Dec. 23, 2019 – January 3, 2020
 Family Day – February 17, 2020
 March Break – March 16-20, 2020
 Good Friday – April 10, 2020
 Easter Monday – April 13, 2020
 Victoria Day – May 18, 2020



Professional Activity & Training Days

Monday, September 23, 2019
 Monday, October 21, 2019—Federal Election, School Gym in Use
 Friday, November 15, 2019
 Friday, January 17, 2020
 Friday, January 31, 2020
 Monday, June 1, 2020
 Thursday, June 25, 2020, Early Release Day (pm)
 Friday, June 26, 2020 (P.A. Day)

What's Happening at R.W.P.S.?

For the most current information on what is happening at Ramer Wood Public School, please visit our school website, www.yrdsb.ca/schools/ramerwood.ps.

From the R.W.P.S. home page you will have access to our monthly newsletters, email blasts, School Cash Online, and much more!

Please refer to the school's online calendar for the most up-to-date schedule of events. Simply click on the *News & Events* tab, then access the *Calendar* tab.

Message from our Trustee

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website.

In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the [policies that are under review](#) and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many [different ways to get involved](#) and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Allan Tam
 Trustee, Markham Wards 4 and 5



Safe Arrival



If a student is absent or late, parents need to notify the school by calling our school office at 905-471-6512 before 8:45 a.m. or sending a note to the teacher. As part of our Safe Arrival Program, we contact parents to confirm unexplained absences, and may contact the police if we are unable to reach parents for a satisfactory explanation.

Regular School Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial for continued academic progress. Getting to class on time and avoiding absences are critical if your child is to get the most out of school. Attending school - every day and on time - is very important. Learning occurs daily, right from the start of class.

In order to be less disruptive to both staff and students during instructional time, please follow the following procedures:

- If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please report the absence before the start of the school day (8:45 a.m.).
- If you must sign out your child from school due to a scheduled appointment, please place a note in your child's agenda/communication bag so that your child's teacher will have time to prepare your child for an early dismissal (i.e. homework, notes). Children will be called down to the office when you arrive. **Please avoid appointments during class time.**
- If you need to pick up your child at the end of the school day tell your child before school and leave a note in their communication bag/agenda to inform the teacher of the change. Please make all attempts NOT to make last minute changes to your child's regular dismissal routine.



School Cash Online Reminder



School cash online is our online payment system for parents. School Cash Online is an easy and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. You can pay for your child's class trips, hot lunches and so much more, from the convenience of your own home.

Simply register an account, then "link" your children to that account and in no time you will be able to make payments online. We accept many different forms of payment such as Visa, Master Card, and Interac. If you activated your account last school year, you do not need to repeat this process.

NOTE: Parents, you must activate your account to make any payment submissions to Ramer Wood P.S. Cash and cheques will no longer be accepted. In order to set up your account, go to the Ramer Wood Public School website and click on the School Cash Online icon. In setting up your account, you will need to know your child's student number. Please contact the school if you require this information.

Parents, please use Google Chrome, an internet web browser that supports School Cash Online. If you are experiencing problems, please click on the *Support* tab at the top right side of the web page and send an email by completing the form. You may also contact customer support at 1-866-961-1803, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you still require assistance, please do not hesitate to come to the school office we would be happy to help you register.

Walking or Cycling to School

As we start the 2019-2020 school year, we would like to remind and encourage families to consider walking or cycling with children to and from school.

There are many benefits to walking and cycling to school it:

- Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn.
- Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future

For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice or a few days a week can still provide benefit.

You can also consider parking a block away from school and walking the rest of the way.

Include active travel as part of your daily routine!

Parking Lot and Car Safety

When driving through our lots, please remember the following safety rules:

- Slow down, especially when entering and exiting Ramer Wood's school parking lot
- No U-Turns
- Please follow all the road signs
- No parking in front of the chained area due to Emergency Vehicle access
- Seatbelts for everyone – it's the law



School Yard Safety

Students at Ramer Wood Public School are expected to avoid activities that involve aggressive play and touching.

Activities that are not acceptable include wrestling, piggy-backing, tripping, pushing, shoving, body-checking, poking, punching, and other forms of play in stairwells, hallways, and playgrounds.

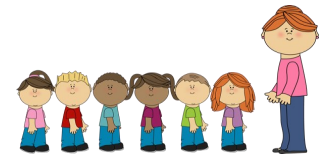
On the playgrounds students are expected to play safely without the use of rough play. Please, take the time to review these expectations with your child(ren).



Supervision

We continue to make the safety of your children a top priority. We need your assistance to keep all of our students safe:

1. **Yard supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Please do not send children to school before that time.** Any students arriving to school before 8:30 a.m. please note that parent/guardians are responsible for their children before 8:30 a.m. at which time, staff members are on duty from 8:30 a.m. until the bell rings at 8:45 a.m..
2. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, dismissal is at 3:15 p.m.



School zone safety

The rush of cars, buses and children arriving at school can create many dangers. Help keep kids safe on the way to and from school.

Drivers:

- Slow down and be ready to stop for school buses and pedestrians
- Respect the crossing guard's instructions
- Be aware of children running in front or behind buses or other obstructions (snow banks)
- Make sure your child gets out from the passenger side of your vehicle
- Park away from the school and walk your child onto school property

Teach your children to:

- Stop, look, listen and make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Walk only on the sidewalk and follow the crossing guard's instructions
- Not use cell phones or ear phones when walking



For more information, visit www.york.ca/injuryprevention



1-800-361-5653
TTY: 1-866-252-9933
York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services
Public Health

www.york.ca
Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn icons

Anaphylactic and Other Medical Conditions

Parents of children with anaphylactic or other medical conditions are reminded to share relevant information with the school. If your child has a medical condition, please complete the *Emergency Health Care Plan* form. Parents of children with an anaphylactic condition must also complete the *Anaphylactic Reactions Protocol* form. Please note that these forms must be completed annually for children with anaphylactic or medical conditions. All forms are available through the school office.

Some children may need to take prescribed medication at school either on a regular basis or at times throughout the school year. Parents are required to complete a *Request for Administration of Medication* form signed by parents and approved by the principal before the medication can be given or stored in the school. Written permission is required for ALL prescribed medications. All medication is kept in the office and students are supervised as they take any medication. With the exception of Epi-pens and inhalers, students are not permitted at any time to bring medication to school and keep it in the classroom, lunch bag, backpack or lockers.



Thank you for your support in ensuring the safety of our students.

Electronic Newsletter

Our school newsletters will be available to download from our school website throughout the school year. Limited paper copies will be available in the office.

If you are currently not receiving our newsletters by email blast, a CASL form (Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) consent form) will be sent out along with our Student Verification Form by the end of the month to be completed and returned back to the school.

Thank you to our readers!



Lost and Found

Please remind your children to check the "Lost and Found" box on a regular basis for misplaced hats, boots, shoes, sweaters and coats.

Labelling your child's clothing with his/her name is always a good idea. Any found small items like rings, keys, watches and valuables are held in the office.



Curriculum Night

Please join us on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, for Curriculum Night! A flyer indicating the time will be sent home to all families.

Families and school staff will have the opportunity to meet informally and parents will be able to visit their children's classrooms. During the evening, teachers will introduce themselves, review curriculum expectations and means of communication between home and school, and answer any questions parents may have.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Ramer Wood during the week of September 30—October 4. Be sure to drop by during Curriculum Night on October 2 to take a look! All purchases benefit our school by allowing us to purchase new books and makerspace supplies for the library.

Thank you for your support!

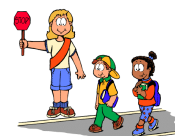


School Crossing Guards

School crossing guards are an important part of our school community. They work every school day to protect and assist children walking across streets in Markham.

The City of Markham recruits, trains and hires crossing guards for both permanent and standby positions on an ongoing basis.

There are two supervised crosswalk locations near RWPS: Cairns Drive & Raymerville Drive (south) and Crandall Drive/Higginson Street & Cairns Drive.



Our First School Council Meeting and Elections

Please join us for our first School Council meeting of the school year on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. in the library. We encourage you to come to the meeting, learn about our school, and participate in our shared work to support the learning and well-being of your children. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

At the first School Council meeting, elections will be held to determine our 2019-2020 chair/co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and executive members. The *School Council Candidate Nomination Form* sent home to all families in your start-up packages.

You don't need to be an executive member to participate; however, your attendance is important to lend your voice to the discussion. We look forward to seeing you there!



Save the Date!

Curriculum Night

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Picture Day

Thursday, October 17, 2019



Substitute Peanut Butter



A substitute peanut butter product is being marketed to consumers as a safe alternative for children to bring to schools in place of peanut butter.

We ask that parents refrain from including these kinds of products in your child's lunches or snacks. These products tend to look, taste, and smell very much like peanut butter. While the product is nut free, it mimics a known allergen that causes anaphylaxis in some children to the degree that it is indistinguishable from the allergen.

It is a convincing substitute, opening up the possibility that it can be confused as peanut butter, or worse yet, peanut butter could be confused as this soy-based product.

The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority, which is why our schools have procedures in place to minimize risk of anaphylaxis reactions in our students. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in avoiding the use of these products to assist in our continued efforts to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Please remember to pack a spoon or fork with food that you send for snack or lunch!

Volunteering in the School

We welcome and encourage the important role that parents/guardians and community members play in education. There are many opportunities for you to get involved at the school.

If you are interested in volunteering at R.W.P.S., please complete the *Volunteers in Our Schools Form*, available in the School Start-up Package, and return it to the school office. If you were a volunteer at Ramer Wood Public School last year, and would like to volunteer again this year, please contact the school office to update your profile.

For more information on volunteering at Ramer Wood P.S., please contact the school office staff or review Policy and Procedure #280.0, Volunteers in Our Schools.



Police Vulnerable Sector Checks

In order to volunteer in any environment that involves children, all adults over 18 years of age must have a Police Vulnerable Sector Check. We are mandated to enforce this requirement at R.W.P.S. Thus, any person wishing to volunteer in the school must have a **Police Vulnerable Sector Check** which is one year current (this includes attending class trips). Please contact the school office for a reference letter. Forms and further information are available on the York Regional Police website, www.yrp.ca.

Terry Fox Run/Walk

Friday, September 20

Friday afternoon, staff and students will be involved in the annual Terry Fox Run/Walk. Toonies for Terry donations will be welcomed. Pledge form sheets will be sent out shortly to each class. Parents are welcome to watch or participate.



Five Tips to Help Your Child With Reading

1. **Cuddle up and read.** Quiet times together are opportunities to bond...and read. The cuddling can be as important as the reading. Make it exciting: put some drama into your voice or let your child read every other page. As you go, explain any new words or ideas.
2. **Public libraries today are worlds to explore so try to go regularly.** Your library has great resources – books, computer games, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers and Internet access. There are also terrific in-house programs such as reading circles for little ones and homework clubs for older children. If you have access to a public library, talk to the librarian about what is available.
3. **Make your kitchen part of your "reading zone".** Have fridge magnets available so children can start making words and short sentences.
4. **Words are everywhere – take everyday opportunities to read with your child.** Your child's world is filled with words — on cereal boxes, street signs, stores, posters, subway ads, etc. Wherever you go, you can always find new words and point them out.
5. **Games can be great learning tools.** Board games or card games such as word bingo or memory and rhyming cards can be a fun way to learn about words, letter sounds, and reading. They can help children realize how much fun learning can be. Check out your local school fair or second-hand stores for gently used games. You can even create your own by cutting out pictures, writing words on cards and getting your child to match them.

A special note: Educators agree that literacy skills develop and improve as a result of a wide range of activities. For example, a child's literacy skills are enhanced when parents who do not speak an official Canadian language read to their children in their native language. Children will benefit from this reading experience.



September 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labour Day Holiday	3 First Day of School	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Terry Fox Run/Walk afternoon	21
22	23 PA Day (No School for Students)	24	25 School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	26	27	28
29	30 Rosh Hashanah					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #cccccc; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="margin: 0;">REMINDER!! Curriculum Night—Wednesday, October 2, 2019</p> </div>						