

Red Maple News



February Issue 2018

Red Maple Public School (905) 771-6157
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Principal : Ms. Sherry Zarif
Vice-Principal: Mr. Jaime Bunbury
Superintendent: Michael Cohen Trustee: Carol Chan

Principal's Message

As we approach the end of February and March Break, we are hopeful that a (well-deserved and much needed) change of seasons will soon be upon us. Spring is often cited as one of the favourite times of the year for many people. It is a time of renewal, new growth and new opportunity. Spring always brings forth a buzz of activity in the school and in classrooms, and may be a symbol of our continued efforts as a school community to work together in supporting and promoting the academic, social and emotional growth of our students.

We are now into the second term of this school year. In moving forward towards the goals of academic success, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher(s) and the school on a regular basis if you have any questions in regards to your child's progress. We continue to encourage a proactive approach to productive and collaborative partnerships!

*So far, January and February have been very busy for both our students and staff with all of our extra-curricular activities, school trips, Winter Electives and the many more events. February is **Black History Month**. At Red Maple, we are excited to celebrate in many ways (through daily announcement, clubs, classroom activities and etc...) the rich history and contributions of the many people of African Heritage in our community. We welcome a presentation by Nadine Williams on March 1st, at 1:30 pm for grades Kindergarten to 3, and 2:00 pm for grades 4-6. February 16 is **Lunar New Year**. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year in our Red Maple Assembly on **February 22nd at 1:30pm**.*

*March will prove to be a very exciting and yet another busy month for students, staff and parents at Red Maple P.S.! March 21st is **Naw Ruz** which is considered as the start of the New Year among Iranians along with some other ethno-linguistic groups. We will be celebrating **Naw Ruz in an assembly on March 28th at 9:00am**. **As always, all families are welcome to attend all of our assemblies.***

I would like to extend a "thank you" to our staff and our parent community for their efforts in supporting safe driving and parking practices during the very busy pick-up and drop-off times at school. It is both hoped for, and encouraged that, with the coming of warmer weather, parents will encourage their children, to walk to and from school. This is not only a healthy practice, but also reduces significant traffic congestion around the school. We feel that less traffic on the road will contribute to safer conditions for both pedestrians and motorists, alike!

Please note that the last day of our Winter Morning Entry Procedure (open entry) will be March 9th. We will return to our regular morning drop off procedure starting March 19th There will be more communication in regards to this at a later date.

At all times, please feel free to contact with the school should you have any comments or questions!

Wishing everyone an exciting February and a fun filled March Break!

Message from our Trustee

With report cards coming home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year.

As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board [Multi-Year Plan](#). In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting [Board policies](#) and the [annual budget](#), and communicating with the public.

This is a good time to learn more about the [role of trustees](#) with the next [municipal election](#) taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has [12 trustees](#), elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school.

I wish you all the best for a successful second term.

TERM ONE REPORT CARDS

Research shows that students need to learn more than just facts if they want to succeed in post secondary education and the world of work. Ontario's students are also learning to take initiative, work independently, be self-reliant and work in a team. Schools are teaching critical thinking and problem solving skills in order to give your child the ability to seize every opportunity for jobs and growth in the changing economy. The report card reflects this and emphasizes the importance of learning skills and work habits in your child's progress.

When evaluating subject areas, as always, teachers look at assignments, tests, presentations, and projects for evidence that your child is learning the curriculum. This learning means more than just knowing the facts. Students must also show an understanding of what they are studying by communicating and applying what they have learned. All assessments are reviewed with special attention given to the quality of work at the end of a unit of study or term. Teachers do not simply calculate averages. As well as looking at tests or assignments, they also talk to and observe your child in the classroom to gather as much information as possible before making a decision on the final grade.

There are two distinct feedback sections to be returned to school: one each for student comments and parent comments.

A report card is a checkpoint in your child's learning and should be understood as just that. There is always room to grow and opportunity to learn. The communication of achievement, next steps, and learning for your child is always a partnership between school and home. Set goals together and always ensure that your child is part of the conversation. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher at any time throughout the year when there are questions or concerns.



PARKING LOT SAFETY

The safety of our students and staff are very important to us; therefore, we ask for your support with dropping off and picking up your child(ren). **Please obey the rules, follow the speed limit and drive slowly when entering our parking lot.**

It is important that we all work together to keep everyone safe.

The Kiss and Ride program is intended for parents who are dropping off or picking up their child(ren). It is NOT intended for individuals who want to leave their vehicle to walk their child(ren) into the school. If you want to accompany your child(ren), please park your vehicle in the south parking lot and walk your child(ren) to the schoolyard/kindergarten gate.

In an effort to make drop-off and pick-up orderly and safe, we ask that drivers respect the following rules:

1. Obey the road rules, crosswalks, and speed limits. **Drive SLOWLY and be aware of your surroundings.**
2. **Have your child(ren) enter and exit the vehicle from the curb side of the loop (exit from the RIGHT side of the vehicle ONLY). Exiting from the driver's side of the vehicle is unsafe due to the cars driving through the bus loop.**
3. **Do not park your vehicle in areas with pylons.**
4. The Kiss & Ride area is **one way** only.
5. Your child(ren) should have their backpack on their lap to enable them to exit the vehicle quickly.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR CAR PARKED, IDLING OR UNATTENDED, ESPECIALLY WITH CHILDREN INSIDE.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is on now!

Documents required for registration include:

- o Proof of child's age (birth certificate/passport)
- o Two pieces of proof of residency (for child and parent/guardian) such as tax bill, utility bill, or bank statement
- o Citizenship and immigration status (for child and parent/guardian where applicable)
- o Direction of school support form (this is available at registration)

Who can register?

Children born in 2014 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten this September.

Children born in 2013 and not currently enrolled in public school can register for Senior Kindergarten in September (if your child is *already* attending JK, you do not need to re-register for the fall).

If you would like additional information, please contact Mrs. Muffitt or Ms. Shulman in the main office.

Happy Chinese New Year ! Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Chinese New Year will be celebrated at Red Maple on February 22nd at 1:30 pm, “Year of the Dog”.

Our Chinese sisters and brothers believe the animal ruling the year in which a person is born has a profound influence on personality, suggesting that the “animal hides in their heart”.

People born in the **Year of the Dog** possess the best traits of human nature. They are honest, friendly, faithful, loyal, smart, straightforward, venerable and have a strong sense of responsibility.

Happy New Year to our students, families and community members!

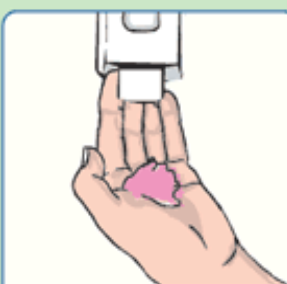


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FIGHT GERMS BY WASHING YOUR HANDS!



1 Wet your hands



2 Soap



3 Lather and scrub - 20 sec



4 Rinse - 10 sec



5 Turn off tap



6 Dry your hands

DONT FORGET TO WASH:

- between your fingers
- under your nails
- the tops of your hands



Inclement Weather/Bus Cancellations



If conditions of the roads force cancellation of school bus service, the following local radio stations will be informed by 7:00 a.m.

CKYC (590), AM 640, NEWS 680, CBC (740), CJBC (860), CFRB (1010), CHUM (1050), CJCL (1430), CHIN (1540), CKDX (88.5), CISS (92.5), CKAY (93.1), CHFI (98.1), CJEZ (97.3), CKFM (99.9), CHUM (104.5), Q107 (107.1), SRC (90.3), CITY TV (CH #7 TV).

Parents have the right to keep their children at home in severe weather conditions. The school will remain open for parents that wish to drive their children. If you decide to send your child to school, please provide your child with a lunch, as there will be no hot lunch programs on that day. Please remember that if you drive in the morning, you will have to make arrangements for your children to be picked up at 2:35 pm. If the buses are cancelled in the morning, they will also be cancelled in the afternoon.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

At Red Maple Public School, we believe in giving back to the community. We have organized a backpack program to help new families in our area.

We are asking families to participate by contributing the items listed below that are associated with your child's grade. We want to make sure that we are able to provide the range of items that are needed. All items donated need to be new and unopened and sized for adults. Please send the items to school with your child before Friday, February 23rd.

The items that are being requested by grade are:

Kindergarten	Toothbrushes / Toothpaste / Lip Balms
Grade 1	Socks in Packages (White Ankle, Sport Socks, Warm Socks)
Grade 2	Brushes and Combs / Instant Oatmeal Packages (boxes of 10)
Grade 3	Shampoo / Conditioner (small bottles)
Grade 4	Quick Prep Canned Meals (Chef Boyardee / Individual Kraft Dinner / Ramen noodles)
Grade 5	Gloves / Mittens / Scarves / Winter Hats (adult size)
Grade 6	On the Go Snacks / Granola bars / Cheese and Crackers / Tuna and Crackers / Dried Canned Meat (Tuna and Turkey)
Grade 7	School Supplies and White T-Shirts (Size Large and Extra Large)
Grade 8	School Supplies and White T-Shirts (Size Large and Extra Large)

The Me 2 We Club will assemble the backpacks, which will be distributed to specific Organizations in our community on behalf of Red Maple P.S.

Thank you for your support.

The Me 2 We Club
(Mr. Fletcher)



Family Literacy Day at RMPS

We celebrated Literacy Day this year by dressing up as our favourite storybook character and pairing up with different reading buddies within the school. On Monday, January 29th, we welcomed author Eric Walters (a former teacher) who presented in our Learning Commons. His first novel, "Stand Your Ground", was created for a Grade Five class that he taught. Mr. Walters has now published over 100 novels and pictures books and has won more than 100 awards! He has presented to more than 1,500,000 students across North America and internationally in Japan, Kenya and Germany.



His presentation was a blend of drama, storytelling, audience participation and interaction. The students all seemed very engaged and interested in his story and life as a young accomplished author. We were very fortunate for this experience!



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Nadine Williams is a poet and author who inspires students by sharing her story as an immigrant with humble beginnings being reared by grandparents who spoke in parables at the time. She is actively involved in the Community and through her storytelling and poet abilities engages her audience, bringing awareness to the struggles and successes of her journey. Nadine leaves students with the message that all is possible when we persevere and believe when others might not.

We welcome Ms. Williams to Red Maple P.S. on March 1st, when she will be speaking to Kindergarten to Grade 3 students at 1:30 pm, and Grade 4 to 8 students at 2:00 pm.

As always, all families are welcome to attend.

SAVE THE DATE

**Below are upcoming events at Red Maple Public School.
Be sure to mark these on your calendar!**

February 15	Reports Cards go Home
February 16	Lunar New Year
February 19	Family Day — No School
February 21	Pizza Lunch
February 22	Red Maple Assembly and Chinese New Year Celebration 1:30 pm
February 23	Winter Electives
February 26	Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament
February 27	Intermediate Girls Basketball Tournament
March 5	School Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
March 6	Grad Photos
March 7	Beauty and the Beast Presentation
March 19 — 20	Dental Screening, JK/ SK, Grades 2,8
March 21	Naw Ruz
March 28	Naw Ruz Assembly, 9:00 am
March 28	Pizza Lunch

Cookie sales are continuing in the Zen Den for only \$1.00.

As well, water bottles are always available for purchase in the Zen Den for \$10.00. Show your Red Maple Spirit!





The York Region Alliance of African Canadian
Communities presents...

Celebrating the Success of our Black Families in York Region



Saturday, February 17, 2018

**Thornlea Secondary School
8075 Bayview Ave. Thornhill, ON
L3T 4N4**

Time: 11:00am - 2:30pm

**11:00-11:30am
Registration**

**11:00-11:30am; 1:30-2:30pm
Networking**

Bring the entire family

Celebrating our "Firsts":

**Members of our Black
community in York Region who
have broken glass ceilings.**

Free Admission

Activities include:

- **Community Speakers**
- **Black Marketplace**

Entertainment:

- **Drumming**
- **Youth Entertainment**

Refreshments provided



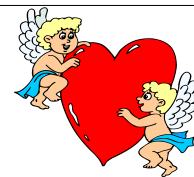
Uplifting our Black Families


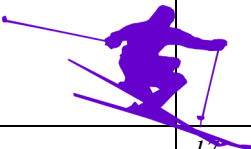



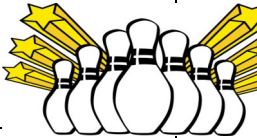

Bridging the Past with the Present

Navigating the Present into the Future



February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <div>PA DAY <i>No School</i></div>	3
4	5 School Council Meeting 7:00 pm 	6	7	8	9 WINTER ELECTIVES 	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Report Cards go Home	16 Happy Lunar New Year	17
18	19 FAMILY DAY 	20	21 PIZZA DAY 	22 Red Maple Assembly and Chinese New Year Celebration @ 1:30 pm Spirit Day—Touque and Scarf Day/ Olympic Spirit	23 WINTER ELECTIVES 	24
25	26 Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament 	27 Intermediate Girls Basketball Tournament	28			


Upcoming Dates to Remember

March 12th—16th ~ March Break



March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Black History Month Presentation at 1:30 pm</i>	2	3
4	5 School Council Meeting 7:00 pm 	6 Grad Photos 	7 <i>Beauty and the Beast Presentation</i>	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
March Break – No School						
18	19 Dental Screening JK/Sk, Grades 2, 8	20	21 <i>Happy Naw Ruz</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 <i>Naw Ruz Assembly @ 9:00 am</i> <i>Pizza Day</i>	29	30	31

