



April 2014



Redstone Review

It has been so nice enjoying some of the warmer weather we have been receiving lately. Welcome spring! In honour of spring and maintaining a healthy world, Redstone will be participating in Earth week activities from April 22 –25. Please see the article in the newsletter for more information. As you know Earth Day is on April 22nd. We challenge students to regularly come to school with litter-less lunches or with as little litter as possible. This is an excellent way to help our environment and also helps reduce garbage at school. Speak to your children about helping to keep our school yard and the community garbage free.

With the coming of spring and the warmer weather around the corner, now is a great time to review the basics of good health with your child! Adults and children require ample water to keep hydrated as the temperatures increase and activity levels go up. Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school and keep it with them throughout the day. Also a reminder to continue switching between indoor-and-outdoor shoes as the field will be muddy.

Thanks to the parents who have joined us for our monthly Character Assemblies. Our teachers and students have played a key role in organizing the assemblies and presenting about our very important character traits. To date we have presented awards to students who have demonstrated perseverance in February and fairness in March. April is initiative month and teachers will be on the look out for any students who demonstrate this character trait. At Redstone, we have many students who demonstrate excellent character traits on a daily basis.

And finally to everyone celebrating a religious holiday this month, we wish you and your family all the very best.

Diana Dal Bello and Elizabeth Lue-Kim



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News from the School Council



We welcome any parents who would like to attend a school council meeting to come out and join us. We are always looking for parent involvement and we encourage anyone who is interested to join us, even if for only a few of the meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Monday April 7th at 7:00 in the library.

We will be having a Movie Night at the beginning of May. We will send out the date and movie shortly. We look forward to seeing many families at this event!

CHARACTER IS HOW YOU TREAT THOSE WHO CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU

Students Demonstrating “Perseverance” in February

JK/SK— Arvin T., Anoushka M., Asia B., Kumayl H., Kristopher J., Victoria C., Catherine L., Ilia T., Hugo L., Aimen Z., Deen D.

Gr. 1 –Ilakia U., Chloe G., Aryan S., David E.

Gr. 2 - Megan H.

Gr. 3 - Lucas M., Ali J., Olivia T.

Gr. 4–Arujan R., Ari M.

Gr. 5 - Saruya R., Athi R.

Gr. 6 - Dennis Z., Pranav K.

Gr. 7 - Victor J., Brayden E.

Gr. 8 - Adora L., Sakina J., Shayan F.

Building Character in Kids - How Can I Help?

Provide Opportunities for Positive Activities

Sports, clubs, music lessons, hobbies, etc. all provide a healthy way to spend time, particularly when parents are away from home. It is great prevention for drinking, drugs and other activities that often happen when parents are not around.

Learn to Say NO and Mean It!

Children rely on us to set limits, and in spite of some of their protests, often appreciate the “excuse” of not being able to become involved in dangerous or negative activities while using parents as the reason. It is our responsibility to protect them when they cannot.

Teach Critical Skills for Television Viewing

Although there is great teaching value in media, there is also material that is harmful to children and youth. Beyond restricting viewing habits, discuss openly what makes a programme good or objectionable or offensive. Offer reasons why. Encourage your children to do so as well.

Music In Mind

Music in Mind is a comprehensive arts and literacy program for K-Grade 8 that reinforces Character Traits and Social Justice Issues. Glenn Marais, a Juno award nominee and award winning singer/songwriter, has been working with our students for the last few months. Our younger students have been learning a song and our Junior and Intermediate classes have been writing a class song based on a particular theme. We will be presenting these musical accomplishments later in April. Stay tuned for more information.

Boys Intermediate Basketball Team



By winning the area tournament, the Boys Intermediate Basketball team earned the opportunity to play in the regional tournament. In this tournament, only the top 9 teams from the York Region District School Board competed in this tournament of champions. We are very proud of our boys for making it all the way to the final game, placing second overall in our region. They played with tenacity, team spirit and sportsmanship. Way to go boys, on this fantastic accomplishment! And of course, they couldn't have made it so far without the support of their coaches, Mr. Stoddart and Mr. Grey. Your leadership and commitment to the boys was greatly appreciated!

Are you Moving?

The process of preparing for a new school year involves predicting student enrolment and structuring the organization of classes and teachers to match the enrolment. We ask that families assist us with these preparations by informing the office (in writing) if you are moving out of the Redstone area. Please include the last day of attendance and the school your child(ren) will be attending. This will also facilitate in the transfer of your child's records (OSR).

Roots of Empathy

The students in Mr. Mangaloglu's grade 7 class have continued to learn about empathy while experiencing the development of baby Owen in the Roots of Empathy program. Recent discussion themes have been diapering, sleep and safety. The students are getting a first hand experience in the amount of care and love that goes into raising a baby. Owen has recently achieved several milestones including getting his first two teeth, sitting up on his own and most recently crawling. He entertains the class in during his visits by showing off his new skills and hooting and hollering. The student's also have the opportunity to ask Owen's mother questions about him or his development.



Badminton

Students at Redstone were excited to hear about the badminton team tryouts this year. We had a large number of students come out to the tryouts. The enthusiasm is fantastic! Redstone will have 3 badminton teams this year. Students have been selected for either the Girls Intermediate, Boys Intermediate or Co-Ed Badminton Team.

Practices have started and The first games will take place the first week of May at Redstone. Ms. Singarajah, Mr. Mangaloglu and Ms. Hancock.

Boys and Girls Junior Basketball Teams

Both teams are underway. Practices have started as they prepare for a number of games and tournaments leading to the area finals on April 29th and 30th.

The boys team is being coached by Mr. Inglis and his student teacher, Mr. Rosenfeld.

The girls basketball team is being coached by Mr. Sherlock. Looking forward to a great season of skill development and fun. Good luck teams!

Take Note...

AIR Project– gr. 7s

April 1

TSO Trip - gr. 3& 4

April 1

TSO Trip - gr. 7& 8

April 2

Swim to Survive –gr. 3s

April 3, 10 & 17

AIR Technology Project– gr. 7 & 8

April 4

Day of Pink

April 9

Friday Schedule

April 16

Good Friday/ Easter

Monday - no school

April 18 & 21

Earth Day

April 22

Music in Motion

Kindergarten Presenta- tion April 23

Music in Motion -

Gr 1 - Gr 8 Presentation

April 24

Trip to Zoo—gr. 4s

April 25

Jr. Girls Basketball Areas

April 29

Jr. Boys Basketball Areas

April 30

Character Assembly—

11:00 am April 30

Walk to School Wednesday

Thanks to all the families who walked to school on “Walk to School Day” in February. Although it was a blustery, cold day, many families made the effort to walk. Thank you! Remember to walk to school every day. It is great exercise and it helps lower the volume of cars in our parking lot.



EQAO

During the weeks of **May 26th to June 6th** students in grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office’s (EQAO’s) Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

In six one-hour sessions, students will complete a variety of assessment activities designed to allow them to demonstrate their skills and knowledge relating to reading, writing and mathematics as described in The Ontario Curriculum. The assessment is administered province-wide and is developed by Ontario teachers and assessment experts to reflect curriculum expectations. EQAO has developed a “Parent’s Guide to EQAO Tests” and “Questions and Answers for Parents” (available in 20 languages) to give you more information about the assessments and an understanding of what to expect. To access these resources, go to the EQAO Web site (www.eqao.com), click “Parent Resources” and then select “Primary Division (Grades 1–3) and Junior Division (Grades 4–6).”

Here are a few ways parents/guardians can help:

- please do not plan any holidays/medical appointments during this time;
- ensure proper rest each night;
- provide healthy snacks, and lunch;
- encourage your child to do his/her best!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child’s teacher.

Re: Facebook, YouTube, and other Social Networking Sites

In our new Internet generation, children are interacting with the world around them in ways many adults might never have imagined. The benefits of Internet access are enormous, but unfortunately there are also serious risks. Unsupervised, some children may be “downloading” inappropriate information. We have also become aware of some students “uploading” information about themselves (e.g., pictures, personal information and family details) onto social networking sites (chat rooms).

Parental involvement is the key to keeping children safe online. Lecturing, installing filters to block objectionable websites, keeping computers in visible locations or even keeping children off the Internet are tactics that some parents have employed, with greater or lesser success.

Engaging your children in ongoing conversation about what they are doing online is most important. We urge you to keep the lines of communication open about your child’s use of the Internet for social networking.

It is important to also remind your children that misconduct carried out over the Internet may be subject to school discipline whether carried out at school, at home or elsewhere. Depending on circumstances, police may also become involved. For more information about keeping your children safe on the Internet, visit the York Regional Police website at www.police.york.on.ca and click on the “Be Net Aware” icon.

People say Facebook causes too much drama, truth is...YOU cause your own drama by putting it on Facebook

Class Placement Requests

It is time once again when schools begin the process of organizing classrooms for September. All class placement decisions are made after extensive planning, preparation, and discussion on the part of many people. As a team, we work hard at placing students in the most appropriate learning environment possible, taking into account many factors, including students’ learning styles”, personality traits, social dynamics and gender, to develop balanced classes that reflect the diversity of our community, and allow the variety of interests and talents of our students to emerge.

If you would like to share information about how your child learns best please put this in writing addressed to the office by April 25th. Each new year brings opportunities for all students to expand their circle of friends. For this reason, class placement decisions based on friendships **will not** be considered. As well, please **do not** ask for a particular teacher. Teaching assignments see continual adjustments, often into the summer months. As always, we appreciate your understanding as we work together for the benefit of all of our students.

A Message from the Eco-Team



Earth Day, is a day we come together to express our gratitude towards the environment that sustains us and gives us life. We think about achieving green on this day, by creating a garbage free playground, wearing green in support and doing fun activities around the school as we work towards keeping our environment healthy for generations to come.

Redstone will be celebrating Earth Day with a variety of activities during the week of April 22 to April 25, 2014.

In addition to the events, students will also partake in a fun activity where Redstone will create its own Earth. Every student will have their hand traced and glued on to the Redstone Earth to show that “The Earth is in Our Hands.”

Tuesday April 22, 2014 – On EARTH DAY, students will be asked to wear **GREEN** in support of Earth Week.
Wednesday April 23, 2014 – We will be going outside to clean up the school yard. Time for **Spring Cleaning!**
Thursday April 24, 2014 – Students will be asked to bring a **Waste-Free-Lunch** to school. This is something we have been trying to implement with the Boomerang Lunches. For instance, bring snacks in a reusable container. See the attached page for tips on packing a Waste-Free lunch (<http://ontarioecoschools.org/>)

Friday April 25, 2014 – **Walk to School and Sun Hat Day!** Do your best to walk to school today, if you get a ride, ask to be dropped off close to the school and walk the rest of the way.
In addition throughout this week, we will do our best to **reduce our paper use**. Let’s make this week, a week of saving trees by using GOOS (**Good On One Side**) and using as little paper as possible.

Trip to Hear the Toronto Symphony Orchestra

Our students in grades 1 through 8 enjoyed a trip to Roy Thomson Hall to observe and hear the beautiful music played by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Thanks to Ms. Hancock for arranging all grades to attend this trip and as a result encourage the appreciation of beautiful music!



Mackenzie Health Strides for Stroke Run

Kick off spring with a fun family event in support of your local hospital by running or walking the Mackenzie Health Strides for Stroke 5k and Children's 1k! Join other Richmond Hill residents and the hospital community on Saturday, May 3 at Richmond Green to raise funds for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment and renovations critical to providing expert care. This flat, safe race takes place on the paved and gravel trails completely within Richmond Green and finishes with a fun post-race party. All the information you need to register for the 5k (the 1k event for kids is free!) can be found at www.stridesforstroke.ca.

Grade 8 Parents - Save the Date!

Grade 8 Graduation will take place on **Wednesday June 25 at the Richmond Hill Golf and Country Club**. Additional details will be sent home soon.

Redstone is Taking a Stand Against Bullying!

On **Wednesday, April 9th**, the staff and students at Redstone Public School are invited to participate in the **International Day of Pink** to campaign against bullying. The day was formed after a male student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt at school. Two fellow students organized a day where students wore pink to stand up for their classmate. Our participation in this day is intended to raise awareness about the importance of fostering a caring and inclusive environment by taking a stand against bullying in all of its forms. On April 9th, students are invited to wear something pink to help us remember that positive actions make a difference. If students do not have a pink item of clothing, they may wish to wear a pink sticker or another pink item to show their support of this initiative. We are proud to join others around the world in taking a stand against bullying!

Our Redstone Touchstone

At Redstone Public School,
We respect ourselves, others and our environment.
We are responsible for what we say and what we do.
We speak up for ourselves and for others,
And we include everyone in all activities.
We treat all people equally,
And we help others without being asked.
We never give up, no matter how difficult the task;
At Redstone, everything is possible.