



February 2014



Redstone Review

It is hard to believe that we have moved into the second half of this school year! The time has been well spent with a great deal of academic success and growth demonstrated by each child throughout the school. It is also a very busy time in our school office with the planning for the 2014/15 school year underway. In order for us to have an accurate picture of our student body, it is important that we account for all students expected to be with us next year. If you are planning to move from the Redstone Public School area this coming September, or you know of people planning to move into the area, please notify the office with a note, phone call or email.

Your child's first term report card will be sent home on **Wednesday, February 12th, 2014**. These report cards are based on work completed during the first term and will be written to meet the guidelines of the Ministry of Education's Growing Success policy. They will include strengths and next steps, and will be written so that they are easily understood by students and parents. As always, please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Beginning February 3, **all school doors, including the front door will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell which means doors will be locked at 9:25 am** and will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office. Please do not walk into the school without having identified yourself through the intercom system and it is important that you don't let others into the school when the door has been opened for you. Also we ask that students bring their lunches with them in the morning. The office staff is being greatly impacted by the number of parents dropping off lunches. Redstone Public School continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place. With this in mind, we would like to reinforce the value of punctuality. Currently, we are experiencing an ongoing issue with **many** students arriving after the instructional day has begun. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support the best learning conditions for their children by ensuring that students are present and in class when learning begins!

Diana Dal Bello and Elizabeth Lue-Kim



Inspire Learning!

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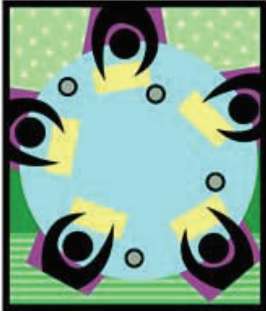
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News from the School Council



The School Council has been working hard to put together our Donation Drive for this school year. A flyer will be sent home with your child's report cards. The Donation Drive will occur between February 13 and February 28. There are some great incentives planned and wonderful prizes to be won by all families who make a donation. Stay tuned for more information! Our next Council meeting will be on Monday, March 3rd at 7:00 in the library. We welcome your involvement with our Council. Please join us if you can!

OPTIMISM IS A HAPPINESS MAGNET. IF YOU STAY POSITIVE, GOOD THINGS AND GOOD PEOPLE WILL BE DRAWN TO YOU. ~ Mary Lou Retton

Students Demonstrating "Optimism" in January

JK/SK— Victoria C., Kaeden M., George Y., Sanam F., Benjamin P., Andrew Z., Ayan R., Li Xiong L., Ethan B., and Sierra P.

Gr. 1 –Salina H., Nika K., Nathan H.

Gr. 2 - Selena A., Allan F.

Gr. 3 - Ronik S., Aparna V., Lucas B., Marianna L.

Gr. 4– Sina A., Chloe S., Iain M., Bilal R.

Gr. 5 - Ardhavan C., Kathy L.

Gr. 6 - Narges K., Rahul K., Charles C., Alexis B.

Gr. 7 - William C., Anders T.

Gr. 8 - Xavier W., Janette W.

New System for Communicating to Parents

Redstone P.S. is pleased to announce our subscription to **SchoolConnects Automated Notification Service** provided through Synrevoice Technologies Inc. SchoolConnects can deliver a wide variety of messages by phone, and email to our parents and our staff very promptly. It will help to enhance overall communication within our school community and improve our emergency preparedness and responsiveness.

In order to ensure we are ready for its use, please make sure that your contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses are up-to-date and notify us promptly whenever your contact phone numbers or e-mail addresses change.

If you do not wish to have SchoolConnects call or send email messages to you at a particular phone number or email address, please notify office staff at our school. Our distribution lists will be updated accordingly.

Black History Month

Staff and students will recognize the contributions of various Canadians and Americans of African heritage throughout the month of February. There will be daily announcements and trivia questions by Mr. RoseGreen.

Cultural Diversity Awareness Day is coming to Redstone!

The Cultural Diversity Committee is planning a Cultural Diversity Awareness Day on Friday, May 16th. We would like to celebrate and expose our students to the many diverse cultural groups that represent our community. We would like to make everyone feel welcome, respected, and are valued partners at our school. So far we have received some response from parents to help out with our event. We have extended the deadline to hear back from parents until the end of January. If you prefer, you can email me if you are interested in participating in any part of this event. Please include your cultural celebration in your email. Once again, we need parents to:

- work with other parents, teachers and small groups of students
- provide resources (cultural artifacts for your significant faith celebration)
- sharing of key ideas about your culture
- willing to present your celebration to small groups of students

other _____

Contact: wendy.cheung@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all the families who celebrated the Lunar New Year on January 31, 2014. May the year of the horse grant you happiness, wealth and longevity. We will be hosting a group of performers who will be demonstrating the Chinese Lion Dance on February 20 for all students here at Redstone.



Also as we are planning to host a Cultural Awareness Day as indicated in the blurb above. Since we will be planning specific activities to represent our different cultural make up at Redstone, we decided not to have our traditional cultural parade. Instead, we will have a day when many cultural groups will have the opportunity to share their traditions with the students of Redstone.

If you could help out at all, please sign up! We would love to have your help.

Roots of Empathy



The grade sevens in 7M continue to track the growth and development of baby Owen who has just turned six months old. They are seeing rapid changes in his personality, physical growth and physical abilities. He often hoots and hollers as he takes part in the class, and smiles while interacting with the students. His first tooth has come through and he is growing larger with each visit. He is able to roll over and he is now starting to crawl by pushing up on his arms and sliding backwards.

Recently we have learned about feelings and how Owen expresses his range of emotions. We have also learned how we express our emotions and how to understand the feelings of others.

Volleyball

Junior Mixed Volleyball

The Junior Mixed Volleyball season has been off to a great start with the team showing great commitment by coming to the many practices. The boys and girls are working very well together during practice to prepare for future tournaments. They are learning to share constructive feedback with one another to develop their skills and enrich teamwork. We look forward to our first tournament on January 15th and the Area C tournament on January 28th; we are excited to show off our personalized jerseys!

Thanks to Coach Isit and Coach Cancelli for all of their hard work preparing these students for the tournament. Although they did not advance in the Area tournament, the team showed great spirit and enthusiasm. Well done, Roadrunners!

Basketball

The Girl's Intermediate Basketball team has been practicing in preparation for the tournaments they will be participating in. The first tournament takes place on Monday, February 3rd at Crosby Heights. The area tournament is on February 19 at Red Maple Public School. Thanks to Mr. Dixon, Mr. Sherlock and Mr. Rosegreen for coaching the girls! The Boy's Intermediate Basketball team is also preparing for the basketball season. They will be participating in tournaments at Redstone before the area tournament on February 20. Thank you, Coaches Stoddart and Grey!

Redstone Healthy Schools Student Club

Take Note...

Toronto Symphony
Orchestra - Gr. 3 & 4

February 5

Walk to School Day

February 5

Toronto Symphony
Orchestra - Gr. 1 & 2

February 6

Redstone's Intermediate
Boys Basketball Tournaments

February 6 & 10

AIR Project—Gr. 8s

February 7, 10, 11, 13, 14

Glenn Marais writing music
with students

February 7, 12, 21

Science Centre - Gr. 7 & 8

February 12

Family Day (No School)

February 17

Monday Schedule

February 18

Intermediate Girls Area
Basketball

February 19

Intermediate Boys Area
Basketball

February 20

Chinese Lion Dance

February 20

Character Assembly
(Perseverance)

February 28

The first ever **Redstone Healthy School Student Club** has been formed, and we are excited to get our community feeling good, looking great, and making healthy choices for a better life. Mr. Inglis and a very energetic group of grade 3 – 6 students will start by making daily announcements about simple fitness activities and yummy home-made snacks that will provide energy.

Many studies have shown that students who eat right, get regular exercise, spend time with their family and get proper rest are more alert and successful in school. To support this, the first major initiative of the Redstone HS Student club will be encouraging families to keep track of their healthy choices over 4 weeks in February. A daily tracking form will be sent home, and students and their families can keep record all of the great healthy choices they make throughout the month. The chart will give students and their families the opportunity to maintain a balanced approach to their personal health. Health begins at home!

Wednesday, February 5th, 2014 is **Winter Walk Day** at schools across Canada. Our team will be encouraging students to walk to school as one simple way to get physical activity, help create a healthier environment, reduce the amount of traffic congestion in our parking lot, spend time with friends, and have fun! Announcements will be shared to promote the initiative soon. If it's too cold to make the journey, we will provide some indoor walking routes to keep in the spirit of the event. Walking is a great way to get exercise, and an even better way to get to school.

If you would like to help the Redstone Healthy School Club, please contact Mr. Inglis at the school. *Good health isn't a destination; it's a life long journey!*

It's Cool to Walk to School....

Even in the Winter!!

Wednesday, February 5th, 2014

is Ontario's fifth

annual Winter Walk Day

for schools.

**Walk to school for daily physical activity ; a
Healthier environment; safer streets;
and... fun!**

Students who walk to school on this morning will receive a voucher for a hot chocolate that will be delivered to you in your classroom later that morning. Find a staff member outside on the sidewalk on your walk to school. Bussed students have the opportunity to walk around the field twice to be eligible.

13 (Better) Questions to ask Your Child About School

When your child comes home on the first few days of school—or throughout the school year—there will be lots of information you want from him or her. Here are some important things to keep in mind when you're talking to your child about school.

- The way you ask the questions matters. If you give your child the opportunity to answer with one word (*yes, no, a name*), then you're likely to get a one-word response. Try to ask open-ended questions to keep a conversation going.
 - Often kids are not specific, so you have to ask for specific information when you want it.
 - Starting with factual questions is a great way to ease into conversation.
 - Avoiding emotion-packed words (*fun, happy, sad, mean*) will allow the conversation to go on longer.
- Asking positive questions will give your child a chance to express concerns. Negative questions will stop a conversation.

After School Conversation Starters:

Avoid these questions:

1. How was school?
2. Did you have fun at school?
3. Who did you sit with?
4. Was your teacher nice?
5. Did your teacher go over the daily schedule with the class?
6. Did you have everything you needed for school?
7. Were the kids in your class nice?
8. Did you get your schedule?
9. Are your friends in your classes?
10. Was the work hard?

Try these instead:

1. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
2. What was the best thing you did at school?
3. Tell me the names of the four kids who sat closest to you.
4. What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today?
 - What class rules did your teacher say are important?
 - What did your teacher say she likes to do?
5. What is the best thing about your daily schedule?
6. Was there anything you wish you had at school that you didn't have today?
7. Who did you enjoy talking with the most?
 - Did anyone have anything fun or interesting to talk about?
8. Which days look best on your schedule?
9. Tell me two kids you remember from each class.
10. What was the best thing your teacher asked you to do in ____ today?

The way we talk to our children, becomes their inner voice

~ Peggy O'Mara



Defibrillator Training

Coming soon to all schools in YRDSB will be a defibrillator which will be housed outside of the gym area. In order to have one placed in our school, we had to have 10 staff members attend a 3 hour training session after school. Thanks to the many wonderful teachers who volunteered their time, we were able to meet our criteria and will be receiving our defibrillator later this year.

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Michaelle Jean Public School on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Michaelle Jean Public School to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.



Red Carpet at Redstone



On January 30th, 2014 the primary classes had an opportunity to celebrate their media literacy productions during a red carpet event at Redstone. Back in December a number of the primary classes had the opportunity to participate in the Director's Cut Workshop to write scripts, create paper puppets with backgrounds and use a variety of computer programs to create their own mini clips to celebrate the "Walking with the Dinosaur" movie. At our red carpet event, students had the opportunity to view videos made by their peers in other classes as well as their own. The red carpet event was a wonderful way for us to celebrate all the hard work and creativity displayed by our students!

Grade 4 Students Have Fun at Medieval Times

On Friday December 6th, the grade 4 classes of Mr. Stoddart, Mrs. Richter, and Mr. Sherlock had the opportunity to visit the Medieval Times Dinner Theatre. We were met by one of the Upper Lords who introduced us to the Royal Falcon. Then we were escorted into the arena where we were entertained as the Knights battled for the hand of the Princess. Chivalry is alive and well at Medieval Times. We feasted on chicken, baked potato, and garlic bread- no utensils allowed! All of those who attended had a wonderful time. We would like to thank those parent volunteers who came along and made our trip a successful one.





Message from our Trustee, Carol Chan

This is an exciting time for our Board. We recently launched our new Mission, Vision and Values, and the Board's first slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

Our new mission statement – *to advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community* – will help to guide our work and move us forward in the months and years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input. We look forward to bringing these statements to life in our school communities.

We are now halfway through the school year, a good time to celebrate all that your children have achieved and to set goals for the rest of the year. I encourage you to speak with your child not only about what they are learning, but also how they are learning. There are so many exciting and innovative things happening in our schools.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful second term.

Safe Arrival: Call In Your Child's Absence When Buses Are Cancelled

Please remember to call into the school to report your child's absence or late arrival. This will minimize the number of phone calls to homes, work places, and/or emergency contacts when a child is marked as absent. This is especially important during snow days when buses are cancelled as we will have a high volume of absences. It can take hours for our office staff to get through to all the parents that have not called in absences so that we are assured of the safety of our students. Having to make fewer phone calls means that we can confirm the safe arrival of all students in a more timely manner and spend our energies attending to students that need our immediate attention.

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.