



September 2014



Redstone Review

Administrators' Message

Welcome back to another exciting school year! The Redstone staff has been preparing for our students' return. The caretakers have worked so hard over the summer to have the school clean and ready for the first day. Thank you, Ms. Wilton, Mr. Dreger and Mrs. Hsiao. Redstone looks wonderful! Teachers, early childhood educators and educational assistants have also been planning and preparing for the return of our students. Everyone is excited and eager to start the new school year and implement engaging programs. Classrooms look very inviting! We can't thank our teachers, ECEs and EAs enough for all their efforts in preparing a welcoming environment for our students.

A big thanks to our office staff, Mrs. Nasser and Mrs. Muench who have worked tirelessly over the last week to prepare our school for the start up. Even with so much to do, they take the time to greet our visitors and make them feel welcomed at Redstone!

Congratulations to our new parents! Mrs. Hotchkiss and her husband welcome a beautiful baby girl born in July.

We'd also like to welcome some new staff to Redstone. Ms. Mahdi is teaching grade 5 in place of Ms. Conahan who continues to enjoy time off with her baby. We also welcome our new Educational Assistants, Ms. Usher, Ms. Tsanas and Ms. Schouten.

Let's make this a wonderful school year! Looking forward to seeing you all soon and hearing about your exciting summer.

Diana Dal Bello and Jennifer Anderson



Redstone Public School
235 Redstone Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4S 2E2

Principal

Diana Dal Bello

Vice Principal

Jennifer Anderson

School Phone: 905-508-1073

Superintendent

Rita Russo

905-884-4477

Trustee

Carol Chan

905-881-8762

School Website

www.redstone.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Transportation Services

1-866-287-7837

Inside this issue

School Council Information ...2
First Stop...The Office2
Search and Seizure2
Lates and Absences2
Anaphylaxis3
Native, Inuit and Metis Ancestry..... 3
Important Dates4
2013-2014 Redstone Staff4
Physical Contact at School.....5
Parking Reminders5
General Interest Courses.....6
Forms and Agendas6
Redstone's Touchstone6

Parents...Get Involved and Join the School Council!



The School Council acts as an advisory committee to the Principal and is actively involved in supporting the school. Meetings are held to discuss school plans, set goals and to provide advice to the school administration. All parents are welcome to attend School Council meetings. Please come out to the first meeting on **Mon. September 15th** at 7pm in the library.

If you are interested in serving on the 2014-2015 Redstone School Council, please complete the Self-Nomination Form which you will find in the "School Start Up Package". Deliver the completed form to the School Office by **Wed.**

Sept. 10th. If we receive 15 or less, the Council will be considered acclaimed and we will meet on **Mon. Sept. 15th.** If more than 15 nominations are received, an election to select members will be held. Ballots will be sent home on **Wed. Sept. 17** (one per family) and will need to be returned to school by **Tues. Sept. 23rd.** Results of an election will be sent home **Mon. Sept. 29th.** New members will begin their terms on **Mon. Oct. 6th** at the School Council Meeting. At our first official meeting, elections will be held for the Executive positions: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Please join us!

"If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders." ~ Abigail Van Buren

First Stop is the Office

The only way that we can ensure the safety of all students is with your full participation! . All visitors and volunteers are required to sign in when entering the building. A "Sign-In" form is located in the office. Please sign in at the office and obtain a "visitor" badge so that you can quickly be identified by staff in the halls. Going directly to your child's classroom only causes clutter and confusion in the hallways. Make arrangements to meet your children at specific doors. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and makes it easier for staff to identify anyone who should not be in the school!

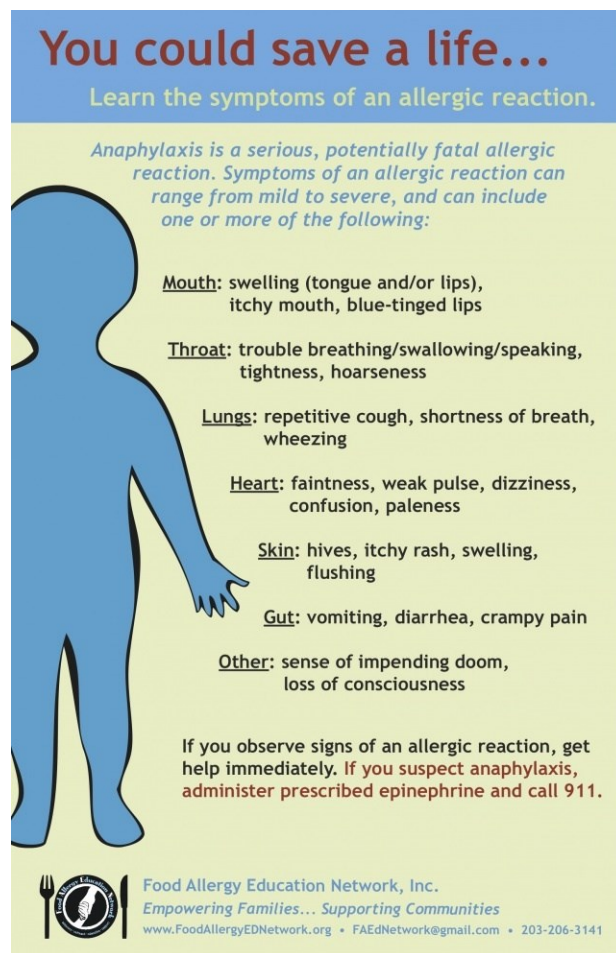
Search and Seizure Reminder to Parents

Protocol between the York Region Police and York Region District School Board mandates that school administrators remind parents of the search and seizure policy at the commencement of the school year. The Police Protocol states that "the school community needs to be made aware of the right of the school administrators to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. School administrators shall also make the school community aware that police may from time to time be invited onto school premises to conduct their own searches. These searches may be conducted without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal."

Student Late or Absent?

If your child is going to be away from school for any reason, please give the office a call at (905) 508- 1073, and leave a message between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. On a busy day with many absences, confirming the whereabouts of every absent child can take quite a while and could result in a child missing for some time.

The York Region District School Board has been advised by the police that if a student has not arrived at school, and after all steps have been taken to contact the parents, emergency contact etc., the police wish to be informed immediately and will be contacted.



No Peanuts, Tree-nuts or Nut by-products at Redstone

School staff, students and parents are responsible for creating a safe and healthy environment for all of our students. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with life threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. If they smell or come into contact with these foods, they may have an anaphylactic reaction. These life threatening allergies include peanuts and nuts (such as almonds, cashews, hazelnut, and walnuts). Some other common anaphylactic allergens include dairy products, eggs, fish, wheat, shellfish and insect stings. While it is impossible to create a risk-free environment, together we can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. We ask all students not to bring nut or nut products to school. We strongly encourage parents to avoid the use of substitute peanut butter products. Also, please avoid chocolate spreads that are made with hazelnuts. **No sharing** of food or eating utensils is allowed. The children at risk may also be made aware, on a regular basis, that they should not take any food other than what has been sent by a parent or guardian. If your child has a severe allergy, please contact the office staff to let them know. You will be required to fill out a medical care plan and provide the school with **two Epi-pens**.

In keeping with this policy, please **do not send baked goods or products containing nuts to school with your child to celebrate his or her birthday**. Please ensure that any food sent in is clearly marked with the no-peanut symbol. **Timbits or donuts cannot be distributed** to students as these products do not guarantee that they have not come in contact with nuts. An alternative to food would be to send in a pencil or any loot bag type object to share with classmates. An "Allergy Safe" environment can only be achieved when everyone is committed. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Promoting Success for Students of First Nation, Metis and Inuit Ancestry

The York Region District School Board provides an opportunity for students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry to self-identify. The process is voluntary and the information gathered will be kept confidential.

The self-identification process is the first step in providing:

Culturally specific learning opportunities or activities;

Additional support for academic achievement and well-being, including designated support staff;

Communication between schools, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education staff, Aboriginal students and their families;

Connections to post-secondary institutions, community groups, service providers and other partners;

More learning opportunities for all members of the school community to develop a greater understanding of Aboriginal perspectives, cultures and histories.

New students can self-identify when they register with the Board. Current students can complete an Aboriginal Self-Identification Form which can be obtained from their school.

For further information, please see the Information for Parents and Students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Ancestry brochure available from the school or speak with the school principal.

Take Note...

PA Day

Please note that the first Professional Activity (PA) Day of the school year is on **Monday September 22nd, 2014**. Teachers will be involved in professional activities at the school on this day, and students do not attend school.

Curriculum Night/BBQ

Our annual BBQ and Curriculum Night is planned for **Tuesday September 23rd, 2014**. Please join us with your family.

June 25th, 2015 Early Dismissal in Elementary Schools

All students have received a copy of the *2014-15 Learning Calendar*. Please note that on **Thursday, June 25th, 2015** an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to participate in activities in the afternoon of that day in support of student achievement and school planning.

Students will attend school during the **morning of Thursday, June 25th, 2015** only. More details will follow closer to the date.

Redstone Staff 2014-2015

Principal: Diana Dal Bello

Vice Principal: Jennifer Anderson

Office Staff: Sukaina Nasser, Janet Muench

Teachers

Sharon Blumenthal	Kindergarten
Helen Coetzee	Kindergarten
Johanna Gertzbein	Kindergarten
Albert Janzen	Kindergarten
Caroline Dawn	Grade 1
Joyce Quan	Grade 1
Michelle Sekulovski	Grade 1/2
Robyn Alvarez	Grade 2
Sandra Lombardo	Grade 2
Andrea Zonni	Grade 2/3
Howard Horowitz	Grade 3
Jennifer Wainberg	Grade 3/4
Nancy Richter & Gail Evans	Grade 4
Mark Stoddart	Grade 5
Christina Mahdi	Grade 5
Doug Inglis	Grade 5/6
Robert Hynd	Grade 6
Elvira Clark	Grade 6/7
Jordana Ciani	Grade 7
Steve Barwin	Grade 7/8
Mete Mangaloglu	Grade 7/8
Linda Binicki	Grade 8

ELL: Wendy Cheung

French: Jenna Armeland, Shira Levy and Nancy Richter

Library: Ronda Dietrich

Reading Recovery: Ronda Dietrich

Special Education: Ashley Aylett, Anderson Dixon, Amy Getzler, Subesha Singarajah

The Arts/Prep: Rob Grey, Jennifer Hancock

Educational Assistants: Sharon Hildebrandt, Carla Schouten, Karin Shoub, Maro Tsanas, Amy Usher, Winnie Yeung

Early Childhood Educators: Christina Ciccone, Bilkis Jaffer, Samerah Mirahmadi

Caretaking Staff: Rick Dreger, Anni Hsiao, Mandy Wilton

Physical Contact at School

In order to prevent physical injury and because of our concern for student safety, students at Redstone P.S. 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. During recess breaks, students are able to play organized games such as, basketball, soccer and foot hockey, as well as activities such as skipping and tag.



"The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice. ~ Peggy O'Mara

Parking Reminders

Redstone parents, let's work together to keep our children safe! Please follow the new rules for our parking lot. Please do not park in the drop off zones which are along the exterior of the parking lot. Please park in designated spots in the parking lot or on Redstone Rd. in front of the school.



Important Information and Student Agendas

Your child received a great deal of important information this week including the following forms to be completed: Consent/Agreement Form and the Policy Agreement Form. Please take some time to read through these forms as well as the Guide to the 2014-15 School Year. You will also have received a Student Registration Verification Form. Please review the information, indicate any necessary changes and sign and return this form. We plan to continue with e-mail communication again this year, so please ensure we have your current e-mail address. All forms are to be returned to your child's teacher by Wednesday, September 10th.

Students in grades 1 to 8 have been provided with a school agenda. The front of the agenda includes information about the school including expectations for student behaviour. The agenda is an important tool to communicate with you throughout the year and will help your child stay organized. It is our expectation that students will use their agenda on a daily basis.

Accessibility Concerns?

The York Region District School Board is committed to eliminating obstacles to accessibility for all members of our school communities, including students, parents, staff, volunteers, visitors, suppliers, trades people, and anyone else who may come in contact with our school system.

Recognizing that barriers to access often remain unknown to able-bodied persons, and that those with disabilities may not wish to draw attention to themselves, a method of submitting suggestions electronically has been created. Anyone concerned with a potential barrier to access a building or service is invited to report the concern online at the Board's website.

Please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca:

- Click on the "accessibility for all" icon on the bottom left hand side of the page;
- On the "accessibility for all" page click on "Barrier Buster" on the top right hand corner; and
- Complete the "Barrier Buster" form and click "Submit".

This reporting procedure will allow all members of the school community to identify and describe particular impediments they or someone they know is experiencing in obtaining access to Board services or buildings. Some barriers may be easily resolved simply through an adjustment to processes or other physical conditions, while others may require consideration for extensive planning and capital investment.

All submissions will receive a prompt response.