

R.L. Graham P.S.

Principal – J. Macpherson
Vice Principal- S. Dickson

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Superintendent – D. Hawkins
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Trustee – Nancy Elgie
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February's Character Matters- INITIATIVE

Happy February from the staff at RL Graham!

Things are hopping as usual at RL Graham. January was a busy month with Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball, trips to the Science Centre, Markham Museum and Sibbald Point, Grade 8 Graduation photos and so much more. Kindergarten registration has begun, so if you know someone in the community please let them know to register as soon as possible.

February is expected to be just as busy. In the next few weeks our Kindergarten students will be going to the Ripley's Aquarium, there will be an author visit and this year's Dance Week begins! Parent volunteers are always welcome to help to make the various activities and outings a great success.

As the first term winds down, students will be recognized for all their hard work. An Honour Roll and Principal's Awards assembly will be held on Friday, February 24th at 10:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Jane Macpherson
Principal

Susan Dickson
Vice Principal

Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning."

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

Sincerely,

Nancy Elgie

Are you moving?

If so, please let us know as soon as possible. We are currently projecting our student enrolment for September 2017. These numbers help us plan for sufficient staff and support personnel. It is important that we know as soon as possible if you are planning to leave the RL Graham community before September. Please call our office with any information: 905-476-9295 or email at r.l.graham.ps@yrdsb.ca.



Save the Dates! E.Q.A.O. Assessment

EQAO will be taking place this year from May 23 – June 5, 2017.

Children in grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO) Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. In 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 Expectations. This assessment provides us with valuable information about the progress of our students. It is important that all students are in attendance on these days. If you are booking medical/dental appointments for your child, please avoid these two weeks. We thank you for your support.

EQAO information session will be held on Thursday, March 2nd – 6:30-8:00 p.m. for interested parents. Staff will share examples of test questions, answer questions and share strategies for support and test preparation. More information to follow.

Eco School News

Thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Dionne's grade 7/8 class and the Caretaking Staff, we are now Green Binning paper towel, food scraps and other compostables!

Last week, the Grade 8 students delivered presentations to the whole school to teach everyone what goes in the GREEN BIN, what goes into RECYCLING and what goes into GARBAGE, but it's a lot to learn, and if we get it wrong, it will all go to landfill.



Here's how you can help:

- Check out the [York Region Bindicator](#) online tool with your children. (In just seconds, you can find out, once and for all, where that Tim Horton's coffee cup belongs!)
- Get the free Town of Georgina **My Waste App** (another way to find out What Goes Where) <https://www.georgina.ca/living-here/waste-and-recycling>
- Send food and drinks in reusable containers whenever possible
- Consider sending a boomerang lunch where any leftovers go home in the lunchbag

February 2nd is NATIONAL SWEATER DAY! Like many other schools in YRDSB and across the country, R.L. Graham will be turning our heat down by 2 degrees to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a sweater (or another cozy layer). Students who bring a reusable drinking container and 50 cents may purchase hot chocolate during Lunch Recess. The Ecoteam will donate the proceeds from the hot chocolate sale to the World Wildlife Fund to assist with Arctic habitat protection.

Valentine's Day Cookie Sale

On Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14th, Student Council will be selling cookies. Cookies will be purchased from the culinary program at Keswick High School and are guaranteed nut safe. The cost of a cookie is \$2.00 and proceeds will support Student Council initiatives.

Do you have a child in Grade 7 or 8? They may be interested in the following enrichment opportunities:

- [York Region Elementary Enrichment Band Camp](#). Camp runs from June 5th-8th at the Salvation Army Camp and Conference Centre in Jackson's Point. Auditions required. Online applications due no later than Friday, February 10th, 2017. Click on the link or go to yrdsb.ca and search 'band camp'.
- [York Region Elementary Arts Camp](#). Camp runs from May 27th to June 3rd at Camp White Pine, Haliburton. Online applications due no later than Friday, February 17th, 2017. Click on the link or go to yrdsb.ca and search 'arts camp'.

Bag2You

Our EcoTeam is collecting items for recycling and fundraising! Their goal is to set a new record and collect 4 tons in 3 days! To participate, please send in the following items on Mar 20 - Mar 24 until 9am (it's all getting picked up on the 24th):

- Gently used clothing,
- Hats, belts,
- Purses,
- Footwear (tied together in pairs),
- and soft stuffed toys.

All funds raised (\$200 per ton) will go toward Eco Team initiatives. Bags will be sent home for our collection but please feel free to use your own bags if you fill yours up!

Vulnerable Sector Check

We rely on parent and family volunteers to help support our students in many ways. Among the many services they provide, parent and family volunteers read to our students, fundraise, support events at school and field trips outside of school. Under most

circumstances where volunteers will be working with students, a vulnerable sector check is required.

The vulnerable sector check is a simple process that can be done online or in person at Richmond Hill Community Resource Centre

9350 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill - 1-866-876-5423

For online - click on the following link:

<https://www.yrp.ca/en/services/Online-Police-Background-Checks.asp>

If you are required to have a vulnerable sector check, please see Alison Fardy in the office for a school letter that will off-set the cost.

Allergy Alert

Many of you may have heard the announcement from McDonald's that they are no longer a nut safe environment. At this time, they are saying that the only addition is almonds in a Skor McFlurry. We are asking that families do not send in any type of McFlurry to school. At this point, we are not banning other McDonald's products but if more additions to the menu make the risk too great (like Tim Horton's food items), we may have to ban products. As always, we appreciate your support in doing your best to keep life threatening allergic contaminants away from school.

R.L. Graham School Council Executive – 2016/17

Chair:	Corinne D'Angelo
Treasury Liaison:	Staci Bassie
Secretary:	Lee Canavan







Next School Council Meeting: Thursday, February 9th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. All are welcome.



February

2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Day 1	1 Day 2 SUB DAY 	2 Day 3 Turn down the Thermostat Sweater Day! Hot Choc for sale 	3 Day 0 PA DAY No School	4
5 	6 Day 4 DANCE WEEK	7 Day 5	8 Day 1 GR 7 MENINGITIS PIZZA DAY 	9 Day 2 6:30 School Council ALL WELCOME	10 Day 3 1pm DANCE WEEK PRESENTATION →	11 
12	13 Day 4	14 Day 5 Student Council Valentine cookies Sales \$2 	15 Day 1 SUB DAY  Report Card Day 	16 Day 2	17 Day 3	18
19	20  DAY NO SCHOOL	21 Day 4	22 Day 5 PIZZADAY  PINK SHIRT DAY! 	23 Day 1	24 Day 2 10:30am Honour Roll Assembly	25
26 	27 Day 3 SING! Family Movie night @GEM \$3	28 Day 4	March 1 Day 5 SUB DAY 	March 2 Day 1 6:30pm EQAO parent info night gr. 3 and 6	March 3 Day 2 ELECTIVES Gr. 4-6	

