

# September 2016



## Administrators' Message

Welcome back to school for the 2016-2017 year! The staff has been busy preparing the school and classrooms for an exciting year of learning and growth. We are looking forward to hearing about your summer adventures, reconnecting with Graham families, and welcoming new families to our GREAT school! We look forward to seeing all of you at our school's Open House and BBQ on Thursday, September 15th.

York Region District School Board has a new Board Improvement Plan that focuses on Mathematics, Modern Learning and Mental Health. Stay tuned as the staff and students at Graham embark on an exciting journey exploring the world of mathematics, what it means to be a learner in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how to remain mentally healthy in a challenging world. We welcome families as our partners in this journey.

Over the next few weeks, we will be establishing classroom and school routines. We are asking for your support and participation in this effort, by sending your child(ren) to school on time daily, encouraging him/her to read for pleasure for at least 30 minutes every night, monitoring homework and progress, and asking your child to share what they have learned at school each day.

Jane Macpherson, Principal

Susan Dickson, Vice Principal

## September's Character Matters- RESPECT

Looking Forward To...

*Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast Program Begins*  
*Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Eid*  
*Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – Scholastic Book Fair*  
*Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Welcome Back BBQ and Open House*  
*5:30 – 8:00 p.m.*  
*Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> – Safety Week (Fire Drills/Lock Down Drills)*  
*Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – PA Day*  
*Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – School Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.)*  
*Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Terry Fox Run (afternoon)*  
*Oct. 3-4 – Rosh Hashanah*



### R.L. Graham Public School Contact Information

**Phone** (905) 476-9295  
**Fax** (905) 476-8598

**Website**  
<http://rlgraham.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

**School E-Mail**  
[r.l.graham.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:r.l.graham.ps@yrdsb.ca)

**Principal – J. Macpherson**

**Vice-Principal – S. Dickson**

**Superintendent - D. Hawkins**  
(905) 895-5155

**Trustee – Nancy Elgie**  
[nancy.elgie@yrdsb.ca](mailto:nancy.elgie@yrdsb.ca)

## Agendas

All students in grades K-8 will receive a school agenda for the first term; there is no cost for these. Second term agendas will be handed out at the end of January.

## **Important Dates to Remember:**

### **School Holidays 2016-2017**

Thanksgiving Day—Monday, October 10  
Winter Holiday—December 26 to January 6  
Family Day—Monday, February 20  
March Break—March 13 to March 17  
Good Friday—Friday, April 14  
Easter Monday—Monday, April 17  
Victoria Day—Monday, May 22

### **Elementary PA Days**

Monday, September 26  
Friday, November 25 (Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Thurs evening & Friday)  
Friday, January 20  
Monday, February 3  
Friday, June 2  
Friday, June 30



### ***EQAO Assessment Days for Grade 3 and 6 Students:***

**Tuesday, May 23 to Monday, June 5, 2017**

Please do not schedule holiday vacations or medical appointments for your children during these two weeks.

All students have received a copy of the *2016-2017 Learning Calendar*. Please note that on **Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016** 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016** only. More details will follow.

## **Safe Arrival Program**

Every morning we contact the parents of students who are absent from school and for whom we have had no prior notification. If you know that your child is going to be absent for a medical appointment etc., please contact the school by email, written note or phone call **THE DAY BEFORE**. This considerably reduces the number of calls to parents that we have to make. If your child becomes ill overnight, please email the school or leave a message on the answering machine which is turned on at the end of each day.



## **Attendance**

**Regular attendance at school is a key factor to success at school. Classes begin at 8:15 am.**

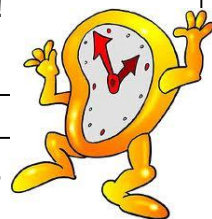
When students are late, they miss important school announcements, instructions from teachers and they disrupt the beginning of the school day for everyone. Please help to set your child up for success by ensuring that they come to school on time. Thank you for your support!

## **Spinnaker by Email – Online Newsletter!**

The Spinnaker is paperless. Families, who do not already receive our newsletter online, please send us your email address to:

[r.l.graham.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:r.l.graham.ps@yrdsb.ca).

The subject line is "Student Update Request". Please notify the office at 905-476-9295, if you do not have internet access and we will send a paper copy home each month. You can always access our newsletters at [www.rlgraham.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://www.rlgraham.ps.yrdsb.ca) !



## **School Times**

<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Entry to School</b>
<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
<b>10:05-10:25 am</b>	<b>Recess</b>
<b>12:05-1:05 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:45 pm</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

**PLEASE**



**NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS**

### **Peanut and Nut Aware**

In our school, there are students and staff with potentially life-threatening forms of allergic reactions called Anaphylaxis. If by accident, the allergic child is to come into contact with even a small quantity of peanut or nut products, their residues, or even the scent of nuts, the child may develop hives, swelling and demonstrate difficulty in breathing. If the reaction is not stopped, the symptoms may become more severe leading to a drop in blood pressure, unconsciousness and or death. Immediate action must be taken by use of adrenaline injection (Epi-pen). All affected individuals in our school with this condition carry an Epi-pen at all times and staff are trained in their use and administration.



### **Scent Sensitive**

Please be aware that we have both students and staff who are allergic to the smell of strong perfumes, after shaves and deodorants. The strong scents in these items can trigger allergic reactions including stuffy nose, watery eyes and/or migraine headaches. Please avoid wearing strong scents to school.

### **Medication**

Either on a regular basis or at times throughout the year, some students may need to take medication at school. Parents must complete a permission form and have it approved by the Principal before medication can be taken or stored in the school. All medication is kept locked, in the office and students are supervised as they take any medication. Students are not permitted at any time to take any medication to school and keep it in their classroom, lunch bags, backpacks or lockers.



### **Transportation Information**

In order to ensure the safety of all students who ride the bus to and from school **please notify your child's teacher and/or the office if your child is eligible for bussing, but will NOT be riding the bus.** It is very important that we know how your children will be going home at the end of the school day.

Bus route information is available at:  
[www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

### **Keeping Our Schools Safe and Orderly**

In accordance with the principal's responsibilities under the Education Act to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment, **the school has the right to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person.** From time to time, the police may be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches and these searches may be conducted without notice or permission of any member of the school community as per our Joint Board and Police Protocol. When conducting a search of school property, persons or personal property, the police are responsible for conforming to all legal requirements with respect to searches.

## Breakfast Program

Our **Breakfast Club** program continues to grow. A nutritious breakfast is available in the lunch room from **7:50 a.m. until 8:15 a.m.** Students are encouraged to come and enjoy a healthy meal and good company.

**There is no cost** to attend **thanks to** the following organizations' generous support:

**\*Breakfast Clubs of  
Canada**

**\*Food for Learning**

**\*The Grocery  
Foundation**



## RL Graham Staff List – 2016-2017

FDK	Mrs. Heath/Mrs. Dickinson	<u>Administrators:</u>
FDK	Mrs. Kirby/Mrs. Pullin	Mrs. Macpherson
FDK	Mrs. Peters/Mrs. Duckett	Mrs. Dickson
Gr. 1	Mrs. Price	
Gr. 1	Ms. Robinson	<u>Administrative Assistants:</u>
Gr. 2	Mrs. O'Brien	Mrs. Fardy
Gr. 2/3	Mrs. McKeown	Mrs. Wood
Gr. 2/3	Mrs. Dance	
Gr. 3/4	Mrs. Moore	<u>Educational Assistants/Child and Youth Workers:</u>
Gr. 3/4	Mr. Hickman	Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Jenson, Mrs. McLeod, Ms. D'Ambrosio, Ms. Witthun, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Baker, Ms. Purvis, Ms. Beale, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. McClure, Ms. Dainard
Gr. 4/5	Ms. Mundy	
Gr. 5	Mrs. DaCosta	
Gr. 6	Ms. Norman	
Gr. 6/7	Mr. Dunlop	
Gr. 7/8	Mrs. Dionne	<u>Caretaking Staff:</u>
Gr. 8	Mrs. Fisher	Mr. Brown
Gym	Mr. Salhani	Mrs. O'Neill
Support Staff	Mr. Halkias, Mrs. Perkins	Mr. Kett
SERT	Mrs. Cake, Ms. Vandenberg	Mr. Gale
Community Class	Mrs. Menna, Mrs. Sheppard, Ms. Fife	
French	TBD	
Music	Mr. Dunlop	
Reading Recovery	Mrs. Sheard	
Library	Mr. Gordon	



## Welcome Back BBQ & Open House: Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Our Welcome Back BBQ & school Open House will be Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Families are invited to come out and have their child share their classroom. Community clubs/organizations will be on hand to share information. There will also be a BBQ on the back tarmac beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will have hamburgers, veggie burgers or hotdogs combined with drink and a small bag of chips available for sale for \$5.00. Quantities are limited and it will be on a first come/first serve basis.



Also, in the staffroom will be a bake sale with lots of yummy treats. Proceeds will go towards buying technology for the classrooms.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there ☺

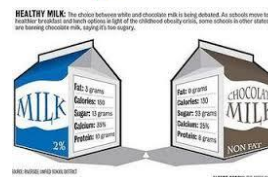
## Nutrition Programs

At R.L. Graham Public School we have a variety of nutrition programs available for our students.

- Our FREE Breakfast program will begin on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:50 – 8:15. The FREE snack program will also begin on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Milk program order forms will be sent out during the week of September 12<sup>th</sup> for daily white or chocolate milk...a great source of calcium!

- Pizza and sub lunches will also be offered throughout the school year. Order forms will be sent out shortly.



- Lunches that are dropped off for students during the morning may be placed on the front counter in the office. Notes are available to write the student name on the lunch. Please be sure that your child knows that their lunch will be delivered. When meeting students please make arrangements to do so in the front foyer or outside of the school.



## Student Accidents and Insurance

All accidents should be reported to a teacher and the school office so that a record of the incident is kept on file. The York Region District School Board makes insurance plans available with several options for insurance. Applications will be sent home on the first day of school.



## Modern Learning and the use of Electronic Devices

RL Graham will be creating a comprehensive technology policy to address the effective and safe use of varied technologies at school. Until that time, please do not send your child to school with iPads, iPods, cell phones etc. The school will not assume responsibility for these valuable items. Other items that should not be used at school include skateboards, roller blades, heelies, scooters or laser pointers.



## Volunteers Needed!

Welcome back to RL Graham! There are many exciting things happening at RL Graham this year and we need **YOUR HELP!!** Check out the following opportunities:

**Breakfast Club:** Volunteers are needed to help from 7:50 am to 8:15 am daily to help prepare and serve food to our students. No cooking skills required... just your time.

Please contact the school at 905 476-9295 if you are interested in this opportunity.

**Reading Program:** Volunteers are needed to read with JK to grade 8 students on a one to one basis. You may be required to read to a student and/or listen and help a student while they read. No previous experience needed, training will be provided.

Please contact Mrs. Perkins at 905 476-9295 if you are interested in this opportunity.

## Safe Welcome Program!

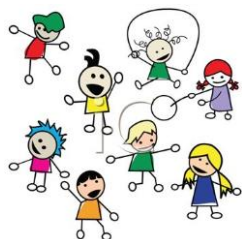
Thank you for your ongoing feedback regarding the Safe Welcome Program in our school. As a result of this feedback, and working in cooperation with Plant Services staff, the procedure is being adjusted to allow more effective access to schools. These changes are:

- ✓The school front door is to be **unlocked** between the time of the dismissal bell (2:45 p.m.) and when the main office closes (3:30 p.m.).
- ✓The childcare door and staff will provide **access** once the front door is locked after the main office closes.
- ✓Any classroom door to a childcare program or an after school activity **must** be locked when these programs are in session and an external door is unlocked.
- ✓The front door is to be **unlocked 15 minutes** before a permit begins, and is to be **locked 15 minutes** after the permit ends.






## Welcome Back Assembly

School wide assemblies have been planned for students on the first day to review expectations for behaviour as outlined in the Safe and Supportive Schools' policy. Please be sure to review this policy in the Guide to the 2016-2017 School Year booklet or on our board's website [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).



# SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 LABOUR DAY	6 Day 1 Back to School 	7 Day 2	8 Day 3 Breakfast Program Starts! All are welcome at 7:50am 	9 Day 4	10
11	12 Day 5  Scholastic	13 Day 1 Bus Evacuation Drills  Book	14 Day 2  Fair	15 Day 3  Welcome Back BBQ, Open House and Bake Sale 	16 Day 4	17
18	19 Day 5	20 Day 1	21 Day 2	22 Day 3	23 Day 4	24
25	26 PA Day No School  SAFETY WEEK	27 Day 5	28 Day 1	29 School Council Meeting – 6:30 PM Director's Cut Gr. 7 and 8	30 Terry Fox Run 