

Russell Public School Newsletter

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Stacey McCready
Principal



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<http://russell.ucdsb.on.ca>

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Russell Public School



@RussellPSchool

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Supporters of Russell Public School,

I hope everyone had a great holiday break; we are rejuvenated and excited to be back. We are very happy to be able to offer the public skating program again at RPS - permission forms have already been sent home. Please note the dates and times for your child's class. We encourage your child to participate as skating is a great activity that promotes physical fitness. A reminder also that it is now mandatory for students, teachers and volunteers on the ice to wear an approved CSA hockey helmet.

A great big THANK YOU to our Parent Council and volunteers who have been busy organizing our 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Dance! We are looking forward to this event which will take place on Friday, February 7th.

Please note that report cards will be coming home on Wednesday, February 12th.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Stacey McCready, Principal



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Ready, Set, Learn! Kindergarten Registration at Russell Public School is now open, and will continue throughout the spring. If you have a child who will be 4 or 5 by December 31st, 2014 it's time to register.

It's Easy as 1, 2, 3! Contact the school office to request a registration package by mail or go to www.ucdsb.on.ca and click on the Full Time Kindergarten link to register on line. Please note a birth certificate and up to date immunization record are required to register your child at school.

Eager to Learn More? Join us on Wednesday February 12th at 6:30 pm for our Kindergarten information evening.

A, B, C, D - RPS is the Place to Be! Please spread the word to your friends and neighbours with children of age to start kindergarten, they can call the school office for further information at 613-445-2190.

If you already have a child enrolled junior kindergarten this year, they do not need to register for senior kindergarten.



What's Happening at RPS...

Character Assemblies - Throughout the year, students will attend a series of character assemblies to encourage them to think about and adopt some of the positive traits that build strong characters. Each assembly centers on a single trait and includes a presentation followed by a fun interactive group activity that encourages cooperation and creativity. So far this year our themes have included honesty and courage.

Thank you for making it such a happy holiday season! - Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the Holly Carnival, our first ever RPS Family Movie Night, and the annual Christmas Concert. A big thank you and a round of applause goes to the parents, staff, students and volunteers who worked hard to plan and put on these events for all of us to enjoy!

Something to Feel Good About - The RPS family had spirit to spare, and rocked their pj's, Christmas colours, crazy hair and cool hats on spirit days and raised over \$900 in support of the Valoris Christmas Elves Campaign, which purchased gifts for 18 children.

Through Toonie Thursdays, we were able to raise \$800 for Mrs. Zych, a former RPS teacher who was struggling with the many challenges of living with ALS. She was touched by the generosity and she and her family were very grateful. Sadly Mrs. Zych passed away earlier this month after a courageous battle with this disease. She will be remembered fondly by RPS staff and families.

The Council Corner

What is Council? This dedicated and dynamic group, includes, our principal, a teacher representative and a great group of parents who get together to discuss the important issues affecting our school community. They are also responsible for fundraising and organizing many of the awesome events and activities we enjoy. Are you glad classes have iPads? Or maybe you're teaching the kids to two-step before the next family dance? These are some of the great things made possible through the coordination of council, along with the support of RPS families.

Want to check it out? Everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings held in the RPS Library at 6:45 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. The Next meeting will be held February 3rd.

But I can't make it on Mondays! No problem, you can check out minutes from council meetings on the RPS website in the About Us section under School Council. **So far this year...** our Parent Advisory Council has learned about the benefits of outdoor learning spaces and discussed the inquiry-based learning model. They coordinated the back to school BBQ, Halloween Dance, and the Citrus and Art Treasures fundraisers. Among other things, these funds have made it possible to offer Mrs. Huisman's music classes students, and purchase a popcorn maker for use at school events. Look for more great things to come in the next few months.

Did you know you can find our monthly newsletters on the RPS webpage?

Whether the dog ate your copy of the newsletter and you need to know when the spaghetti dinner is (February 7th!), or you're booking holidays and just can't remember the dates for March Break - you can visit the school webpage and find monthly newsletters under the News and Events section anytime.

*One kind word
can warm three
winter months.*

~Japanese Proverb

Don't Miss a Beat - Communication is key to staying connected - and the RPS Community is well equipped. We've got lots of tools to keep RPS families in the know (agendas and communication books, the RPS website, class web pages, Facebook and Twitter updates, and of course our monthly newsletter).

This Note's For You! If you have comments on the newsletter or content related to a school event or activity to share please send it to newsletter.rps@gmail.com.

Slush, and Sleet and Snow, Oh My!



Reminder for information on school bus cancellations you can:

- ✦ Call Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO) 1-866-629-0629 for a pre-recorded message - cancellations will be recorded by 6.15 am.
- ✦ Access the Website at www.steo.ca and click on the Delay or Cancellation feature.
- ✦ Listen to local radio stations, cancellations will be broadcasted starting at 6.15 am.

Unless otherwise announced, the school will remain open for students and staff.

If the snow day falls on a hot dog or pizza day, the hot lunch program will be cancelled. Students need to bring their own lunch.

Contact Information for Russell Public School

Telephone: 613-445-2190

Fax: 1-855-484-6073

Absence Line:

613-445-2190, press 1.

It is important that you call the absence line if your child is away or late for school. Messages can be left 24 hours/day.



Snow Days and Non-Bus Students:

The school board has recently revised the procedures for reporting absences on snow days when buses are cancelled.

We would ask that parents of students who usually walk or are dropped off to school please call the Absence Line, on snow days at 613-445-2190, so we can account for the safety of students who have decided not to attend school.

Bundle Up!

Winter weather is here - please remember to dress students warmly on wintery days as they may have outdoor recess in temperatures of up to minus 20 including wind chill. Any colder and outdoor activities are limited or cancelled.

Spare mitts and hats tucked in a backpack are a good idea too!

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

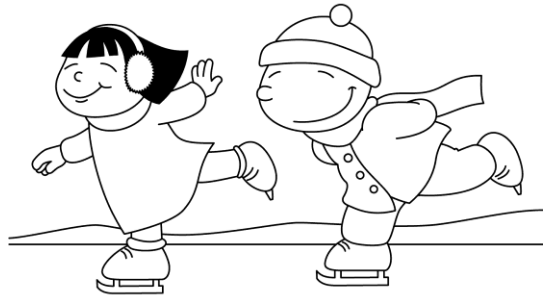
Did you know that...

- ✓ Second-hand smoke can be 27 times more concentrated in a vehicle than in a smoker's home.
- ✓ Second-hand smoke increases the risks of acute respiratory infections, ear problems and asthma in a child.
- ✓ Even if a car's windows are open, children are still affected by second-hand smoke.
- ✓ It is illegal to smoke in a motor-vehicle while someone under the age of 16 is present. Under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, this offence entails a fine of \$ 125.
- ✓ Smoking on school property is prohibited, even if you're alone in your vehicle.

If you think it's the right time for you to quit smoking and give your kids a smoke-free ride, call the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at 613-933-1375 or at 1 800 267-7120 and ask about our smoking cessation services including Nicotine Replacement Therapy.

For more tips on how you can help keep your family healthy, visit www.eohu.ca or Parachute Canada at www.parachutecanada.org


~ A message from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit



JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Welcome Back	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 PD DAY	

FEBRUARY 2014

						1
2	3 Parent Council Meeting @ 6:45pm	4	5	6	7 Spaghetti Dinner and Dance 5pm-8.30 pm	8
9	10	11	12 Report Cards Jr Kindergarten Information Evening 6.30 pm	13	14  Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Family Day Holiday	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

More Important Dates to Put in you Calendar...

Friday March 7, 2014
Week of March 10-14, 2104

PD DAY
March Break