

# RUSSELL PUBLIC SCHOOL NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

It's hard to believe that November is here! Our students have been involved in many sporting events and have been quite successful! We hosted our own soccer tournament early in October. Students participated in the Regional Soccer tournament and our junior girls won! The girls advanced to the UC Soccer Championships and they won the cup! Students also attended a cross-country meet at RHS and qualified to move on to the UC Cross-Country Championships - we had many champions! Students participated in the Eastern Ontario Cross-Country Championship and did quite well. A special mention to Kate Thompson who placed 1<sup>st</sup>! Most recently, on Saturday, our students attended the Cookie Run, a 1.5 km race in Ottawa. A huge thank you to Mr. Huisman, M. Leblond, Mrs. Harris, Ms. Inglis, Ms. D'Brox, Mrs. Joseph for not only attending these events with our students but for spending many hours training with them.

On Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., we will have a Remembrance Day assembly to commemorate and pause in memory of the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives in military service. Parents are invited to join us during this time.

Your School Council continues to work very hard on your behalf accomplishing great things for Russell Public. We encourage your participation at our monthly meetings - everyone is welcome! Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:45 p.m.

For our new families, you will not want to miss our annual Holly Carnival. A great deal of fun games and activities for our students will occur during this day. The most popular event for our students is the Santa Shop where (only kids) get to shop for parents, grandparents and family members for Christmas. Our Holly Carnival will be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Russell Public School from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Thank you once again, for your on-going support of the work we do at Russell Public School. With the "home" and "school" working together we achieve educational success for our children.

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

Sincerely,

Stacey McCreedy

Principal

stacey.mccreedy@ucdsb.on.ca



## Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario

### STEO - MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 1179, 104 Commerce Drive, Prescott, ON K0E 1T0  
Phone: 1-855-925-0022 or 613-925-0022 Fax: 613-925-0024

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**To:** All UCDSB School Principals and Vice-Principals  
**From:** Ron Cotnam, STEO General Manager/CAO  
**Date:** October 21, 2013  
**Subject:** Inclement Weather School Vehicle Cancellation

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The Inclement Weather procedure has been reviewed and updated for the 2013-2014 school year. Information pertaining to Inclement Weather and Bus Delays/Cancellations have been posted on STEO's website under Schools > School Login > UCDSB Forms.

Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), the Upper Canada District School Board along with the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario are working cooperatively with the Bus Operators and Pelmorex/The Weather Network, to ensure that we have up-to-date information about local weather and road conditions. Decisions concerning the cancellation of school bus and special vehicle transportation are made based upon this information. Unless otherwise announced, schools will remain open for students and staff even if transportation is cancelled.

STEO would like to advise you that we have three methods in which you can check for school vehicle cancellations:

1. Announcements regarding the cancellation of school bus and special vehicle transportation will be broadcasted starting at 6:15 a.m. on local area radio/TV stations.
2. Vehicle cancellation information can be found on our website at [www.steo.ca](http://www.steo.ca), then click "View Bus Delays & Cancellations". School vehicle cancellations will be posted by 6:15 a.m.
3. You can call our Inclement Weather phone number at 1-866-629-0629 to access a pre-recorded message. School vehicle cancellations will be posted by 6:15 a.m. Please note that the message for this phone line is only updated on inclement weather days.

If transportation is cancelled in the morning, afternoon transportation will not operate.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 1-855-925-0022 ext. 1140 or email [ron.cotnam@steo.ca](mailto:ron.cotnam@steo.ca).

Thank you.

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October 31, 2013

## A MESSAGE REGARDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

Winter is fast approaching and there may be times when the weather and other events will cause school bus and special vehicle transportation to be disrupted. The Upper Canada District School Board is working cooperatively with Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), bus contractors and our coterminous Board to ensure that our approach to transportation during these times is coordinated and planned with the safety of students in mind.

STEO receives up-to-date information regarding local weather and road conditions from Pelmorex/The Weather Network. Decisions concerning the cancellation of school bus and special vehicle transportation are made cooperatively based upon this information. Unless otherwise announced, schools will remain open for students and staff, even if transportation is cancelled. If transportation services are cancelled in the morning, transportation services will also not operate in the afternoon.

Announcements regarding the cancellation of school bus and special vehicle transportation will be broadcasted starting at 6:15 a.m. on your local radio station.

Alternatively, parents/guardians and students can verify if buses are cancelled by accessing STEO's website at [www.steo.ca](http://www.steo.ca) and visit the "View Bus Delays & Cancellations" link. Please **do not** call the bus companies as the radio and website reflect the most accurate information.

Winter weather conditions can change suddenly. If roads become impassable during the school day or they are judged to be risky, students will be kept at school until either their parents/guardians can pick them up or it becomes safe to resume school bus transportation once again.

### Fog

Occasionally, regardless of the time of year, fog patches occur. Fog greatly increases the risk that motorists may collide with a stopped vehicle or with a student in the process of crossing a road to board the bus. Consequently, bus drivers have been instructed not to stop in fog patches where visibility is significantly reduced. If a student is not picked up due to foggy conditions, the bus driver will provide the names of those students to the school principal upon arrival at the school. We recommend that you **do not** permit your child to wait for the bus if visibility is significantly reduced by fog.

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### **Blocked Roads**

Occasionally, a road may become blocked and, as a result, the bus may be unable to service sections of a route. If this occurs, the bus driver will communicate the name of each student who was not picked up, to the school principal, upon arrival at the school.

A reminder, that you are responsible for your child's safety prior to boarding the school bus and following drop off. You are encouraged to ensure that your child has access to your home or to an approved alternative home where he/she can go in the event of the bus being unable to service your section of the route.

### **Mechanical Breakdown**

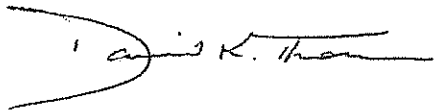
The possibility of a mechanical breakdown of a school bus or special vehicle always exists. This is a particular concern during the winter. Please ensure that your child is dressed warmly enough to cope with the potential loss of heat due to a mechanical breakdown on the bus. If mechanical failure occurs, alternative transportation will be arranged as soon as possible. If this occurs, the bus may be late picking up your child in the morning or returning him/her home in the afternoon.

### **Parental Responsibility**

The Upper Canada District School Board strives to ensure the safe transportation of children. It is each parent's responsibility to ensure that their child is safely aboard the school bus. Ultimately, each parent has the right and obligation to protect their child. *You may decide to keep your child at home if you feel that it is too risky to have him/her transported to school.*

Your support and cooperation are appreciated as we approach another winter.

Sincerely,



David K. Thomas  
Director of Education  
Upper Canada District School Board

## Toonie Thursdays for Mme. Zych



Mme. Zych was a teacher at both Russell Public School and Russell High School and a fitness instructor at the University of Ottawa. The summer of 2011 was a busy one for Mme. Zych. At 39 years old, she gave birth to a baby boy, celebrated her daughter's 2nd birthday, her eldest son's 20th birthday, her wedding anniversary and was diagnosed with ALS.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Mme. Zych has now lost most of her physical abilities and continues to face challenges on a daily basis.

We would like to be able to help to support Mme. Zych's family financially. Every Thursday for the month of November, we are requesting that students donate a toonie to off-set the additional costs of care for Mme. Zych and her children.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Russell Public School & Russell High School staff

November 2013

Dear Staff, Students, Parents and Community Members,

As Trustee for Ward 10, I serve on the UCDSB "Champions for Kids" Foundation Committee as the Trustee representative.

This Foundation supports our students and families who need a helping hand. Since the Foundation began, the C4K's Disbursement Committee has spent over \$600,000 on students in response to applications submitted by principals.

I am inviting everyone in our Ward , Prescott-Russell , to join me in a fundraiser for C4K. I am asking the Principals to place a decorated shoebox and poster in a prominent place in their schools so students, parents and community members can drop off small used inkjet cartridges to be recycled.

My purpose for encouraging this initiative is two-fold:

- 1) We need to be conscious of the need to look after our environment by keeping these cartridges out of our landfill;
- 2) To help students who may otherwise not have the opportunity to have access to activities, sports, clubs and so on.

You are being asked to join me in helping to add funds to our C4K Foundation.

I have agreed to do the administration and shipping of cartridges for this fundraiser. For each cartridge submitted to TERRACYCLE, we are credited \$.25. I hope you will join me in supporting students.

With thanks,

Caroll Carkner