



ROCKWOOD CENTENNIAL P. S.

MRS. L. DOERING, PRINCIPAL
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OCTOBER 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Can you believe that September has come and gone? Our students are all settled into their classroom routines, and clubs and teams have started.

Thank you to all the families who came out for Open House and enjoyed some live entertainment – it was a great success. The whole school was bursting with pride as students took their parents on classroom tours to meet their teachers. This is a wonderful community and your support is greatly appreciated. We encourage you to continue to actively participate in your child's education as follows:

- Show support and participate in school events.
- Volunteer in the classroom, join school council, or go on a fieldtrip.
- Actively support your child's homework, by setting aside a regular homework time and being available for questions.
- Read to, or read with your child for 20 minutes every day.
- Set aside one-on-one time with your child to go over the day's events, or to discuss activities that are coming up.

We also encourage you to keep the lines of communication open with your child's teacher. Contact them about concerns, or to give them positive feedback too!

L. Doering

SCHOOL EVENTS CALENDAR

Our school events will be updated on our [web page calendar](#). Please click on the "view all" option to see the month at a glance.



OUR GARDENS



A very, very BIG THANK YOU to our volunteers who worked tirelessly on our front gardens. They look spectacular. Our wonderful volunteers include; Lynn Clack, Krista LoPatreillo, Megan Hobbs, Stacey Armstrong and Amanda May. A special thanks also to Jennifer Brink and the "Garden Grannies" for providing wonderful items for our gardens. A big thanks as well, to Kate Stroud and Drexler Construction for the large soil donation.

FOOD DRIVE



We will be holding a Thanksgiving food drive again this year! Please send in any non-perishable food items the week of October 3-7th. Any donations are greatly appreciated!! Families in our community will benefit directly from the support of our school. Let's make everyone's Thanksgiving the best that it can be! The class that brings in the most items will receive a Pita Pit party lunch courtesy of Pita Pit in Action. A special thank you to Mark & Heather Feldhaus for this wonderful prize.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting is Wednesday October 5th at 6:30 pm, in the library. All are welcome to attend.



We will be hosting a Hallowe'en Dance-A-Thon on October 31st. Pledge sheets will be going home with your child very soon. Please watch for them

OCTOBER IS DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH



A whole month dedicated to celebrating, advocating and bringing awareness to Down Syndrome. Down Syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial copy of chromosome 21. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down Syndrome (NDSS)

People with Down Syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that affect them and contribute to society in many ways. While there may be a cognitive delay, the effect is usually mild to moderate and is not indicative of the many strengths and talents that each individual possesses. Quality educational programs, a stimulating home environment, good health care and positive support from family, friends and the community enable people with Down Syndrome to develop to their full potential and live fulfilling lives.

Get involved! October offers multiple ways to participate in activities, events, and to help in raising awareness. Participate in a local Buddy Walk, educate those around you using NDSS's Youtube channel . The Canadian Down Syndrome Society offers educator resources that include videos parents can view with their children about children with Down Syndrome.

LIBRARY NEWS



It was so nice to have so many families come through our library at Open House. If you didn't get a chance to stop by, feel free to do so anytime you are in the school. Each class has scheduled library time each week to visit the library and exchange books. Your children have been learning how to tell if a book is a "good fit" for them or not and they should be selecting library books that are at their reading level. Reading library books with your child is a great way to connect with them and find out what types of books spark their interest. If you have any questions about our library, please feel free to contact me at (519)856-9556 x338 or by email at valerie.soper@ugdsb.on.ca

Our school board offers so many resources to our students. When students log into their ugcloud accounts, they have access to so much. Click on the link below for a brief overview of these resources. <https://goo.gl/N3IVTI>
Sincerely, Val Soper – Teacher Librarian

COLOUR HOUSE



As a kick off for our November colour house activities we will be selling "Halloweenies" (hot dogs) at 1st Nutrition Break on October 31st for \$2 each. Order forms will come home in advance.

RENEGADE SPORTS



Mr. Drumm, Mr. Collier, and Mrs. Soper coached the Intermediate Football teams and the tournament was held on September 28th. We appreciate the enthusiasm and superior sportsmanship that each of our athletes demonstrated the day of our tournament. The Intermediate Cross Country Meet will be held on Tuesday, October 4th at the Rockwood Conservation Area. We are anticipating nice weather for our runners. The first race is at 12:45 and the meet will end at 2:30. If you would like to come out and support our runners, please do but note that you will be charged admission at the gate. Go Rockwood Renegades

ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS POLICY



Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board adopted a new policy in June 2016 to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an Asthma Management Plan (AMP) to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the [Board's website](#) under Policy 516.

Parents are requested to complete the AMP and return it to the school as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year. Authorization for the collection of this information is in the Education Act. The purpose is to collect and share medical information and to administer proper medical care in the event of an emergency or life-threatening situation. Users of this information may be principals, teachers, support staff, volunteers, bus operators and drivers. This form will be kept for a minimum period of one calendar year. Contact person concerning this collection is the school principal.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEPs)



Individual Education Plans, or IEPs, are developed by schools when assessments show that a student needs special education programming and/or services. The development of the IEP should be a collaborative process that includes parents and the student (if possible). During the development phase, schools are required to seek feedback through consultation with parents. This is your opportunity to discuss and share information with the classroom teacher and/or special education teacher regarding your child's education. If your child had an IEP last year, you will see a copy of this working document come home within the first 30 school days.

When the IEP is sent home, you will also receive a booklet titled, Parents' Guide to the Individual Education Plan. This booklet is a resource to help parents understand how an IEP is developed, what is included in an IEP, and how an IEP supports your child. It also includes definitions and explanations to help parents understand some of the language that is part of an IEP, such as accommodations and modifications.

One more item that will accompany your child's IEP this year is a Parent/Guardian IEP Questionnaire. We want to know your ideas about your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Your ideas will be used to help us improve the IEP processes in our schools, and help us provide parents/guardians with the special education information they are looking for. Please take a few moments to share your ideas and return the questionnaire to the school office. If you need any help with completing this questionnaire, your child's classroom or special education teacher can assist you.

CHANGING OUR BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT MATH

Myth of the Math Person

Most people believe that math is one of those subjects that you either "get" or you "don't get." This way of thinking cannot be further from the truth; there is no such thing as a math person. Everyone can achieve in any subject with hard work, perseverance, and someone to guide them. The key to shattering this myth is developing a growth mindset in our teachers and students, and a math classroom where students are challenged by engaging problems and supported in their learning



The Evolving Classroom



The reason so many people think math is the most difficult is the inaccessible way it is often taught." When we were math students our math teachers often taught us tips, tricks, and recipes for solving math problems. In the math classes of old there was only one correct solution. We could get the answer if we memorized and followed the teacher's procedure, but if someone asked us the "why" behind our formula, most of us wouldn't be able to answer.

Today, teachers are striving for students to have a solid grasp of the "why" behind each solution. This often means that students are encouraged to share a variety of methods and strategies to solve a single problem. By sharing different strategies, teachers can help students see the common thread that connects each solution, thus deepening their understanding of the concept being taught. The teacher's role is no longer to teach procedures, but to help students make connections and understand the mathematical concepts behind the solutions.



SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT



The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

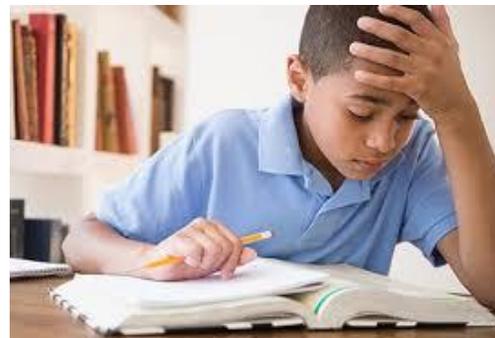
GROWTH MINDSET HOMEWORK HELPL TIPS

Let your child struggle with math problems. See if they have the perseverance to work through their struggles. We need to break the math myth that we need fast answers to be good at math.

Never let your child hear you say: "I was never good at math.". Research studies have shown when parents tell their children they were not good at math, their child's achievement is immediately affected.⁽¹⁾

Ask your child if they can solve a math problem in another way. This shows that your child has multiple strategies at their fingertips and they are flexible with their math thinking.

Ask your child to explain the reasoning behind their response. "Why did you (add/ subtract/ multiply/ divide)?" "What does your drawing represent?"



Online Resources

Parents' Beliefs about Math Change Their Children's Achievement - <https://goo.gl/psL33d>

"We now know that the messages we give students can change their performance dramatically, and that students need to know that the adults in their lives believe in them."

TL Talk: The Gift of Failure – Interview with Jessica Lahey - <https://goo.gl/oo7xFc>

"Jessica is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed.*"

How to Learn Math: for Students - <https://goo.gl/OCywaf>

"How to Learn Math is a free self-paced class for learners of all levels of mathematics. It combines really important information on the brain and learning with new evidence on the best ways to approach and learn math effectively."

1.Boaler, J. (n.d.). Parents' Beliefs about Math Change Their Children's Achievement. Retrieved September 22, 2016, from <https://www.youcubed.org/think-it-up/parents-beliefs-math-change-childrens-achievement/>

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERIES



We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to various foods and other materials called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to food or other materials, and can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you may refrain from sending foods to the school that contain peanuts and nuts. We aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school.

If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.

Our school has procedures in place to help manage anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

RESPECT TICKET WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Hannah C.
Tru H.

Ruby B.
Jacobee S.

Jackson P.
Ellie C.



FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT



Save the date for our second Family Fitness Night being held on Monday October 17th from 6:00-7:30pm. Come out as a family to this fun and free event. Try some new activities and show your children how much fun it is being active together. Choose three activities to participate in (30 minutes each). Watch for the send home flyer with more details.

As the weather changes and more layers are needed, please consider purchasing MABEL'S LABELS to support the school's Nutrition Program - bringing healthy food to hungry minds. Label your children's precious items you don't want to stay lost (coats, mitts, snow pants, sweatshirts, lunch containers, shoes and boots). You can easily order online and there are no shipping costs! Once on the website (www.mabelslabels.com), please be sure to scroll the list of fundraising schools and click on Rockwood Centennial Public School - Nutrition Program before you place your order. This fundraiser will end Dec 31st. Thanks in advance for your support!

FIRST NATION, METIS, INUIT SELF IDENTIFICATION

If your child is a member of a First Nation, the Métis or the Inuit, then please consider having him or her self-identify. Self-identification helps in several ways:

- 1) Students will have access to more culturally relevant programming and opportunities for unique cultural and academic experiences.
- 2) The school system will have an opportunity to focus efforts and resources, as well as an increased awareness of the diverse needs of indigenous families.
- 3) The school community will have an opportunity for building relationships to increase student success and well being.

Share your pride in your heritage!

Please come to the office (or have your child do so) to get a card that can be filled in and submitted if you wish to self-identify.

Data will be protected and governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

ROCKWOOD RENEGADE CHEER

THREE CHEERS FOR THE RENEGADE WAY!

HIP, HIP HURRAY!

HIP, HIP HURRAY!

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