



# Ross R. MacKay Public School

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Principal: *Mr. M. Zuk*  
Office Coordinator: *Mrs. E. Lantz*

May, 2016



## *Principal's Message*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Just eight short weeks until summer holiday! Can you believe it?

The last two months of school are very busy. Students are well into their study units and engaged in meaningful, real-life learning experiences. I am impressed with the quality learning activities that your children are engaged in on a daily basis. The pride that students take in expressing their ideas, thoughts, perceptions and interpretations indicate that students enjoy their lessons while learning important concepts and foundations for further learning and discovery. Teachers are focussing on addressing essential learning needs for each student and adjusting their instructional practices and strategies to address individual learning styles and student specific needs.

Ross R. MacKay is a great place to be!

As we move into the last two months, please keep an eye on handouts that your child will be bringing home. There is a lot of info in this newsletter; but some activities are in the planning stages and more information will be sent home. School Council is planning two May events; however, they are currently in the planning stages.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Your comments are valued, appreciated and respected.

Mr. M. Zuk  
Principal

## Class Placements for September 2016



Many variables are considered in deciding next year's class placements for students. As we move into the last three months of the 2016-17 school year, school organization and staffing for the new school begins. Over the course of the next few months we will start to structure our school in terms of number of classes, staff leaving and arriving, student reviews and placements for the new year. The organization of the school (number of classes and staff) is provided to me by the School Board and is based on Ministry parameters. Matters regarding your child's placement and support for the 2016-17 school year will need to be directed to me in writing. It is important that your concern is expressed in terms of the educational needs that you feel your child would benefit from rather than selecting one class or teacher over another.

As in past years, students will learn who their new classroom teacher is on the first day of school in September. In the case that we are required to reorganize to meet class cap sizes, due to a change in student numbers, student placements will be considered tentative, until the third week of school.

Please note that if there is reorganization we will continue to put student's learning needs first. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

## Education Quality and Accountability Office



EQAO assessments for Grade 3's will take place on May 25, 26 and 27 during the morning. For students in grade 6, the EQAO assessment is May 26, 27 and 30 in the morning. Student attendance and punctuality is important on these dates, as well as a nutritious breakfast to start the day off with a healthy body and a clear mind..



## Dates to Remember

- Friday, May 6, 2016  
Grade 3 'Swim to Survive'
- Friday, May 13, 2016  
Grade 3 'Swim to Survive'
- Saturday, May 14, 2016  
Special Friends Car Wash
- Tuesday, May 17, 2016  
Lockdown Drill
- Monday, May 23, 2016  
Victoria Day Holiday

## Environmental Bake Sale



A huge thanks to all Ross R. students, parents, and volunteers, who helped out by contributing to another successful environmental bake sale last week. Your donations and time were greatly appreciated!

We raised \$113.00 this time and all monies generated through the sale will go directly to the greening up of our wonderful school!

I am appreciative of the efforts of this year's Environment club through their posters, announcements and attitude towards environmental initiatives.

I look forward to working in the grounds with this team later in May. Thanks again for all the support!

Mr. M. Robnik

## Lock Down Drills

### *Student Safety - School Lockdown Drill Tuesday, May 17th*

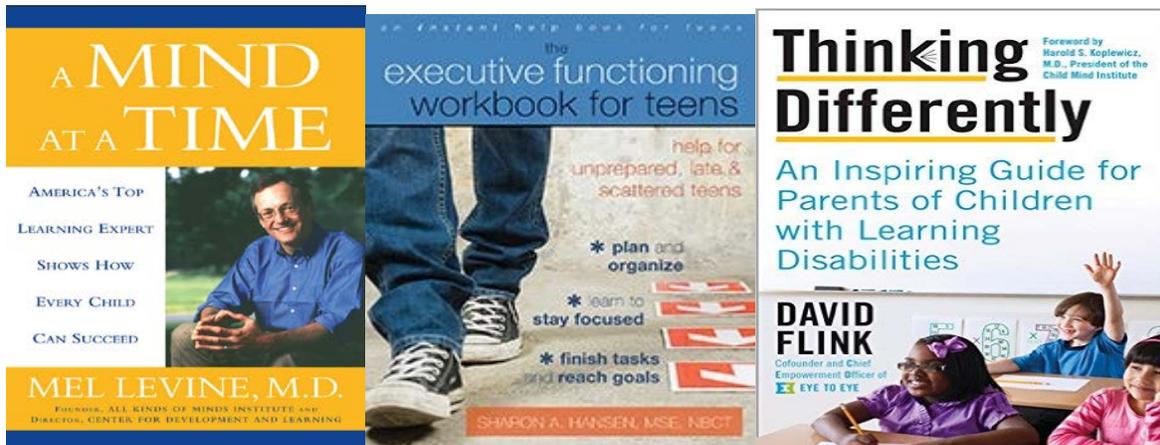
In the interest of student safety, the Upper Grand District School Board has directed all schools to conduct two Lockdown drills each school year. A Lockdown is used when it is suspected that an intruder has entered the school and poses a threat to the safety of our students and staff. Detailed procedures have been developed in conjunction with our local police services and provided to all schools as part of our emergency procedures manual



## Does Your child have LD, ADD/ADHD or Both?

Here are some great resources to help you:

1. Work with your child to understand how they think and learn.
2. Develop some strategies with your child to help them advocate for what they need to learn (technology, accommodations to the environment or learning tasks).



### Other great online resources include:

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, which has lots of good information on LD and ADD/ADHD issues, including topics about how to understand the IPRC and IEP, how to advocate for your child and topics related to specific LDs.

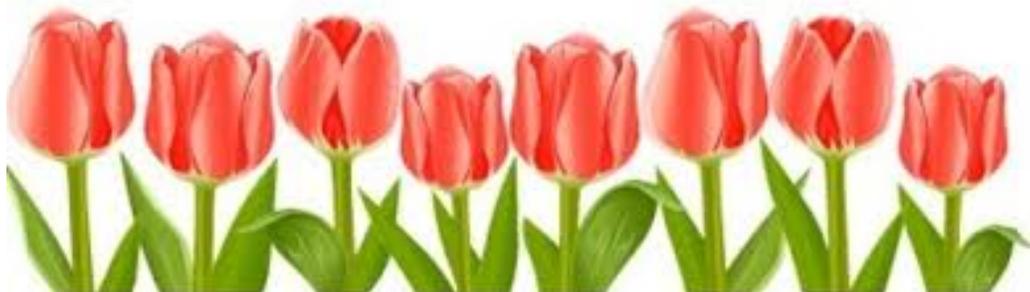
<http://www.ldao.ca/introduction-to-ldsadhd/what-are-lds/>

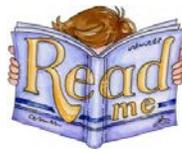
The Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County connects to the Ontario chapter, but provides links and information about workshops and activities that are being held in Wellington.

<http://www.ldawc.ca/>

Our school board has also worked hard to address the needs of LD and ADD/ADHD students by providing SEA equipment, Google Read and Write training and targeted reading programs to help LD students access the curriculum and develop key academic skills.

**Connect with your child's teacher to discuss all the supports that are available to your child!**





## Library Book Return

**Monday, May 23, 2016**

**Victoria Day**

(No classes for students.)



As we move towards the end of the year we are asking all students to return their library books by **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The library will not be open for exchange after that date.

## Climate Change

Climate Change refers to any changes in long-term weather patterns (temperature, precipitation, wind, storms) that have been caused by humans polluting the atmosphere with too many greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide. We need to act now, because who can argue with reducing pollution? Pollution can't possibly be good for us!

The world is tracking climate change. Weather and temperature has been changing too quickly over the past few decades, which seems to be caused by the industrial revolution here on Earth. We are sending too much pollution (from cars, trucks, factories, and power plants using coal) into our atmosphere. Over the past hundred years the temperature of the Earth has risen and this has caused many changes in nature. For example, species of plants and animals are either migrating or becoming extinct. Some seaside cities may soon be underwater from rising sea levels. We are having more severe weather patterns like tornadoes and hurricanes and ice storms. Drinkable water sources are drying up.

What can you do to help be part of the solution? Well, all of the things we have been talking about this year can help. If you buy less and reduce, then less energy will be used and less pollution will be sent into our atmosphere. If you don't waste electricity you help out too. If you walk or bike to school or carpool you are doing your part. If you buy locally you reduce the greenhouse gases emitted through shipping and this helps planet Earth too.

You can Google: "*Top 10 ways you can stop Climate Change*" to get more ideas on how you can help.

And finally, eat a fresh, local apple - Not only is it good for you, but greenhouse gases were not created in the processing, canning, freezing, packaging or long distance transportation, so local apples are good for the planet too!

## Violence and Abuse Prevention

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to provide child abuse prevention education for all students. The goal of the Prevention Curriculum is to give children the knowledge and skills necessary to reduce the incidence of child abuse and to encourage the reporting of suspected cases.

The personal safety program, "CARE", will be taught here at Ross R. MacKay in grades 1 & 3. The focus of the program is for children to recognize and avoid potentially unsafe situations. In the grade 5 program they use the "Touching" video, which focuses on saying "No" to inappropriate touching and to get away from unsafe situations and to tell someone they trust.

In May and June your son/daughter will be involved in the particular program geared to their grade level. If you have any concerns about the program please contact your child's teacher or our CYW staff at the school.