



# Ross R. MacKay Public School

35 Trafalgar Road, R.R.# 2  
Hillsburgh, ON N0B 1Z0

Phone: (519) 855-4957  
Fax: (519) 855-6901

Website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/rossrmackay>

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

June, 2016

## *Principal's Message*

Hi Folks,

Can you believe that there are four short weeks until Summer Break 2016!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay here at RRM. To return to the Hillsburgh community and serve our students, their families and the exceptional RRM staff, has been most rewarding for me. Thanks for the warm welcome, tremendous support for (and of) your child's teacher; as well as all RRM staff. I also want to express appreciation for the fine work that School Council Chair, Cherie Jardine and Breakfast Club Co-ordinator, Linda Campbell have completed on behalf of our wonderful students.

As is the circumstance with all schools, come September 2016 and the start of a new school year, there are always staff changes. The only staff change that I am aware at this moment is the appointment of Tracey Armstrong as our new principal. I have known Tracey for many years, as a principal colleague, and I was thrilled to hear that she will be your principal. Tracey is a highly dedicated, well organized, kind and a caring person whose focus is always centred on the wellness of children; meeting their emotional and cognitive needs. She is always approachable and ready to support students and their families. Over the course of the next three weeks, Tracey will be visiting the school, meeting the students and meeting with me to ensure a smooth transition



**Ms. T. Armstrong**

I know how much you appreciated the incredible work our staff completes each day with your child; however, if you get a chance to drop them a note, or ring them up, that would be most fitting. A simple word of thanks makes a huge difference with those who work with children. Whether it's our office co-ordinator, teacher, educational assistant, lunch-time supervisor, child and youth care worker or custodian, rest assured that these folks have impacted on your child in a way that supports them and lets them know that they are important and valued.

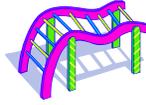
Over the course of the next few weeks students will be involved in many outdoor related activities such as Track and Field, the Guelph Arboretum, Playdays and the Mansfield Outdoor Education Centre. We also have Scientists in the School visiting, thanks to the support of School Council.

Year-end achievement reports will be distributed on Tuesday, June 28.

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

Sincerely,  
Mr. M. Zuk

## Lunchroom Supervisors



What would we do without our permanent lunchroom/yard supervisors? Thank you for your support of our students over the nutrition breaks: Mrs. Manchester, Mrs. Romanelli.



If you are moving out of our school area, or if you know anyone moving into our school area, please let the office know. This helps us ensure balanced numbers in classes on the first day of school. The following website is also extremely helpful to identify your child's home school and where to register your child. [www.findmyschool.ca](http://www.findmyschool.ca)

## Caring for the Environment

Caring about the environment is all about "doing". So get out there and start doing all the things you've learned about this year.

What kind of "Earth Advocate" are you? Choose from the following list:

**A) Activist:** I want to help others to change their habits to help the Earth. I want to host an event or make a website that encourages others to Live Green. I want to write letters to our government to ask them to make positive changes.

**B) Motivator:** I will help others change their habits by being a role model that others can follow. People will see me living green and making a difference and be motivated to do the same.

**C) Educator:** I will research environmental issues and tell other people what I learn. I will be curious and ask questions and gather knowledge and find solutions to environmental problems that I will share with others.

## Breakfast Club

Please be advised that our last Breakfast Club will be held on Friday June 17.

The remaining two weeks of the school year are needed to take inventory, clean and organize the kitchen and submit my final reports and grant applications.

I would like to send my special thanks to my small group of dedicated volunteers. Endless appreciation goes out to Ben Chambers, Melanie Elliott and Beth Corfield.

I've had the pleasure of serving breakfast for, and getting to know, many wonderful kids and I hope this valuable program will be back in our school next year. If you do have some time in the mornings, I encourage you to volunteer for this great program.



Please check the "Lost and Found" bin in our front entrance to our school for lost item, before the end of June. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. Thank you!

## Please Pick Up Medication

This is a reminder to any parents who have children with medication currently stored at the school. Please drop by the school before the last day of school in June to pick up your child's medication.



**Thursday, June 29, 2016**  
**Last Day of School**

Last day of school for students

## Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
Gr. 6 Parent Info for Mansfield  
5:30 – 6:30
- Thursday, June 2, 2016  
Track & Field Day
- Friday, June 3, 2016  
Professional Activity Day  
(No school for students)
- Monday, June 6, 2016  
Rain Date – Track & Field
- Tuesday, June 7, 2016  
Volunteer Tea  
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
- Monday, June 13, 2016  
Grade 6 vs Staff (soccer/baseball)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 15, 2016  
Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony  
2:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 17, 2016  
Track & Field  
Erin Public School
- Monday, June 20, 2016 →  
Wednesday, June 22, 2016  
Grade 6 Field Trip to Mansfield
- Monday, June 20, 2016  
Track & Field  
Rain Date - Erin Public School
- Tuesday, June 21, 2016  
Kindergarten Field Trip to Everdale
- Friday, June 24, 2016  
Play Date  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 28, 2016  
Kindergarten Year End Picnic  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 29, 2016  
Talent Show  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## Volunteer Tea

We are so appreciative of all our parent support, both inside and outside the classroom! THANK YOU for assisting us in so many ways! On Tuesday, June 7, from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm, we will be holding our Volunteer Tea in the library. We have a culture of celebration and recognition in our Ross R. community and we look forward to a wonderful afternoon. Please make sure to let your child's teacher know that you will be attending!

*Thank You*

## Our Support Team Crossing Guard & Bus Drivers

To our crossing guard Laura Lynn, and our team of bus drivers, we thank you for your good work in getting our Ross R. students safely to and from school. Your caring ways and dedication to our students is appreciated. On behalf of our Ross R. Community, thank you and have a wonderful summer holiday!



## Message from the School Council Chair

Hello Parents and Guardians,

June?! Already?! Where has this school year gone?

Before we say goodbye to our 2015-2016 School Year, I want to thank everyone who have purchased items from our Lunch & Milk Program. All proceeds were used to pay for things such as: Scientists in the School, ice rink time, awards, bus expenses, and much more.

Thank you to my wonderful volunteers: Camille Hutton, Jenny McReynolds, Melanie Elliott, Drew Elliott, Angela Jansa, Sarah Chambers, and Rob Winkler. These parents have helped make the Lunch and Milk Program possible – by volunteering their time rotational Friday's to ensure students got their orders.

Thank you to my amazing milk monitors, Jace and Hannah, who work hard Monday through Thursday counting and delivering milk each day to their fellow schoolmates.

Thank you to my School Council this year: Caroline MacDougall, Jacqueline Holm and Angela Jansa for all your help. Thank you to the parents who helped School Council: Linda Campbell, Sonya Romanelli and Cindy St. Denis. Without the help of all these wonderful people, events, such as our Christmas Concert and events, would not be possible.

Mark your calendars for a: "SCHOOL'S OUT – BEACH PARTY DANCE" on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 from 6pm until 9pm. All children between the ages 5-12 are welcome. Students are welcome to wear their funky sunglasses, luau, etc. Admission is \$5. Refreshments and snacks will be available for purchase. This will be a supervised event and parents are welcome to drop off your child/children. (All music will be radio edits.)

I want to wish you all a safe and happy summer from my family to yours.



**Cherie Jardine**  
Lunch & Milk Coordinator

## Special Olympics

**Special Olympics athlete oath:**  
**"Let me win – but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."**



On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> staff and students from across the school district came together for a day to celebrate diversity and perseverance. More than 600 athletes from the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Boards were at St. James Catholic High School in Guelph for the annual Special Olympics Track and Field Day.

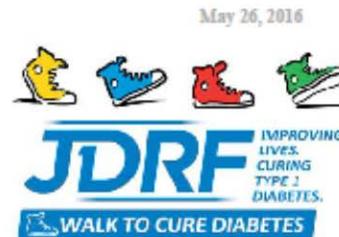
Now in its 15th year, the track meet has grown to one of its largest and most successful in the area. In addition to the 616 athletes from 67 schools in attendance, this year's track meet was also attended by 555 peer coaches, 448 staff members and more than 100 volunteers. Students and their peer coaches spent the day in the sun, enjoying companionship and friendly competition in events including standing long jump, running long jump, softball throw, seated softball throw and the 25, 50 and 100m dash.

The annual track and field day is made possible by the hard work of the organizing committee, Special Olympics Ontario, the City of Guelph, Community Living Guelph / Wellington, the Guelph Police Service and many volunteers. This year, UGDSB is honouring the hard work and dedication of the committee members by presenting them with an "Everyday Hero" award.



## Student Fund-raiser for Juvenile Diabetes:

Jacob is a grade three student at RRM who is living with Juvenile Diabetes. Below is a poster outlining a voluntary Toonie Drive that will raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research and hopefully, eliminate Type One Diabetes.



## Ross R. MacKay's Toonie Drive for Jacob and JDRF May 31-June 3

- **JDRF is currently funding more than 50 clinical trials across Canada**
- **JDRF funding supports three areas: Cure, Treat and Prevent**
- **JDRF is created by and run by people with a personal connection to T1D**
- **JDRF relies on hundreds of volunteers to pursue its mission for a cure**

Hi, my name is Jacob. I am in grade 3 in Mr. Gaidies' class and I have type 1 diabetes. There is no cure for type 1 diabetes and I wear an insulin pump 24 hours a day to give my body the insulin it needs. I test my blood glucose 6-8 times a day, including while I'm at school. My Mom and Dad calculate the carbohydrates in every single thing I eat so we know how much insulin I need. Even when we go to the movies my Mom brings a measuring cup to calculate the popcorn! Having diabetes is 24/7 and I never get a break from it. Sometimes it can be really scary when my blood sugar is too low and I don't have any energy to move, or when it is too high and I have to stay in the hospital.

### The JDRF Walk to Cure Type 1

On June 5th my team 'Jake the Snake' are walking 5km to raise awareness and money for research to help the JDRF find a cure for type 1 diabetes! **Please help me reach my fundraising goal of \$1500 by bringing \$2 to purchase a sneaker to put on Ross R. Mackay's donation wall and show your support!** Together we can turn type 1 into type NONE!! The money raised for JDRF goes towards amazing research projects like the bionic pancreas system, smart insulin and islet cell transplantation. One day I hope I can say I don't have type 1 diabetes!

The staff at Ross R. MacKay send forward best wishes to Jacob and his endeavour to raise money for the important cause.

## Creating Independent (Math) Problem Solvers

I was working in two different classrooms in two very different schools and noticed that the children approached solving problems in math differently. When children were given a problem in one classroom, their hands would immediately go up in the air with cries of, “I don’t get it,” or “I need help,” or “What do I do first?”. In the other classroom, when children were given a math problem, instead of asking for help right away, they would give it a try.

I was curious about the different student approaches to solving a math problem and I wanted to know how these students solved other problems. So I asked each group of children, “When you want to play with a friend, what do you do?” Here’s what they said:

School A	School B
“My mom calls her mom.”	“I go knock on his door and ask if he can play.”
“My mom calls and sets up a play date.”	“I call her on the phone and then walk over to her house.”
“My dad texts her mom to see if we can play.”	“Lots of kids meet at the park after school. I go there and play with my friends.”
“I ask my mom if she can drive me to his house.”	“I ride my bike to her house. If she’s not home, I go see if someone else can play.”

Which school had children who asked for help with the math problem right away? Which children tried the math problem on their own first?

To be successful in math, children need to be able to solve problems. When children are provided with opportunities to solve their own problems in life, they are more willing to tackle math problems on their own. Think about some of the “problems” children may experience every day:

- Deciding what to wear
- Taking what they need to school for the day (e.g., lunch, homework, shoes)
- Finding friends at recess
- Choosing what do after school
- Being hungry and needing a snack

If parents and teachers solve these problems for children, we take away the chance for children to develop problem solving skills and the belief that they can do things on their own. We cannot expect a child who has everything done for them in life to be an independent problem solver in math.

By stepping back and providing children with the opportunity to solve their own little problems, like what to wear or how to get together with a friend, we prepare them for tackling bigger problems later on, like the ones they get in math class!