



Rockwood Centennial P. S

June 2023 Newsletter

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<https://www.ugdsb.ca/rockwood/>

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Principal's Message

It's hard to believe it is already June and we have summer weather this week so please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and protection with a hat and sunscreen with the strong sunshine rays! We are looking forward to meeting and greeting families at our upcoming Family Fun Fair this week on June 1st! Please order items on schoolcashonline.com as food orders close May 30th and there will be lineups. Bring a hat, blanket or folding chairs if you want to sit! We will have lots of fun games and activities including our awesome RCPS Bands who will be opening up for our Fun Fair at 5-5:15. There will be items in the gym including the theme baskets and auction as well as our bake sale. Watch the staff get pies in the face at our wheel of unfortunate events! We look forward to having a great community event filled with fun! June is a very busy month ahead with track and field, graduation, awards assemblies, clubs and other events!



Staff are working hard on report card writing and they will be available on the parent portal as of June 22nd. Please review and celebrate successes and discuss next steps for areas of improvement. If you have specific questions about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher. You will see the tentative class organizations in this newsletter.

R. Anand

Upcoming Events:

Dates/Events

June 1-Family Fun Fair Fundraiser
June 2nd-PA Day-no school for students
June 6 - Jr Track and field
June 8-Gr 7 City Track U of G
June 8-9 Grade 8 Trip-Toronto
June 13- Staff meeting
June 14-Track & Field junior City meet U of G
June 15-Junior/Intermediate Math PD Capacity Day
June 18-Father's Day
June 19- Harris Mill/Eramosa Transition visit 9-12
June 20 - Intermediate Awards Assembly
June 22-Gr 8 Graduation/ Reports home / Junior Fractions PD
June 22- Report cards available online portal
June 23-Grade 7 Trip
June 23-Kindy Celebration- 2-3 outdoors, indoors if raining
June 28-Gr 1-6 Awards Assembly
June 29 - last day with kids/Staff party/Penny Carnival
June 30-PA Day-no school for students

Reminders ...

Stay Informed!

- Use the UGDSB Messenger app to stay up to date with all the activities and events at Rockwood CPS. Please go to the app store and search Upper Grand District School Board. [SchoolMessenger App](#)
- Follow us on Twitter @Rockwood PS

Anti Racism and Equity in Education

We had great learning sessions on anti racism in May presented by the organization Parents of Black Children presented for parents, staff and students. We learned what racism is, the history of racism and impact of the N word and how students and staff help contribute to creating a safe and inclusive school climate. Thank you for having conversations with your children about this important topic. We continue to educate and raise awareness of equity and inclusion for our students. I am pleased to share that we haven't had any incidents of racism since early April. Collectively, we continue to educate, disrupt and dismantle racism at Rockwood to ensure a safe learning environment for all of our students. Identity based harm is taken very seriously and consequences may include suspension leading to expulsion as per Board policy.

Moving?

If you are moving this year or know of a new family coming to Rockood, please let the office know as we start to submit numbers and plan for next year. Please email Mrs. Rice at melinda.rice@ugdsb.on.ca for any changes with addresses or moves.



RCPS Family Fun Fair fundraiser–Thursday, June 1st 5:00 –7:00 p.m.

Fun Fair tickets and food options are now available on School Cash Online until May 30th. This family oriented evening will take place on Thursday, June 1st, from 5-7pm with games, prizes, food and drink including a student organized bake sale, raffle baskets and a silent auction. There will be a cost of \$5 for a games card via school cash online, or \$8 at the door. This will give students access to all of our games (geared to all ages at RCPS) and a prize for completing them! You can also purchase tickets for our class baskets at a cost of \$1 each. Game cards and raffle tickets will be available to pick up on June 1st at the school by student last name. [RCPS Fun Fair.png](#) Please bring cash with you for the bake sale, additional tickets and the wheel of unfortunate events for staff! New JK students and students coming next year from Harris Mill and Eramosa are also invited with their families. This is a Rockwood PS event and not open to the whole community as we want to keep our attendance numbers manageable. Thanks to Bianca Chambers, Cathy Keleher, Val Soper and parents for helping to organize this event with the Principal. Please email Bianca Chambers biancawarkus@gmail.com if you would like to help.

RCPS Gold winning Concert Band and the Rock Bands!

The music students and Mrs. McCabe are looking forward to kicking off the Fun Fair this week with music! The Grade 6-8 Concert Band and The School Rock Bands will be playing. Music students are asked to wear the music T-shirt for the performance.

Fun Fair Music Details - we perform right away!

Rock Band players please stay after school to do a sound check. Some helpful band members will be staying after school to help set up! All musicians please be at the school at 4:30-4:45 so we can get ready to perform. Below are our performance times.

5:00 Rock Band 1 plays

5:05 RCPS Concert Band plays 3x songs

5:10 Rock Band 2 plays

RCPS Choir and Band at Provincial Competition (Virtual)

Congratulations to the Gold winning RCPS Choir and Concert Band who submitted their competitive performance to Kiwanis Provincials this week. We are very honoured to have been chosen to represent the board in both categories (Choir and Band) for our Kiwanis district elementary category! Thank you to Ms. McCabe and Mme Rafalowski for their outstanding dedication to providing this opportunity for our students!





ROCKWOOD
CENTENNIAL
PRESENTS...

FAMILY FUN FAIR

THURS, JUNE 1ST

5:00-7:00PM

- GAMES • PRIZES • FOOD TRUCKS •
- BAKE SALE • SILENT AUCTION • RAFFLE •
- AND MORE •



Please see the Events Schedule for the Family Fun Fair Fundraiser June 1st:

BANDS OPENING : 5:00-5:15

BBQ – 5:00 - 6:30 LAST CALL

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE OPEN UNTIL MAY 30TH

ON SITE LIMITED SALES - \$8.00 each (Kids Combo, Veggie Burger, Hamburger, Jumbo Hot Dogs or French Fries)

PIZZA – 5:15 AND 6:15

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON MAY 30TH

LIMITED SELECTION OF SLICES AVAILABLE FOR SALE FOR \$2.00 DAY OF

BAKE SALE – 6:00-7:00

ON SITE SALES ONLY. ITEMS RANGING FROM \$1.00 - \$2.00

DRINKS – 5:00-7:00

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE OPEN UNTIL 11:59 PM MAY 30TH

ON SITE SALES - \$1.00 each

STATIONS/ PRIZES

RCPS FUN FAIR STATIONS – 5:15 – 6:50

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE GAME CARD OPEN 11:59pm ON MAY 30TH

ON SITE GAME CARD SALES – 1 Card \$5.00

RCPS FUN FAIR PRIZE TABLE – 5:30 – 7:00

FREE WITH REDEMPTION OF GAME CARD

RCPS FUN FAIR MOVIE PRIZE – 7:00 WINNER ANNOUNCED

FREE WITH REDEMPTION OF A RCPS PUNCHED GAME CARD

WHEEL OF UNFORTUNATE – 15 MIN INTERVALS, WITH ROTATION OF SCHOOL STAFF

ON SITE SALES OF \$2.00 PER SPIN

JELLY BEAN/ GUMBALL GUESS – 5:00 – 6:45

ON SITE SALES OF \$1.00 PER GUESS

FACEPAINTING – 5:00-7:00

GAME CARD PARTICIPATION PUNCH OR \$1.00 DONATION

OTHER

RAFFLE BASKETS – 5:00 – 6:30

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE OPEN UNTIL 11:59 PM MAY 30TH

ON SITE SALES AVAILABLE – TICKET PRICE PACKAGE DEALS AVAILABLE

SILENT AUCTION – 5:00 – 6:45

All timelines are approximate and we appreciate your flexibility and patience as it is our first

Class Placement Process

It is hard to believe but we are already starting to plan our organization for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are planning a move to another school this summer, or know of someone moving into our school area, please notify the office as soon as possible. In the past, we have received some class placement requests which can make class building very difficult and sometimes hinder the process. As a result, **we will not be taking any class placement requests for September 2023.** If your child has some exceptional circumstances that require consideration when doing class placements, please email me directly at reena.anand@ugdsb.on.ca

Please know that when placing your child in a class, we consider a variety of factors including their learning style and needs and supportive learning friendships. Class building is a lengthy process that is given a great deal of thought and time by staff. Thank you for recognizing that we do our very best for each and every student. As a courtesy, I have included the **tentative school organization for the 2023-2024** school year. As new students come in and move, our organization could change again by mid September when the board's fall reorganization occurs. K, 1, 2, 3/4, 5, 5/6, 6, 7, 7, 7/8, 8, 8. In French Immersion, we have advocated for a 6, 7 and 8.

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Retirements and Best Wishes

Congratulations Ms. Goetz and Mme Chaves who are retiring this year! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors! Thank you for your years of service and contribution in education and support for student success. Your dedication and commitment to our students and school community will be missed.

We also wish Ms. Cutrone and Mr. Bradey all the best in their future positions as we have been reduced to one Kindergarten class next year. Thank you for all your dedication to our students and school community!

Thank you to Ms. Pitcher, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Tuckwell for your hard work and dedication to teaching and learning this year as long term occasionals. We value all you have done for our students and running clubs to enrich their experiences. We wish you well in your future educational careers and hope to see you back at Rockwood!

Yearbook

I want to express my gratitude to our Yearbook Chair, Ms. Pitcher and her team of students working on the upcoming yearbook. They have risen to the occasion of producing memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to Ms. Pitcher for her outstanding dedication in ensuring photos of our students are captured. Thank you to the amazing Rockwood staff for sharing a variety of photos highlighting special learning, events, clubs and activities this year. This was a big undertaking and we appreciate the collaborative efforts of staff to make it happen! Yearbooks will arrive by the end of June and will be distributed to students who ordered.

We have a limited number of copies available for those still looking to purchase a 2023 Yearbook! Lifetouch has opened the order portal until all remaining copies have been sold. Please find the order info below and email Ms. Pitcher (olivia.pitcher@ugdsb.on.ca) with any questions.

How to order:

1. Visit <https://ybpay.lifetouch.ca/>
2. Enter our school's Yearbook ID Code, 13791123
3. Enter your child(ren)'s info
4. Enter payment info as usual for any online order



Pride Month and flag?

This week, we are kicking off Pride Month. During the month of June and throughout the year, the UGDSB supports 2SLGBTQIA+ staff, students and their families by celebrating the joy of identity and centering 2SLGBTQIA+ histories, contributions and excellence in our learning and work communities. As a public school district, we are dedicated to building understanding, safety, inclusion and joy of 2SLGBTQIA+ identity into all of our school and work communities as part of our commitment to disrupting systemic oppression and hate in all its forms.

As in past years, Rockwood CPS will be proudly flying the pride flag as June is Pride month. Some of our students, staff, parents/guardians and community members identify as members of the SLGBTQIA+ community. Flying the Pride flag not only signals that our schools are safe spaces for everyone, it also aligns with our Board Vision Statement and Guiding Principles of Inclusion and student and staff well-being in our Equity Plan. We will be showing our acceptance and celebration of the SLGBTQIA+ community during Pride month by raising the Pride flag. We continue to raise awareness and support equity, diversity and inclusion of all marginalized groups.

RCPS GSA

Our GSA went on a trip to Ross last week for the School Board's Inclusion Concert. At The Inclusion Concert (hosted by Ross High School) GCVI Symphonic Band, Centennial Concert Band, and Ross Symphonic Band performed, and then concluded the concert by doing a large-scale joint performance. Standridge, the composer, was there to conduct them! It was incredible to be there to hear and see this historic performance with other schools from the UGDSB! Thank you to Charles Benyair and SHSM for arranging the performance and thank you to Ross High School for hosting. This month, our RCPS GSA members will be reading books about kindness and friendship in our primary and junior classes. Each day on the announcements we will share important PRIDE updates as provided from the school board.

Late Arrivals

A reminder to families that our school day starts at **8:40 a.m.** We are finding many students are arriving daily after the bell in the morning and missing extremely important instructional time. This also causes an interruption to their classes while the teacher is instructing. Please arrive before the 8:40 bell and proceed to the back of the school and enter with your classes. We understand that students who have appointments etc. and this is to be expected. We appreciate your support and assistance in setting your children up for success.

Jump Rope for Heart

Thank you, Rockwood families, for continuing to support our Jump Rope for Heart event here at Rockwood Centennial. So far, we have raised \$1600.00 for Heart and Stroke Research and had a great day skipping. Donations continue to be accepted until June 2 and a portion of what is raised is given back to our school to purchase sports equipment, electronics, and more. Thank you to Ms. Noel for organizing this event!

Intermediate News

Intermediate (Grade 7 & 8) Awards Assembly will take place on Tuesday, June 20 from 1:30pm-3:00pm. Recipients of subject and special awards will be recognized on that day for their significant contributions. Parents are welcome to attend. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the sunshine as the plan is to host it outdoors, weather permitting.

Grade 8s are preparing for their overnight Grad Trip to Toronto on Thursday, June 8-Friday, June 9! Our itinerary will be packed with Museum of Illusions, Ripley's Aquarium, Rec Room, Boston Pizza dinner, Blue

Jays game, Graffiti Alley and Eaton's Center. There will be lots of walking and fun to be had! We leave at 9:00am on Thursday and plan to arrive back at school by 3:00pm on Friday.

Mayor Chris White visits on Monday, June 5 to listen to the sustainability recommendations for the town from the students in 8B and 8C.

New JK Kindergarten Orientation

New JK students for September 2023 have been provided with an invitation to attend our upcoming Kindergarten orientation on June 9th at 9:00am. Students are also invited to visit a classroom and see their new school and meet the amazing staff! Parents will have an opportunity to hear about Kindergarten in a presentation in the library with the Principal. We look forward to making all students and parents feel welcome at Rockwood Centennial PS!

Kindergarten year end celebration of learning Fri. June 23 from 2-3 pm

The Kindergarten team would like to celebrate student learning and songs with an outdoor picnic weather permitting. If it rains, it will be in the gymnasium. More information will be provided by the teaching team.

Track & Field

Junior Track and field will be run on Tuesday June 6th, the rain date will be Wednesday June 7th.

We run the 100 M for all age ranges from 9:00 til 10:20 ish the end time is an estimate as the races can take longer to get through or shorter. The field events are run from 11:15-12:45 and are part of the last block on these days. City track at the University of Guelph is Wednesday June 14th.

Grade 7 Track has been run as an extracurricular after school. City track is on the 8th of June at U of G. We are putting together the list of students now and we will create the field trip form. Events start at 10:15 and awards end at 4:30 and parents are welcome to attend and help supervise. Unfortunately, the grade 8 trip was planned in advance of track and the dates conflict so grade 8 students will be in Toronto.



Volunteers and School Council –Merci beaucoup a vous!

Thank you to the parents who attend school council meetings to advocate for programs and plan successful fundraisers to support our school's educational programs and playground. We are fortunate to have such dedicated parents who volunteer their time to organize the snack program, help with pizza, subs, milk, scribing for EQAO, planning graduation as well as attending trips and helping with school activities!

A special thank you to Council members Bianca Chambers -Council Chair, Lisa Ripley- Co-Chair and Grad Chair, Cathy Keleher- Secretary, Vicki Stump-Treasurer and Jenn Brink and Samatha McIntosh as well as Mrs. Wells and her students for running our incredible snack program!

We would also like to thank all of the amazing parent volunteers for their contribution and support with school activities including attending trips, helping with pizza, subs, milk, reading programs and our snack program. We are very appreciative of all of your contributions to help make Rockwood Centennial the best it can be!

**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS!**



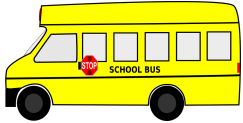


We wish all fathers, grandfathers, and paternal figures a nice Father's Day on June 18th!

Library Books

Please ensure that you have checked your home for school library books. They will have a Rockwood Centennial stamp on the inside of the book. Thank you for your help in returning books before summer break!

Bus Patrols



Our bus patrols help report issues on the bus, both positive and negative, and help to keep their bus lines quiet and in order in the gym and on the bus. We appreciate their hard work and leadership in helping to manage the bus and help students make good choices. Bus patroller selection and training will take place in the Fall. Thank you to our outstanding patrols for their responsibility, hard work and dedication to their role!

Grade 8 Graduation

We are very excited to share that our Grad committee is working hard to acknowledge our grade 8 graduating classes of 2023. We are taking great care and consideration to celebrate our students and have a graduation ceremony on **Thursday June 22nd**. Parents should have received a letter outlining the event details.

We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our graduating Rockwood students!

Supporting Early Literacy at home

We recognize that students may need additional support with literacy given the disruption of learning during the pandemic. Being a proficient reader is an important skill. It impacts everyday experiences and can also affect self-confidence and motivation at school. Contrary to oral language skills, reading skills must be taught, as they are not a natural part of human development. Many early literacy skills can be transferred from English to French (or vice versa) whereas some of the skills are important to learn through direct teaching. In early literacy, staff are working on developing phonological awareness and helping students to learn to decode words.

How can you support early literacy development at home?

We understand how busy families are and so it is important to note that a lot of these activities can be done on-the-go or with different materials (not just books). Think about your child's interests and have fun with the process of learning how to read. If you are looking for ideas, please see below for some tips and activities.

- Play oral games about how many syllables are in words (driving in the car, in the grocery store, with themes - farm animals, vehicles, etc.) **Syllables = breaking the word into parts (e.g. "SPI/DER" - 2 syllables)*
- Play with rhymes, read books (e.g., Dr Seuss) or sing songs (e.g., Down by the bay) with rhyme and find the rhyming words **Rhyming= words that have the same ending sound*
- Play "Squish": You break a word into each of its sounds, saying each sound out loud. Your child then "squishes" the sounds back together and tells you the word (e.g. "What word am I saying? b-l-ue?")
- Online activities and apps to learn the sounds of the alphabet. Focus on learning the different vowel sounds (e.g. "a" in apple vs in cake). *This is when direct instruction becomes more important because some letter sounds are different in English than French.
- www.starfall.com is a good website for helping to support letter sounds, letter blends e.g., "sh, ch, th, wh" and other rules like "Bossy E" and "Bossy R"
- Encourage your child to read daily, find a regular time for your child to read. Primary Students have access to virtual reading programs through their classrooms.
- Have a variety of print/text materials at varying degrees of difficulty. Ensure you have some beginner books with small, simple, repetitive sentences, so they can feel successful. Graphic texts are a great choice because they are engaging but are not too text-heavy!
- Appreciate their beginning attempts at reading and comment on their progress.
- All of the same reading strategies apply that he/she has been learning in French language, except that some of the sounds of the letters are different in English and French. (e.g., *Stretchy Snake-sounds out the word*)
- Don't discourage them by being critical of mistakes, but rather make them comfortable with taking risks and model how to sound out words by breaking them down into sounds. Model errors!
- It's also very important to continue to read *to* your child each day, and to discuss and enjoy stories together. Point to the words as you read them, so that they can follow with their eyes and begin to recognize words.
- Flashcards and Memory or matching games are great to help them master sight words/high- frequency words, which are words that children should eventually be able to read quickly (e.g. the, this, where, my, she, because, said, etc.). This will help them learn to read more fluently (quickly), which helps with comprehension.
- As they begin to express an interest in tackling reading, try reading aloud in unison. Sit side by side with a book of their choosing. Match your reading speed and the volume of your voice with theirs as you read along together (it'll take a little practice:). Have a prearranged signal for them to let you know when they want to try a passage on their own, then have you join in with them again. As they develop confidence with simple books, use this technique with more challenging materials. The idea being that as they build confidence, they will be comfortable reading to you on their own.
- Your child should also be encouraged to write grocery lists, notes, cards, emails, to-do lists, short stories, etc. When he/she is trying to spell, have him/her stretch out the word to hear each sound and think of which letter(s) make those sounds.

Thanks for your help in continuing to develop literacy skills. See the attached graphic for more information. Please continue to read daily with your children to support literacy during the summer holidays!! See the following visual for suggestions and ideas of reading at home.

BUILDING a Reader At HOME

Explore Books!

Give your child an opportunity to explore books. **Visiting a library or bookstore** gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.

Read, Read, Read!

Make sure to read for at least **30 minutes per day!** Students can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.

Ask Questions!

- Predictions
- Characters
- Main Idea
- Problem
- Solution
- Retell Story
- Genre
- Moral

Make it Fun!

Reading shouldn't be a chore. Intentionally read with your child/discuss books but also research topics and do book activities together.

Be an example!

Children learn by example, so **let your child see you read** whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

Pick Good Fit Books!

A book that is a good match for your child should meet the following requirements:

- Purpose for reading
 - Interest
- Can they understand what they are reading?
Can they retell the story?
- Do they know most of the words?

For Beginning Readers:

- Point out and read words in natural settings – stores, streets, etc.
 - Memorize sight words
 - Visualize the story in your head
- Ask questions before, during, and after
Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your student. Instead, ask them to:
 - Sound out the word
 - Break the word into parts
- Try a different vowel sound (long/short)
 - Use illustrations for clues
- Skip the word, re-read sentence, and go back – what word would make sense?

For Advanced Readers:

- Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversation
 - Read with expression
- Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of content, etc.) along with other genres as well
 - Compare and contrast books
- Discuss connections to literature
 - Think of new titles for books
- Explore multiple books from the same author