



Rockwood Public School

December/January Newsletter

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Message from the Office

We wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness and quality family time. We have a lot of great things happening this month including a Winter Concert and school spirit days! Mrs. Benstead's class will be hosting a food drive. Please see the information below which includes items for our local food bank.

It was great to have so many parents during parent teacher interviews to discuss their child's progress. Parent-teacher communication is an important part of student success. Thank you for continuing to support home and school communication. If you did not have a chance to meet your child's teacher, please contact them to set up a meeting. All parents are encouraged to have a meeting to discuss student progress.

We encourage home reading for 20 minutes each night. Parents play a vital role in supporting this initiative. Parents can read to their children, share interesting articles they have read, and model both the love and importance of reading at home. Rockwood continues to stay committed to ensuring a safe, inclusive and healthy environment. Thank you for continuing to screen your children daily, following Public Health protocols and for staying home when ill. Here is the screening tool if needed [Self-assessment | Ontario.ca](#).

We look forward to a month filled with excitement! Happy Holidays! On vous souhaite un joyeux Noël et une Bonne Année!!

R. Anand



Upcoming Events

December	January
12 Red, Green and Black Day in recognition of Kwanzaa, Intermediate volleyball tournament	6 Back to school, Happy New Year!
15 Blue and Sparkle Day in recognition of Hanukkah	9 New JK student registration
19 Winter Concert 6:30	12 Wear Spirit Wear or school colours!
19 Day concert 9:00	
Dress Rehearsal for evening 11:15-12:15	
22 Bundle up and Be Cozy Day, PJ Day	
Dec 25- Jan 5th-Winter Holidays	

Inclement Weather and Transportation

When you hear the radio announcement, “**All school taxis and buses in Centre Wellington and the Town of Erin will not be operating today**”- your child’s bus or taxi is canceled and the school remains open. During inclement weather, please check the website for bus cancellations [Transportation website](https://stwdsts.ca/) after 6:30 a.m. at: <https://stwdsts.ca/> and on twitter @STWDSTS **Rockwood is in the blue division. See below image for more details.**



For bus cancellation days: If your child is eligible for bussing & they are staying home on bus cancellation days, you DO NOT need to call the school. If your child DOES NOT take the bus, however, and you choose to keep them home from school on bus cancellation days, please call the school's attendance line (519) 856-9556 ext. 100 to report their absence or late arrival.

Winter Recess & Weather



With the winter weather upon us, this is just a reminder that **all students are expected to go outside** for recess and students need to bring the necessary clothing to make recess enjoyable (ie. **winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens and winter boots**).

School Council Update-Food programs

Orders for pizza and milk for block 2 (January-March) are open on school cash online until December 15th. **Please note that no late orders will be accepted**, however extra slices will continue to be sold for \$2.50 on Thursdays near the gym. Please note that Gino’s pizza our new supplier offers gluten free and dairy free options as well as breadsticks.

Save the date: next council meeting- Tuesday Feb 13 virtually at 6: 30 pm.



2023 RCPS Music Concerts



Seasons greetings parents of singers and musicians! Rockwood will be featuring two musical concerts; an evening winter concert and the day time winter concert. These are **two separate concerts**. We are a large school, and **they are separate due to gym capacity**. We invite parents to come and enjoy their child’s performance.

“Evening Winter Concert” on Tuesday, December 19th 6:30 pm

The evening concert features the **Music Clubs at RCPS**. The Grade 1-5 Choir, Grade 6-8 Choir, Small Ensemble Band, and Intermediate Band. Grade 1-5 Choir members please wear a fun seasonal outfit! Grade 6-8 students please wear your music t-shirt with dark bottoms, please no ripped jeans. Music t-shirts ‘round two order’ will be available for a limited time through school cash online. We look forward to performing for you!

- We will have our dress rehearsal on December 19th period 3 and 4.
- On the night of the concert please drop off band members at 6:00pm so we can warm up.
- Other performers can arrive with their families and go to their supervised waiting rooms.
- We will continue to rehearse during the breaks and we will have extra practices afterschool for the Intermediate Band, Small Ensemble Band, and Grade 6-8 Choir. Please refer to the newsletter that was sent home with your child for practice times.

“Daytime Winter Concert” on Tuesday, December 19th at 9:00am

This daytime concert features the music classes from Grade 1-6. Students please wear something fun and festive on the concert performance day. Props for specific classes will be communicated in your child’s Google Classroom.

Our “Kindergarten concert” on Thursday, Dec 14 at 2:00-3:00 pm in the gym. An invitation will go home to Kindergarten parents from their classroom teachers. This is also the evening for the Rockwood parade.

Intermediate Volleyball

Bump, set, spike - volleyball season is here! Intramurals are in full swing during nutrition breaks throughout the week and it is such fun, even the teachers have a team! It is so nice to see so many students participating and interacting with their peers. Our Intermediate volleyball teams have been practicing hard and are eager to head to their tournament on December 12. Thanks to Mrs. Soper and Mrs. Caverly for coaching the teams and offering before and after school practices.

5 Days of Giving Annual Food Drive

We will be hosting our annual food drive, beginning **Monday December 11th until Friday December 15th**. Each year our kindness feeds many families in our community during the holidays. We are always so thankful for your generous donations. Thank you to Mrs. Benstead and her class for leading this important initiative.

Here is a schedule to follow...

Monday December 11th, 2023	Breakfast items For example : jam, cereal, oatmeal
Tuesday December 12th, 2023	Lunch Items For example : soup, tuna, crackers
Wednesday December 13th, 2023	Dinner items For example : canned vegetables, sidekicks, pasta sauce
Thursday December 14th, 2023	Snacks and Condiments items For example : apple sauce, granola bars, ketchup
Friday December 15th, 2023	Toiletries For example : toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, diapers

MOST WANTED ITEMS for EWAG:

Canned vegetables
Side dishes- Sidekicks
Hamburger helper
Pasta sauce
Butter or margarine
Canned salmon or tuna
Laundry soap/ dish soap

See East Wellington's site for more information on services provided to our local community and a link for donations: <https://www.eastwellingtoncommunityservices.com/>



School Spirit Days-Winter Celebrations

In recognition of winter celebrations, spirit days, we will be about raising awareness of various celebrations in December. Students, staff and volunteers are invited to get creative and dress up for our spirit days to celebrate the upcoming holidays and have some fun! We are also having classes doing a door decorating contest to learn about different winter celebrations around the holidays. Please check them out when you are visiting the school for the concerts.

Monday December 12 -Red, Green and Black Day in recognition of Kwanzaa

Tuesday December 15 - Blue and Sparkle Day in recognition of Hanukkah

Friday December 22 - PJ /Comfy Cozy Day-tradition to do PJ day the last day before holidays

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Staff have welcomed Alex Ihama who came into our school to do some diversity training with staff. He also met with parents during our evening session. Please continue to provide feedback on how we can support your students to create a safe and inclusive learning environment at Rockwood Centennial. If you have any issues with identity based harm, we have a reporting tool in pink on our website [Rockwood Centennial Public School](#).

Making Math Meaningful

Every day children go about their daily lives exploring and discovering things around them, and by doing so they're exposed to the world of mathematics. Since mathematics has become increasingly important in this technological age, it is even more important for our children to learn math at home, as well as in school.

Attitude is Important

How do you as a parent feel about math? Your feelings will have an impact on how your children think about math and themselves as mathematicians. Take a few minutes to reflect on these questions:

- Do you think everyone can learn math?
- Do you think of math as useful in everyday life?
- Do you believe that most jobs today require math skills?
- If you answer "yes" to most of these questions, then you are probably encouraging your child to think mathematically.

Positive attitudes about math are important for your child's success.

Mathematics as Problem Solving, Communication, and Reasoning

Helping your child learn to solve problems, to communicate mathematically, and to demonstrate reasoning abilities are fundamental to learning mathematics. These attributes will improve your child's understanding and interest in math concepts and thinking.

A problem solver is someone who questions, investigates, and explores solutions to problems. They stick with a problem to find a solution, understand that there may be different ways to arrive at an answer, and attempt different ways to get there. You can encourage your child to be a good problem solver by involving him or her in family decision making using math.

To communicate mathematically means to use words, numbers, or mathematical symbols to explain situations; to talk about how you arrived at an answer; to listen to others' ways of thinking and perhaps alter their thinking; to use pictures to explain something; and to write about math, not just give an answer. You can help your child learn to communicate mathematically by asking your child to explain a math problem or answer. Ask your child to write about the process she or he used, or to draw a picture of how he or she arrived at an answer to a problem.

Use of Technology

A reminder that technology items should be kept at home unless there is a special project going on at school and students have been given permission by their teacher to bring it in to support learning. The school is not responsible for lost devices including cell phones, ipods, etc. Students are aware of the technology expectations and requirements.



Helping your child with Language

As a parent, the best thing you can do to help support your child's learning is to talk with him or her in the spoken language used at home. Talking helps build communication skills. These skills are transferable from one language to another. (Cummins, 1998)

When engaging with your child, consider the following:

- listen to a television program together and ask your child to share his/her thinking
- listen to music and ask your child why he/she thinks the artist wrote the song
- listen to the radio and ask your child to share his/her opinion about what is happening

- use a variety of words (i.e, friendly, kind, considerate)
- tell your child a story about when you were little or tell him/her a story about something that happened at work that day and leave off the ending for him/her to provide
- ask your child to provide 3 things and make up a story that includes all three (example: a princess, a car, and an ice cream cone)
- read aloud daily to your child, talk about the pictures, make predictions and see if they come true
- read to your child regularly and during a long wait at the doctor's office
- read a book to your child and ask him/her what he/she would do if he/she was the main character
- leave notes for your child in his/her lunch box or school bag
- ask your child to leave notes for you around the house
- have your child create a to-do list

From the Rockwood staff, we wish all families a wonderful and joyous holiday season! However you celebrate this season and whatever tradition you follow, we wish you the warmth of the holiday season. All the best for health and happiness in the year ahead for 2024!

