



# Ross R. MacKay Public School

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Website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/rossrmackay>  
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Principal: Ms. T. Armstrong  
Office Coordinator: Mrs. C. Eberhardt

March, 2017

## Principal's Message;

We have huge gratitude for all families who supported our main School Fundraiser this past month. Our Scholastic Book Fair raised over \$1000 in free earned books for our Library and over \$750 in funds collected from the Read-a-thon. Special mention to families who had helped their children complete and submit the reading logs. Congratulations to the following students/families who won prizes from our draws.  
Kindergarten Winner - Jeffrey  
Grade One/Two Winner – Filip  
Grade Two/Three Winner – Grayson  
Grade Four/Five Winner – Carter  
Grade Five/Six Winner – Caiden  
Highest Fundraiser – Maggie in Grade Six  
Family Gift Card – Sophia in Kindergarten

Thanks also to families for supporting our **Live Free – Hats for Hungers Day this Friday, March 3**. Every year, we are required to participate in this Food & Friends fundraiser in support of our school Breakfast Club/Snack Program. It is a great opportunity to talk to your children about poverty, hunger, the concept of having to do without and the joy of contributing to others in need through donation.

This past month, we have been focussing on the Character Trait of Perseverance or Grit. We will be celebrated our students who have exhibited exemplary fairness during the month of February at our Character Education Assembly on Wednesday, March 1. We will also be introducing the trait of self-regulation for the month of March.

During February, we started up The “Gotcha” Reward Program , a school-wide behavior program

that focusses on students who are making good choices and demonstrating the behaviour we expect from students at RRM. The goal for the program is to improve and maintain a school climate that focusses on promoting and explicitly teaching positive behaviors. Students are taught monthly character traits (so far Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty, Fairness and Perseverance). Students caught displaying the school-wide positive expectations will be verbally reinforced and given a “Gotcha”. These “Gotchas” will be exchanged each month for a variety of reward items on “Gotcha Reward Day”. Don't forget to ask your child about the expectations and the rewards they have earned!

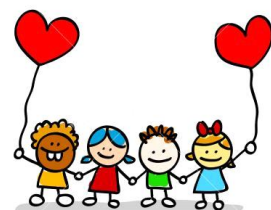
We are always looking for volunteers to help in our school. Right now, we are specifically looking for Emergency Staff (see section in this newsletter) and adults who may be able to help out in the Library, shelving books, organizing displays and Makerspace areas etc... If you are interested, please let Ms. Armstrong know.

Remember to visit our Website & Twitter Account regularly to keep up with happenings at Ross R. MacKay. Also, the School Council has a Facebook page you can like and follow.

As always, if you have questions, comments, suggestion or compliments, please let us know.

With warmth,

Ms. Tracy Armstrong



# ♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year began on January 9, 2017. Children born in 2013 are eligible to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2017. So far at RRM, we have had 9 registrations for Junior Kindergarten next year (and five brand-new families joining our school community).



## Wanted! Emergency Employees!

There are times when we have absent employees and our regular systems of filling those roles do not provide an occasional employee. If you are interested and available to fill in during these situations, please call and speak with Ms. Armstrong. We would require a resume, references and up-to-date police check. Due to the nature of these roles, we would usually only be able to let you know of the opportunity in the early morning.

The roles include:

- ✓ Occasional Teachers (ideally we prefer qualified teachers but on occasion, we do have to use unqualified)
- ✓ Occasional Educational Assistants (again, we prefer qualified but sometimes are required to fill in with unqualified).
- ✓ Occasional Nutrition Break Supervisors (for supervision of both eating and outdoor times)
- ✓ Occasional Bus Supervisor (for supervision of drop-off and pick-up during bus times).

## Wanted!!! Donations!



If you are doing any spring cleaning...please think of **Ross R Mackay** if you are getting rid of the following items:

- Magazines—both children/adult versions
  - Gently used books or toys
- Games for Indoor Recess
- Building Materials (Lego, Blocks, K-nex)
- Craft Materials/Art Supplies
- Cardboard of any size or shape



## Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is the **Website and Social Media Management** Policy 312. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy). The deadline for public input is March 2, 2017 at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

## Parents invited to share feedback on secondary French language instruction

Do you have a child enrolled in high school? Parents/guardians with children in a UGDSB secondary school are asked to complete a short, confidential survey on French language instruction at the high school level, in both Core French and French Immersion. For more information and to complete the survey, please visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/secondaryFSLsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/secondaryFSLsurvey).

# Wellington County Library

98B Trafalgar Road, Hillsburgh  
(519) 855-4010



## Community Board

**Paws for Literacy** (Grades K- 6) Read to Ochi or Ka-Pow, the newest member of the Paws for Literacy team from Spirit Ridge K-9 Training and Rescue. This reading programme is designed to help children practice reading fluency in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Please register.

**Saturday, March 4,** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

### **The Bubbleology Show!** (All Ages)

Jaws will drop and eyes will pop while discovering the wondrous world of Bubbleology! See a bubble carousel, volcano, a 3D SQUARE fog-filled bubble, and even a person in a bubble! Please register.

**Monday, March 13,** 2:30 - 3:30 pm

### **Mystery of the Burst Bubble** (Grades K- 6)

Be a Bubble Buster! Come into the library to explore science with bubbles!! Please register.

**Wednesday, March 15,** 10:30 - 11:30 am

### **Ukulele Workshop** (Ages 8 and up)

Head back to school after March Break with a new skill...playing the ukulele! Come join Nicholas Russel and learn the basics of the ukulele, beginner chords, and a song or two! Please register.

**Thursday, March 16,** 2:00 pm

### **Ground Breaking Ceremony**

Join us at 9 Station Street for the new Hillsburgh Library Ground Breaking ceremony!

**Friday, March 10,** 11:00 am

## Council Corner

Council has been busy behind the scenes working on grant opportunities to bring new resources to our school. I recently completed the Indigo Love of Reading application



which was quite a lengthy process. A big thank you to Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Robnik and Mrs. Lawson for their help. Grant recipients are notified in June and if Ross R is chosen, we can receive up to 3 years of funding for our school library!

This month's fundraiser directly benefits our Breakfast Club. As you know, the Breakfast Club is 100% funded by grants provided through the Food and Friends Network. They are a wonderfully generous group and we are lucky to have them in our corner. They ask that we participate annually in their Live Free fundraiser and this year, with the help of Ms. Armstrong, we have added a more child friendly concept with Hats for Hunger. We are asking all students to bring in a toonie and a small food donation to help battle child hunger in our school. 100% of the money and food donations we get will stay in our school and supply our students with healthy breakfast and snack options. All students who participate get to wear a hat all day on Friday, March 3 and the class who collects the most money/food donations will receive a free breakfast party from the Breakfast Club team! We thank you for your support, a little goes a long way.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the wonderful team that help me brainstorm ideas, bring fun experiences into the school and who help our students in countless ways on a daily basis. My gratitude goes out to Cherie Jardine, Beth Gregory, Chris Collins and Paula Wall. I am so proud to work with each of you.

Stay tuned for details on our Easter fundraiser and have a safe and happy March Break!



## Vision Health

If you suspect that your child is struggling with vision issues, there are several things that you can do. First, book an

eye exam with an optometrist. Basic OHIP coverage for eye exams is available free of charge, for children from birth to age 19. Speak with your child's teacher regarding your concerns and encourage your child to clearly express to the teacher the difficulties they are having (Are they having trouble seeing things on the board? Are they having trouble copying information? Are they having trouble seeing the information in novels/textbooks/notebooks etc.?) There are a number of accommodations that can be made to quickly address potential problems, including seating closer to the board or larger print on computers or photocopies. You can also discuss with the classroom teacher or special education resource teacher the possibility of making a referral to one of the Vision Itinerant Teachers who provide support to your school.



## Your Child's Hearing is Important!

Seventy-five percent of a child's day is spent listening; listening to complex language, directions and instructions which need to be comprehended. Being able to hear peers is important for developing social skills and friendships. That is why it is important that any hearing difficulty be discovered as soon as possible because even mild hearing loss can put a child at risk for academic and communication difficulties. **Audiologists** are experts who assess hearing sensitivity and functioning that provides a window into the language/listening parts of the brain. Since listening is a critical learning skill, test results can be helpful in planning a program of intervention. Students who wear hearing aids,

cochlear implants, or use personal FM systems should routinely visit an Audiologist to have their equipment checked. If you suspect your child has difficulty with hearing or attention it is recommended that you have your child tested by an **Audiologist**. To find an Audiologist in your community, visit the website of the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario ([www.CASLPO.com](http://www.CASLPO.com)) and click on "Find an Audiologist" and search for Private Practice.

At UGDSB you can call 519-941-6191 ext. 231 for information

## JOINT SCHOOL COUNCIL EVENT

Registration is now open for an awesome Dufferin Joint School Council event on Saturday, April 8 at Spencer Avenue in Orangeville



UGDSB Dufferin Joint Council and the Ministry of Education Regional PRO Grant Present:



**Keynote Speaker: Chris Vollum**

Seminar Presenters: Constable Scott Davis & Michelle Campbell (UGDSB)

\*\*Social Media Responsibility \*\*Internet Safety \*\*FREE Educational Tools UG2GO

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/are-you-as-social-as-your-kids-tickets-31522877776>

## Digital Saturday returns this March!

All parents in the UGDSB are invited to attend Digital Saturday, which will be hosted at JD Hogarth PS in Fergus.

See a variety of technology used in the UGDSB. Meet with Special Education staff to learn more about how they support all students. Discover the rich online digital resources available to your children from home and at school.

Digital Saturday is on March 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

## March 25<sup>th</sup> is Earth Hour!

*It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.*

**Join the global Movement! Celebrate Earth Hour on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm.**



Earth Hour's mission is uniting people to protect the planet by raising awareness of about climate change and encouraging positive action.

*"Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 172 countries and territories worldwide."*

*Earth Hour is more than an event. It is a movement that has achieved massive environmental impact, including legislation changes by harnessing the power of the crowd."*

Presentations include: devices in our schools, Homework Help, Cospaces and Ozobot, Google Apps for Education, UG2GO, Coding in the Classroom, MIT App Inventor, Grandpals, Virtual Reality, SEA, and My Blueprint.

Click [here](#) to see a short video clip of Earth Hour's story around the world and click [here](#) for highlights of 2015

### Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

Earth Hour belongs to you. Celebrate your commitment to the planet with your friends, family, community or at work - in your own way.

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

- *prepare a candle lit dinner,*

- *talk to your neighbours, or invite people over*
- *stargaze, or go camping in your backyard*
- *play board games, or charades*
- *host a concert, or a sing-a-long*
- *create or join your own community event*
- *have an Earth Hour every month*
- *??????The possibilities are endless!*

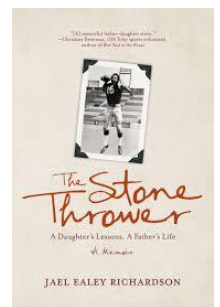
Quotes and information taken from:

<https://www.earthhour.org/>

## March 31<sup>st</sup> – Special Author Visit

Ross R. MacKay has booked guest author Jael Richardson to come to RRM for an author visit on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:20 AM (approximately an hour in length). Jael was one of the key note-speakers at the Upper Grand DSB's Literacy Symposium in the Fall (Ms.Spencer and Ms. Armstrong both attended). She is the author of the children's book *The Stonethrower* (which we have in our Library) and of a memoir *The Stone Thrower: A Daughter's Lesson, a Father's Life* (about her father Chuck Ealey, the first African American quarterback to win the Grey Cup) She also helped to found the FOLD Festival (Festival of Literacy Diversity) in Brampton.

All families are welcome to join us for this special event.



<http://www.jaelrichardson.com>