



Ross R. MacKay Public School

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Principal: Ms. T. Armstrong

Office Coordinator: Mrs. C. Eberhardt

January, 2018

Principal's Message



We hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and rejuvenating holiday break and wish all of our families a Happy New Year!

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our School Community on behalf of East Wellington Community Services. 'Small but Mighty' Ross R. Mackay has extremely generous families. Our 'give instead of get' campaign during the month of December was a huge success. 887 items were collected for the Food & Toiletries Drive as well as whole box of mittens, scarves and hats. Students also earned a Holiday Light to display in the gym instead of gotchas this month and as a result, a donation of \$200.00 (including donations received on the Holiday concert night) was also given to EWCS.

It was wonderful to see almost all of our families in attendance at our Holiday Concert on December 14. We had many positive comments about the performances. Special thanks to our School Council who helped make it such a success as well as the staff and students for the time and energy spent in preparation.

Mrs. Connie Eberhardt, our Office Coordinator, continues to be off on a medical leave. Mrs. Cherie Jardine has been filling in for her and doing a stellar job. The position has been officially posted (after ten weeks) and hiring will occur early in January.

This past month, we have focussed on the Character Trait of **Honesty**. The month of January will be all about **Fairness/Equity**. We encourage you to talk to your children about what these words mean at home, school and in the community.

Please help us reinforce our 'Hands & Feet to Ourselves/No Rough Play' and 'Snow stays on the Ground' expectations by speaking

with your children about these requests. Some of our students are struggling to understand that is not appropriate to push, hit, kick or throw things at others during outdoor play. We encourage students to report issues when they arise, rather than responding aggressively, which just escalated the problem. Our goal, as always is to ensure safety for all students in our school. Thanks for your support.

We welcome parents/guardians to join us this month, at our Character Education Assembly on Wednesday, January 10 at 12:15 PM., at our first School Council Meeting of 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Library and on our special Family Literacy Night on Thursday, January 25 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

School Clothing Orders (short-sleeve t-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirt and hoodies) will be sent home in mid-January. Keep checking those backpacks.

As always, we encourage you to visit our RRM School Website regularly for information updates - <http://www.ugdsb.ca/rossrmackay/>, to add the **School Messenger App** to your phone and to follow us on our Twitter Account **@RossRMackayPS**. Our School Council invites you to follow their Facebook Page **Ross R. MacKay Public School - by School Council**. As parents/guardians, you are our partners in ensuring the success and happiness of your children. Please feel free to email, call or set up a meeting if you have questions, concerns, suggestions or compliments!

Yours in education,

Ms. Tracy Armstrong

tracy.armstrong@ugdsb.on.ca
(519) 855-4957 x223

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

We're getting ready to welcome our newest group of little learners to the school! Kindergarten registration for the 2018-19 school year takes place from January 9 to 19, 2018. **New this year:** all Junior and Senior Kindergarten students new to the UGDSB must pre-register online. (SK students who attend a UGDSB school for JK do not need to pre-register online). Pre-registering online between Jan. 9-19 will save families time by allowing you to fill out important forms and documentation when it's convenient for you.

Once you've pre-registered online, parents/guardians must go into their child's home school before the Jan. 19th deadline, in order to drop off documentation and complete their registration. Please note that all parents hoping to register their child for JK French Immersion must complete their registration document verification by Jan. 19 at 4 p.m.

For more information on how to register and the JK French Immersion selection process, please visit www.ugdsb.ca/jkregistration.



“Ready Set Go” is BACK!!

RSG is a program designed for children who are enrolled to attend

Junior Kindergarten at this school in September 2017.

This free program is ideal for all children but especially for those who are anxious about starting school or separating from their parents/guardians.

To register your child in the Ready Set Go program, **you must first register him/her for Junior Kindergarten** in the school they will attend and then you must call Angela Mathers at East Wellington Community, 519-833-9696

Wanted – Volunteers & Paid Positions



Volunteers are always a valuable resource in the school. We appreciate the many, many hours that parents and volunteers provide in order to support our students and to assist with the events that are offered at the school. If you wish to volunteer on a regular basis, we ask that you connect with your child's teacher first. You will be asked to complete and sign a Volunteer & Confidentiality Form which we will keep on file. We also ask that all volunteers report to the office to sign in upon arrival, pick up a volunteer badge and to sign out when leaving the building.

This year, we are looking for specific volunteers who would be willing to come in for an hour per week to assist with our new Home Reading Cart and Library Organization. If interested, please email Ms. Armstrong

We are also always on the lookout for back-up **Nutrition Break Supervisors** (supervising both the eating and the outdoor activity time), **Emergency Occasional Teachers** (to teach classes if a regular Occasional Teacher is unavailable) and **Emergency Occasional Educational Assistants** (to fill in if a regular Occasional E.A. is unavailable). Please check in the office if you are interested and available for such paid positions. Qualifications for Emergency Staff are not necessary but an up-to-date police check and resume will be requested.

Indoor

Footwear:

Please ensure your child has an indoor pair of shoes to wear at school. The halls can be wet and slippery during this time of year and we request students wear shoes at all times while in school in case there is a need for an emergency exit. Thanks for your support.



must have been difficult/interesting”, “it sounds like you had fun”, “you must have felt disappointed/frustrated/angry”. Talk while having dinner together, preparing dinner, going out for a walk, at bedtime, on the way to school or while standing in the grocery line. Think of yourself as a partner in the conversation.

Student Absences

Thank you to all parents for taking the time to call the school when your child is absent, due to illness or other reason. This allows our Office Coordinator to focus on the needs of the students within the school rather than try to track down where a particular child is on that day. Please leave a clear message on the answering machine before 8:30 AM or if you call after this time, you can speak directly to our Office Coordinator. Thank you for your assistance.

Talking to Children

Hey, Mama! I have a really cool thing to tell you!



How many times have you asked your child what they did in school today and they said “nothing”? Do you feel that

most of the conversations you have with your children are just about telling them what to do? Many parents feel this way; life is busy.

Giving children opportunities to have conversations is really important for their growth and learning. What to do? Children often ask a lot of questions, especially young children. Parents answer those questions and the conversation often just ends. How do you keep the conversation going? Instead of answering the question what if next time you ask a question instead? Consider these questions: What do you think it is? What do you think about that? What interests you about that? What do you notice? How do you think that works? If you get a one word answer you might make a comment such as, “tell me more”, “I’d like to hear more about that” or ask another question.

Listening carefully is also important when talking to your child. Children respond positively if they know they have been heard and that you are interested in what they have to say. Use comments to encourage your child to keep talking: “Tell me more about that”, “that

Emergency Contact Numbers

Winter has certainly arrived, and long with this seasons comes unpredictable weather than can cause changes to transportation plans for parents and bus travel. Please ensure our school has updated phone numbers and emergency contact information. The school relies on accurate and updated information to ensure you child is both accounted for and safe.

Also, please remember to check the Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services pages for up-to-date [Bus Cancellations Announcement](#) www.stwdsts.ca/. We will also post on our Twitter Feed which is also linked right to our school website page.





Council's Corner

Happy New Year from School Council! We would like to thank all the families who came out to watch our fantastic students in the Holiday Concert and supported our fundraising goals by purchasing hot chocolate, popcorn or 50/50 tickets. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$250.00 for the school! Congratulations to the Chalmers family for winning the 50/50 draw.

Based on feedback from staff and our desire to ensure that all our students receive adequate nutrition throughout the school day, Council is excited to announce our Classroom Snack Bin program, beginning in January, 2018. Each day, a snack bin will be provided to each classroom and available to all students while they are under supervision by a teacher. We are providing an accessible and stigma-free way for kids to have a healthy snack when they need it, without leaving the classroom or going to the office. Snack bins will be prepared each day by our volunteers and will include 1 fruit item + 1 dairy or grain item. All snacks will be in line with the nutrition guidelines for schools and will vary a couple of times per week.

This is a new initiative at our school and we ask all parents to have a talk with their children at home, to reinforce the idea of the bin. Our bins are there to supplement – not to replace – food that has been provided from home. We operate on limited grant funding each year and this project is aimed to keep children in their class, minimize disruptions to the front office and to provide a small snack to every child when and if they need it. This system is not meant for kids to choose our snacks over what is provided from home or to provide free snacks for

students each day. Kindly explain to your children that the Snack Bins are the only snacks the school will be providing throughout the day and we respectfully ask that students not go to the office to request snack items.

We are happy to announce that we have received Two Parent Involvement Grants for this school year. Our first grant is being used to hold a Family Literacy Night on Thursday, January 25. This fun and FREE event will include Literacy Game Stations, a Make & Take Bookmark Table and a Family Story Time complete with milk and cookies. Please watch our Facebook page and your child's Agenda for more information about this free, educational and fun night for families. An RSVP for this event is required – a link to our Google Docs page will be included in all correspondence.

On behalf of School Council, we thank you for your on-going support. We look forward to providing many fun and engaging activities for our RRM family for the remainder of the school year!

Written & submitted by Linda Campbell.

Bringing Healthy Food to Hungry Minds

*What a great time to get involved with the Food & Friends student nutrition program. We are grateful to those who have assisted in providing the program at **Ross R. MacKay** and would be happy to welcome new volunteers to the program. Contact **RRM** to see how you can help to bring healthy food to hungry minds.*



**Children's
FOUNDATION**
OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON
Building brighter futures

Environmental activities to help
celebrate our planet



**JANUARY is the time to carry out
your resolutions!**

*“There will be more waste plastic in
the sea than fish by 2050”
Dame Ellen MacArthur*

**It’s a brand new year and the perfect
time for positive change. For
example, let’s end plastic pollution.**

Based on the daily news, it’s never been more critical to increase your environmental efforts. This year the *Earth Day Network* is calling to end plastic pollution. Imagine a future free from harmful plastic garbage! Single-use plastics are especially wasteful and many plastics are also not properly recycled and take up precious landfill space or pollute our oceans, killing marine life and washing up on pristine beaches. Plastic garbage ‘islands’ are appearing in seas and oceans all over the world. One of these - the Great Pacific garbage patch, is estimated to be the size of Alberta.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

**Tips on how to reduce single-use
plastics:**

- Extend your use of cloth shopping bags beyond the grocery store. Use them at all other retail stores too. (You can carry purse-sized, reusable folded bags.)

- Avoid buying over-packaged food. The choice is yours. Do you need to buy the carrots that are shrink wrapped on a Styrofoam tray, or can you buy a bundle that is tied together with a simple twist tie?
- Let the restaurants you frequent know that you would like them to join the growing movement to ban the use of straws. Restaurants, organizations, institutions and schools worldwide have gotten rid of plastic straws or implemented a 'serve-straws-upon-request' policy.
- Tap water is best. Bottled water can deplete our precious groundwater resources and produce unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions through the production and transport of plastic bottles. Carry a reusable water bottle instead.
- Lug a travel mug to your local coffee shop. (The plastic lining makes coffee cups unrecyclable, and they all end up in the garbage and in our overflowing landfills.)
- Write letters to the government asking them to fix a problem that you are concerned about such as: mandating the reduction of plastic packaging, banning Styrofoam, or promoting research for recyclable coffee cups, etc.



PLASTIC FREE

www.wuft.org



Understand Numbers with Your Child

Research tells us that in mathematics,

higher achieving students have a strong flexibility and understanding of the relationship between numbers. In classrooms, educators are working with students to build skills with understanding and connections, to help develop their sense of number as well as learning and remembering facts. This helps students when problem solving

Think about knowing $4 + 7 = 11$ simply as a memorized fact. Now think about knowing that $4 + 7 = 11$ because it is a $3 + 7$ and 1 more (linked to knowing that 10 is an important number).

The understanding of this relationship can help a student to think flexibly about $64 + 27$. In the same way, it can be thought about as $60 + 20 + 7$ (that was made by the understanding of $4 + 7$) and 1 more = 91

As a parent, you can support your child in thinking flexibly about how numbers are related:

- What other numbers or facts is this connected to?
Example: $6 + 7 = ?$ This is like the double I know of $6 + 6$ and then 1 more.
- What do you know that might help you get there?
Example: $7 \times 4 = ?$ I remember that $5 \times 4 = 20$, so then I have to add on two more 4's, which is 8, to get 28.
- What is another way that you can know that?
Example: $4 \times 25 = ?$ I can think about money and know that 4 quarters is \$1.00, so $4 \times 25 = 100$



READING ALOUD: You are NEVER too old.

The benefits of reading aloud to your children are many, from bonding with your children to helping them strengthen skills in writing, listening, creativity, and more. According to Scholastic's 6th edition [Kids and Family Reading Report](#), the frequency of children being read aloud to at home drops sharply after age 5, again after age 8, and again after age 11 -- and 87% of children aged 6-11 told us they want their parents to continue reading aloud to them. Try these resources to keep your reading bond strong with your kids.



Borrow online at the Hillsburgh Library: Check out an eBook or eAudiobook and enjoy it on your smartphone, tablet, or dedicated

eReader. All you need is your library card number and PIN.

<https://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/lib-onlineresources.aspx>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/book-list/adventure-fantasy/when-your-child-isnt-ready-harry-potter>

<https://thereisabookforthat.com/book-recommendations/top-ten-read-alouds/>

