

THE 2 WEEK PEEK



Thursday, **MARCH 10**, 2016

Perhaps it's a function of age but it sure seems like each school year passes faster than the last. With Spring Break looming and a 29 March return date, the 2015-2016 school year will soon "be in the books."

Notwithstanding *the march of time*, this has been a critical year in our school's process to re-structure the school community within a common core values framework. Now the real work begins as we **all** have a role teaching, modelling, and living CARE, RESPECT, BELONGING, and SERVICE to OTHERS. With more than 400 children at Rochester we know that a wide range of value systems are in place in our families' respective homes. But *at school* we must live by our own shared values.

It is our intention that these core values will provide the foundation for our new Code of Conduct and more importantly characterize how we are all "in relation" to each other *at school*.



Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Orientation

If you have a child starting Kindergarten at Rochester in September please sign up for one of our 12 April Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Orientations. Session 1 is at 1 pm and Session 2 is at 6pm. Free child care provided by Place Maillard Staff right here in our gym; they will provide a drop off gym program for your child(ren) while you attend the parent session.



Call our office at 604.939.4624 to reserve your session.

2016-2017 School Year – the future is now

We are well into planning for next school year. Now that the Kindergarten registration process is over and the cross catchment process nearly complete, we will have a better idea of our enrolment numbers for next year.

Enrolment numbers are critical and determine how many divisions we will have next year, their composition (ie. blended grades or straight grades) and the loss, addition or retention of staff. Last year, just the unexpected departure a few children over the summer resulted in a whole school reorganization in September and rendered meaningless dozens of hours of careful class planning. We plan in the spring with the most accurate and current enrolment numbers possible but it's the children who actually come through the doors in September that determine everything.

Care, Respect, Belonging, Service to Others

In May, we will start the class building process. This will be the beginning of many hours of careful thought and consideration by staff about students and their class placements. Rest assured your child's teacher knows your child well and each and every child will be placed with care. There are a host of factors that come into play when building classes including:

- *Legislated class size limits (22 for K and K/1; 24 for 1-3 and 3/4 blends; 30 for grade 4/5's)*
- *Age and grade balance: especially when building a blended class (example grade K/1 or 3/4 blend). You would not build a 2/3 blend class with three grade 2's and twenty grade 3's*
- *unique learning needs or styles*
- *friends*
- *social dynamics*

Sometimes I receive requests from parents hoping to place their child with a specific teacher; please know that we do not entertain specific requests for teachers.

I am always happy and willing to discuss your child's unique learning needs and welcome you to come see me before mid-May if you think I should know something about your child that may assist our placement decisions. Unfortunately, some parents do not engage in these discussions and wait until classes are already in effect in September to tell us information that may have helped us in the placement process.

I can tell you that the second week of September, when new classes are in effect is the worst time to let us know about anything, especially if classes are full. Full classes mean no movement or flexibility is possible.

At this time there is no "final" class organization plan. All we have are scenarios. Our English Kindergarten numbers for September were at 11 last week. Today we have 22 enrolled! So much can and will change between now and June when we do an initial organization plan. Much more can and will change again before opening in September.

I will keep you up to date on organization plans in the coming week and months.

Lunch Box Theatre

The actors, stage crew, parent volunteers and Lunch Box coordinator Erin Gleeson thank the Rochester Community for supporting the winter session of Lunch Box. Last week's performances of the Sound of Music were a hit. Donations at the Friday evening show amounted to almost \$400 towards our new sound system. Thank you to those who supported us.

RHL Season Ends In Dramatic Fashion!

The season ended today when the Red Wings scored a late goal to take a 3-2 lead over the Bruins. The Wings held the lead and took the RHL Cup. Our thanks to Mr. Mariotti for his ongoing leadership as RHL Commissioner, League President, Referee, Goal Judge, Sports Reporter, League Statistician, First Aid Attendant, and Cheerleader!

Care, Respect, Belonging, Service to Others

Playground Update

I saw someone measuring the playground perimeter yesterday and know that the SD 43 Crew and the supplier are preparing for installation. They plan to remove the old structure and install better drainage over the Spring Break with installation of the new structure in early April. At least that is the latest plan shared with me today.

DISTRICT WIDE PROFESSIONAL DAY FRIDAY, 15 April 2016



Jump Rope for Heart Campaign...a success!

ROCHESTER fundraising total

\$7042.85

Emergency Preparedness and Student Release

Please read the attached letter from Assistant Superintendent Rob Zambrano concerning emergency Preparedness Week and Student Release Events planned for May.

LOOKING AHEAD...

14-25 March – Spring Break

28 March – Easter Monday School is closed

29 March – School Reopens

29, 30, 31 March - Hip Hop

April

1,4,5,6 April - Hip Hop

7 April – 22 April - Gymnastics Equipment set up in Gym

12 April – Kindergarten Parent Orientation 1-230 or 6pm -730pm

BOSTON PIZZA SUPPORTS ROCHESTER

If you or anyone you knows eats at Boston Pizza Maillardville you can help our school. Simply write the name “ROCHESTER ELEMETARY” on your receipt and deposit in the receptacle located by the hostess desk at the entry.

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