



NEWSLETTER 6-7

Roch Carrier Elementary School

March 3, 2011

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From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

The Board, at its meeting of February 22, approved that Roch Carrier remains status quo for the 2011-2012 school year. This being said, the Kanata North and South ARC will continue to meet to find long term solutions to alleviate the overcrowding at Roch Carrier, Katimavik and Stephen Leacock. A letter from the Board was sent home yesterday with all students with more specific information about the February 22 meeting.

Our planning for the next school year began in January. We recently received our preliminary projected enrolment for 2011-2012 of 725 students. This is an increase of 15 students from this year.

On April 1st, we will receive the projected number of classes and Staff and we will begin organizing classes for next year.

All schools in our Board work with the same formula so that we meet the class size requirements. While we have strong knowledge and experience with organizational factors, we have no control over the number of children in a particular grade or their gender. This fundamental fact alone can greatly affect how we structure the classes. We are very aware of what parents want as the perfect setting for their son or daughter. Be assured that we share the goal of the "ideal" situation for every one of our students. Enrolment numbers are closely monitored over the spring to try to avoid disruption in September.

Staff will soon start considering the class configurations for 2011-2012. This is a lengthy and time consuming process during which Staff is asked to draft potential class lists using a wide range of criteria such as: gender, heterogeneous groupings, learning styles, academic performance, behaviour,

social relationships, and teaching methodology. A great deal of effort and thought goes into the creation of new classes in order to meet the needs of all students. It is also a challenging job, as we want each child to be placed in the optimum learning environment. After many months of working with the students, teachers have a good understanding of individual strengths and challenges. Parental input will be considered in the above areas; however, it is not always possible to meet all requests. Sometimes parents may wish to provide information about special circumstances for their child, or information that you, as a parent, feel is relevant to the process, this does not equate a request for specific teachers. If so, please put this information in writing and direct it to the **Principal's** attention **before April 15, 2011**.

Thank you ☺!

LITERACY CORNER

Reading focus: *Determining Importance in Reading*



"I understand the main ideas of the text and what the author's message is."

"Determining importance" in reading refers to identifying a purpose for reading and then making decisions about which information is the most significant in view of that purpose. Effective readers distinguish between what is important and what is interesting. By focusing

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on determining importance, students will become more adept at locating new facts and seeking answers to their questions. In doing so, they will become better at giving evidence from the text to support their answers.

How can I help my child to develop “Determining Importance” as a reading comprehension strategy at home?

- Organizational features such as; layout, text organizers (i.e., table of contents, glossaries, indexes), fonts and effects (i.e.,bold, italics), cue words and phrases, titles, captions and graphics all give indications of what is important in a text.

- In fiction, retelling a story using story elements (such as characters, problem, setting, main events and solution) to form a summary is determining importance.

- Discuss how you determine the author’s purpose when reading a newspaper article or homework assignment. Is the purpose to inform, persuade or entertain ?

-Ask questions about the topic before you begin to read. How do the questions you have help you read for important information?

Books to read aloud at home.....

Primary—

“**Stellaluna**”, Janell Cannon

“**I’m In Charge of Celebrations**”, Byrd Baylor

“**The Art Lesson**”, Tomie dePaola

“**The Important Book**”, Margaret Wise-Brown

Any nonfiction text

Junior—

“**Fly Away Home**”, Eve Bunting

“**The Wednesday Surprise**”, Eve Bunting

“**Thank You, Mr. Falker**”, Patricia Polacco

“**Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt**”, Deborah Hopkinson

Any nonfiction text

Spirit Day:

March Spirit Day is March 11.

Primary grades are having a BEACH DAY

Junior grades are having a DISCO DAY –

Junior classes will be joining in the gym for some fun dancing together.

SPORTS

For the past two months the gym of Roch Carrier has been occupied mornings, recesses and a few after school times with 40-50 eager students learning and developing great volleyball skills. A boys’ and two girls’ teams were selected for tournament play on February 24th at Stonecrest. Special thanks to those parents who offered to drive or attend for the day. We were so happy to have our own cheering squad! We played teams from: W.O. Mitchell, Jack Donohue, W. Erskine Johnston, A. Lorne Cassidy and Stonecrest. After great playing and much support from our teammates, we were able to capture both championships! Congratulations to the 3 Roch Carrier boys and girls teams! Not only did our 3 teams return with banners and medals, we learned much more - believing in yourself, teamwork, winning isn’t the most important thing and enjoying each others’ company playing a wonderful game. Volleyball season will end with a fun game of students playing the teachers next week.



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From the Desk of Mrs. Levy-Rick and Mrs. Paunins

Movie Night

The students from Mrs. Paunins' and Mrs. Levy-Rick's classes hosted a very successful movie night on Thursday, February 24th. One thousand dollars was raised for the *Free the Children Foundation* bringing us one step closer to the completion of our school in Sierra Leone. Many thanks to all of the families who helped support this worthwhile cause. Additional thanks goes to Dave Miskelly for his time and continued support.

Upcoming Musical

Mrs. Paunins' and Mrs. Levy-Rick's students will be performing the musical, *Why Mosquitoes Buzz*, based on the African folktale, *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*. There will two shows on Friday, April 15th: 9:00 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. As well, students will be performing this musical for the residents of Stonehaven Manor.

From the Desk of Mme. Toye:

Students in Gr. 2 Mme Toye's class were busy celebrating the 100th day of school.



Placing Bear Paws from 1-100 without talking!



Celebrating after the students blew 100 balloons!



Hopping on one foot up to 100!

French Public Speaking

Congratulations to all junior students who participated in their class French Public Speaking contest. Finalist competed at the Roch Carrier Finals on February 15. Congratulation to Saanya Jain, Lenis Liu, Matthew MacRae-Bovell, Jordan McCambley Anna McAllister, Deshna Kanesalingam, and Megan Stevenson. These 7 students spoke clearly about very interesting topics.

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We would like to specially congratulate Jordan McCambley who came in second, as well as Anna McAllister who went on to the regional contest at John Young on February 23. We are very proud of Anna who earned a second place medal at this last competition.

Dogs on School Property

In the interests of the safety of the children, we would ask that you not bring your dog onto the school property. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

Litterless lunch Mondays

Litterless lunch Mondays started at Roch Carrier ES on Monday, February 14!

On Litterless Lunch Mondays, students are asked to bring a lunch that contains little or no packaging. Using reusable food and refillable drink containers such as Tupperware and aluminum water bottles is encouraged. Every piece of a student's lunch that is not consumed is returned home. Leftover food, recyclables and garbage all goes back. YES, EVEN THE GARBAGE!

Staff members are asked to refrain from using paper coffee cups on Litterless Lunch Mondays.

Let's all show the Earth how much we care by bringing Litterless Lunches to school on Mondays.

School Council News

What's New :

Roch School Council is on Facebook! We have set up a Facebook Fan page to help keep Roch parents informed. Visit the council web site (www.rochcouncil.ca) and you will find a "like" button at the bottom of the page. You can also search for us on Facebook, we are "Roch Carrier School Council". Please "Like" us and you'll be kept up to date on everything from the Kanata Accommodation Review to School Spirit Days!

The Facebook page will not replace the Council's Column in the Schools Newsletter.

We will use it in conjunction and will use it to

post those last minute reminders that busy parents sometimes forget.

If you would like something posted please contact Council's Chair or Vice Chair and they can forward the information to the Facebook Administrator.

The Spring Fundraising packet will be sent home on March 23, 2011 with a due date of Friday April 1st, 2011. It will include a catalogue and order form for Enchanted Gardens (offering all of the plants, seeds, bulbs, etc. that you will need for your Spring planting); a pamphlet and order form for Farmers First Fair Trade Organic Coffee and an order form for Fundscrip Gift Cards. Please feel free to share these offers with friends and family.

With March Break coming we would like to remind those of you with Entertainment Books that there are hundreds of coupons within it for fun filled activities - Cineplex movie discounts, Cosmic adventures, Putting Edge, Museums, ski lift tickets and even the Montreal Biodome can be found in Section E; Casual & family dining is in section C, while fast food coupons are located in Section D. For those traveling, there are Park 'n fly coupons in section G, car rentals and hotel deals in sections E & F.

Rochin Family Fun Fair

We are starting to plan the 2nd annual Rochin Family Fun Fair and we are looking for parent volunteers.

Please contact Cynthia Menary via email cochairs@rochcouncil.ca if you are interested in helping. There are many areas to volunteer from set up/take down and activities during the event. If you have 30 minutes to a couple hours during the event your help will make it a huge success. High School students are also welcome to volunteer, if you know a responsible teenager or have a teenage neighbor please have them contact Cynthia Menary.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday March 9, 2011 in the library of RCES at 7pm. See you there!

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Community News

From the Canadian Red Cross:

During the upcoming March Break, consider taking a course with the Canadian Red Cross.

Babysitter Course

The Babysitting Course covers the responsibilities of a babysitter, safety tips for children of all ages, basic child care skills and what to do in case of an emergency (\$65.00)

All Babysitter courses run 8:30 – 4:30 at Red Cross, 340 Catherine St

- Monday, March 14
- Tuesday, March 15
- Wednesday March 16
- Friday, March 18

For a complete course description, students and parents can check out www.redcross.ca. Limited Spaces, register soon. For more information or to register, please call 613-560-7220 ext.249.



Head Lice

Head lice are common in school-aged children, but anyone can get them. These small insects can crawl from person to person by direct head to head contact and most often cause itching.

Parents should check their children’s hair weekly for head lice. Look for nits (eggs) of head lice. Nits look like dandruff, but they cannot be shaken or flicked off the hair. They are found on the hair very close to the scalp.

If you see lice or nits, notify the school and treat your child. Ottawa Public Health recommends that the **first of the two** required treatments be done before your child returns to school.

Teach your children to protect themselves from getting head lice:

- Avoid sharing combs, brushes, hair accessories.
- Tie back long hair in a braid or ponytail.
- Keep hats, mittens, and scarves in the sleeve of your child’s coat.

For more information on the prevention and treatment of head lice, call the Ottawa Public Health information line at 613-580-6744 or visit ottawa.ca/health.



March Break Family Movie Night will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 pm in the Bill Morgan Room of the Eva James Community Centre. Join us for a movie, snacks, games, music and more! Please RSVP to social@bridlewood.ca so that we have enough for everyone.

The Bridlewood Community Association’s Spring Newsletter has now been delivered to all Bridlewood residents. If you have not received one, please contact Margaret at pres@bridlewood.ca or visit our website at www.bridlewood.ca to read online. The newsletter includes information on local development, spring sports, safety, street reps and upcoming events.

Our next General meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Bill Morgan Room of the Eva James Community Centre. Topics on the agenda will include committee reports, Councillor Hubley’s update and a guest speaker from Bridlewood Home Hardware on gardening. All residents are welcome to attend.

Annual Family Memberships are now on sale for only \$10 on our website at www.bridlewood.ca. Show your support for the Bridlewood Community Association, give us a stronger voice when dealing with the City and Developers on local issues, join us for our Annual Member and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, get regular updates on what is happening in Bridlewood and be able to register your children for Spring Sports – just by becoming a member. Please contact Margaret at pres@bridlewood.ca for more information.

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Dates to Remember

March 3: March Newsletter

March 4: Junior Olympics

March 7: ARC working meeting at Glenn
Cairn PS, 5:30 pm

March 9: School Council meeting at 7:00 pm
in the library, all parents are welcome!

March 11: Spirit Day: Beach Day for primary
students and Disco day for Junior students

March 14-18: March Break, no school for
students

March 28: Hot Dog fundraiser

April 4: ARC working meeting at WO Mitchell
a 5:30 pm.

April 7: Newsletter home

April 13: School Council meeting at 7:00 pm
in the library, all parents are welcome!

April 21: Earth day

Spirit Day: Super Hero

April 22: Good Friday, no school for students

April 25: Easter Monday, no school for
students