



R.F. DOWNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL
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NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Seek the best in ourselves and others
Participate in all aspects of our education
Pursue excellence and be the best that we can be

Principal's Message



November 11th is a day to recognize and honour Canadian soldiers who have fought in the past and continue to risk their lives today, for our freedom and democratic way of life. As we reflect on the sacrifices of our fellow Canadians, we want students to understand that through the choices they make in their lives, they can make a personal contribution to peace and the preservation of mankind. We will be recognizing this important day through announcements, an assembly, as well as classroom discussions and videos. Members of the Royal Canadian Legion will be visiting the school to collect donations for poppies. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

Our monthly character trait for the month of November is Courage! We are teaching students that courage means: I face challenges directly. I speak up for myself and others even when it may be unpopular. I ask for help when necessary. I recognize risks and dangers and do not take unwise chances to please others.

Please follow us on **Twitter**! We will share fun school activities, bus cancellations or delays, school news and other announcements. You can find us at: @RFDPS. We hope to see you there!

Progress reports will be coming home on November 10th. Please take some time to go over it with your child or children. The Learning Skills are a particular focus at the start of the school year. Please review with what it means to demonstrate Self-Regulation, Collaboration, Initiative, Responsibility, Independent Work and Organization. Definitions and considerations for these Learning Skills and Work Habits can be found at the end of this newsletter. Have a great month – and stay healthy!

Barb

NEW MASCOT!!!!



As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, students were invited to propose a new mascot for R.F. Downey. The submissions were reviewed and narrowed down to two choices! Each student was given the opportunity to vote on each choice by way of ballot provided to their homeroom teacher. The count is in, and we will hereby be known as: **THE R.F. DOWNEY RAPTOR**! Stay tuned for new spirit wear, hopefully in time for the holidays!

School Council

Thanks to Eliana Ross and Jennifer Brinsmead for organizing and for everyone who attended the School Welcome Barbeque and 50th Anniversary celebration on September 21st. It was a spectacular evening.

At our last Parent Council meeting we decided that other fundraisers this year will include a Basket Raffle and a Dance-A-Thon. We're specifically looking for volunteers for the Book Fairs, and the Dance-A-Thon. If you would like to volunteer for these or any of our events or fundraisers, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Eliana Ross at eliana.ross@hotmail.com.



Eliana Ross is the chairperson for our Book Fairs once again this year. The book fair will be open each recess! Family nights will be Wednesday, November 29 and Friday, December 1 from 3:35 pm-7 pm. Guessing jars are back and better than ever! Come to a family night to get your 5 free guesses. We are adding something a little different this year. We are asking each classroom to donate a themed basket that will be raffled off at the end of our second family night. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 10 for \$5.00. All proceeds will go towards some of the cost of future class trips for each class. Themes may include such things as family movie night, games, sports, gardening, etc. They will make great gifts!

We would love to have some new council members! As our students grow and move on, so do our parents. The next School Council meeting is on Monday, November 13th at 6:30 in the school library. It will cover the budget for the year. Remember that you don't have to be a Council member to attend our meetings. We love to see parents come out, meet other parents and learn more about our school. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact Melanie Foster at melaniejsfoster@gmail.com *Hope to see you out at some of our events!*

Edsby



Early in September, everyone was sent an email inviting you to join R.F. Downey on Edsby – a KPR communication tool! Thank you to the many parents who have already joined us! We are well over 100 members! Your child's teacher will have a classroom page and we have a school page called, "School Talk". The intent of the page is to communicate events and important information as well as to share information. It is not a page intended to share concerns that would be better handled via private email or a phone call. The site is monitored and inappropriate content will be removed and addressed privately. Edsby can be accessed via an app on your phone or on a computer!

Visit <http://www.edsby.com/help/parents/> for more information and tips!

Also: <https://vimeopro.com/edsby/edsby-help-videos-for-school-administrators/video/144798060>

Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions that cannot be answered with the tools offered here, and enjoy!

Dates to Remember: See Calendar

Lost and Found

As usual, our lost and found is extremely full this year. Please be sure to *label all winter clothing* that comes to school with your child, so that we can ensure that they take home the same clothing that they arrived with.



Bus Cancellations

Please be aware that when weather conditions cause bus operators to cancel school bus runs in the morning, ***the bus does not deliver children home in the afternoon either.*** In cases where parents drive their children to school, parents are reminded that they are responsible for organizing their child's transportation home after school.

If you are wondering about bus cancellations on any day, please listen early in the morning to the following radio stations for the status of your child's bus:

KRUZ 100.5 FM	STAR 99.3 FM
WOLF 101.5 FM	CKQM 105.1 FM
ENERGY 99.7 FM	

You can also find bus cancellations on the following website www.stsco.ca. Just click on the yellow school bus for a listing of cancellations and/or late buses.

Please see the STSCO Winter Newsletter for more winter busing information.

Learning Skills and Work Habits

The development of learning skills and work habits needed to succeed in school and in life begins early in a child's schooling. As students move through the grades, they develop and then consolidate their learning skills and work habits in preparation for post-secondary education and the world of work. In many subjects and disciplines in Grades 1 to 12, the development of the learning skills and work habits is further strengthened through the achievement of the curriculum expectations. Teachers will work with students and their parents/guardians to help them develop the following six learning skills and work habits: • Responsibility • Organization • Independent Work • Collaboration • Initiative • Self-Regulation. Each learning skill and work habit is evaluated on the report cards using the following scale: • E = Excellent • G = Good • S = Satisfactory • N = Needs Improvement

Strong learning skills and positive work habits are often an indicator of future success in school, at home, and in life in general. Learning skills and work habits will look different in individuals as they grow and mature. Teachers will work together with students to develop the criteria used to assess learning skills and work habits. The following are sample behaviours which are designed to help identify strengths and support growth of those learning skills and work habits.

Responsibility: Consider how well your child: • fulfills commitments in learning environments; • completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed upon timelines; and • manages his/her behaviour.

Independent Work: Consider how well your child: • monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals; • uses class time appropriately to complete tasks; and • follows instructions with minimal supervision.

Collaboration: Consider how well your child: • accepts various roles and an equitable share of the work within a group; • responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others; • builds healthy peer relationships; • works with others to resolve conflicts and builds consensus to achieve group goals; and • shares information, resources, and expertise to solve problems and make decisions.

Organization: Consider how well your child: • creates and follows a plan to complete work and tasks; • establishes priorities and manages time to achieve goals; and • gathers, evaluates and uses information, technology and resources to complete tasks.

Initiative: Consider how well your child: • acts upon new ideas and opportunities for learning; • demonstrates a willingness to take risks; • demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning; • approaches new tasks with a positive attitude; and • recognizes and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others.

Self-Regulation: Consider how well your child: • sets his/her individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them; • seeks assistance when needed; • assesses and reflects critically on her/his strengths, needs and interests; • identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals; and • perseveres when facing challenges.

Partners Working Together to Support Student Learning and Achievement

You and your child are important partners in the learning and assessment process. Teachers will help students to:

- understand what they are expected to know and be able to do in order to successfully demonstrate these learning skills and work habits;
- set goals for growth; and
- build on strengths, use learning preferences, and focus on areas of need to achieve success.

Teachers, students and parents/guardians will work together to set goals for developing all of the learning skills and work habits.

For more information, please contact your son or daughter's teacher.

Reference

Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools (Grades 1-12) is available from The Ontario Ministry of Education's website.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growSuccess.pdf>



Safe Arrival

Before the first bell, please call 1-866-740-2902 to report your child's absence or go to <https://parent.schoolconnectsweb.com/parentportal33/login/default.aspx?KPR>. You will need to create an account. This App can be added to your cell phone or tablet to facilitate its use.