



33 Dowden Street
Brantford, Ontario

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519-752-8814

www.granderie.ca/schools/Ryersonheights

Principal

Lisa Van Leeuwen

Vice-Principal

Sarah Stratton

Office Coordinators

Michelle Sibbick

Shelly Snow

Bell Times:

8:35-10:15 First Block

10:15-10:55 Nutrition

Break

10:55-12:35 Second Block

12:35-1:15 Nutrition Break

1:15-2:55 Third Block

Message from the Principal

October, 2017

The time is flying by, and it finally feels like Fall! We here at Ryerson have already been busy with the Terry Fox Run and the Autism Walk and their accompanying activities, 3-Pitch and Cross Country Teams, and lots of learning. It was wonderful to see so many families at our Meet the Teacher night too.

October will be equally busy with opportunities to take on leadership roles around the school and learn. We will also take time to reflect on what we're thankful for both here at school and in our community.

If you are looking for ways to volunteer at the school, just ask! We're happy to help you find ways in which you can help us here with your schedule in mind. If you are not available during the day, you're always welcome to join us for Parent Action Team (PAT) meetings. The PAT is a group of parents who meet 4 times during the school year to encourage a partnership between parents and the school to support student achievement and excellence. Our first meeting takes place October 4th at 5 PM in the library.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 3 – PD DAY (no School for students)

October 4 – Sub Orders Due

– PAT Meeting

October 5 – Turkey Trot

October 9 – THANKSGIVING

October 11 – Kindergarten-Grade 3 Photo Day

October 12 – Grade 4-Grade 8 Photo Day

October 25 – Believe Assembly

October 31 – Halloween Parade, Dance and Activities

CLOTHING DRIVE!

The Grade 1, Grade 1/2 and Room 102 classes will be completing a clothing drive for our Ryerson Heights 'It's Our Time to Shine' Community Out-Reach Project. We will be collecting clean, gently used clothing of all sizes. All of the collected clothing will be sorted and donated to local community resources (Wish Closet, Nova Vita and Kidney Clothes).

Collections will take place during the month of October (October 2-31). Laundry baskets will be located in the front hall of the school for donations to be placed in. Our goal is to collect 500 items! Thank you in advance for your support to this worthy cause.

~Mr. Daniel, Mrs. Manzo, Mrs. Stallmann & Miss Brown~

VOLUNTEERS

Please be aware that there is a Board policy with regards to volunteers. This pertains to anyone who comes into contact with the students in our schools: classroom helpers, drivers, etc.

The Board requires everyone to have a police check, including the vulnerable sector portion. The police check must not be more than 6 months old, and is valid for 2 years at which time it will need to be completed again. A letter from the school will be provided for you to take to the police station to request such a check.

The school will need to see the original copy and will keep a photocopy at the office. Make sure to get these done as soon as possible. Any further questions or the letter for a police check, please contact Mrs. Snow or Mrs. Sibbick.

HOMEWORK

With the start of the new school year, many students will notice a slightly increased workload contingent upon their new grade at school. As parents, you can help them with the discipline required to focus on their studies. Following are a few tips that may be helpful:

- Set a regular time for homework
- Provide a quiet space for study
- Remove distractions - including the phone and TV
- Make certain your children have the support and resources they need to study. These might include a ride to the library, access to a computer, or special supplies.
- Help your children with their homework- but don't do it for them.
- Read to your children - especially when they're very young. Studies show that children whose parents read to them, do better in school.



MILK PROGRAM

Our Milk Program will begin on Wednesday, October 4th. White or chocolate milk is delivered to the classroom at 2nd nutrition break (1st nutrition break for kindergarten students). Monthly payment for milk is now available on School Cash Online for the full school year – you do not need to complete an order form, just simply select the type of milk your child wants when making your payment.

STRONG START

We are fortunate to have support from our community to offer a unique program called **Letters, Sounds and Words**. Volunteers from our community help children aged five to seven learn the names of letters, the sound each letter represents and a list of commonly used words in print. This program co-ordinates well with our school curriculum. It has been designed specifically for volunteers, who work with one child at a time, and enjoy watching the great gains that are made in only ten weeks. This program is offered to us by the **Strong Start Charitable Organization** which is funded through donations from individuals, businesses, Foundations and community groups. You can read more about Strong Start on its website: www.strongstart.ca This program would not be possible without this financial support and the generous gift of time and talent from our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in this program, or have in the past and would like to volunteer your time again this year, please contact Sarah Stratton at the school.

Being Late IS a Big Deal

Frequent lates have a very negative impact on student learning. Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late:

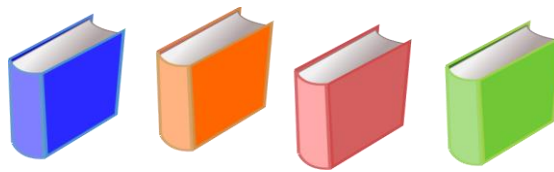
- **5 minutes late** (arriving after the bell) means getting into class 5 minutes later than friends and means 3 days of learning lost each year.
- **15 minutes late** means losing two weeks of learning per year.

Lost learning time quickly adds up and impacts on children's academic progress, sense of responsibility, as well as friendships and relationships with others in the school. Please help your child by encouraging them to be prepared to leave home on time and arrive at school between 8:20 and 8:35am.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

The office is a busy place here at Ryerson! Here are a few reminders to remember:

- Please make sure we have your most up-to-date phone numbers. It is important that we are able to reach you in case of an emergency with your child.
- If you need to get your child a message by the end of the day, please make sure to call the office **by 2:15 PM** at the latest. This gives us time to find your child's class, especially if they are in the Gym or the library.
- If you are dropping off lunches, permission notes and/or belongings for your child, be sure to label them and leave them on the table or in the bin outside the office door so that your child can retrieve their delivery at a convenient time. As a leadership school we would like to encourage students to take ownership for their belongings. It will be their responsibility to retrieve their belongings at a time that is appropriate with their teacher and class.



LIBRARY

Looking to help out here at Ryerson? We are seeking a couple of volunteers to help us keep the Library running smoothly with reshelving books and checking books back in.

If you are able to give some time and help us with this, please speak to Sarah Stratton, or contact the office.

