

F.J. Rutland Review

Mr. S. Enns, Principal

Dear Parents,

We are very excited about the positive start that we have had to our school year. We would like to welcome back Mrs. Musgrave and Mrs. Kimpinski who are returning from maternity leave.

Teachers are spending considerable time using diagnostic assessments to better understand their students' skills and learning needs. We are very lucky to have a staff that strives to provide an academic program that addresses the needs of children on an individual basis.

This year, our staff will be spending a great deal of time developing Higher Order Thinking (HOT) skills with our students. Children will spend more time in class discussing and developing their understanding of concepts using a variety of interesting strategies. It is important that students are able to explain their thinking both orally and through their writing. Involving students in focused discussions to solve problems will help us move away from simply remembering concepts and towards being able to demonstrate understanding by linking ideas in more complex ways.

As always, we encourage parents to take an active role in their child's education. Please feel free to visit your school to learn more about what we do for children.



F.J. Rutland Student Achievement on the Rise Once Again!

Students, staff, and parents in the F.J. Rutland learning community should take a well deserved bow for the outstanding results that were achieved on the 2008/09 Junior EQAO assessment. This past spring, FJ Rutland students performed well above the provincial and board averages in writing and our reading score is our second highest on record. Math is an area that will continue to be a focus and we are hopeful to see gains in this area next year.

These results provide excellent evidence that our instructional practices and ability to focus on high yield strategies are making a positive difference with student learning.

Individual EQAO scores will come home with students early in October.

Accommodation Review Committee

On October 1, 2009, the first Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) meeting will be held at Princess Margaret Public School in Niagara Falls at 6:00 p.m. The schools involved in the review are: F.J. Rutland, River View, Battlefield, Princess Margaret, Heximer and James Morden.

This is a working meeting of the ARC, but is open to the public as observers. At the meeting, the committee will review the ARC process and examine the valuation documents that will be presented at the next meeting.

Parent Assisted Literacy Support (PALS)

We are very excited to start up our PALS program once again this year. Mr. Flower has organized parent volunteers and grandparents in the community to come in to F.J. Rutland to read with our students. Our program will begin on October 5. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students. Volunteers typically come into the school for one hour per week. If you are interested in helping with this initiative, please contact the school.

Terry Fox Foundation

F.J. Rutland students and staff did a wonderful job in raising awareness and money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Together with River View, our children raised \$500 for cancer research. We thank our community for their support.



School Council



We had a good turn out at our first School Council meeting held on September 29th at F.J. Rutland School. We spent time discussing past initiatives and focused on possible objectives for this school year. School Council has once again selected parent Charlene Lyndon to serve as our chair for this school year.

Your parent council will aim to promote/organize one family evening per month during the school year. Please mark down October 21st in your calendar as this is River View's 50th anniversary open house. Take a walk down River View's memory lane between 6:30 and 8 p.m.; visit classrooms that focus on different decades, enjoy the music of the River View choir, listen to Mayor Ted Salci extend his best wishes, and enjoy a tasty barbeque. This will be a great evening for our families.

Also, mark down November 26 as the staff at F.J.R. invites you to participate in our first ever Family Numeracy Night. More information about this event will come home with students.

Our next School Council meeting will be held Tuesday, October 27 at 6 p.m. at River View School. All parents are welcome to attend!

DSBN School Council Conference

The DSBN has scheduled its annual parent conference for Wednesday, November 4 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Westlane Secondary School. During the conference, participants will be able to select from various workshops that pertain to school council activities. A light supper will be provided. As well, parents will have the opportunity to win some exciting door prizes. In addition, fundraising companies will be offering plenty of free samples. We already have several parents who have expressed an interest in attending. Please contact the school by October 23rd if you would like to be registered for this free conference.

Technology

Mr. Sirett and Mrs. Flachs have played a significant role in acquiring new technologies to support student learning at F.J. Rutland. These two teachers are piloting the use of laptops in the classroom. Our school now has two wireless hubs providing coverage throughout the building. We also have a brand new SMART board on the second floor, a portable laptop computer lab, and nearly 50 other desktop computers throughout the

school. Students are now using software such as Premier Suites and Comic Life to develop their language skills.

Mr. Sirett recently held a sign up for his Technology Club which will be held on Thursdays.

Athletics

Soccer

Our intermediate co-ed soccer team has worked hard to prepare for their one day tournament that is scheduled for Monday, October 5. We thank Mr. Flower and Miss Steenhuis for their efforts with coaching.

Cross Country Running

Miss Steenhuis and Mr. Flower are very proud of our cross country team for their hard work and dedication this season. Runners will compete in two races and then some will qualify for the DSBN championship.

Intermediate Volleyball

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who tried out for this year's team. Mr. Gienow will be coaching our boys' team and Ms. Lenc and Miss Steenhuis will be coaching the girls' team. We encourage parents to come out to watch the games.

From the Desk of Mrs. Lamb and Mrs. Lyndon

Students and parents are reminded to return forms to the school as soon as possible so that we can have complete records of student information. Please remember to always inform us of any changes to your child's emergency contact information.



Parents are reminded to please call the school prior to 8:40am if your son/daughter will be absent or has an appointment first thing in the morning!

Students of the Month

Each month, the staff at FJ Rutland take time to recognize students who demonstrate excellence in a particular area. Our first recognition assembly was held on Wednesday, September 30. Students received a certificate and

will have their pictures placed on a display board in the front lobby. We will continue to notify parents prior to assemblies.

School Spirit and our Trojan House Cup

Congratulations to the Warrior House for capturing the month of September in our year long Trojan Cup competition. Our Trojan house shirts for all new students and those who would like to order a second Trojan House shirt should be arriving by the end of October. A note will go home with students when the shirts are delivered.

F.J.R. Trojan Houses

We congratulate our Trojan House Captains who were selected from grade 8 for 2009/10.

Staff Advisors for our House Captains are Mr. Flower and Mr. Enns.

This year, all students will attend a monthly Trojan House meeting to share their ideas and comments that will affect student activities within the school.

QSP Reader's Digest Fundraiser

Students learned about the QSP Readers Digest Fundraiser at a school assembly on September 28. Students have the opportunity to win some fun prizes by selling magazine subscriptions. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be added to our School Activity Fund which is used to enhance student programs such as trips and school spirit activities. QSP Reader's Digest offers low prices on a wide variety of magazines. Many people take advantage of this opportunity as they make for quality gift giving at a very affordable price. Information and permission forms were sent home with all students. The last day to get orders back to the school is Tuesday, October 13.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is up and running again on the second floor at F.J. Rutland. Students who wish to take advantage of this program will need

to fill out a form, which were sent home and are also available at the office. Students may come up to the breakfast club starting at 8:30 a.m. We are always grateful to accept food donations such as cereal, fruit, and juices for this program. We extend a special thank you to Mr. Ovens, for his wonderful generosity in donating breakfast foods for our program. We thank Mrs. Zulik, Mrs. Flachs, Mrs. Shank, and Mrs. Brown for coordinating this important service. We are also now able to offer students who are without a lunch a nutritious lunch thanks to the Salvation Army. This generous organization will continue to provide us with lunch foods throughout the year.

Milk/Juice Program



We have an excellent level of participation in our Milk Program. We thank Mr. Flower for his efforts in coordinating this healthy initiative. Recently, we all participated in World Milk Day where every child was offered a free milk over their lunch break.

River View Connections

River View will be running its annual garbage bag fund raiser in October. FJR parents can pick up order forms from the office.

Stamford Connections

We thank the numerous Stamford students who have returned to F.J. Rutland to complete their volunteer community hours. These students have been positive role models for our children by helping to complete projects around our school.

Currently, we have Rebecca King, a Stamford co-op student, who will be working here every other week until January. We appreciate Rebecca's support in the classroom.

Marathon Water Station

F.J. Rutland has volunteered once again to run a water station for the

Niagara International Marathon which has been scheduled for Sunday, October 25. We are hoping that families and students come out to participate in this excellent experience. All volunteers will be given a marathon shirt and will be treated to a free pizza/pasta meal at Club Italia after the race is finished. Information sheets will be handed out to students next week.

Pizza, Hot Dog, and Sub Lunches

Many thanks go out to our parent volunteers who continue to run very successful lunches for our students. Thank you to Mrs. Lyndon, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Flachs, and Mrs. Zulik for all their efforts with organization. Order forms are sent home on Mondays and must be returned by 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

Student Health

Students are continuously reminded to wash their hands or to disinfect with hand sanitizer to avoid the spread of germs. This will be of particular importance as we spend more time inside during the winter months.

We are very fortunate to have School Nurse, Donna Markarian, working with our students and staff throughout the year. If you require information from the Niagara Region Public Health department, please do not hesitate in calling Donna at 905-356-1538 ext. 245.

Theatre Anyone?

The City of Niagara Falls Board of Museums is looking for two female student actresses to play a part in the production of "Cemetery Tours". Students would have to be willing to perform on Hallowe'en night. For more information, please contact Maja Bannerman 905-295-4036.

"Komics"

Please check out an original comic strip created by one of our very own Students. He has a natural talent for cartooning and has shared a Hallowe'en comic strip. He has developed many more entertaining stories and characters that will

hopefully be available through our school website.

School Pictures

Pictures retakes and class photos have been scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, October 6.

Newsletter Draw

Congratulations to our lucky winners from the September Newsletter draw. Don't forget to return the slip for October's draw by Monday, October 6.

P.A. Day

Please note that on Friday, October 9, there will be no school for students as all staff members will be involved in Professional Activity workshops throughout the day. Also, Monday, October 12 is Thanksgiving Day and there will be no school.

Calendar Reminder

Please check the calendar for a list of most activities.