

*Richmond Public School Council*  
**NEWSLETTER**

June 2020



## **A Message from Council Chairs**

It's impossible to close this school year without first thanking all the many frontline workers in our community who have put themselves at risk to support, heal, and feed us through the last several months. This year more than ever we have appreciated and admired the support and values of our small, community school. We encountered some challenges throughout 2019-2020 but with support from our families, school staff, and OCDSB staff, School Council has been successful in improving our practices and shifting gears. While so much about fall 2020 remains uncertain, we look forward to another year of school and families coming together to solve problems, share ideas, and celebrate our kids.

## ***Congratulations, Grade Fives!***

Council would like to extend our many, many happy thoughts to all the Grade Five students leaving RPS this year. You've worked so hard to reach this milestone and we wish you great success as you take this next, big step! It's a special thing that RPS kids are the only Grade Sixes at GMS and we know you'll make more memories and do more great things together!

## **Happy Retirement, Mrs. Fenton!**

In a little room, on the top floor, Mrs. Fenton has worked magic. So many of us have been amazed by the energy she puts into everything - from the Empower groups to the holiday concerts - not to mention the amazing order she brings to the morning bus unloading! Her grounding encouragement to kids AND families has seen so many of us through so many bumps on the road. Mrs. Fenton, all the best in your retirement and we wish you every happiness and great times with your family!

## **Au Revoir, Ms. Dlouhy!**

It's hard to believe four years have passed since Ms. Dlouhy filled Mr. Stagg's (very big) shoes! And it is just as hard to say goodbye to her! Ms. Dlouhy has supported students, staff and families through some happy times as well as some challenging times. We sincerely thank her for her years of leadership at Richmond Public School (and for the treats she shared with us at School Council meetings). We wish Ms. Dlouhy all the best in her new role at Stonecrest Elementary School in September!

## **Best Wishes**



We also wish the best to the departing staff, who are off to new adventures in 2020: Miss Amber, Sara Lepine, Nicole Younger, and Pam Griffith. Thank you all for the gifts you've brought to the lives of our kids.

## **Important Dates:**

June 24: Report Cards available online ~ June 25: Last Day of School ~ Sept 1: First Day of School for Students  
Sept 7: Labour Day ~ Sept 16: Next School Council Meeting @6:30 ~ Sept 16 and 17: Scholastic Book Sale (if possible)

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## *Welcome, Ms. Ladouceur!*

Come September, we look forward to getting to know our incoming principal Ms. Laura Ladouceur.

Ms. Ladouceur is coming to us from Stonecrest Elementary School. Her background includes special education, nine years as a kindergarten teacher, and serving in several schools as a vice-principal. Ms. L loves to spend time at her cottage, go for walks with her new puppy and spend as much time as she can with her two teenage daughters. She also loves sloths and pizza!

## Summer Reading for Difficult Times

These are not easy days to be a parent. The questions we get are not easy. The answers we wish we had may not come easily either. But we can share our ideas with each other. Let us introduce the **School Council book sharing column**. Click below and you'll find some books, articles, and websites that folks have submitted to help navigate and grow through these sometimes fascinating, sometimes scary, but definitely historic times:

Link to [Anti-Racism Resources for All Ages](#)

Link to [Anti-Racism Books for Kids](#) and a link with a [Canadian Focus](#)

The Sesame Street/CNN Coming Together Townhall [Part One](#), [Part Two](#), and [Part Three](#)

[A Kid's Book About Racism](#) by Jelani Memory

[When I Was Eight](#) by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

[Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship](#) by Irene Latham and Charles Waters

[The Name Jar](#) by Yangsook Choi

[A Kid's Guide to Coronavirus](#) free ebook by Rebecca Growe

[Unstuck: 10 Things to Do to Stay Safe and Stay Sane During the Pandemic](#) free ebook by Bonnie Zucker

[Self-Reg: How to Help Your Child \(And You\) Break the Stress Cycle and Successfully Engage with Life](#) by Stuart Shanker ([more info here](#))

If you come across a book or resource you think others might enjoy or find helpful, please let us know and we can include it in the fall newsletter. Please email [sc-richmondps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:sc-richmondps@ocdsb.ca).

## Council News

Council met on May 21 at 6:30 by Google Meet. The Annual Report was presented and highlighted many of the successes and challenges of the past year. The whole report will be made available on the School Council website, found [here](#). Achievements listed include improved financial controls and management, a strengthened focus on bringing together the RPS community, increased Council participation, and the ongoing success of the Healthy Snack program. Challenges facing Council in the coming year included an adjustment to less fundraising, maintaining an open and responsible financial culture, diversifying and simplifying the hot lunch program, and adjusting to the many changes brought by COVID-19. Con't...

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While Council's fiscal year ends in July, a financial update showed that, thanks to the hard work and generosity of many, Council is on track to end this year with **\$1 387.14** after hot lunch is reimbursed and all accounts are settled.

Decisions made by Council included:

- To reestablish Council banking at the CIBC. This will help to facilitate issuing hot lunch and milk refund cheques.
- Approval of the new Funds Management Guide and Guide for Fundraisers and Events , which will now guide the raising and safekeeping of Council funds.
- Council adjourned until **September 16 at 6:30pm.**

### **Did you Know...**

School Councils are more than just fundraising? They are a place where the school and community meet to share ideas, to exchange information, and to find ways to support each other. Most importantly, they are a place where the RPS community can work together to help improve the academic experiences and celebrate the efforts of our kids. Think about making time next fall to come out and meet - we'd sure love to hear your thoughts!

