

# Rockton October 2023



To our Parents/Guardians,

Where did the month of September go? It feels as though we were just starting back up and now we are already one month in. The season of fall is upon us and although the weather has been incredible, we will soon be starting to see the leaves change colour and feel a cooler breeze in the mornings and evenings.

October is a month when we take some time to celebrate the virtue of Gratitude and Thankfulness. As I reflect on this virtue, I want to take this opportunity to show my gratitude to the entire Rockton community. I feel very fortunate to have such a supportive staff and parent community. I am most grateful that every day you entrust your children to us and know that we will take care of them. We are privileged to have an awesome bunch of students and it has been great getting to know them over the last month.

Thank you to all of our families who came out to our 'Meet our Team' evening. It was nice to see so many smiling faces and chat with families. We know that this is a busy time for people so if you were not able to join us, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via telephone, email.

Take care,

*Mr. J. Manzi*

Date	Activity
Mon. Oct. 2nd	Learning Disabilities Month; Islamic Heritage Month; Cyber Awareness Month
Wed. Oct 4	National Day of Action for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls; Krispy Kreme Pickup After School
Thurs. Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Fri. Oct. 6	School Reorganization;
Mon. Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, NO SCHOOL; Fire Prevention Week
Tues. Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Thurs. Oct. 12	Cross Country
Thurs. Oct. 15	Start of Invisible Disabilities Week
Tues. Oct. 16	Photo day
Tues. Oct. 20	P.A. Day
Mon. Oct. 23	Canadian Down Syndrome Week
Mon. Oct. 31	Hallowee'en

## Daily Attendance Reminders

If your child is going to be absent, needs to be picked up early or will be coming into school late, please make sure to record that information in Safe Arrival. There are multiple ways families can access Safe Arrival.

Planned absences can be put in as far in advance as you are able. Same day absences, however, need to be put in the system by 10 a.m. for the system to pick them up. Please note, while office and school staff do our best to call down children for early pick up, at times this can take some time for the student to actually arrive at the front door. Please also note that early pick ups result in the disruption of learning to your child and to the other students in the class, particularly the 3:15 to 3:35 pick-ups.



## School Cash Online

With School Cash Online, you can pay all your child's school fees with the click of a button, wherever, whenever. Trips to the school to drop off cash or sending your child with money will be a thing of the past. School Cash Online also enables you to keep track of your child's school items and activities.

It's easy to register, add your children, make payments, check current balance/account history, print or view receipts, and receive notifications about upcoming events. Once you sign up for an account and connect the student(s) they will be paying for, the account will move with the student(s) as they progress to other HWDSB schools.

If you have not yet registered for School Cash Online or need help doing so, please visit us at the School Office or call Mrs. Jeffery for support.



## Equity and Inclusion

Rockton is committed to adhering to HWDSB policies by ensuring we follow policies and procedures that promote a safe and inclusive school climate for all of our students and staff. As educators we have a greater responsibility to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion in our classrooms and school. There are lots of resources available at the board's website to support our considerations of planning events, celebrations, assessment, and curriculum contents in connection with dates of importance for diverse students and families.

The month of October is full of some important days of celebration, commemoration, and observance for students, staff, and families which includes Hispanic/Latin America heritage, Islamic heritage, Learning disability awareness, etc.

From time to time when you visit our school, you will see different examples of how we celebrate the diversity and culture of families in our school.



## TasteBuds Snack Program



The Nutrition Program is back! With thanks to Tanya Brower we have been able to support a morning snack on Mondays and Fridays. If you are available to volunteer please connect with the school office and we can connect you to the School Council Volunteers who are supporting our Snack Program.

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

Every year, school communities are required to engage in a number of



Secure Schools drills to ensure all students and staff understand how to participate in the case of an emergency situation. These drills include: 6 fire drills (3 in the fall, 3 in the spring), 1 hold and secure drill, 1 shelter in place drill, 2 lockdown drills and 1 bomb threat drill. For more information about the specific circumstances involving each of these emergency situations, please see this link on the HWDSB website:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2017/11/Secure-Schools-Protocol.pdf>

The dates of future drills will be posted on the school website at least one day prior to our scheduled drill. If weather conditions do not allow for a safe drill, the drill would be pushed to the next available school day. To learn more about HWDSB's approach to secure schools, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/secure-schools/>

## Photo Day & Retake Day

The photographer from Lifetouch will be at Rockton the morning of Thursday, October 16, 2023 to take photos of all our students. A re-take ay will be scheduled for any students who were absent from school on photo day or for those wanting retakes.



## Halloween at Rockton

Halloween will fall on a Tuesday this year (October 31st).



Students are welcomed to wear costumes, orange and black, crazy hair, or whatever you feel comfortable wearing. If students chose to wear costumes they MUST follow the following guidelines:

- No weapons, masks that might impede vision or inappropriate images
- Students wearing a costume should come to school dressed in the costume and comfortably be able to wear the costume for the duration of the day
- Costumes should never be a representation of someone's creed, race, belief's or personal identity.

Classroom teachers will communicate class specific celebrations.

## Cross Country

This year, on Tuesday, October 12, Rockton

students will be taking approximately 100 students from Grs 3 – 8 to the Board's Cross Country event. A huge thank you goes out to the Rockton Coaches for making this opportunity happen for our students.

