

February 2010 Newsletter

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School Mission: To encourage the development of each student's full potential by nurturing a love of learning and fostering respect for the uniqueness of each individual through a safe and friendly school community.



RES' Literacy & Numeracy Interventions

RES is delighted to announce that it was successful in its application to have the District provide additional funding to support our efforts in meeting the needs of our K-5 students! Therefore, within the next twenty school days, several former teachers will collaborate with our current teaching staff to implement numerous academic interventions with our K-5 students (see chart below):

Grade	Intervention	Teacher
Kindergarten	Kinder-Club	Nancy Scully & Cheryl Noel
Kindergarten & Grade 1	Speech & Language Support	Ms. Candice Gallivan
Grade 1	Writing	Mrs. Connie Barter
Grade 2	Writing	Mrs. Connie Barter
Grade 3	Writing	Mr. Frank MacPhee
Grade 4	Writing	Mr. Frank MacPhee & Sonya Tower
Grade 5	Mathematics	Mr. Paul Robichaud
Grade 5	Literacy	Debra Hopper

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RES' Staffing Changes

RES is very pleased to announce a couple of staffing changes effective immediately:

RES' New Guidance Teacher: Mr. Kevin Rioux has accepted the position of Guidance Councilor for Rexton Elementary School! In addition to his role as our school's Guidance Councilor, Mr. Rioux's teaching assignments include providing Art instruction to students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 as well as providing physical education for Grade 3 students—**CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Rioux and US!!**

New Grade 4 Teacher: Of course, due to Mr. Rioux's new assignment, our next step was to find



an exceptional educator to lead Mr. Rioux's former Grade 4 class. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Mrs. Kim Beers has eagerly accepted this position. Mrs. Beers has just completed her first week with her new class—4B—and on Friday, February 5th, the students in 4B officially welcomed Mrs. Beers by enjoying a gigantic class pizza party. **A heartfelt WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS are extended to Mrs. Beers!**

RES' New Kindergarten Helper:

We are very pleased to welcome to Rexton Elementary's Professional Learning Community Mr. Nicholas Scully. Mr. Scully will be assisting Ms. Collins and Mrs. Rioux with their Kindergarten classes until the end of the school year—

WELCOME, Mr. Scully!



Kindergarten Registration

In late-March, RES will be holding its annual **Teddy Bear's Picnic** for our 2010-2011

Kindergarten students.

If you are aware of a child in the Rexton-area who will be 5 years old prior to December 31st, 2010, please ask the child's parents to contact our school secretary ASAP at 523-7152.

Rexton's Outdoor Skating Rink is Up & Running!!

Everyone is invited to come & enjoy Rexton's outdoor skating rink!!

Grade 2's Complete Fast ForWord Program

RES' Grade 2 students recently completed a 20-week individualized computer literacy program—Fast ForWord. Pictured below is a photo of some of our Grade 2 students celebrating their achievements by enjoying a class pizza party on February 5th. CONGRATULATIONS to all Grade 2 girls and boys (and their teachers)!!



Health & Safety @ RES



RADON LEVELS:

Last week, RES received important information from District 16 Superintendent, Lawrence Keoughan, New Brunswick's Department of Education, and Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Eilish Cleary, MD, about the testing of radon gas levels in New Brunswick schools. Firstly, it is important to clarify that both Health Canada and Public Health in New Brunswick confirm that there is no immediate health risk to students or staff.

The following is Dr. Eilish Cleary's letter to schools regarding Radon:

Radon is a radioactive gas formed from the breakdown of naturally occurring uranium. It has no odor, color or taste. Radon is found naturally in the environment and is common in New Brunswick as well as in other provinces and countries. It moves freely through the soil and can seep into buildings through cracks in foundation walls and floors or gaps around pipes and cables.

The only known health risk associated with exposure to high levels of radon in indoor air is an increased lifetime risk of developing lung cancer. This risk is especially increased for persons who smoke. The Health Canada guideline of 200 Bq/m³ is based on increased risk of lung cancer for a person exposed to this level of radon for 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for over 70 years.

The Department of Health is working closely with the Department of Education while the department is testing their schools for radon. Radon test results are compared to the new 2007 Health Canada guideline for radon in indoor air. Our department receives a copy of the radon results and has been advised that the Department of Education plans to remediate schools which have any radon levels above the Health Canada guideline within the timeline suggested by Health Canada. Based on the radon test results reported to us and assuming the schools will be remediated as planned; there is no immediate risk to the health of students and staff at the school in the short term while corrective measures are being put in place to reduce radon levels.

Other than lung cancer, there is no evidence that radon exposure causes other harmful health effects such as any other form of cancer, lung diseases such as asthma, or symptoms such as persistent coughing or headaches.

For further health information on radon, we invite you to visit www.gnb.ca/health.

Mr. Keoughan has elaborated on Dr. Cleary's message by stating that:

It is important to remember, there is no immediate health risk. For example, exposure to 200 Bq/m³ levels of radon every day, all day for 70 years results in a 2% increased risk of developing lung cancer, (17% if the person is a smoker).

Health Canada announced a new exposure guideline for radon gas in indoor air. This new exposure limit changed to 200 Bq/m³ from 800 Bq/m³ (becquerels per cubic meter). In response to this new limit, the Department of Education implemented a three-phase testing and remediation plan based on data from radon tests done in the early 1990's in all school in New Brunswick. For the most accurate results, testing is done during the winter months, and takes a minimum of 90 days.

What are the implications for Rexton Elementary School?

For your information, RES has one room (not a homeroom class) in our facility that had radon levels higher than 200 Bq/m³. In fact, the results indicate that the level in this room was 208 Bq/m³. This resulted in RES being identified by Health Canada for remediation within 24 months.

What is the District/School doing with this information?

District-level: District 16 is currently re-testing the radon levels in the room that scored 208 Bq/m³ (this will take approximately 90 days).

School-level:

- All teachers will continue to ensure that their classroom windows are opened at least twice a day to allow a flow of fresh air to ribbon through our classes and corridors (even during this bone-chilling winter weather).
- As much as possible, our staff will find alternate rooms within our building to work with their students until the radon issue is resolved.
- RES' PSSC will be updated on the Radon issue at our March 2010 PSSC meeting which will be held on Wednesday, March 10th beginning at 3:30 p.m. All parent/guardians and staff are, as always, encouraged and welcomed to attend this meeting.

Further information on radon is available on the New Brunswick Department of Health website at <http://www.gnb.ca/0053/radon/index-e.asp>.

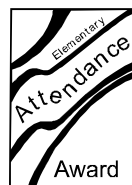
Reminder of RES Policies

1). Technological Devices: since Christmas, RES' teaching staff has noticed that some of our students have been bringing their newly acquired **technological devices** to our fine, fine school. As stated in RES' Student Handbook, these devices (including DS machines, I-Pods, cell phones, etc) do not enhance our learning environment and in fact, when they go missing, can cause a great deal of concern and distraction to our youngsters. All parents are encouraged to continue to be vigilant about ensuring that their children keep these devices at home.



2). Supervision of RES Students: does not begin until 8:00 a.m. sharp each school morning. Increasingly, many students are being dropped-off in front of our busy school building as early as 7:45 a.m. This unacceptable practice could result in a potentially life-threatening situation, especially considering the very cold temperatures we have been exposed to recently. Your attention to this very important safety matter is greatly appreciated.

3). Attendance Policy: when students have been absent from school, it is expected that they will bring their teacher a written, dated, and signed excuse explaining why they were absent the first day they return to classes. The New Brunswick Education Act requires schools to provide optimal educational opportunities for all students. To fulfill this commitment, we need the continuing support of all families to ensure that their children: a) arrive at school on time—for 8:30 a.m., and b) remain in class until dismissal time, unless absolutely necessary (for example: if your child is ill, has a doctor's appointments, or your family has an emergency).



4). RES' Homework Policy: Yes, all RES students are regularly assigned nightly homework. It is expected that all students will read to/with a parent or guardian every evening. Students involved in a RES Intervention (Reading Recovery, Kinder Club, Grade 1 Literacy Links, Grade 2 Empowering, Grade 3-5 Writing or Mathematics Interventions) will have additional homework assignments. Students who have been absent from school or are encountering difficulty with certain concepts being taught in class, may also be assigned additional homework. Many of our classes also require a parent to sign their child's Reading or Communication Log nightly.



5). Respect & Responsibility Room: RES is blessed to have in our midst two Intervention Workers who operate our R & R room. This room is a place where students can receive support when they encounter social problems within our school environment (including classrooms, playgrounds, and school buses). The Department of Education supports the empowerment of students by utilizing a restitution model; if a student makes a poor choice, he/she will be involved in a brainstorming session with his/her teacher (and/or one of our Intervention Workers) to determine how they will make the situation "right". Under the premise that we all choose our behavior, our Intervention Workers work proactively with students to ensure that they learn how to make appropriate decisions/choices. If your child needs to report to our Respect/Responsibility Room, they might be expected to inform their parents by writing a letter home. It is expected that when a student brings a letter home from the Respect & Responsibility Room, that parents will review the issue with their child, sign the letter and ensure that this letter is sent back to school the next day; otherwise, we will have to assume that your child has not reported this issue to his/her parents and the classroom teacher will have to contact the parent(s). If your child happens to be involved in a serious social issue, teachers will certainly make every effort to contact you as soon as possible.



6). RES' Drop-off Zone (Kiss 'n Drive Zone): all parent/guardians are advised that RES' Drop-off Zone, located in front of our school, is not to be used for parking. This busy area in front of our school is to be kept free of vehicles. Parents are permitted to stop momentary in front of the school to let their children out on the left-hand side of their vehicle. Please be advised that parking between our "NO PARKING" signs in front of our school is prohibited. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: there is ample parking spaces available in our school parking lot if you need more time with your child when bringing him/her to school.



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Safety Tip for February:

Keep safe from food borne illnesses by cooking foods to proper temperatures.



- After cooking, keep foods out of the "danger zone" (4 C or 40 F to 140 F) by serving them immediately.
- Once foods are cooked, remember to keep hot food hot! That means 60 C (140 F) or above. If you're taking hot foods out to a party, use a thermos or an insulated container with a "hot pack" to keep foods at a safe temperature.

Subscribe to the CFIA's free e-mail Food Recalls/Allergy Alerts subscription service which is available at www.inspection.gc.ca to automatically receive e-mail updates on food recalls. Being informed about food recalls is helpful, practical and in some cases, can be life-saving!

RES' Lots-of-Love for Haiti Fundraiser



Rexton Elementary School is very proud to announce that our collaborative efforts to raise crucial funds to assist the people of Haiti was an overwhelming success.

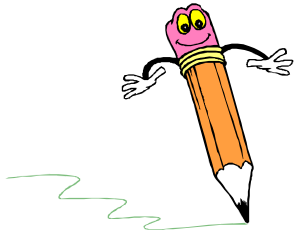
RES was able to raise just over **\$1400** in our Lots-of-Love for Haiti Fundraiser!

All proceeds from this fundraiser were given to the Richibucto Red Cross—thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause!!

**REXTON
ELEMENTARY**

Phone: 506-523-7152
Fax: 506-523-7464

**19 School
Street,
Rexton, NB
Storm Line:
523-0900**



Please clip & return to the school by February 12, 2010 for a chance to win a prize at our February 15th Assembly.

**RES' February 2010
Newsletter Ballot
Survey Questions:**

**My family's email
address is:**

**My family's
telephone service
provider is:**
(Aliant, Rogers, etc.)

Student's Name:

Class: _____



**WHAT? French Second Language
Information Meeting**

WHEN? February 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

WHERE? RES' Cafeteria

**WHO's INVITED? District 16's Superintendent &
French Second Language
Coordinator, AND all Parents &
Guardians of students attending
schools in the Rexton area.**



**WHY? This meeting will provide parents/staff with
information about the program options available to
support French Second Language in District 16
for the 2010-2011 school year. (Grade 3 Early French
Immersion, Late French Immersion, Pre-Intensive French, Intensive and Post
Intensive Programs).**

**EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
THIS VERY IMPORTANT MEETING**

**The following students were named RES' Sparkling Starfish at
our 2010 January Assembly:**

Matteya Milliea (1C)	Keela Francis (2M)	Eden Barlow (3F)
Townsend Robichaud (1C)	Kassie Hannah (2S)	Emme Warman (3F)
Tyra Hannay (1C)	Emma Roberts (2W)	Morgan Barlow-Roberts (3W)
Emily Murray (2M)	Madeline Vautour (2W)	Katie Hannay (5C)
Holli Robertson (2M)	Derek Francis (2W)	Dakota Keating (5C)
Congratulations to all our "Sparklers" - keep up the great work!!		Debbie VanDoorn (5C)
		Mackenzie Wilson (5C)