



# Happenings on the Hill

## 2015 Fall Newsletter

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**If you have anything you would like to include in our upcoming newsletters, please email information and photos to Carrie Burton at [carrieburton@aol.com](mailto:carrieburton@aol.com).**

### Letter from the Ryerson PTO Executive Board

Dear Ryerson Families,

We hope that your children are enjoying their time at Ryerson and that the fall days of transition have all been smoothed out! We extend a warm welcome to the Kindergartners, new students and their families who have joined our school community this year. We are so fortunate that each and every day there is magic happening on the hill at Ryerson. It is great to know that our children are being taught by wonderful teachers, have terrific friends, and their buckets are being filled each and every day.

We have been privileged over these past three months to have so many volunteers help out with much of our "behind the scenes" work. Thank you to the bakers for the Back to School Teacher Luncheon, the school picture hair smoothers, those who kept the line moving during vision screening and hearing testing, the retail salespeople who work the school store and the many literary experts who helped make our Scholastic Book Fair a success. Your efforts make Ryerson a very vibrant and nurturing school. We are very grateful for your time!

In the pages that follow you can find more information about the past and upcoming PTO activities at Ryerson. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please feel free to contact any Ryerson PTO Executive Board member. You can find each member's contact information, as well as future meeting dates, on the Ryerson PTO website. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Best Wishes,  
Ryerson PTO Executive Board

Carol Ahlijanian ~ President  
Diane Infantine-Vyce ~ Co-Tri-Vice President  
Kevin Wolfe ~ Co-Tri-Vice President  
Bee Gordon ~ Co-Tri-Vice President  
Michelle Menard ~ Secretary  
Pam Schneider ~ Treasurer



# Happenings on the Hill 2015 Fall Newsletter

## Upcoming Events



### Cultural Arts

One mission of the PTO is to fund cultural arts for the children at Ryerson. Cultural arts events are supported by your membership dues and PTO fund-raising activities. The Ryerson PTO is proud to present the following cultural arts events for the 2015-2016 school year:

- September 22<sup>nd</sup> - *Hansel and Gretel* by Tanglewood Marionettes
- November 10<sup>th</sup> - *Gulliver's Travels* by Shakesperience Productions
- December 11<sup>th</sup> - Daniel Hand High School's a cappella group ENCORE and show choir VIBE
- January 12<sup>th</sup> - *Buddies not Bullies* by Domino the Great
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - Daniel Hand High School's Jazz Band

For details on any of these events, please contact PTO President, Carol Ahlijanian at [cpenahl@yahoo.com](mailto:cpenahl@yahoo.com).



### Box Tops for Education

2015 brought another big year for our Box Tops drive, chaired by Janice Wolf. Box Tops for Education is a simple and easy way for the Ryerson PTO to raise money for Cultural Arts and Science enrichment programs. The Ryerson PTO earns 10¢ for each Box Top clipped. The Box Tops really do add up! We have raised over \$600 this year so far! The class with the most Box Tops at the end of the semester wins an ice cream party sponsored by the Ryerson PTO. The winners for the end of this semester are still up for grabs! Ms. Dunbar's class is in the lead for K-2, and the race for 3-4 is currently between Mrs. Karimi's and Mrs. Bell's class. So please keep clipping those Box Tops and sending them in!

Thank you to Chairperson Janice Wolf for organizing, and to The Box Tops Team for cutting, sorting, and counting Box Tops each month, including: Colleen Anderson, Stephanie Berry, Susan Boroczky, Eileen Borowiec, Heather Crawford, Kerri-Anne Moore, Diane Nesci, June Nuzzi, Beth O'Keefe, Laura Osterman, Kim Schiavone, Sarah Shelton, and Carol Stotz. For any questions regarding Box Tops, please contact Janice Wolf at [janiceadam1@yahoo.com](mailto:janiceadam1@yahoo.com).



### Holiday Toy Drive

The Ryerson PTO has teamed up with the Madison Police Department again this year to collect toys to benefit Madison families and the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Toy Closet. Donations of unwrapped, new toys will be accepted starting Monday, November 30th, through Thursday, December 10th. Thank you all for your generosity, and a special thanks to Bee Gordon, Kevin Wolfe and Rebecca Bixon for organizing this event. For any questions about the Toy Drive, please contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).



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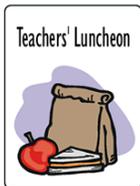
### Winter Workshops

Winter Workshops are a great opportunity for students to participate in fun and educational enrichment programs after school. Winter Workshops will be held on four consecutive Fridays in January beginning January 8, 2016. We hope to offer programs in baking, basketball, science, crafts, games, Legos and scrapbooking. Please look for information regarding registration in the next 1-2 weeks. If you are interested in volunteering to be an instructor or aide, please contact Pam Schneider at [pschneider2440@gmail.com](mailto:pschneider2440@gmail.com).



### Give to Grow 2015

In March of 2013 the Ryerson PTO hosted its first ever Give to Grow. It is a night for parents, staff and the community to come together to celebrate Ryerson, raise funds, and to have fun while doing it! The tradition continued in March of 2014 and 2015 at different venues. The event has been well planned with a variety of take a chance tickets, silent auction and live auction items. It has been a HUGE fund-raising success for our PTO all three years. It is also a HUGE amount of work. We are currently looking into how to continue this tradition. We need your help to make this event happen in 2016! Stay tuned for more information about a revised version of Give to Grow! Please email Carol Ahlijanian at [cpenahl@yahoo.com](mailto:cpenahl@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering during the planning stages.



### Past Events

#### Back to School Luncheon

On August 24th, the Ryerson PTO continued our tradition of welcoming the Ryerson staff back to school with a special luncheon. Thank you to: Beth O'Keefe, Hospitality chair, for organizing and coordinating the event; Diane Vyce, for arranging for sandwiches; Carol Ahlijanian, Diane Vyce, Bee Gordon, Pam Schneider and Michelle Menard for being at the luncheon the whole time and ensuring the event was seamless; and all the volunteers who contributed the savory sides, delectable desserts, and refreshing drinks to welcome the Ryerson staff. If you would like to be involved in helping out with Hospitality for any upcoming events, please contact Beth O'Keefe at [elderok@hotmail.com](mailto:elderok@hotmail.com).



#### Picture Day

On Sept.10th, Ryerson engaged Urban Shutters School Portraits to take school pictures of our children. On that day, smiles were bright, hair was combed, and collars were straightened. Thank you to Diane Vyce, for coordinating the volunteers, and to Danielle Catino, Laura Osterman, Diane Vyce and Carolyn Varone for helping our children look their very best on Picture Day! If you would like to chair this committee next year, please contact Diane Vyce at [di.vyce@gmail.com](mailto:di.vyce@gmail.com).



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### Vision Screening

On October 23rd, Mrs. Stephanie Bulyk, our school nurse, conducted vision screening for the Ryerson students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Parent volunteers assisted with the screening by monitoring small groups of children awaiting to be screened. Thank you to Michelle Menard, for coordinating the volunteers, and to Suzanne Owen, Kathy Zagami, Ari Potter, Sarah Shelton, Adrienne Sharon, Carol Ahlijanian, and Happy Marino for providing assistance to Mrs. Bulyk with the screening! If you would like to chair this committee or volunteer next year, please contact Michelle Menard at [michmenard@gmail.com](mailto:michmenard@gmail.com).



### 2015 Food Drive

This year, the Food Drive, chaired by Rebecca Bixon, took place November 2nd through November 25th. The Food Drive benefited the Madison Community Services Food Pantry, which serves over 100 families in our town. Bins were located in the Ryerson lobby and donations were collected each week during the Food Drive. Each week featured a suggested kid-friendly food item - a great way to involve the children by letting them pick the item and thereby knowing that they will be helping a child in need.

- November 2nd-6th: Small snacks and juice boxes (small snacks include cookies, fruit snacks, cheese and crackers, granola bars, fruit cups, and pudding cups)
- November 9th-13th: Mac & Cheese, pasta/rice sides, and juice boxes
- November 16th-20th: Cereal and small snacks
- November 23rd-November 25th: Baking mixes and juice boxes (brownie, cake, and cookie)

At the printing of this newsletter, final collections had not yet been tallied, but at the end of Week three, 357 pounds of food were collected! Thank you for your generous donations! Thank you to Rebecca Bixon, for chairing and running this collection, and to Janice Wolf, for her assistance. For further information on the Food Drive, or how you can help the Madison Community Services Food Pantry all year long, please contact Rebecca Bixon at [rlbixon@yahoo.com](mailto:rlbixon@yahoo.com).



### CT Loves to Read Week and Scholastic Book Fair

During the week of Oct. 5th-9th, Ryerson celebrated CT Loves to Read Week. In conjunction with this week, the Ryerson PTO sponsored local storyteller Sara deBeer and the Scholastic Book Fair. Ms. deBeer enthralled the children with her storytelling of classic folktales and fables. The Book Fair theme was "Monster Book Fair - Reading is So Much Fun You'll Get Goosebumps" and we had many eager readers browsing and shopping for books. At the "Monster Family Night" on Oct. 7th, Principal Spooner entertained students with stories, while families shopped the fair and ate at the food trucks (Thank You to Taco Pacifico and Mariano's Cannoli Trucks!) Thank you to all the Ryerson families who purchased books to help the Ryerson PTO raise \$1,896.16! In addition, the Book Fair earned Scholastic dollars which were donated as follows: \$25 to each classroom teacher to enhance the classroom library (\$325 total), \$200 to the school



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library, and \$200 to the Literacy Lab. A heartfelt thanks goes to: Co-Chairs Carol Ahlijanian and Lindsay Aiello for organizing; and to all the volunteers who donated their time and efforts: Lori Hall, Amy Paradiso, Laura Osterman, Carol Ahlijanian, Lindsay Aiello, Carol Stotz, Kelly Bettuchi, Cara Rich, Diane Vyce, Rebecca Olson, Adrienne Sharon, Amie Freeman, Janice Wolf, Jayne Waterfall, Meg Sawyer, Michelle Menard, Lisa Brown, Nicole Tanner, Noreen Slevin-Koczak, Pam Schneider, Sara Given, Suzanne Owen, Beth O'Keefe, Eileen Borowiec, Erin Owen, Meghan McGuire, Lindsay Greco, Kevin Wolfe, Françoise Roth and Karen Burns. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Lindsay at [lindsayaiello@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsayaiello@hotmail.com).



## Veterans' Day Assembly

Ryerson held its traditional Veteran's Day assembly on Monday, November 9th. Ryerson children read their written work, gave handmade cards and sang patriotic songs to honor our local veterans. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee, chaired by Beth O'Keefe, for providing refreshments.



## UNICEF

Continuing our Halloween tradition, Ryerson students once again collected donations for UNICEF. Ryerson donated \$378.02 this year! Thank you to all the students who collected donations while trick-or-treating on Halloween!



## OMG - Omni Mini Golf Family Fun Night

Ryerson Family Fun Night, hosted by Omni Mini Golf and the PTO, was held on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8pm in the multipurpose room. It was a great success! The kids had lots of fun mini golfing with their friends and family! Special thanks to Bee Gordon for organizing, and to Carol Ahlijanian, Pam Schneider, Michelle Menard, Kevin Wolfe, Joe Johnson and Brian Keating for helping to plan and coordinate. If you have any questions about OMG Minigolf, contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).

## Announcements



## 2015-2016 Calendar of Events

[Click here](#) for the calendar of events for the 2015-2016 school year.



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## Field Trips

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Ryerson PTO has contributed \$10 per student (totaling \$2300) to help pay for field trips that enhance science and social studies units. This fall, each grade has already gone on exciting and educational field trips as follows:

- In September, the **2nd grade** went on a field trip to Bauer Park to learn about soil and plant cycles.
- In September and October, the **4th grade** went to Hammonasset Beach State Park.
- In September and October, the **3rd grade** went to the CT River Museum.
- In October, the **3rd grade** went to Rockland Preserve.
- In October, the **2nd grade** went to downtown Madison.
- In October, **Kindergarten** went to Rose's Orchard.
- In November, the **4th grade** went to Bushy Hill Nature Center to learn about Native American cultures.



## Bulletin Boards

As you enter the Ryerson lobby and walk down the halls, you will notice the fun, decorative bulletin boards on the walls. These imaginative creations are the brainchildren of the Bulletin Board Committee, chaired by Kristen Waterman. Our returning committee of volunteers this year consists of Kristen, Beth Ackerman, Lisa Brown, Jessica Johnson and Meghan McGuire. Thank you to this very talented group of ladies! We look forward to seeing what new artwork you will create!





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### 2015-2016 Ryerson Yearbook

The Ryerson Yearbook Staff invites you to submit your photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school events, we'd like to see them! We need pictures of class events, specials, recess, lunch, parties, assemblies and field trips. Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.schoolannualonline.com/login>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter **username: 403413589**
- Browse your files to select the photo(s) you wish to upload. (You can upload more than one at a time using the Ctrl key.)
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details"

The last day to submit photos is 4/01/2016. If you have questions, or want to volunteer to take photos, contact Karen Burns at [tucker\\_monkey@hotmail.com](mailto:tucker_monkey@hotmail.com) and/or Diane Vyce at [di.vyce@gmail.com](mailto:di.vyce@gmail.com). Thank you to all who have volunteered to be a part of Yearbook this year!



### School Store

The Ryerson School Store is again open for business! The school store sells school supplies, such as notebooks, pencils, erasers, calculators, rulers, pencil bags, crayons, and Ryerson T-shirts. Items are priced from \$0.25 (pencils, animal erasers) to \$10 (T-shirts), with plenty of options in between. All proceeds from the school store benefit the Ryerson PTO. The school store is open on the following Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. in the Ryerson lobby:

- December 18th
- January 22nd
- February 26th
- March 18th
- May 13th
- June 3rd

Please support your Ryerson School Store and look for some exciting new merchandise at the next school store session! Thank you to Chairperson Marybeth Hughes, for coordinating and running the school store; Meghan McGuire for her assistance; and to student helpers Norah Hughes, Hannah Rich, and Noelle Soja. If you have questions about the school store, please contact Marybeth at [neehughes0720@yahoo.com](mailto:neehughes0720@yahoo.com).



### Teacher Donations

Once again this year, the Ryerson PTO gifted to each of the 13 classroom teachers, \$25 toward classroom supplies, and a \$25 iTunes gift card to purchase apps for the classroom iPad Minis. That's a total of \$650 for classroom start up supplies!



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## Garden Committee

On Nov. 14th, the Garden Committee teamed up with Cub Scout Pack 495 for an Annual fall clean up! It was well attended by all. We accomplished a great deal in a matter of hours. All leaves from around the school and courtyard were removed, as well as the parking lot and playground areas. Some damaged shrubs were removed and tulip bulbs planted. A huge thank you to Pack 495 for volunteering their time, machinery, and efforts. A special thank you to Sheri Romblad for organizing and coordinating the Gardens Committee that keeps Ryerson looking so well groomed, and to Kristen Waterman for her creativity and assistance in beautifying Ryerson. If you would like to volunteer for the Garden Committee, please contact Sheri Romblad at [theromblads@comcast.net](mailto:theromblads@comcast.net).



## Going Green

Please help Ryerson with its efforts to Go Green! Rather than sending hardcopies of notices and flyers through backpack, Ryerson is trying to move solely to electronic versions sent to your email. To receive electronic notices and flyers, you must sign up each year. Sign-up instructions can be found on the Ryerson website at [Backpack Express Sign-Up](#). In addition, you can always click on the Backpack Express icon on the lower left of the [Ryerson website](#) home page for current and past notices and flyers sent throughout the school year,

Your contributions and dues help make all this possible! We invite you to become a member of the PTO and come to one of our monthly PTO meetings. We welcome everyone who wants to help! Please call or email a board member with your questions or concerns, or if you want to volunteer in a position or for a committee that interests you and your child. We look forward to hearing from you!