



# Happenings on the Hill

## 2015-16 Winter Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor: *Carrie Burton*

### Letter from the Ryerson PTO Executive Board

Dear Ryerson Families,

Wow! 2016 has arrived and we are three months from the end of the academic year! When we look back on all that has happened over the past few months, we are filled with gratitude for being a part of this school community. During the hectic rush of the holidays families were incredibly generous. First, your donations to the food drive in support of the Madison Food Pantry in November weighed in at over a whopping 375 pounds. In December we found the Toy Drive box was overflowing in the lobby and food selections were in abundance at the Teacher Holiday Lunch. In addition to all that, many families found the time to purchase an extra book or two to help the Mauro-Sheridan inter-district Magnet School for Science, Technology and Communications in New Haven. This was a school wide effort that Principal Spooner championed as part of our winter assembly. Thank you for this unwavering support!

We also thank you for supporting all the programs at the school by involving your children. Winter Workshops had over 100 participants, and our Wednesday morning Chess program is at full capacity with 33 students! The 2nd Annual Talent Show was represented by students in every grade K to 4. We appreciate your children enjoying the activities. This kind of encouragement is very meaningful to the Ryerson PTO.

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.

Best Wishes,  
Ryerson PTO Executive Board  
Carol Ahlijanian ~ President

Kevin Wolfe ~ Co-Tri-Vice President  
Bee Gordon ~ Co-Tri-Vice President  
Diane Infantine-Vyce ~ Co-Tri-Vice President

Michelle Menard ~ Secretary  
Pam Schneider ~ Treasurer



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### Upcoming Events



#### Cultural Arts

- January 12: Domino the Great's Buddies Not Bullies program showed students how respect, teamwork and a positive attitude can help them be better friends. Using magic, humor, audience participation and storytelling, Domino The Great presented the message in a memorable way.
- March 29<sup>th</sup>: Daniel Hand High School's Jazz Band, led by band director John Gage  
The Daniel Hand High School Jazz Band is an auditioned ensemble comprised of 9th-12th graders in the DHHS bands. The Jazz Band plays everything from 1920's swing to Latin jazz to progressive rock.
- April 8<sup>th</sup>: Bash The Trash  
This group is all about Science, Sound and Sustainability! They will be the grand finale to a fun filled Science Week at Ryerson. The students will be educated and entertained with musical instruments made entirely from recycled and reused materials.

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

Congratulations to Ms. Dunbar and Mrs. Bell's classes who were the big winners this past semester for the Box Top ice cream party. Since August 2015, our school has collected almost 9000 Box Tops, which translates to almost \$900.00 for our school to use towards programming for our children!! All those Box Tops need to be counted, cut, and sorted by the fabulous Box Top Team of: Colleen Anderson, Susan Boroczky, Eileen Borowiec, Heather Crawford, Kerri-Anne Moore, Diane Nesci, June Nuzzi, Beth O'Keefe, Lauren Osterman, Kim Schiavone, Sarah Shelton, Carol Stotz, and Stephanie Sweeney. If you have any questions or would like to become part of this fabulous team next fall, please contact the chair, Janice Wolf at [janiceadam1@yahoo.com](mailto:janiceadam1@yahoo.com).

As a reminder, please keep clipping your Box Tops all year round!



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### Square 1 Art

It's back! In the Square 1 Art fundraiser, your child's artistic talent will be nurtured and memorialized. This fundraiser is loads of fun for kids and parents alike. Our children are working hard creating their designs in art class with Mrs. Smith. On March 28th, stickers of your child's creation will be sent home and you will have an opportunity to purchase fun objects that showcase their creation--pillowcases, shirts, coffee mugs, cookie plates, notecards, etc. The order deadline will be April 6th to ensure these items arrive in time for Mother's Day. What a perfect way to remember this special year of your child's life at Ryerson.

Thank you to Mrs. Smith for your assistance with this PTO fundraiser. For any questions about Square 1 Art please contact Kelly Bettuchi at [kw1362@att.com](mailto:kw1362@att.com).



### April 29: Give to Grow 2016

On Friday, April 29th, please join us at Give to Grow, our 4th annual fundraiser to support the arts and sciences at Ryerson. This is a night for us to leave the children at home, come together as adults and have fun! Give to Grow will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center. Information will be coming home soon for ticket orders. There will be active food stations and jazz music, as well as a live auction. Children's artwork and the coveted "Reserved Parking Spot" are popular items that will be on the bidding table again this year. We are still seeking volunteers to help make this event a success. If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions regarding the event, please contact Carol Ahlijanian at [cpenahl@yahoo.com](mailto:cpenahl@yahoo.com),



### April 4 – 8: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair and Ryerson Loves Science Week

The 5th Annual Science Fair and Ryerson Loves Science Week will take place the week of April 4th, with the Science Fair to be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 6th. The 2016 Science Week begins and ends with two all school assemblies. Mad Science will present Spin, Pop, Boom! and Bash the Trash will be the grand finale with a concert performed on musical instruments made entirely from recycled and reused materials. During Science Week children will engage in exciting hands-on activities with the goals of exploring the wonders of science, nurturing their scientific curiosity, and developing a lifelong love of science. Children also will have the opportunity to design and carry out their own independent science experiments, then display and share their results at the Science Fair. More information creating a poster for the Science Fair will be coming home with your child soon.



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### May 17<sup>th</sup>: Relay for Life

The Relay for Life of the Shoreline returns to Walsh Intermediate School in Branford on Saturday, May 21, 2016 for its annual fundraising event in support of The American Cancer Society. With support from our school community last year, Ryerson team "Walk On!" raised over \$5,500 for this important cause. If you are interested in learning more about the Shoreline Relay or about starting a Ryerson Family team, please contact Christine Ackermann at [ackermann@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:ackermann@madison.k12.ct.us) for more information. Together, we can make a difference!

Please [click here](#) for more information.



### May 21<sup>st</sup>: Fun Fair

The Ryerson PTO will host its annual Fun Fair on Saturday, May 21st, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Ryerson school grounds. The fair includes games, prizes, a cake walk, food, music, take-a-chance baskets, mystery bags, and much more. In the upcoming months, look for additional information about the Fun Fair and opportunities to contribute to its success. It is a great time for "children" of all ages, so please save the date! If you have any questions, please contact the chairperson Amy Johnson at [kiteri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kiteri@sbcglobal.net).



### June 1<sup>st</sup>: Field Day

Once again, the students of Ryerson will take to the outdoors on June 1st (rain date of June 3rd) for Field Day! Our terrific physical education teachers are busy planning this year's Field Day; thank you, Mrs. Jarvis and Mrs. Daub! We would love to have parents join us as volunteers. If you signed up to volunteer for Field Day in the beginning of the school year, you will be contacted as the event gets closer. Keep a look out for a flyer later this year with all the details. If you have any questions regarding Field Day, or wish to volunteer, please contact chairs Linda Maniatty at [seaestalc@aol.com](mailto:seaestalc@aol.com) or Michelle Menard at [michmenard@gmail.com](mailto:michmenard@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!



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### Past Events



#### **Talent Show**

On March 4th, Ryerson's multipurpose room, filled to standing room capacity, was again the place to be for the 2nd annual Ryerson Talent Show! Ryerson students, from kindergarten to 4th grade, took the stage to share their talents with an evening of jokes, singing, dance, hula hoop, jump rope, instrumental performance (drums, piano, violin), tae kwon do, and poetry declamation. We are so very proud of all of our student stars: Norah Stotz, Will Kennedy, Tai Nuzzi, Ian Lehman, Katie Butler, Kalista McPherson, Harrison Tore, Christina Case, Katelyn Zagami, Allison Mulhern, Alex Marino, Kelly Kelly, Antoinette Lowy, Samuel Lizondro, Abby Ahlijanian, Tara Santanello, Maewyn, Griswold, Rachel Lehman, Emily Warner, Gillian Brown, Jack Tanner, Grace Ackerman, Emily Cozza, Ava Aboulian, Sophia Lind, Joshua Lee, Ella Lee, Keily Butsch, Benjamin Butsch, Mathew Ackerman, Luke Soja, Eamon Pantano, Adam Stotz, Jacqueline Vyce, Olivia Gordon, Caroline Stella, Gedeon Lariviere, Dillon Diprospero, Matt Kasper, Jake Roberts, Ella Evans, Meghan O'Keefe, Noelle Soja, Nora Hughes, Ariana Potter, Archer Warren, Eli Ackerman, Grace Burton, Vanessa Ruiz, Benjamin Lizondro, McKenna Fisher, Kosette McPherson .

Karen Burns, chair for the Talent Show gives a big THANK YOU to all who volunteered to help; without whom the show would not have been possible.



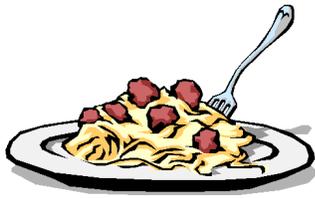
#### **Chess Club - February 3rd - March 30th**

On Wednesday mornings, starting in February and ending in March, members of the Chess Club have been learning to play the "game of kings". This year, the Chess Club, sponsored by the Ryerson PTO, has 33 participants! The Chess Club is taught again this year by Dr. Ani Deshpande, a United States Chess Federation Certified Chess Coach and two-time Wisconsin State Chess Champion.



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### Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The morning of February 5th brought us our first official SNOW DAY. It also made for some tricky decision making on whether or not to move forward with our planned spaghetti dinner night. The meatballs had already been prepared so the Ryerson PTO decided to proceed as planned. We are so happy that we did. Thank you Ryerson families for coming out and supporting this event. We made close to \$850 dollars once we accounted for our food expenses. A huge thank you goes to Kevin Wolfe who worked magic in the kitchen of the Madison Senior Center plating salads and dinners, coordinating our "wait staff" and washing dishes! We also appreciate the helping hands of Janice Lehman, Beth Ackerman, Michelle Menard, Bee Gordon, Pam Schneider, Andy Schneider, Madeline Schneider and Noelle Solis. The Ryerson PTO would also like to thank Lauren Osterling for her generous donation of the dessert - cannoli from Meriano's Bake Shoppe.



### Science Exploration with Cool-ology

Students had a great time participating in Science Exploration, an afterschool program with Cool-ology. This program introduced the children to chemistry, physics, and engineering, through projects that they worked on in groups. They were really excited to explore the world of science through hands on projects. They learned to work as a group, and collaborate with their peers while designing their scientific experiments. We would like to thank Linda Maniatty, Ingrid Velentzas, and Laura Overton for volunteering and making this program possible. If you are interested in being chairman of this event, or just interested in volunteering, please email Linda at [seaestalc@aol.com](mailto:seaestalc@aol.com).



### Winter Workshops

Bee Gordon and Pam Schneider organized Winter Workshop this year. They had 120 students eager to participate in Basketball, Science, Crafts, Bakers, Computers, Theaters, Legos, Scrapbooking and Jewelry Making. Thank you to all of the instructors and helpers that made Winter Workshop possible including:

- Crafts - Kim Schiavone, Michelle Menard, Carol Ahlijanian
- Science - Amy Paradiso and Lori Hall
- Basketball - Andy Schneider, Matthew Menard, Madeline Schneider
- Bakers - Beth O'Keefe, Diane Vyce, Suzanne Owen
- Computers - Erin Chester, Happy Marino



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- Theater - Amy Johnson, Violet Johnson, Kyle Osterling
- Legos - Carolyn Varone, Bee Gordon, Kevin Wolfe
- Scrapbooking - Alison Keating,
- Jewelry - Janice Wolf, June Nuzzi



### **Holiday Luncheon for Ryerson Staff**

On December 17th, the PTO sponsored our traditional holiday luncheon for the Ryerson staff. Beth O'Keefe, Hospitality chair, organized and oversaw this beautiful event. Special thanks go to all the parents for their generosity and time in contributing the savory dishes, sweet treats, and refreshing drinks for our spectacular Ryerson staff to enjoy!



### **Winter Assembly**

On December 18th, the Ryerson community came together for a winter extravaganza of fun! Librarian Tina Perry and Paraprofessional Jennifer Carone put together a fantastic slide show of students enjoying their favorite winter activities. Mrs. Spooner read Snowman's Story by Will Hillenbrand. This wordless story came to life with a school full of authors - your children. Every class helped to put words to all the pictures and the final story was read to all! Another component of the program was to integrate a community outreach initiative. Our school community collected books to donate to the Mauro-Sheridan inter-district Magnet School for Science, Technology and Communications in New Haven. The generosity of Ryerson families is amazing! Thank you for helping our supply to these K-8th graders to be so plentiful! The celebration concluded with an exuberant holiday sing-a-long led by music teacher, Christine Murphy.

## **Announcements**



### **2015-16 Calendar of Events**

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



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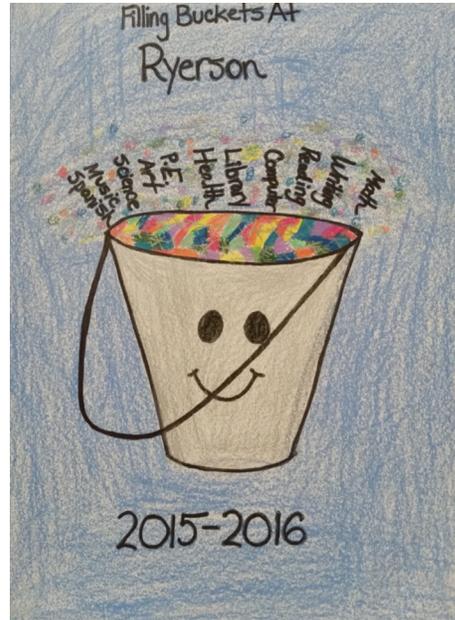
## 2015-2016 Ryerson School Yearbook

### YEARBOOK ORDERING DEADLINES ARE EXTENDED!

The last day to hand in your paper order form with your \$20 cash or check payment is Friday, March 18th. Checks should be made payable to "Ryerson PTO". The last day to order online is Friday, April 1st (no joke)! To order online with a credit card, go to [www.schoolannual.com](http://www.schoolannual.com), click "Buy Your Student's Yearbook" button on the top of the page, enter school name & choose our school from the drop down menu. You will receive a receipt in your email.

Ryerson 4th graders, with the guidance of art teacher Mary Smith, created their artwork submissions for this year's Yearbook Cover Contest. The final designs were picked by Mrs. Spooner, Mrs. Smith and the 4th graders. The winning design was voted upon by the entire student body. Congratulations to the Cover Design Winner Jacqueline Vyce! And a big thank you to Mrs. Smith for all of her help!

We still need photos! Parents - please help us put together the best yearbook yet! If you've got great photos of your children at school or at another school related event, we'd like to see them! Here is how you can submit photos online:



Winner Cover Art

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

Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.

Click "Save Details"

\*The Yearbook Staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book. Please, no boy/girl scout pictures.



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### School Store

Students can visit the Ryerson School Store one Friday per month in the lobby. Hours are before school from 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. The store carries lots of great stuff, such as tee shirts, rulers, pencils, crayons, calculators, and erasers. Prices range from \$0.25 to \$10, with lots of options in between. Although sizes are limited, we still have some Ryerson tee shirts available, and they are a great way to show your school spirit!

Chairperson MaryBeth Hughes would like to thank all the students who support the store each month! In addition, a big thank you goes out to Meghan McGuire for her help, and student helpers Will McGuire, Nora Hughes, Hannah Rich, and Noelle Soja.

Remaining dates for the store include:

March 18

May 13

June 3

There will be no store in April.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer or taking over as chairperson for next year's school store, please contact MaryBeth at [neehughes0720@yahoo.com](mailto:neehughes0720@yahoo.com).



### Garden Committee

As spring quickly approaches, the Garden Committee is gearing up for a Spring Clean Up. This past fall, with the help of Pack 495, various bulbs were planted along the front entrance of the school. Hopefully, some new colors will be popping soon. The Garden Committee will be in need of a new Chair for the 2016/17 school year. If you are interested please contact [theromblads@comcast.net](mailto:theromblads@comcast.net).

**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).**