



# Happenings on the Hill

## 2016 Ryerson Spring Newsletter

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### Letter from the Ryerson PTO Executive Board

Dear Ryerson Families,

Wasn't it just August?! It is hard to believe, but the 2015-16 school year is wrapping up. For the past nine months we tried to continue some old traditions, like the Fun Fair and Field Day, and begin some new ones, like Family Golf Night and the Spaghetti Dinner. We brought the Talent Show to the school for a second year and the packed multi-purpose room confirmed that this night of fun is going to be around next year as well! We reworked the Give to Grow event and tried to simplify the Science Night. Just like our children, we are always learning. We welcome your comments and feedback. What do you think was a success this year and what needs improvement?

Whether the traditions were old or new, none of the events could have happened without the time and talent of our dedicated volunteers. We are so grateful for your support. Thank you to the room parents who are an important link to communicating information to all the Ryerson families. We tried really hard to be "greener" this year and it would not have been so successful without your help. As the new Ryerson PTO Executive Board for 2016-17 gets ready to take office, we hope that you will continue to provide your support to the PTO. It has been a terrific year. Enjoy your summer!

Ryerson PTO Executive Board

Carol Ahlijanian  
Diane Infantine-Vyce  
Michelle Menard

Kevin Wolfe  
Bee Gordon  
Pam Schneider

### Letter from the Ryerson PTO President

Dear Ryerson Families,

As time draws near to the last day of school... it is with some sadness that I say "goodbye" to Ryerson. I have enjoyed my time volunteering and being on the Executive Board for three years, this last year as President. When I see one of the students winning a cake at the Fun Fair or smiling at Field Day or clapping along at a cultural art event or even just greeting me in the hallway with a simple..."I've seen you here before"... all the hard work immediately feels worth it! This "school on the hill" is very special. I really appreciate all the support from the staff, parents and most importantly from Mrs. Solin and Mrs. Spooner. Good luck to all the fourth graders and to all of the parents who will be "graduating" from Ryerson too.

Best Wishes,

Carol Ahlijanian

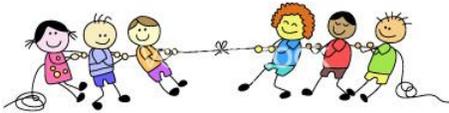
Newsletter Editor: *Carrie Burton*



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## 2016 Ryerson Spring Newsletter

### Upcoming Events



### **June 1st: All-School Field Day**

This year's theme for Field Day 2016 is RyerSUN and FUN Day. The children are always excited to participate in Field Day at our school. Our terrific gym teachers, Mrs. Daub and Mrs. Jarvis, are planning a fun, full afternoon of games and activities. Come help us make Field Day 2016 a success! We are looking for parent volunteers to help staff the sports stations, while watching their children have a blast. It will take place on Wednesday, June 1st, (rain date Friday, June 3rd) from 12:15-3:10pm. Those interested in signing up, please go to [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D4BADAC2EA2FA7-ryersun](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D4BADAC2EA2FA7-ryersun). For questions feel free to contact Co-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!



### **June 3rd: School Store**

The Ryerson School Store had another great year! 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! Thank you for supporting your school store!

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 and Carol Ahlijanian for their help this year, as well as student helpers Will McGuire, Nora Hughes, Hannah Rich, Noelle Soja, and Abby Ahlijanian. Thank you to outgoing Chairperson MaryBeth for all of your hard work this year! If you are interested in helping out with the school store next year, or in chairing this committee, please contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).

The final date for the store is Friday, June 3rd from 8:30 - 8:50 a.m.



### **June 6th: PTO Meeting - Amendment of PTO By-Laws and Election of PTO Officers**

Please join us at our last PTO meeting of the school year on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 am in the library. At the meeting, the proposed amendments to the Ryerson PTO By-Laws (changing the wording for flexibility to allow for two Co-Presidents and two Co-Vice Presidents from one President and three Co-Tri-VP's as needed) will be put to the members present at the meeting for a vote. Notice and review of the proposed amendments were given at the previous PTO meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition, new officers for the Ryerson PTO Executive



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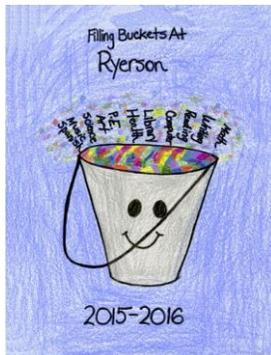
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Board for the 2016-17 school year will be elected. Candidates are: Elizabeth "Bee" Gordon for Co-President (currently a Co-Tri-Vice President); Michelle Menard for Co-President (currently Secretary); Lindsay Aiello for Co-Vice President and Beth Emerson for Secretary. Kevin Wolfe, a current Co-Tri-Vice President, and Pam Schneider, the current Treasurer, will be returning to serve the second year of their two-year terms. Nominations for open positions will be taken from the floor at the meeting as well. If you are interested in running for an open position, please contact Carol Ahlijanian at [cpenahl@yahoo.com](mailto:cpenahl@yahoo.com). We hope to see you there!



### June 8th: Fourth Grade Celebration

The 4th grade Celebration will be Wednesday, June 8th. In keeping with the Ryerson tradition, we will kick off the event with the "high fives" on the black top and begin the celebration with our DJ of the day, Fred Muzer. Each member of the Class of 2016 will receive a Ryerson tee shirt courtesy of the Ryerson PTO and they will receive their yearbook first to exchange and sign. The celebration on the playground will also include a class picture and the "Ultimate Watermelon Challenge." The fourth grade celebration is Co-Chaired by Beth O'Keefe and Diane Infantine-Vyce. We would like to thank our committee for their great ideas and help: Karen Burns, Rebecca Archer, Claudia Dunsmore, Beth Ackerman, Janice Lehman, June Nuzzi, Laura Osterman, Beth Pantano, Suzanne Owen, Meg Sawyer, Sherry Romblad and Kerri-Anne Moore. If you are interested in volunteering for, or chairing, this committee next year, please contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).



### June 9th: Yearbook Distribution Grades K-3

The 2015-16 Ryerson Yearbook will be distributed to 4<sup>th</sup> graders during the Fourth Grade Celebration on Wed. June 8<sup>th</sup>, and to all other students, who ordered a copy, on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Look for the yearbook in your child's backpack! Kudos to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade finalists in the Yearbook cover design contest: **Meghan O'Keefe, Elise Owen, Henry Rode, Bianca Sander, Norah Stotz, Emily Warner, and Peter Woytowich**, and congratulations to the cover contest winner, **Jacqueline Vyce**!

The Yearbook Co-Chairs would like to thank all the parents, teachers, and paraprofessionals who submitted photographs during the year. Additional special thanks to: the Yearbook **Volunteers: Janice Wolf, Beth Ackerman, Noreen Slavin-Koscak, Carol Stotz, and Joann St. Pierre**, for all of their help with photos and/or layout; to **Francoise Roth**, without whom one third of the photos wouldn't exist and who will be greatly missed; the **teachers** who welcomed the photographers into their classrooms all year long; to **Jen Carone** and **Tina Perry** for their additional assistance in all things great and small; to **Mary Smith** for help with the cover art design contest, and to **Liz Solin** and **Kelly Spooner** for their support; but most of all, **THANK YOU to the Ryerson students! You guys ROCK!**



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The current yearbook Co-Chairs, Diane Infantine-Vyce and Karen Burns, who have co-chaired this committee for three years, will be moving on and wish the best of luck to Beth Pantano, who will be taking the reins next year. The Yearbook Committee will be in great need of photographers next year. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, please contact Beth Pantano at [Elizabeth.Flanagan@yale.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Flanagan@yale.edu).

### Past Events



#### March 4th: Talent Show

A special Thank You to Karen Burns for the Ryerson Talent Show. Karen brought the idea to Ryerson and took it single-handedly from concept to reality, starting a much-loved new Ryerson Tradition. She chaired this event for two years and will be moving on next year. Janice Wolf will be the new chair of this committee. We wish both of them the best of luck in their new adventures! If you would like to get involved or have questions about the Talent Show, please contact Janice at [janiceadam1@yahoo.com](mailto:janiceadam1@yahoo.com).



#### Cultural Arts

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Ryerson students and staff were entertained by the **Daniel Hand High School 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. The performance was enjoyed by all and provoked many questions from the children about playing musical instruments.

At the last Cultural Arts performance of the year, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the students were awed and amazed by **Casey Carle of Bubblemania**. Casey combines polished entertainment with high quality visual art and practical, age appropriate science. Two performances were given, one for grades K-2 and one for grades 3-4. All ages learned how bubbles form, why they're spherical, how to make a cube bubble and the science of bubble bursting - each topic related to the physical laws of the natural world. Grades 3-4 learned to appreciate practical applications of diverse bubbles in everyday life (soccer balls to air bags). In addition to the science aspects, the program is full of visual comedy, quick wit, swing music, and amazing soap bubble manipulations - from intricate and detailed Bubble Art (bubble chains, spaceships, fog filled bubbles, crystal balls and square bubbles) to placing a child inside a giant bubble! Both performances were well received and the teachers were given his excellent, easy, home-made bubble formula to share with the students.

This school year the Ryerson PTO provided six (6) Cultural Arts assemblies:

- In September, Tanglewood Marionettes "Hansel & Gretel",



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- In November, Shakesperience Production of "Gulliver's Travels",
- In December, Daniel Hand High School's a capella group "ENCORE" and Show Choir "VIBE",
- In January, Domino the Great's Magic Show "Buddies Not Bullies",
- In March, Daniel Hand High School's Jazz Band, and
- In May, Casey Carle and Bubblemania.

If you would like to be a part of the cultural enrichment of Ryerson or would like to chair this committee next year, contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).



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

During the week of April 4th-8th, Ryerson celebrated an exciting Science Week! The week kicked off with a Mad Science assembly, "Spin, Pop, Boom!" that introduced children to a world of exciting chemistry with foaming cups and steaming chemical reactions. Throughout the week, the PTO funded High Touch-High Tech brought the students on various educational, interactive hands-on "in school field trips", showcasing a variety of science themes: "Habitat Fun"- Kindergarten, "Force of Habit"- 1st grade, "Get Buggy"- 2nd grade, "Biomes"- 3rd grade, and "Reaction Attraction"- 4th grade. Parent scientists visited classrooms to share their knowledge of science and brought a real world connection to various science topics. In addition, each grade level created interactive science bulletin boards that adorned the main lobby and engaged the students with science trivia and ideas.

Ryerson's Science Fair, held on the evening of April 6<sup>th</sup>, was an exciting night filled with electricity, volcanos, crystals, dancing raisins and so much more! Over 70 students, representing every grade, had the opportunity to showcase their projects to their family, friends, and teachers, as well as explore all the amazing projects of their classmates. Each student scientist received a blue ribbon and a certificate. The Grand Finale for Science Week was the PTO funded all-school assembly "Bash the Trash"; an educational and entertaining show about science, sound and sustainability performed with musical instruments made entirely from recycled and reused materials - the kids had a blast!

Many thanks to Carol Ahlijanian and Bee Gordon for helping to organize a fun-filled evening of science, and to Diane Vyce for designing this year's ribbons. In addition, special recognition goes to Peggy Bell, Erin Chester, Rene Chin, Sue Daub, Lynn DeMarco, Alicia Dunbar, Lauren Lariviere, Lorrie Schaller, Liz Solin, and Kelly Spooner for planning and organizing science week and for volunteering the night of the Science Fair. Thank you, as well, to all the teachers, staff, and parents who supported Ryerson Science Week and Science Fair 2016 with their time, talent, and enthusiasm! Last, but not least, congratulations and a big high five to all of the Ryerson scientists who presented a project at the Science Fair!

If you would like to volunteer next year for the Science Fair, or to chair this committee, please contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).



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### April 29th: Give to Grow

On Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the PTO Board hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> annual *Give to Grow*. At first this was a tradition that the PTO board wasn't sure they wanted to take on again. In the past there was a live auction, a silent auction and take-a-chance tickets. It has always been successful (the biggest fundraiser of the year) but is a HUGE amount of work with never quite enough volunteers. In the end we decided to move forward, but simplify the evening by conducting only a live auction and "mystery envelopes". Every live auction item was priceless – themed parties for groups of children donated by the staff, children's artwork, and the coveted "reserved parking spot". The mystery envelopes cost \$20 and you were guaranteed an item that was worth over \$20 if you were willing to take a chance and reveal the mystery. By the end of the evening all 54 mystery envelopes had been purchased. A HUGE thank you to Beth O'Keefe for putting that entire piece of the evening together! We are so grateful! At the time of this newsletter we are still waiting for a few expenses to be paid, but it looks like our profit is around \$5000!! Thank you so much to everyone who attended the evening despite the hiccups and dug deep to help make it so successful again this year!

We would also like to extend a huge thanks to all of the volunteers who contributed to the success of our 4<sup>th</sup> annual *Give to Grow*: Kevin Wolfe, who procured and prepared the entire menu, and cooked all of the wonderful food; Pam and Andy Schneider for being the event auctioneers; Lisa Brown, Carolyn Varone, Jasleni Brito, Martina Lind, Karen Burns and Janice Wolf, who conceived and led the Ryerson children's art for the live auction; Beth Ackerman, Kristen Waterman and Bee Gordon for decorating the Senior Center on a shoestring budget; Bee Gordon for creating an excellent music playlist for the evening; Beth O'Keefe (with some help from Michelle Menard, Diane Vyce and Carol Ahlijanian) who secured the donations for the mystery envelopes; Nicole Tanner for help during the checkout process; Rebecca and Michael Woods for their generous donation; Lisa Brown, Carrie Burton and Meghan McGuire for coming to our brainstorming meetings; Michelle Menard for endless amounts of patience and her encouragement to not cancel this event; Kelly Spooner, Elizabeth Solin and all the Ryerson teachers and staff who supported *Give to Grow* with their generosity.



### Square 1 Art

Many of you are now enjoying your children's artwork as mugs, mouse pads, and memo pads from Square 1 Art. Thank you to art teacher Mary Smith, in whose class the children created their masterpieces. Thank you also to Chair Kelly Bettuchi and all the families who participated in Square 1 Art to make this fundraiser a success. Because of your participation, the PTO raised \$1,254.50. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please contact Kelly Bettuchi at [kw1362@att.com](mailto:kw1362@att.com).



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### May 10th: Staff Appreciation Breakfast

The Ryerson Teacher Appreciation Breakfast was held Tuesday, May 10th and was a huge success! The event was organized by Hospitality Chair, Beth O'Keefe. The generous donations made by the PTO Hospitality Committee made the day truly special for the teachers at Ryerson. We would like to thank all who contributed to the event: Ari Potter, Beth Ackerman, Emily Webster, Suzanne Owen, Pam Schneider, Kerri-Anne Moore, Jess Johnson, Bee Gordon, Linda Maniatty, Beth Emerson, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Michele Menard, Nancy Tong, Carol Ahlijanian, Andrea Tore, and Laura Sears.

Hospitality would also like to thank all those Ryerson families who sent in gift cards and special treats for the teacher's raffle. We had over 30 gifts to raffle off for teachers and staff. Thank you for your generosity and for keeping this a special tradition at the breakfast.

A special thank you to outgoing Chairperson Beth O'Keefe, who has chaired this Committee for 6 years! She has done a fabulous job organizing, decorating and keeping every event well stocked with a wide variety of delicious goodies. Ryerson will miss her as she moves on to Brown. Hospitality will be chaired next year by Joann St. Pierre. If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, please contact Joann at [joannstpierre21@gmail.com](mailto:joannstpierre21@gmail.com)



### May 21st: Ryerson Fun Fair

This year's Ryerson Fun Fair was a HUGE success! The weather held out and a great time was had by all who attended! Thanks to Robert's Food Center and Chartwells, there was plenty of food to be cooked by parent volunteers. Mrs. Spooner and her son manned the cotton candy machine, and teachers and staff volunteered their time to serve treats to all who stopped by. Thank you to Mc Donald's in Clinton for donating toys to our lollipop tree and the ice for the coolers! Also, Cohen Bakery donated two trays of bagels for our volunteer parents who spent the entire day working so hard to bring everyone a great day. If you see the North Madison Fire Dept., Madison Police Dept. or Meigs Point Nature Center this summer, be sure to thank them for the awesome demonstrations that were entertaining, informative and fun! Thank you to all the families who: donated cakes and other baked goods for our always-popular Cake Walk; filled, decorated and donated the Mystery Bags (nearly 100!) and also to those who donated money for the raffle baskets. Special thanks to: Kristen Waterman, for creating those amazing themed raffle baskets; Janice Wolf, for her help with the Cake Walk; Val Nettleton for building & painting; Bee Gordon, Carol Ahlijanian, Beth Ackerman; the many parents who took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer, and Mrs. Spooner and the staff at Ryerson. Finally, thank you to Amy Johnson for chairing the committee this year. There is no way the Fun Fair could have been as successful, nor such a great and memorable experience, without all those who volunteered. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in this much-anticipated Ryerson tradition, please contact Amy Johnson at [kiteri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kiteri@sbcglobal.net).



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### Garden Committee

If you have noticed the beautiful flowers in the courtyard and around the school throughout the year, the thanks goes to the Garden & Beautification committee. They do a wonderful job of cleaning up around Ryerson when seasons change and making sure that there is always something beautiful and interesting for the art classes to draw in the courtyard. Thank you to the volunteers and a huge thank you to the chair Sheri Romblad, who has been the chair for the past two years and is moving on next year. If you would like to volunteer to help keep Ryerson beautiful, or want to chair this committee next year, please contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).



### Bulletin Boards

The Ryerson lobby bulletin boards are designed and created by Beth Ackerman, Lisa Brown and Kristen Waterman for the Ryerson students, staff and school visitors throughout the year. The boards are decorated for various holidays and school functions. Thank you for your time and talents artists! If you would like to volunteer next year for this committee, please contact next year's Co-Chair Kristen Waterman at [kristinadubbs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kristinadubbs@sbcglobal.net).



### Box Tops for Education

**The 2016 second semester numbers are in!!** The Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade race was a blow out! Ms. Dunbar's class is the winner with a grand total of 1,956 Box Tops from January to May! Way to go, Ms. Dunbar's class! The 3rd & 4th grade race was a close one! Mrs. Parente's class was the winner with 1,002 Box Tops from January to May! Awesome job, Mrs. Parente's class! Ms. Dunbar's and Mrs. Parente's classes have won an ice cream party for their students this semester! Congratulations to both classes!

Box Tops had another successful year overall! Our school collected over 7,500 Box Tops. That equates to over \$750.00 for our school to fund special activities for our children. Box Tops would not run smoothly without our team of volunteers. Thank you to Laura Osterman, Sarah Shelton, Eileen Borowiec, Kerri-Anne Moore, Stephanie Berry, Carol Stotz, Beth O'Keefe, Heather Crawford, Colleen Anderson, Susann Boroczky, Diane Nesci, June Nuzzi, and Kim Schiavone for all of your collecting, cutting, sorting, and counting this school year. If anyone is interested in joining the Box Top Team for the 2016-2017 school year, please contact, Janice Wolf, at [janicedam1@yahoo.com](mailto:janicedam1@yahoo.com). **As a reminder, please keep clipping your Box Tops during the summer, and all year round!**



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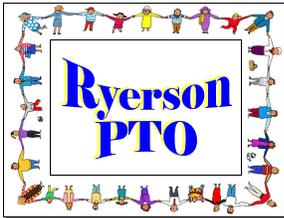
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### Announcements



### 2016 Calendar of Events

[Click here](#) for the calendar of events for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year.



### Seeking Ryerson PTO Committee Chairs

The vitality of the PTO depends upon the involvement of our members. In the pages of this spring newsletter, as well as previous editions, you have read about the vibrant role of the PTO in the educational life of our children at Ryerson. Below is a list of PTO activities for which the chair position is currently unoccupied.

- Cultural Arts
- Fourth Grade Celebration
- Gardens/Beautification
- Give to Grow
- Intramurals / OMG Minigolf
- School Store
- Science Fair/Science Week
- Vision Screening

If you are interested in chairing, or co-chairing, any of these PTO activities, please contact Bee Gordon at [efgordon08@gmail.com](mailto:efgordon08@gmail.com).

A huge Thank you to PTO Newsletter editor Carrie Burton for coordinating and editing the Newsletter again this year!