



# RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## FALL NEWSLETTER

### 2016

#### *A message from Mrs. Hamilton*

All of us at Russell Elementary School are so fortunate to be able to come to work at such a beautiful place every day! If you have not had a chance to see the spectacular display of autumn's magic ~ the trees around the school and the mountain behind us are painted in all shades of gold and red ~ it is worth the ride!

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I share with you the news of the passing of our friend and former school counselor, Mr. "Jack" Starzic. Mr. Starzic passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday. We will always remember his kindness; he had a gift for supporting and listening to children and their families. His sense of humor, his great laugh and his compassion for others are fond memories we will hold on to. As you share this information with your child please know that we are here to support your child in anyway. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Mrs. Murphy or other staff as needed, our doors are open.

#### *Russell Elementary Food Pantry*

With the new school year, we are hoping to replenish the shelves of our food pantry. For those of you new to our school community, we keep a small food pantry in Mrs. Miller's office available for families who may need support on a regular basis or from time to time. We will hold food drives periodically but donations are welcome at anytime. We are looking for nonperishable foods as well as paper goods and toiletries.

A suggestion: Try putting together items that can make a meal like canned chicken or tuna, cream soup and pasta for an easy casserole. As always, we appreciate the generosity of our Russell School community. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Miller directly at 642-7132.

#### *Math Fact Fluency*

Math facts fluency refers to the ability to recall the basic facts in all four operations accurately, quickly and effortlessly. When students achieve automaticity with these facts, they have attained a level of mastery that enables them to retrieve them for long-term memory without conscious effort or attention. Through automaticity students free up their working memory and can devote it to problem solving and learning new concepts and skills. You can support your child with math fact fluency by practicing together at home, in the car or playing games!

#### *A Few Friendly Reminders*

- ❖ Unless your child's teacher has specifically asked children to bring in toys, jewelry and trinkets these items should not be coming to school. They create distractions in the classroom and often interfere with teaching and learning.

- ❖ Our school day begins at 8:45; supervision is not available before then. Please do not drop your child off at the front entrance until a staff person is there. Dismissal and buses are running more smoothly and consistently. Thank you for your patience in this regard. Please remind your child to follow safety rules at all times on the bus; staying seated, using “neighbor” voices, keep aisles clear, listen to the driver’s directions.
- ❖ Please be sure to update phone numbers with Tina in the office, it is important that we are able to reach families in the event of an emergency.
- ❖ Our Lost and Found box in the cafeteria is filling quickly! It is helpful if clothes are labeled with the child’s name.
- ❖ Parent-Teacher conferences are being held this Thursday afternoon. The elementary schools will be dismissing at 12:00 on that day.

*Happy News!*

*Mrs. Proulx and her husband welcomed a healthy baby boy on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>!*

