

Director's Report – November 29, 2016

1. Makerspaces at Rockwood Public School

Rockwood Public School is one of eleven schools in the province that was selected to participate in the research project funded by CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) and the Ministry of Education – Science 3D: Discovery, Design and Development through Makerspaces. Rockwood's Makerspace team members Andrew Phelan, Heather Walker, Derek McLaren and Sarah MacPhee had the opportunity to participate in two days of learning at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology on Maker Pedagogies. A "Makerspace" is a creative, DIY (Do It Yourself) movement that encourages collaboration, problem-solving, invention, discovery, resiliency and innovation. Through the use of high-tech, low-tech and traditional tools and devices, students have opportunities to explore and create solutions to real-life problems. The students will learn skills related to electronics, 3D printing, 3D modeling, coding, e-textiles, robotics and even woodworking. Rockwood's team will be exploring the use of these tools and pedagogies in the related fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

2. Hour of Code

On Monday, December 5th our Technology Enabled Teaching & Learning Contacts (TELT) will be sponsoring an Hour of Code, or in layperson's terms, a 60 minute introduction to computer programming designed to demystify coding and show that anyone can learn the basics. The activities are self-guided and designed for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. Access to the Hour of Code activities can be viewed through www.studio.code.org.

3. We Day – November 9, 2016

On Wednesday, November 9th, 16,000 students filled the Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa to participate in the annual We Day. We Day is an inspirational event that brings together world renowned speakers, performers and thousands of students to celebrate a year of action that has transformed communities and changed lives. Tickets can't be bought to the event as the demonstration of good works is the key to admission. Twenty-three RCDSB schools participated in the event with over 600 students attending. Moments of pride included Admaston PS teacher Karyn Martin, being selected as the celebrity educator on stage to address the audience and Nic Edge from Arnprior District HS was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers by the Governor General of Canada for his exceptional volunteer work at ADHS and his community.

4. Public Meetings – Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate

Since July 2016, the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate has been hosting a series of public meetings across Ontario to hear from Ontarians on how to address systematic racism. They will be in Ottawa on Saturday, December 3rd at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive in Ottawa from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Community stakeholders from our region are invited to attend and more information can be obtained at www.ontario.ca/antiracism

5. Broadband Modernization Program: Wave 1

The Ministry of Education has launched a broadband modernization program to bring broadband speed to fully support the requirements of teaching and learning in the 21st century. The goal is to bring Ontario schools to the industry target of 1 Megabit per second per student for a K-12 digitally enabled learning environment. Our board has been selected to be part of Wave 1 and the following schools have been identified for the program: Queen Elizabeth PS; Champlain Discovery PS; and Renfrew Collegiate Institute.