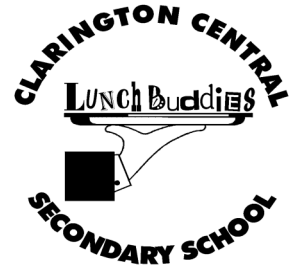


# Lunch Buddies



## CHANGING LIVES AT LUNCHTIME



The Lunch Buddy Program matches caring student volunteers with individuals with special needs from Learning & Life Skills (LLS) classes.

Lunch Buddy 'matches' get together and share their lunch hour together. Lunch Buddies also:

- ♦ Provide peer mentoring and positive role modeling within our school.
- ♦ Open the doors of friendship to students with limited social contacts.
- ♦ Demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship to all students.
- ♦ Promote an inclusive school spirit.

The impact on the lives of special needs students is remarkable. Students have the opportunity to develop friendships where none existed before. They are empowered and have a greater sense of acceptance within our school community.

Students are encouraged to improve their social and communication skills with their new friends. For many students with challenges, lunchtime is their favourite period of the day because of their Lunch Buddies.

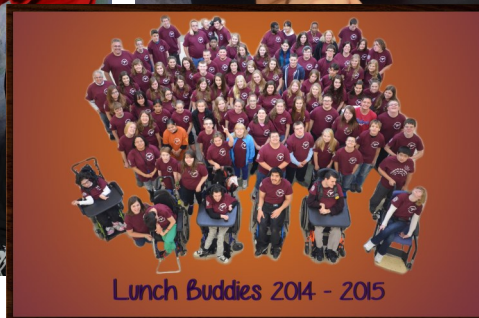
## LUNCH BUDDY HISTORY & HIGHLIGHTS

In 1998, Bruce Rutherford started Lunch Buddies as a pilot program with just two students. The program now attracts on average more than 120 students annually, making it the largest school club at CCSS.

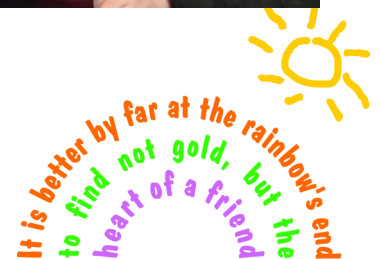
Thanks to the support of students, staff, parents and community partners we're now celebrating our 16th anniversary with well over 1,700 Lunch Buddy matches.

Some of the special events during the 2014/2015 school year included Lunch Buddy Picture Day, Pizza party, Cookies & Carols Party, Lunch Buddies Rock Concert, Cineplex Movie Day, Lunch at East Side

Mario's, Lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory, Ripley's Aquarium trip, Box Seats at GM Place and the Lunch Buddy BBQ.



Lunch Buddies 2014 - 2015





## THE JOYS OF FRIENDSHIP

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to become a Lunch Buddy. This experience ... has brought me so much happiness, more than I can describe. It has me coming to school every day waiting to see Shableena. She brings a smile to my face every time I think about her. I just wanted to let you know how amazing this experience has been for me...I had expected to enjoy my lunch hours with Shableena, but little did I know that I would find myself as excited as she was every Tuesday." (Melissa)

"Crystal really helped me see all the great and genuine people at school, just by eating lunch with me once a week." (Sarah)

"Lunch Buddies has had an enormous impact on my life. It has made me realize that these kids are just normal people like you and I, they just need a little extra help with things or may have a mental or physical disability, but deep down inside they are amazing people and you can learn a lot from them." (Kaitlyn)

"Lunch Buddies are beautiful." (Ayah)



## EXPRESSING OUR THANKS

Thank you to the individuals and businesses who have supported the Lunch Buddies Program. All financial support for Lunch Buddies comes from charitable donations.

A complete list of sponsors is provide on our web page at <http://teacherweb.com/ON/ClaringtonCentral/LLS/>

Over the past 4 years the Woodland Homes Golf Classic has donated **\$23,000** to the Lunch Buddies Program. Thank you to **Michael Foley** and **Michael Baird** of **Woodland Homes** for making a difference in the lives of many. 2015, marks the 5th year of Lunch Buddies being supported by Woodland Homes.



(LR) Michael Foley, Michael Baird & Bruce Rutherford

## AWARD WINNING VOLUNTEERS

CCSS Lunch Buddy volunteers are eligible for a very special commencement award. The **Mandzuk Inclusive Spirit Award** recognizes and celebrates the achievements made by Lunch Buddies who go above and beyond to make a difference in our school and community. Within the past 10 years, \$18,000 in scholarships have been awarded to Lunch Buddy volunteers. Lunch Buddies thank and recognize the longtime support of **Dianna Mandzuk** (RE/MAX Spirit Inc.).

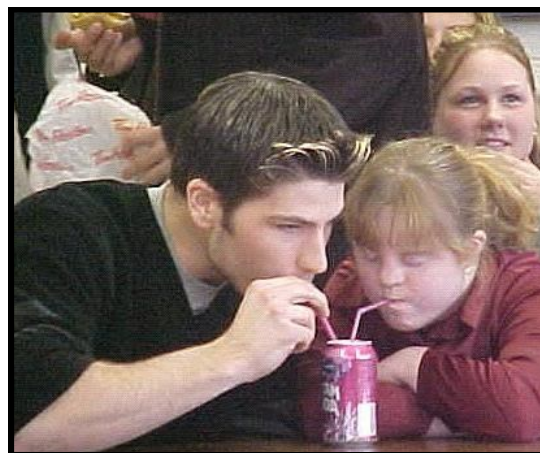
### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Bruce Rutherford**

**Clarington Central Secondary School**

Phone: 905-697-9857 Fax: 905-697-0452

Email: [bruce\\_rutherford@kprdsb.ca](mailto:bruce_rutherford@kprdsb.ca)



**It is better by far at the rainbow's end to find not gold, but the heart of a friend!**