

Adrienne Clarkson News

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Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent: Michael Grieve

Vice Principal: Bryan Gerson

Trustee: Cindy Liang

Administrators' Message

December is always a busy month and here at Adrienne Clarkson we have several different initiatives underway to create interesting learning opportunities as well as lasting memories. This month we are having two Spirit Days: Pajama Day and Funny/Seasonal Sweater Day. Our Grade 1, 2 and 3 classes will also be having afternoon Winter Concerts on the 14th and 15th. We are also collecting for the ACPS Food Bank Campaign and new hats or mittens for our Hat and Mitten Tree in the office from now until December 21st.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank Mr Rosemin for supporting ACPS families, staff and students for a short time while Mme Russiello is away.

It is important that during the holiday season and all throughout the year, that we help children to understand what it means to be empathetic – to understand how someone else may be feeling, or to understand another's point of view. Donating some time to a Food Bank or listening when someone is speaking are ways we can help children to learn to be empathetic, but also to be appreciative of our blessings: good health, loving families, safe homes, the first snowfall, and the list could go on and on. Children and adolescents can learn to show their appreciation of the little things that we often overlook. This also helps them to build resiliency and to bounce back from a rough day.

It is equally important to remember the simplicity and importance of family time, for example, with a family game night or a family walk to enjoy the snowfall. Studies have shown that screen time prior to bedtime can have a negative impact on restful and restorative sleep. All electronics should be turned off and put away at least one hour before bedtime to allow for adequate down time prior to going to sleep. This is a great time to read a story, talk about the day, or have an "appreciation" conversation. Ensuring a "good night's sleep" should be a top priority to prepare the mind and body for the following day.

We wish all of our Adrienne Clarkson community much joy and peace as you spend time with loved ones, enjoying this season of celebration! We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year. Bonnes Vacances et Bonne Année!

Mme Russiello et Mr Gerson



Dec 5 - Food drive and Hat & Mitten tree start

Dec 14 - Grade 1 Winter Concert @1:30pm

Dec 15 - Grade 2 and 3 Winter Concert @1:30pm

Dec 18 ~ Pajama Day

Dec 21 - Last day for Food bank and Hat & Mitten tree donations

Dec 21 ~ Funny Sweater/ Seasonal Wear Day

Dec 25-Jan 5 ~ Winter Break

Jan 8 ~ First Day back

Please visit our [website](#) to view our full Calendar.



Winter Weather & Recess



Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Lates and Absences

On some days we have a significant number of our school population who are late for school. Arriving late to class causes disruption for the child who is late, the children who are learning and the teacher. Frequent lates or absences will result in academic difficulties as children will miss important instruction.

Our school day begins at **8:05 a.m.**

Aim to have your child at school by 8:00 a.m. so he/she is not late.

Please be sure that children arrive on time and ready to learn!



ACPS Hat and Mitten Tree



Donate new hats and mittens.

Hang them on the tree!

All donations will go to The Yellow Brick House.

Donate by Thursday, December 21st.



BUS AND SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

BUSES -If buses have been cancelled in the morning, there **will not** be afternoon bussing. Please see below for bussing information.

DROP OFF/PICK UP - Students who come to school when busses are cancelled may be dropped off through the parking lot loop in the morning.

Pick up will begin at 2:00 pm. You must come into the school to pick up your child. Please pick up your child by 2:35 pm.

When an extreme cold or inclement weather day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, Board and school websites and on twitter @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's Severe Weather policy. Families, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus and/or school cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM

88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1

FM99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 105.9 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

Please note that school bus charters (trips) will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled.

ACPS Peace Club Food Bank Campaign

Dear ACPS families,

Now that winter is almost here, The ACPS Peace Club is once again holding its annual food drive.

We are asking everyone in the ACPS school community to bring in non-perishable goods from Monday December 4th until Thursday December 21st. Student leaders from the Peace Club will come around to classrooms once a week, every Wednesday during recess to collect food items brought in until the donation drive is over.

Our goal is to collect at least 500 pounds of non-perishable items. Suggested items are grain such as flour, rice, and pasta, canned goods that have not reached their best before dates such as soup, sauces, or vegetables or gift cards from Food Basics or President's Choice stores. Each donation will be greatly appreciated as we support those who are in need in our communities. Recent food bank data has never been clearer in showing the importance of contributions during the pandemic as food bank visits are increasing.

Thank you for your kindness and support of our student-led initiative on behalf of the Richmond Hill food banks.

Bullying Prevention and Awareness @ ACPS

At our school, it is important that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. It's always an important reminder to our school community about bullying and how to respond.

Bullying is a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Bullying can take many forms. Some include:

Physical – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property

Verbal – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments

Social – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them

Electronic (commonly known as cyberbullying) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and through social media

Conflict vs Bullying

People sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict between students does not always mean it's bullying.

Conflict occurs between people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views.

When there is conflict, each person feels comfortable expressing their views.

Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have different perspectives than their own.

Developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and continues into early adulthood

Bullying is never acceptable at our school. All members of our school community are encouraged to stand up and support each other. Should there be concerns about bullying or if you have any questions please contact us.

You can also report events that happen at school, at school-related activities, online or off school property if they negatively affect a student or the school climate by contacting your classroom teacher or the school office.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community.

Message from Our Trustee

December 2023

I hope everyone has had a good start to the school year and is looking forward to the winter break ahead.

As I have been visiting schools and attending events, I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and dedication of school staff, the commitment and support of families and the curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm of students. As a Board of Trustees, we continue our commitment to delivering a high-quality education, this also includes striving to create safe, caring, inclusive and respectful school environments where students feel valued and supported.

I want to thank everyone who attended the school council forum held in our area and helped to make the event such a success. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring together school council members for an evening of shared learning and discussion. School councils play such an important role in our schools, and we are grateful for all that they do to support students, family engagement and schools.

While we are not yet at the midway point in the school year, many students and families are already looking to the school year ahead, visiting [secondary school open houses](#) and starting to think about course selections for next school year. All our secondary schools offer a variety of courses, programs and opportunities that let students gain skills and experience, explore their interests and begin preparing for the future. Those opportunities are now even easier to explore.

Students can [search from 16 different sectors](#) that interest them, including STEM, Arts, business, manufacturing and many more to discover how they can earn credits, gain experience, skills and certifications in those areas. Visit www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb to learn more.

We also offer a variety of [programs for Black students](#) through the Board's Centre for Black Student Excellence. These summer and school-year programs are designed to affirm students' identities and support student achievement and well-being. You can learn more about the programs and how to sign up for the centre's mailing list [on the website](#).

One of our roles as a Board of Trustees is to regularly review Board policies to ensure they are relevant, reflect our mission and values as an organization, and meet the needs of our students. An important part of that process is collecting feedback from the community. [Learn more on the Board website](#) about how you can share your input and see what policies are currently being reviewed.











I want to take this opportunity to thank families for their patience while we work to restore services following [network outages](#) as a result of a cyber incident, and to acknowledge the work of our staff who continue to deliver high quality public education and to restore services.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates for different faiths and cultures during this time of year, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Cindy Liang

Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

December's Holidays and Observances

 Bahá'í Faith	Dec 12 ~ Masá'il Dec 31 ~ Sharaf
 Buddhism	Dec 8 ~ Bodhi / Rōhatsu (Awakening) Day Dec 26 ~ Sanghamitta Day
 Christianity	Dec 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent (W) Dec 25 ~ Christmas (W, E - New Calendar)
 Indigenous Spirituality	Dec 1 ~ Long Nights Moon
 Islam	Dec 13 ~ Birth Date of the Aga Khan
 Jainism	Dec 23 ~ Maunajiyaras
 Judaism	Dec 8 ~ First Day of Hanukkah Dec 15 - Last Day of Hanukkah
 Shinto	Dec 21 ~ Tohji-taisai
 Wicca	Dec 22 ~ Yule
 Zarathushti (Zoroastrianism)	Dec 26 ~ Anniversary of the Death of Prophet Zarathustra Dec 31 ~ Ghambar Maidyarem begins
Other Events This Month	Dec 12 - New Moon Dec 16 ~ Las Posadas Dec 21 ~ Pancha Ganapati Dec 22 - December Solstice Dec 26 ~ Kwanzaa Dec 27 - Full Moon