

Adrienne Clarkson News

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Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent: Michael Grieve

Vice Principal: Bryan Gerson

Trustee: Cindy Liang

Administrators' Message

It's hard to believe that the year is now half over! Over the past five months we have come together to support the academic, social and emotional growth of the children in our community. Exciting learning is happening in every classroom. In January we had an Electives Day for our Grade 4 to 8 students. Over 260 students enjoyed a day of skiing, snowboarding or snow tubing at Horseshoe Valley Resort while some students participated in organized activities at school. It was a successful and fun day for everyone!

Report cards will be sent home this month electronically. Please take the time to carefully review comments that relate to strengths, areas of need and next steps. Talk about the goals that your child is setting for him/herself at home and in the classroom. Now is a good time to review the work that students are doing at home - reading regularly, completing homework and reviewing information learned in class to prepare for the next day.

A very important reminder: please help your child be successful by being on time and ready to participate in the learning. If your child is eligible for bussing, we strongly encourage him/her to take the bus in the morning. Supervision begins at 7:50 to 8:05 am. If you are dropping your child off, please aim to be at the school by 8:00 am so your child can enter the school with his/her class and not feel rushed. Students should not be dropped off before 7:50 am as there is no supervision until 7:50 am.

We appreciate everything you do at home to support your child's learning!

Your partners in education,

Mme Russiello et M. Gerson

February

- Feb 1** ~ Jr. Boys Volleyball Tournament
- Feb 1** ~ Pizza Lunch Orders due
- Feb 2** ~ PA Day (no school)
- Feb 7** ~ Candygram Orders due
- Feb 8** ~ Lego Robotics Area Competition
- Feb 11** ~ Friendship Cookie Orders due
- Feb 13** ~ Lunar New Year Celebration (Lion Dance)
- Feb 14** ~ Red, White & Pink Day
- Feb 14** ~ Valentine's Day
- Feb 14** ~ Intermediate Dance
- Feb 14** ~ Milk Orders due
- Feb 16** ~ Dufflebag Theatre (Gr. 1-3)
- Feb 19** ~ Family Day (no school)
- Feb 19** ~ Popcorn Orders due
- Feb 20** ~ Caring & Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentation (Primary)
- Feb 20** ~ Term 1 Report Cards go home electronically this week
- Feb 22** ~ Caring & Safe Schools Mid Year Presentation (Junior)
- Feb 23** ~ Caring & Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentation (Intermediate)
- Feb 26** ~ David Lane Presentation (Gr. 4-6)
- Feb 27** ~ Int. Boys Basketball Tournament
- Feb 28** ~ Pink Shirt Day
- Feb 28** ~ Int. Girls Basketball Tournament
- Feb 28** ~ Lego Robotics Regional Competition
- Feb 29** ~ Grade 1 Kortright Trip

Kids Kitchen ~ Mondays & Thursdays
Popcorn ~ Wednesdays
Mr. Sub ~ Tuesdays
Kome Lunch ~ Wednesdays
Pizza Lunch ~ Fridays



February is Black History Month

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.



February 10 is Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a significant and meaningful cultural celebration for many people of East and Southeast Asian heritage including but not limited to Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and Indonesian communities. It is celebrated across the Asia-Pacific and diaspora communities around the world.

This holiday commemorates the first day of the Lunar Calendar. The date is determined by the appearance of the moon and usually takes place between late January to early February. The official names of the new year may differ depending on the country, such as Tết Nguyên Đán in Vietnam or Tahun Baru Cina in Malaysia. For some, this occasion has religious significance as well.



February 28 is Pink Shirt Day

February 28, 2024, is Pink Shirt Day which is a globally recognized day to support anti-bullying, upstanding behaviour, and simple acts of kindness. Wear a Pink Shirt or something pink to school on February 28th!

Celebrating Black History Month Events

Student Events and Family Engagement		
Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families. Register Here	Dr.Bette Stephenson Cafeteria
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr.Joi Spencer and Dr.Kerri Ullucci Register Here	Online Register to Receive Link
February 29, 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student & Families Light refreshments will be served. Register In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration. Register Here	Dr Bette Rm 113

Education Quality and Accountability Office



EQAO for 2023-24

Our Grade 3 students will be writing the Mathematics portion of the EQAO assessment and our Grade 6 students will be writing the Reading Writing and Mathematics EQAO assessment later this year. Please do not book appointments or vacations during the period of **Wednesday, May 8, to Wednesday, June 12, 2024**. More information for families will be provided as we approach these dates. Thank you for your cooperation.

Are You Moving?

If you will be moving by September 2024, please let us know as soon as possible.

We are currently projecting our student enrolment for September 2024. These numbers help us hire sufficient staff and support personnel. It is important that we know as soon as possible if your child will not be attending ACPS in September. This does not apply to our Grade 8 students.



Thank you for your assistance in preparing for the new school year. Please call the office with any information at 905-709-3554.



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.

Tips for Winter Walking

Walking to school in winter not only benefits student physical and mental health, well-being and academic performance, it's also fun.

Here are a few tips to help you stay safe and enjoy winter walks to school.

1. Dress for the weather. Wear layers. Don't forget your hat and mitts.
2. Protect your feet. Wear warm socks and winter boots. They will protect your feet from snow, rain and cold and have good grips.
3. Be visible. Wear bright clothes, stay on the sidewalks and make sure cars can see you when you cross the road.
4. Allow a little more time. Prepare your winter gear the night before, and give yourself a little more time to walk to school.
5. Try walking like a penguin. It's fun and practical.
6. Enjoy the snow. Catch snowflakes, talk about what you love most about the winter.
7. Obey road signs. The seasons change but road safety rules remain. Stop at roads and crosswalks. Cross with a crossing guard where possible. Look out for cars.

Use active travel wherever possible. We encourage families all year round wherever possible to take the school bus or school transportation, or to [choose active travel](#), like walking or biking. Active school travel benefits student mental health, well-being and academic performance, builds social connections and reduces traffic and pollution around schools.

It's never too early to start to teach road safety. Your child will become a safe, responsible and independent pedestrian by experience and practice. Starting them as young as kindergarten will equip them with the skills they need to walk on their own in all seasons at an earlier age.

If you are driving, please follow road rules. Remember that our school zones are busy with students and families. It is important that we all follow the rules to ensure student safety.

- Use the kiss and ride. Do not use dedicated bus lanes.
- Consider parking near the school and walking the rest of the way (obeying all neighbourhood parking rules).
- Obey all speed limits and road traffic signs in school zones.
- Focus on the road and watch for crossing guards and students crossing the road.

Working together, we can all help to keep students safe. For more information about how you can help to create a safe school transportation zone, please visit our [website](#).



Krypto

Krypto is a card game designed by Daniel Yovich in 1963. This game is a great opportunity to build flexibility with numbers and operations.

Goal: Be the first player to create a sequence to achieve the target card value.

How to Play: The [Krypto deck](#) consists of 56 cards: three each of numbers 1-6, four each of the numbers 7-10, two each of 11-17, one each of 18-25.

Six cards are dealt: a common target card at the top and five other cards below.

Each player must use all five of the cards' numbers exactly **once**, using any combination of operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), to form the target card's number.

The first player to come up with a correct sequence wins. Order of operations matters!

This can be played collaboratively with the same five numbers for all players or each player can have their own different set of five cards.

For example:

<i>Target Card: 20</i> <i>Playing Cards: 2, 1, 2, 2, 3</i>	<i>Target Card: 1</i> <i>Playing Cards: 24, 22, 23, 20, 21</i>
$2 + 1 = 3$	$22 + 24 = 46$
$3 \times 3 = 9$	$46 \div 23 = 2$
$9 \times 2 = 18$	$2 + 20 = 22$
$18 + 2 = 20$	$22 - 21 = 1$

Alternate Variations:

- **Primary Version:** To modify this game you can use a set of [Primary Krypto](#) cards in which the deck has three of each of the numbers from 1-10.

Please visit the [board's math page](#) for useful information about what students learn in school and for resources to support math learning at home.

Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations

To support and promote positive student behaviour, students will attend the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations. These presentations underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe, and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussing school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- YRDSB and School Code of Conduct (including items that are not to be brought to school)
- Staying safe online
- Progressive discipline, and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Promoting Behaviour

In the Mid-Year Presentation, students learn about following the YRDSB and the School Code of Conduct. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

Reporting Behaviour

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "Report It Button" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](tel:1-800-668-6868) (1-800-668-6868).

Mental Health

We will stress the importance of connection to students as we continue the school year. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping](#), [electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

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

Message from Our Trustee

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPS accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion registration](#) opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area - or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.









As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Cindy Liang, Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

Cindy Liang
Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

February's Holidays and Observances

 Bahá'í Faith	<p>7 Mulk</p> <p>26 Ayyám-i-Há</p>
 Buddhism	<p>10 Lunar New Year (4722) - Year of the Dragon</p> <p>10 Losar - Tibetan New Year</p> <p>15 Nehan-e (Nirvana Day)</p> <p>16 Nichiren Shonin's Birth date</p> <p>24 Magha Puja (Sangha) Day</p>
 Christianity	<p>13 Shrove Tuesday (W)</p> <p>14 Ash Wednesday (W)</p>
 Hinduism	<p>14 Vasanta Panchami</p>
 Indigenous Spirituality	<p>1 Midwinter Moon (local Oneida)</p>
 Islam	<p>7 Laylat al-Mi'rāj (Night Journey to Heaven) (beginning at sunset to sunset of the next day)</p> <p>24 Laylat al Baraat (Nişf Sha'bān) (beginning at sunset to sunset of the next day)</p>
 Shinto	<p>3 Setsubun-sai</p>
 Wicca	<p>2 Imbolc</p>
Other Events This Month	<p>Black History Month (Canada, USA)</p> <p>9 New Moon</p> <p>14 Valentine's Day</p> <p>19 Family Day</p> <p>24 Full Moon</p> <p>28 Pink Shirt Day</p>

EMPATHY AND ACTS OF KINDNESS



Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Empathy allows us to respond with compassion by putting ourselves in another person's shoes. Taking the time to understand someone's perspective teaches us to be openminded to the feelings and viewpoints of other individuals.

An act of kindness is an action that is performed to bring happiness to another person. Acts of kindness encourage us to understand the importance of helping others around us and in our community.

BE KIND: Acts of kindness for kids

- **B** – Buy a meal for someone in need
- **E** – Express a smile to someone who is sad
- **K** – Keep it simple: be respectful and say thank you
- **I** – Introduce yourself to a new student at school
- **N** – Notice a positive quality about a friend and give them a compliment
- **D** – Donate gently used clothing items, books, or toys you no longer play with

Why should we practice kindness and empathy?

- Develops our awareness and listening skills
- Teaches us the value of being selfless and helping others
- Fosters positive relationships with others and strengthens existing ones
- Increases our ability to deal with conflict
- Creates kinder people and communities

Resources

- [School Mental Health Ontario: Empathy](#)
- [School Mental Health Ontario: Acts of kindness](#)

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PUBLIC HEALTH

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york.ca/healthyschools