

Adrienne Clarkson News

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Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent: Lois Agard

Vice Principal: Bryan Gerson

Trustee: Cindy Liang

Administrators' Message

C'est la rentrée!! We would like to welcome everyone back to school for the 2022-2023 school year. "Bienvenue" to all of our new Grade 1 and 2 students and their families, along with the many other new students and families in our community. We are so happy to welcome all of our students back to school after such a long time away! We hope that you had a wonderful summer.

Excitement has definitely been in the air as our staff prepared the school for this new academic year. Special thanks to our caretaking staff and office staff for their many hours this summer to get the school looking amazing and the office up and running!

The summer has also brought some staffing changes to ACPS. We would like to welcome the following new teachers: Mme Chung, Mme Li, Mme Leong, Mme Tajahmady, Mme Manarin, Mme Zaranek, Mme Muralidharan, Mme Lipkowitz, Mme Bocknek, Mme Scarcella, and Mme Boucher.

For students, September always brings a mixed bag of emotions as we begin the school year. After being away from the school building for so many months, many of our students may be feeling enthusiasm about learning new things, excitement about reconnecting with friends or nervousness around meeting new teachers – these are all normal feelings that children may experience as the school year begins. As families, it is important to validate these feelings, but also to reassure your child that these emotions are part of a new challenge, and that there are many people to support him/her along the way. The key to success lies in the belief in ourselves that we can handle the challenges ahead as well as understanding and accepting that others can assist us to handle these challenges! A "growth mindset" is important in assisting our young people to become resilient.

Together, we look forward to this journey, as we help our students to learn and grow into responsible citizens.

Sincerely,

Mme Russiello et M. Gerson



Sept 6, 2022 - PA Day
Sept 7, 2022 - First Day of School
Sept 16, 2022 - Spirit Day (school colours - Blue and Orange)
Sept 22, 2022 - Terry Fox Walk/Run
Sept 23, 2022 - PA Day
Sept 26-30 - Safety Week
Sept 26, 27 - Rosh Hashanah
Sept 29, 2022 - Meet the Teacher Night
Sept 30, 2022 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Stay up to date with our weekly "Clarkson Connections" emails.

Visit our [school calendar](#) for events

Our Vision

We demonstrate respect for each other through our thoughts, actions and words. We accept that everyone is unique, with different abilities, beliefs, needs and strengths. We support and care for each other in the spirit of community. We are responsible for our learning and our behaviour and strive to be positive in our outlook and our interactions with others. We value independent, critical thinking and endeavour to make meaningful contributions to benefit our school and community, for it is through individual and collective efforts that we achieve a vibrant learning environment.

School Year Calendar for 2022-2023

Labour Day	Mon. Sep. 5, 2022
PA Day	Tues. Sep 6, 2022
	Friday Sep 23, 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Mon. Oct. 10, 2022
PA Day	Fri. Oct 21, 2022
	Fri, Nov. 18, 2022
Winter Break	Mon. Dec. 26, 2022 to Fri. Jan. 6, 2023
PA Day	Fri. Jan. 20, 2023
PA Day	Fri. Feb. 3, 2023
Family Day	Mon. Feb. 20, 2023
Mid-Winter Break	Mon. March 13 to Fri. March 17, 2023
Good Friday	Fri. April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	Mon. Apr. 10, 2023
Victoria Day	Mon. May 22, 2023
PA Day	Fri. June 2, 2023

ADRIENNE CLARKSON STAFF 2022-2023

Grade 1	Mme Chung Mme Li (LTO for Mme Bianco) Mme Leong Mme Tajamady
Grade 2	Mme Lauder Mme Pakjou Mme Yong
Grade 2/3	Mme Manarin Mme Pelliccione
Grade 3	Mme Demacio Mme Hamilton
Grade 4	Mme Briggs Mme Wayne
Grade 5	Mme Panzer/Mme Zaranek
Grade 5/6	Mme Clarke Mme Muralidharan (LTO For Mme Bianchi)
Grade 6	Mme Lipkowitz Mme Klein
Grade 7	Mme Burns M. Rudland Mme Scardina
Grade 7/8	Mme Bocknek (LTO Mme Malarczyk) M. Thornton
Grade 8	M. Bradford Mme Motomura
Music/Prep Coverage	M. Pang Mme Bocknek
Phys Ed/Prep Coverage	M. Mizrahi
Phys Ed/Prep Coverage	M. Konate
Visual Arts	Mme Gladman
SERT/Transitions	Mme Scardina
SERT/Prep Coverage	Mme Quirion
Prep Coverage	Mme Scarcella
Teacher Librarians	Mme Burns Mme Gladman
Child & Youth Worker	Mme Boucher
Office Staff	Mme Cizmar Mme Irving
Caretakers	M. Lucchetta M. Convery M. Dzuryk M. Parekh
Principal	Mme Russiello
Vice-Principal	Mr. Gerson

Daily Schedule at ACPS 2022-2023

7:50 a.m.	Busses unload & Open Entry begins
8:03 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:05 a.m.	Students enter the school
(Any student arriving after 8:05 a.m. must report to the office)	
8:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Instructional Time
10:05 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Recess
10:35 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Instructional Time
11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.	Lunch & Recess
12:55 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.	Instructional Time
2:35 p.m.	Dismissal
2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Bus Boarding

Attendance & Safe Arrival

We continue using the **Safe Arrival** system which allows parents/guardians to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently. Parents/guardians can now report student absences online.

Regular and punctual attendance affects school success and is expected of all students. It is important that students, families and school staff work together to ensure regular attendance. You are expected to notify the school as soon as possible if your child will be absent or late.

Reporting an absence online is now available through Edsby. If you have activated your Edsby account, you can login to Edsby and report your child's absence online. You can access an [online video tutorial to learn more](#) at bit.ly/edsbyabsence about how to do this.

If you have not yet created an Edsby account, please contact the school office.

Families can still continue to report absences by phone. Please call the school phone number and select the attendance mailbox. If your child's absence is not reported and we are unable to reach you, we will continue to follow the YRDSB safe arrival protocol and contact York Regional Police.

Keeping Staff and Students Safe!



ACPS is a peanut- & nut-free school

We have a number of students and staff who have life-threatening food allergies to peanuts/nuts or other by-products. If some of these individuals smell or come in contact with these foods, they may go into "anaphylactic shock", a potentially life-threatening condition. We ask all parents to please check the ingredient list of all snack and lunch items for peanut and nut products before sending them to school. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all children safe at school.

Student Medical Conditions

School staff and families are responsible for creating a safe and healthy environment for students. It is essential that parents communicate any life-threatening medical conditions/allergies to the school as soon as they are aware. The school needs to keep accurate records and inform staff of the condition so that proper procedures can be followed in case of an emergency. **If your child has a serious medical condition and you have not yet informed us, please communicate with our office staff immediately.**

Scent Sensitivities

Some children and adults also suffer from allergies to scents and perfumes. When exposed to such scents, it can become difficult for these people to breathe easily. **We ask that all children and adults entering the school refrain from wearing or using scented products (e.g., body sprays and perfumes, etc.) when coming to the school.** Although the scent may not be strong for you, it can be very strong to those with sensitivities. We appreciate your understanding.



Important Information and Forms

There will be important information sent to you electronically the week of September 12th. Please review this information, and complete and return the necessary online forms. This includes the forms in the Start-Up Package. **Please complete the forms by September 23, 2022.** Thank you for your continued cooperation. If any of your contact information changes over the course of the year, please email the school at adrienne.clarkson.ps@yrdsb.ca

Healthy School and Birthdays

While we understand that many families celebrate their children's birthdays with a variety of food traditions at home, **we request that you do not send any food items to school to be shared with classmates for birthdays.** There are a number of reasons for this request. As well, many children have serious food allergies and others have medical concerns such as Type 1 diabetes. Birthday treats and sharing should be a **home tradition.** We will continue to recognize our students on their birthdays in a variety of simple ways. Thank you for your cooperation.

Indoor Shoes Please

Our caretakers do an outstanding job of maintaining the clean and polished look of the floors in the school. Please support their efforts by ensuring that your children have indoor shoes for use in classrooms and in the gym—no black soles please, due to the stubborn marks they leave on the floors. This is particularly important during wet weather when boots and shoes track a great deal of dirt, snow and water into the school.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTINES

The majority of students at Adrienne Clarkson arrive and leave by bus. Students are given extensive support and education during the month of September to ensure their safety and comfort while boarding and riding the bus.

You can support their efforts by:



1. Reminding your child that he/she is to wear a mask while on the bus.
2. Ensuring that your child knows his/her bus route number and the name of the bus stop where s/he boards the bus from home.
2. Ensuring that your child arrives at the bus stop on time to board the bus and that young students are met promptly at the bus by an adult. Bus drivers have been instructed not to let young students off the bus unless there is an adult there to meet them. With no adult present, the bus driver will return the child to the school.
3. Talking to your child about safety issues on the bus such as: staying in their assigned seat, no eating or drinking, no throwing objects out of the window or in the bus, no loud conversations and no hands on others.
4. Ensuring that any time your child does not take the bus, the teacher is informed in writing that day.

If you need to change your afternoon pick-up plans, please ensure you inform the office before 1:30 pm.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are asked to come to school office, through the main doors when visiting the school during hours of operation. Visitors must sign in at the office and wait for the office staff to call the classroom teacher.



School Assistants Needed

We are looking for adults to help supervise students over the school lunch hour (11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.). This is a paid position. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the school office.



Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.



To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.

School Council

There is a large body of research that illustrates that children whose families take an active role in their education enjoy greater success in school and beyond. There are so many ways that one can be involved, from assisting with homework to volunteering at the school. As always we encourage you to play an important part in your child's education.

The school council is just one of the means by which you can support the education of your child and the children of this community. Members of our council work to enhance the learning environment here at Adrienne Clarkson PS. We encourage you to join our efforts as many hands make light work. On **Thursday, October 6th** the council will hold its election. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. Your commitment to the education of the children of this community will yield benefits for many years to come.

Caring and Safe Schools

As we start a new school year, it is important to us that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in our school that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. We are holding an assembly this week to talk about some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. You may want to have a conversation with your child about what they are learning about and what we discuss. Topics covered include:

Inappropriate Behaviour

Students are learning about about racism, discrimination and bullying and this learning will continue through the school year. Instances of racism, discrimination and bullying, are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline.

Students also need to know about safe behaviours in schools including what not to bring to school such as peanut products, vape products, weapons including replicas.

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 website) YRDSB's online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and/or incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information.
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)



Mental Health

We want to stress with students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. Positive mental health is closely tied to a sense of identity and safety for each individual. 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. This means we consider a range of 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 the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim 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/or student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This is in compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000) may apply. 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.

Students are reminded that threats and comments made online are taken seriously and may have serious 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 remains our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on each of these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

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