

# Adrienne Clarkson News

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Website: [adrienneclarkson.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://adrienneclarkson.ps.yrdsb.ca)  
Twitter: @AClarksonPS



**Principal:** Nadia Russiello

**Superintendent:** Lois Agard

**Vice Principal:** Ruth Walker-Rosewood

**Trustee:** Cindy Liang

## Administrators' Message

C'est la rentrée!! We would like to welcome everyone back to school for the 2021-2020 school year. "Bienvenue" to all of our new Grade 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. We are all looking forward to welcoming our face-to-face and remote learning students back to school for the 2021-22 school 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 Lauder and M. Rudland and we welcome Mme Dennis-Persaud back. We also welcome Mme Klein back from her leave. We would like to wish M. Silva well as he joins the caretaking team at Red Maple PS.

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, nervousness around meeting new teachers or worry about the safety guidelines they will need to follow – 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 Mme Walker-Rosewood*



**Sep 7 & 8** Board Holidays

**Sep 7** Rosh Hashanah

**Sep 8** Rosh Hashanah

**Sep 9** First Day of School

**Sep 16** Yom Kippur

**Sep 23** Welcome Night for  
Grade 2 & 3 Families

**Sep 30** Orange Shirt Day

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

Visit our [school calendar](#)  
for events and dates.



### 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 2020-2021

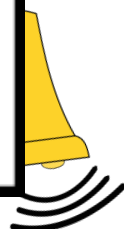
PA Day	Wed. Sep. 1, 2021
	Thurs. Sep. 2, 2021
	Fri. Sep. 3, 2021
Labour Day	Mon. Sep. 6, 2021
Board Holidays	Tues. Sep 7, 2021
	Wed. Sep 8, 2021
Thanksgiving Day	Mon. Oct. 11, 2021
PA Day	Fri. Nov. 19, 2021
Winter Break	Mon. Dec. 20, 2021 to Fri. Dec. 31, 2021
PA Day	Fri. Jan. 14, 2022
PA Day	Fri. Feb. 4, 2022
Family Day	Mon. Feb. 22, 2022
Mid-Winter Break	Mon. March 14 to Fri. March 18, 2022
Good Friday	Fri. April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	Mon. Apr. 18, 2022
Victoria Day	Mon. May 23, 2022
PA Day	Thurs. June 2, 2022

### Daily Schedule at ACPS 2021-2022

7:50 a.m.	Busses unload & Open Entry begins
8:03 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:05 a.m.	Students enter the school
<b>(Any student arriving after 8:05 a.m. must report to the office)</b>	
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

### ADRIENNE CLARKSON STAFF 2021-2022

Grade 2	Mme Lauder Mme Pakjou Mme Pelliccione Mme Yong
Grade 3	Mme Bertrand Mme Hamilton Mme Sheriff
Grade 4	Mme Briggs Mme Wayne
Grade 4 /5	M. Gourley
Grade 5	Mme Klein
Grade 5/6	Mme Clarke Mme Scardina
Grade 6	Mme Dennis-Persaud ( <i>for Mme Drodge</i> ) Mme Demacio
Grade 7	Mme Burns M. Rudland
Grade 7/8	Mme Malarczyk M. Thornton
Grade 8	M. Bradford Mme Motomura
Music/Prep Coverage	M. Pang Mme Malarczyk
Phys Ed/Grade 7	M. Mizrahi
Phys Ed/Prep Coverage	M. Konate
Visual Arts	Mme Gladman
SERT/Transitions	M. Gourley
SERT/Prep Coverage	Mme Quirion
Grade 5	Mme Panzer
Prep Coverage	Mme Bernard
Teacher Librarians	Mme Burns Mme Gladman
Child & Youth Worker	Mme Bryan
Office Staff	Mme Cizmar Mme Irving
Caretakers	M. Lucchetta M. Convery M. Dzuryk M. Parekh
Principal	Mme Russiello
Vice-Principal	Mme Walker-Rosewood



## 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](http://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

During the first week of school, there will be important information sent to you electronically. 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 24, 2021. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

## 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. York Region Public Health COVID 19 guidelines do not permit the sharing of food. 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. During the first week of school, students will also be assigned seats on the bus to adhere with York Region Public Health guidelines.

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 1:00 pm.**

## Visitors

Until further notice, visitors are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged exception.

It is expected that families first contact the school by telephone if assistance is required. All permitted visitors must wear a medical mask, sanitize their hands, maintain a 2-metre distance and complete a self-screening.

## 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](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://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 **Monday, October 4th** 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.

## Message from Our Trustee, September 2021

We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favourite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](#) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening). You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at [www.york.ca/safeatschool](http://www.york.ca/safeatschool).

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and to be successful.

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is so important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

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