

Adrienne Clarkson News

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Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent: Michael Grieve

Vice Principal: Bryan Gerson

Trustee: Cindy Liang

Administrators' Message

C'est la rentrée!! We would like to welcome everyone back to school for the 2023-2024 school year. "Bienvenue" to all of our new Grade 1 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 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 teachers to our school: Mme Kazdan, Mme Plener, Mme Worrell and we welcome Mme Bertrand, Mme Bocknek, Mme Brown, Mme Hunt, Mme Li and Mme Muralidharan back. We also welcome M. Colantonio to our caretaking team and Mme Siguenza as our CYW.

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 what the new year will bring – 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 them 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



Sep 5- First Day

Sep 8- Welcome Assembly

Sep 12-14- Caring & Safe
Schools Assemblies

Sep 15 - Spirit Day - School
Colours (Blue and Orange)

Sep 15- Start Up Forms due

Sep 22 - PA Day

Sep 25-29 - Safety Week

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 2023-2024

School Holidays:

Labour Day	Mon. Sep. 4, 2023
Thanksgiving Day	Mon. Oct. 9, 2023
Winter Break	Mon. Dec. 25, 2023 to Fri. Jan. 5, 2024
Family Day	Mon. Feb. 19, 2024
Mid-Winter Break	Mon. Mar. 11, 2024 to Fri. Mar. 15, 2024
Good Friday	Fri. Mar. 29, 2024
Easter Monday	Mon. Apr. 1, 2024
Victoria Day	Mon. May 20, 2024

PA Days

1. Friday, September 22, 2023
2. Friday, October 20, 2023
3. Friday, November 17, 2023
4. Friday, January 19, 2024
5. Friday, February 2, 2024
6. Friday, June 7, 2024
7. Friday, June 28, 2024

Last Day of School:

Thursday, June 27, 2024

ADRIENNE CLARKSON STAFF 2023-2024

Grade 1	Mme Chung Mme Bertrand (<i>for Mme Leong</i>) Mme Kazdan Mme Tajahmady Mme Worrell (<i>for Mme Simba</i>)
Grade 2	Mme Hunt Mme Lauder Mme Pakjou Mme Yong
Grade 3	Mme Brown Mme Demacio Mme Manarin
Grade 4	Mme Pieper (Briggs) Mme Wayne
Grade 4 /5	Mme Zaranek & Mme Panzer
Grade 5	Mme Clarke
Grade 5/6	Mme Bocknek
Grade 6	Mme Lipkowitz Mme Plener
Grade 7	M. Rudland M. Thornton
Grade 7/8	Mme Burns & Mme Scardina
Grade 8	Mme Muralidharan (<i>for Mme Bianchi</i>) Mme Motomura
Music/Prep Coverage	Mme Malarczyk M. Konate
Phys Ed/Prep Coverage	M. Mizrahi M. Konate M. Thornton Mme Quirion
Visual Arts/Prep Coverage	Mme Li
SERT/Transitions	Mme Scardina
SERT/Prep Coverage	Mme Quirion
Teacher Librarians	Mme Burns Mme Li
Child & Youth Worker	Mme Siguenza
Office Staff	Mme Cizmar Mme Irving
Caretakers	M. Colantonio Mme Camba M. Dzuryk M. Silvert
Principal	Mme Russiello
Vice-Principal	M. Gerson

Attendance & Safe Arrival

Daily Schedule at ACPS 2023-2024

7:50 a.m. Buses 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

We continue using the **Safe Arrival** system which allows families to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently.

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 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 families 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 students and adults entering the school refrain from wearing or using scented products (e.g., body sprays and perfumes, etc.).** 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 15, 2023. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Please note that the OFFICE messaging account on EDSBY is not monitored. Please ensure you communicate with the office any changes to student information such as home address, parent/guardian contact information, etc. This will ensure timely updates to the system. If you have sent us a note on Edsby, changes were not captured. Please email the office: adrienne.clarkson.ps@yrdsb.ca Thank you.

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. 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.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTINES

The majority of students at Adrienne Clarkson arrive and leave by bus. Students are given 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 1:00 pm. We request that you DO NOT show up at the busses at the end of the day looking for your child. Family members are not permitted in the bus loop for safety reasons.

Visitors

A reminder that all visitors are to sign in at the main office.



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.



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.

Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your child'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 #680.0:



- Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 – a child who lives more than 1.2 kilometres from the school is eligible for Board-provided transportation;
- Grade 4 to Grade 8 – a child who lives more than 1.6 kilometres from the school is eligible for Board- provided transportation; and
- Grades 9 to 12 – a secondary student living more than 3.2 kilometres from the nearest secondary school in an area not served by public transit is eligible for Board-provided transportation.

A secondary school student served by public transit is **not** eligible for Board-provided transportation.

To view Board Policy #680.0 Student Transportation, please visit [the board website](#). For more information about bus transportation and to determine your child'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 **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 2023

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school 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 has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.












This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

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

September Holidays and Observances

 Bahá'í Faith	Sep 8 ~ 'Izza Sep 27 ~ Mashíyyat
 Buddhism	Sep 7 ~ Birth date of H.H. Sakya Trizin Sep 12 ~ Anniversary of the Tatsunokuchi Persecution Sep 20 ~ Festival of Higan-e Sep 22 ~ Eihei Dogen Kigen Memorial
 Hinduism	Sep 7 ~ Sri Krishna Jayanti Sep 19 ~ Ganesh Chaturthi Sep 30 ~ Pitru Paksha
 Jainism	Sep 12 ~ Paryushana-parva begins Sep 20 ~ Paryushana-parva ends Sep 20 ~ Dashalakshani-parva begins Sep 20 ~ Samvatsari Sep 28~ Ananta-chaturdasi Sep 29 ~ Ksamavani Sep 29 ~ Dashalakshani-parva ends
 Judaism	Sep 15 ~ Eve of Rosh Hashanah Sep 16 ~ Rosh Hashanah (New Years Day, 5784) Sep 17 ~ Rosh Hashanah (New Years Day, 5784) Sep 24 ~ Eve of Yom Kippur Sep 25 ~ Yom Kippur Sep 29 ~ Eve of Sukkot Sep 30 ~ First Day of Sukkot
 Islam	Sep 26 ~ Mawlid al-Nabīy (beginning at sunset to sunset of the next day)
 Shinto	Sep 23 ~ Shūbun-no-hi
 Sikhism	Sep 1 ~ First Parkash
 Zarathushti (Zoroastrianism)	Sep 12 ~ Ghambar Paitishem begins Sep 16~ Ghambar Paitishem ends
 Indigenous Spirituality	Sep 1 - Harvest Moon (local Oneida)
 Wicca	Sep 23 ~ Mabon
Other Events This Month	Sep 30 ~ Orange Shirt Day (Canada) Sep 30 ~ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Canada)



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

September 2023

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

First Day of a New School Year!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are happy to see all of you.

At YRDSB, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where mental health is prioritized and nurtured. Together, let us create a school community that embraces mental wellness, celebrates diversity, and supports one another on this incredible journey of education and personal growth.

We acknowledge that many feelings and emotions accompany the start of a new school year for students, parents and educators. From excitement to nervousness, anxiety to joy and everything in between. Whatever feelings and emotions accompany your child(ren) or family, know they are valid, important and okay. Talking to your child(ren) about their first day feelings can be a great way to encourage conversation about experiences and emotions all year long!

In this edition we will focus on the firsts of the new year- new school, first drop-off, kindergarten or high school.

Creating a routine at the beginning of a new school year offers predictability and consistency and can be helpful to children, parents and teachers! Building skills to take care of our feelings as we go through the new year can happen at any time. Asking questions about your child(ren)'s day such as " What did you feel walking into your classroom?", "How do you know you're feeling happy when you see your



YRDSB Mental Health

friends?”, “What made you feel excited/hopeful/worried about today?” can help normalise the feelings of each day.

We want to use the start of the year as a reminder to [take care of yourselves](#) throughout the year, and to know that if challenges arise we can [solve problems](#) together. We want all of our students to know that there are caring adults that will help them navigate all that this year may bring. When students feel supported and cared for by those around them, they are better able to engage in new learning and embrace new opportunities.

We are better together. Looking forward to a year of learning, discovery, and joy alongside you.

Supportive Resources:

[Mental Health Resources in York Region](#)

[YorkHills Here to Help Line](#) (905-503-9561)

The Here to Help Line is a free service available to children/youth (0-18 years) and their parents/caregiver/adult supporters. Monday to Thursday from 2:00pm-7:00p.m

[Family Services York Region](#) (905-895-2371)

Virtual walk in is operated on a first come, first serve basis, and can be accessed once per month. Virtual appointments can be 15 minutes to 1.5 hours long depending on your specific needs. Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account [@YRDSB](#)

Follow YRDSB Mental Health on Twitter [@MH_YRDSB](#)

Free Community events:

Parents

York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

- September 11, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Triple P Seminar #1 – The Power of Positive Parenting](#)
- September 13, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Teen Triple P Seminar #2 – Raising](#)



YRDSB Mental Health

[Competent Teenagers](#)

- September 18, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Triple P Seminar #2 – Raising Confident Competent Children](#)
- September 19, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Understanding ASD Learning Styles and Effective Teaching Strategies](#)
- September 20, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Teen Triple P Seminar #3 – Getting Teenagers Connected](#)
- September 25, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Triple P Seminar #3 – Raising Resilient Children](#)
- September 27, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Promoting Resiliency in Teens- Triple P](#)

Students

York Services Support Network

- Single Session Counseling
 - [Tuesdays in September – 9:30 – 10:30 am](#)
 - [Tuesdays in September – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm](#)
 - [Thursdays in September 11:00 am– 12:00 pm](#)
 - [Thursdays in September 12:30 – 1:30 pm](#)
- To keep up with other offerings: [YSSN Events](#)

Families

PFlag

- [Coffee Night](#), held every second Monday of the month, is a safe space where members of the LGBTQ2 community, their friends, family or allies can come together.
- [Online Registration](#)

This edition of the Newsletter was written by the Student Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Implementation Team 2023–2024, inclusive of YRDSB School Social Workers Afsaneh Zafarani, Kate Phillips and Peter Reid.

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YRDSB Mental Health

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Fun Fair and Meet & Greet

Celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot



Please join us to foster cultural understanding to celebrate the Jewish holidays in September. Come meet fellow families and community members and help to create an identity affirming environment for Jewish learners.

This celebration is for YRDSB students, parents/caregivers and community members to learn about Jewish traditions, customs and practices.

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Location: Westmount Collegiate Institute

Fun Activities

Acknowledgment of holiday traditions and games

Holiday related art activity

Jewish community questionnaire/survey

Kosher food will be available for purchase sold by Kosher Pickle food truck

Jewish resources

Jewish holiday dance performed by Bounce Entertainment

You will also have an opportunity to meet the YRDSB Jewish Community and Partnership Developer from Inclusive School and Community Services, Diana Talis

To Register

Scan the QR code or fill out the [Registration Form](#)

If you have any further questions regarding this community event, please reach out to diana.talis@yrdsb.ca or iscs@yrdsb.ca.



Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12.

Elementary Language Classes

Elementary classes are extra-curricular language learning opportunities available in-person or remotely. Classes are 2.5 hours and take place once per week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM).

Register by **Monday, September 11, 2023** to attend the full language program in its entirety.

For more information about the elementary program, visit the ILIL [Elementary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Secondary Credit Program

Secondary credit courses take place online once per week for 3.7 hours. Courses run from September to June for the full program year, and take place on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM).

Registration is now open until the third class.

For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL [Secondary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Please Note:

- Courses offered are subject to enrolment and teacher availability.
- Stacked classes may be created based on registration numbers.
- Not all languages are offered at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Additional fees are required for international fee-paying visa students.

Languages Offered:

Arabic
Cantonese
Dari
Farsi
Filipino
German
Greek
Gujarati
Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Macedonian
Mandarin (Simplified)
Mandarin (Traditional)
Punjabi
Ojibwe
Russian
Sinhala
Spanish
Tamil
Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese
Yoruba