

September 14th, 2016

Important Upcoming Dates

16th	Agenda Planner (\$5) Payment Due on School Cash Online
26th	P.A. Day - No school for students
27th	School Bus Evacuation Day
28th	School Bus Evacuation Day
29th	Meet the Staff Night 6:00-7:30 p.m. More details to follow

For your Information....

ACT NOW! PIZZA LUNCH & MILK PROGRAM

PIZZA orders are now being accepted via [School Cash Online](#) but **only until SEPTEMBER 30th!** First round begins October 5th through December 21st.

MILK order is also open on School Cash Online and **only until September 30th!** First round begins October 3rd until December 23rd.

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT- Mark your Calendars!

Our **annual Meet the Staff** night will be held on **Thursday, September 29th** from **6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** This is an opportunity to meet the staff that support your child, tour the school and learn more about our school and programs. We hope to see you there!

SCHOOL & CLASS REORGANIZATION

Enrolment numbers are constantly fluctuating and increased enrolment may result in the need to reorganize some of our classes later in September. This means that some students may be moved into another classroom with another teacher. We will continue to monitor the situation closely. Compliance to the class size requirements of the Ministry of Education is a must. If a reorganization is required, it is our intention to cause the least amount of disruption for students and staff. We will keep you informed. If you have any questions, please contact us at the school. Requests for changes in class assignments cannot be accommodated at this time.

COMBINED GRADES

This year, we currently have 6 combined grades classes. This does not include FDK classes. If you would like more information about combined/split grades classes, please [click here](#) or visit www.yrdsb.ca and search for combined grades.

SAFE TRAVEL TO/FROM SCHOOL

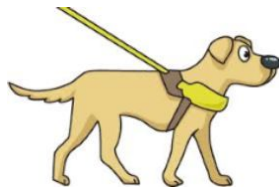
Students who ride bicycles, scooters or skateboards to school must:

- * Wear a helmet—for bikes, it is the law!
- * Keep the bicycle locked on the bicycle rack
- * Walk the bicycle, scooter or skateboard on & off school property



Do you PICK UP your child?

We request that parents who pick up their child at the end of the day, please wait outside your child's designated entry/exit door. **Waiting outside teacher classrooms distract children, make end of day routines difficult to complete and violates our Safe School's Policy.** We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



DOGS AT SCHOOL

When coming to the school to pick up or drop off your child, please keep dogs (or other animals) away from door entries. Dogs must be on a leash at all times. We ask that you be respectful of students and community members who may be afraid of dogs. The Kindergarten Corral is off limits to all pets. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Have you been to a school council meeting?
Why not join us!

Our first school council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, OCTOBER 6th** starting at 6:45 PM in our school Learning Commons.

A variety of topics are discussed during these meetings. We usually end by 8:30 PM
Looking forward to seeing you there!



NUT SAFE ZONE

A friendly reminder that Alexander Muir is a nut-safe zone. Please do not send in nuts, nut products to school. We thank you for your support. If your child has a medical condition and/or an allergy please be sure to complete the appropriate information on the **YELLOW** forms and return with medication. A signed STAFF or SELF administration of Medication, Emergency Health Care Plan & Anaphylactic Reactions Protocol forms will also be required. (These will be sent home after receipt of **YELLOW** forms). Please note that it is board policy that any student that uses an EpiPen have two available at school at all times. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

SAFE ARRIVAL Program

Getting to school every day and on time is extremely important. Learning occurs daily, right from the start of class. Studies have shown that morning hours are most crucial as this is when students are most attentive. Arriving late to class not only distracts other students, but it also creates challenges for some students to understand assignments when they have missed the in-depth lesson. Please try to help your child(ren) arrive to school on time.



Reporting Student Absence or Lateness

Our school operates in accordance to York Region District School Board's **Safe Arrival Program**. This program enhances the safety of elementary students by working directly with parents, guardians and caregivers to communicate student lateness and absences in a timely manner on a daily basis.

Under the board policy, parents are responsible for:

- Informing the school of **any and all** absences or lateness of their child in a timely manner;
- Informing the school prior to a planned lateness or absence of their child; and
- Providing the school with complete and current emergency information to enable the school to make any necessary follow-up contacts

We take your child's safety very seriously. The office staff (Mrs. Komar & Mrs. Malcolm) reconcile on a daily basis; immediately upon arrival of students in the morning and directly after the lunch hour, student absences or lateness information obtained through the classroom attendance and the school's attendance reporting telephone line. Through this reconciliation, the office is able to identify any unexplained absences that will require prompt follow-up.

If we do not receive a telephone call/voice mail or note explaining your child's absence or lateness, the office staff make telephone calls until an explanation for the absence has been obtained. If an explanation for the absence can not be obtained even after exhausting all emergency contact numbers, we are required to contact the York Region Police.

Our safe arrival procedure is a critical component for ensuring the safety of your children. To help us account for students absences in a timely manner we would request that you contact us as soon as you are aware of an absence or late. Help us by informing the school prior to the start of the school day by leaving a message on the absence line at **any time** during the night or early morning. We thank you.

Please keep your emergency contact information up to date. Please send a note or call us if any of your important phone numbers, emergency contacts or address have changed.

RECREATION PROGRAM
For students in grades 6 to 8
Program includes sports, leadership & skill development, homework help, cooking, special guests, art, and daily healthy snacks!
Alexander Muir Public School
Tuesdays and Thursdays
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Pre-registration Required
Fall 2019
Dates: October 1st - November 14th
For more information please visit
www.york.ca/dropzone or call
905-953-5300, press 2, ext. 2822
York Region
Newmarket

DROP ZONE for students in Grades 6 to 8

Our school will once again host the Town of Newmarket DROP ZONE every Tuesday & Thursday after school for students in grades 6 to 8. Find more information contact www.york.ca/dropzone or call 905-953-5300, press 2 then extension 2822.

Student Use of Technology and Internet @ Alex. Muir

“Educational Purposes Only”

Use of computers, cameras, cell phones, video/audio recording devices at school is intended for **educational purposes only**.

This means that you require teacher permission to use them at school.

This also means that you are **being directly supervised** by a **teacher and/or staff member (in view of staff)** during use.

Use of audio devices with headphones i.e. ipod during recesses and lunch hours is permitted with teacher permission (audio book, music).

This privilege can be taken away .



- MedicAlert membership:
- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the 24 Hour Emergency Hotline.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the Hotline
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information go to www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a No Child Without brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the No Child Without program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 x 1 to update your child's file.

PARKING LOT/DROP OFF SAFETY

Student safety requires everyone's cooperation. We continue to experience safety issues in our parking lot due to the sheer volume of cars dropping off students. PLEASE review this diagram and note the items below. Thank you for helping to ensure the safety of all of our school community members.

KISS 'N' RIDE

Refers to a space where you can drop off or pick up your child. _____ . This means that there is **NO stopping or parking** in this area.

PARKING

These designated areas are for those who wish to park/stop in order to walk their child into the school.

TRAFFIC FLOW

The purple arrows indicate the flow of traffic. The parking lot is a ONE WAY loop. Please be sure to follow the traffic flow and DO NOT STOP or PARK in these areas.

The bus loop at the side of the school is for **BUSES & EMERGENCY VEHICLES ONLY**. **DO NOT ENTER** the bus loop to drop of your children.



SNACK SHACK is back! All items \$2.00

The AMPS Snack Shack will be open for business starting tomorrow and every Tuesday/Thursday morning recess after. Snack shack will remain open for the first ten minutes of morning recess on these days. You can find the snack shack in the front foyer outside the office. Current items include Baked Cheetos, Cheddar Crispy Minis, Goldfish crackers and Popcorn (Butter/Salt, White Cheddar). All items \$2.00. All items are peanut/nut safe. Ingredient lists are available upon request. Watch for new additions like themed cookies and Dill Pickle popcorn!

Conquering Classroom Fears

We asked our Facebook fans what worries their children most about heading back to school after summer break. Here are three top fears with some basic solutions you can start today.

44%
are afraid of
not making friends



Three tips to help your child boost buddy bonding:

1. Share a fun story about a pal you made in school.
2. Arrange play dates before the school year begins.
3. Encourage sociable habits like sharing.

A few simple fixes to make the transition easier:

1. Develop a morning routine so she knows what to expect.
2. Let him carry a small keepsake as a reminder of you.
3. Tell them you love them and will be back right after school ends.

35%
are worried about
separation anxiety



9%
worry they won't
like the teacher



Top tricks for fostering a strong child/teacher bond:

1. Always attend open-school or meet the teacher night.
2. Read books that include kind teacher characters.
3. Teach your child to ask for what he needs, whether it's a bathroom break or help with a math problem.



Triple P Tip of the Month ~SEPTEMBER~ Coping with Stress

Being a parent is busy and demanding and it's normal to feel stressed at times. However, if parents have a high level of stress, it can be hard for them to deal with their children's behavior calmly and may be less likely to spend time with them. Children are likely to grow up happy and learn what's expected of them when parents are consistently calm.

KEY STEPS:

- Think about helpful changes you can make to your lifestyle
- Try to notice tension early
- Find a relaxation technique that suits you and use it when you feel tense
- Think of coping statements to say to yourself when stressful situations arise
- Make sure you believe what you are saying to yourself
- Catch and challenge any unhelpful thoughts that increase your stress and replace them with more realistic or helpful ways of thinking about the situation



Don't forget to check out the new Triple P Ontario website for online resources and podcasts for parents of children from birth to teens. www.triplepontario.ca


MUIR ON SOCIAL MEDIA: TWITTER, FACEBOOK & SCHOOL BLOG



We invite you to join us online for additional communications.


Twitter @AlexMuirPS. Check out our school website too!

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermuir.ps>



York Region Public Health

Bounce Back & Thrive!



Are you a parent or caregiver of children eight years of age and under?



Join York Region Public Health's FREE Program for Parents!

Attend in-person sessions that are led by registered nurses and learn to:

- "Bounce back" from every day stress and hard times
- Relieve stress and calmly solve problems and conflicts
- Help your children handle disappointment, anger and frustration
- Help your children feel good about themselves, confident and hopeful for the future

For more information about **Bounce Back & Thrive!** contact York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or email us at HC@york.ca

Registration is available online at york.ca/bbt




1-800-361-5653
TTY: 1-866-252-9933

York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services
Public Health

york.ca



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