



E BULLETIN - AURORA HEIGHTS PS SCHOOL SCOOP - September 13, 2021



Principal: Jennifer Anderson Superintendent: Neil Gunathunge Trustee: Bob McRoberts
 Vice Principal: Jodi Fine neil.gunathunge@yrdsb.ca bob.mcroberts@yrdsb.ca

DATE/DATE	EVENT	UPCOMING EVENTS
Monday, September 13 Day 3	All Kindergarten students - full day	<i>September 30 - Orange Shirt Day</i>
Tuesday, September 14 Day 4		
Wednesday, September 15 Day 5		
Thursday, September 16 Day 1	Yom Kippur	
Friday, September 17 Day 2		

Information

From the Office: Welcome to a new school year! We hope you and your family have stayed healthy and safe during the summer break. We also hope that everyone is as excited as we are to begin the school year. Our sincere thanks to our Caretaking Team, for all of their hard work over the summer months ensuring the school is in top shape for the start of the year and that all the new protocols and operating procedures have been put in place. A big thank you to Mrs. Doolan and Ms. McCabe who have prepared everything in the Office so we are ready to go. The staff at Aurora Heights continue to learn how to ensure the safety, health and well-being of our students. They have completed many training modules and have been working hard to ensure a smooth beginning to the school year and the classrooms are ready for learning.

We have a dedicated staff with a strong commitment to student well-being and achievement, and to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected. As partners in education, we support each other's efforts on behalf of our students. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

School Parking Lot: We have a very limited number of parking spaces for school staff and volunteers. We kindly ask that if you need to drive your child/ren to/from school that you park at the Aurora Community Centre directly behind our school (located at 1 Community Centre Lane). In the morning, you may walk your child/ren to our supervision area. In the afternoon, you may meet your child on the tarmac and walk with them back to your vehicle.

COVID Screening: A new [screening tool](#) for the 2021/2022 school year has been provided by York Region Public Health (please check for symptoms daily). **This screening tool must be completed each day** by all students and staff prior to attending any YRDSB school or facility.

Parents/Guardians or students in grades 7 and 8 will have to provide confirmation of a successful screening as follows:

1. Parents/Guardians/grades 7 and 8 students are required to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) prior to their child entering the school.

2. Upon completion of the self-assessment, Parents/Guardians/grades 7 and 8 students will complete the response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening tool?" in the [Confirmation Form](#) using their child's/their GAPPs account login information.

Any students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine) or answer yes to any of the screening questions, must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool.

Vaccination Clinics: York Region Public Health will be offering after school walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics for students, staff and their families requiring a first and/or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Weekend clinics will also be open to the public. Children and youth born in 2009 and earlier are currently eligible to be vaccinated. If you or your child/ren have not received a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, we want to make it as easy as possible. York Region Public Health will be offering walk-in vaccination clinics, with no appointment required. Please visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine for further information.

Early ON Programs: Early ON Child and Family Centre offers a variety of virtual programs for children ages 2 to 6 years. Please visit www.earlyonsec.com for more information.

Message from our Trustee Bob McRoberts:

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. You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at 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 decimation 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 important. 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 pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead

Bob McRoberts, Trustee – Aurora and King