



Aurora Senior News

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Aurora, Ontario
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905.727.9751

Jodi Sepkowski
Principal

Claudia Fischer
Vice-Principal

**Gayle Brocklebank-
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Superintendent
905.884.4477

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905.713.1729



Upcoming Dates

Jan. 14 - School Council
Committee Meeting @ 7 pm

Jan. 16 - Williams HS and
Aurora HS Information
Sessions

Jan. 17 - PA Day

Jan. 21 - Grade 8 Grad
Photos

Jan. 31 - Term 1 Ends

Feb. 17 - Family Day

January 2014

www.aurorasenior.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

A Message from your Administration Team

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your families and we wish you all the best for a very happy 2014!

In December, and in the holiday spirit of thinking of others, we had a Hat/Mitten and Food Drive, Holiday Open House, Bake Sales and Spirit Toonie Days in order to support families in need in our community. We would like to thank all of our families for their support during these events.

This month, we do have a PA Day on January 17th, and although the students are not in the building on PA days, these days are incredibly industrious for our staff and focus on student achievement. Also happening this month, our grade 8 students and their parents will be attending Secondary School Information Evenings which will be followed by grade 9 course selection and information regarding Kindergarten registration, French Immersion and the Arts programs are found in this newsletter with more information to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Many things have already taken place this term, and it has been wonderful to watch our students learn and grow. To our families, thank you for your continued support as we plan to meet your child's social, emotional, and academic needs. We appreciated your tremendous support throughout 2013 and look forward to continuing to work together in 2014!

Jodi Sepkowski
Principal

Claudia Fischer
Vice-Principal

Locked School Doors

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front doors and doors to portables, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be available in January. Measures will also be put in place to lock port-a-pack doors.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Devins Drive Public School on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Devins Drive P.S. to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1 -8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

arts@baythorn

Would your child enjoy learning the Ontario curriculum through the Arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. Students currently in grades four and five may apply for the arts@baythorn program, where they will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music while meeting the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum for grades five, six, seven, and eight.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, students and their families are invited to attend an information evening at **Baythorn Public School on Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Applications will be on line via the school website and available after January 16, 2014.

www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Please call us at Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992, if you require further information.

LOST AND FOUND



Our Lost and Found bin is filling up. Please remind your child to check for missing items. Should you be in the school, please take time to check the Lost and Found outside the Office. Unclaimed items will be donated.

WEATHER WATCH



All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal or vice-principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch. We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions e.g. wind chill; we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.

We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others.

Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the younger children will help make recess an enjoyable time.

OFFICE TELEPHONE



The student phone in the office is to be used in emergency situations only. Please ensure that your child comes to school with everything necessary for the day, i.e. lunch, books, water bottle, after-school arrangements, when they need to be in the office for appointments, etc. It is very disruptive to have students leaving the class to make phone calls or having office staff having to interrupt the class. We know in some situations it is necessary but we would like to try and keep this to a minimum.

ABSENCES AND LATES

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible to communicate any absence or lateness to the school office. If we do not receive a telephone call or note explaining your child's absence, the office staff makes calls until an explanation for the absence has been obtained (this is the "Safe Arrival Program"). Please help us by calling the office to report any absences. A message can be left on the attendance line at **any time** during the night or day by calling (905)727-9751, to record your message. Please make sure you have provided the school with your complete and current contact information.

STAFF PARKING LOT

A friendly reminder to parents that we only have a limited amount of parking spaces and they are reserved for staff.

We encourage parents to use our lower parking lot or to walk their children to school.

Thank you for your co-operation

LUNCH DROP OFF ROUTINE



If you need to drop a lunch off for your child, please bring it to the table outside the main office and be sure to clearly label it with your child's name and teacher's name.

REPORTING TO THE OFFICE

Please remember that the first place to visit at school is the office. The only way that we can assure the safety of all students is with your full participation! A "Sign-In" sheet is located in the office, and requires all visitors or volunteers to sign in when entering the building. Please sign in at the office and obtain a "Visitor" badge so that you can quickly be identified by staff in the halls. Going directly to your child's classroom only causes confusion in the hallways.

SCHOOL ASSISTANTS!!

If you are able to help out at the school and would like to have a paid job (1 hour/day), please contact the office at 905.727.9751



On February 27, 2014, auditions will be held at John McCrae Public School for students wishing to be part of the York Regional Elementary Enrichment Band. Any experienced Grade 6/7/8 student interested in being included in this music enrichment activity should discuss it with his/her music teacher. More information is available at our website www.yreeb.com

What happens to Lunch Lady on a Snow Day?

Regardless if busses are cancelled, if the school is open we deliver! If your child will not be going to school please call us at 905 726-8700 or email at maryw@thelunchlady.ca before 8:00am to cancel your child's lunch and we will give you a 100% credit to your account for that lunch.

Thank you,
The Lunch Lady



Let it Snow!



With the winter season upon us, people of all ages are looking forward to the joys of snow. Most children rank snowballing high on the list of fun winter activities. Unfortunately, when we have hundreds of students tramping through the snow it becomes icy and safety becomes a concern. We have instructed our students that for **safety reasons, deliberate snowball throwing at other students is unacceptable behaviour.** There may be times when a teacher may supervise a snow activity such as snow/ice sculpture building if conditions are appropriate; however, with the exception of these activities, and the making of snowmen or snow forts, **snow must stay out of students' hands and on the ground at all times**



INDOOR SHOES, PLEASE

Please ensure that your son or daughter has a pair of indoor shoes at school. A pair of shoes dedicated to indoor activities really helps us to keep our classrooms, gym and library clean.

Homework Help: <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>. This is a website that provides free math homework help to students in grades 7-10 funded by the Ontario government and administered by TVO's Independent Learning Centre.



Honesty
 We behave in a sincere, trustworthy and
 truthful manner



BOARD VISION

We unite in our purpose
 to inspire and prepare
 learners for life in our
 changing world



We are Aurora Senior Public School

*We are ambitious in our learning and we try our very best to achieve our goals.
 Success is everyone's accomplishment to celebrate.*

*We take responsibility for our work, our words, and our actions and we try to make
 good choices.*

*We encourage one another to learn new and important lessons by taking risks and
 making mistakes.*

*We take care of ourselves and respect each other so we can learn, laugh, and live
 each day to the fullest.*

*We treat each other fairly, truthfully, and honestly, always remembering how we
 would like to be treated.*

*We accept, honour, and celebrate our differences because we know that it's what is
 on the inside that matters most.*

*We try to make a difference every day by keeping our school healthy, safe, clean,
 and happy.*

*We welcome everyone in our work and play so that everyone feels included and has
 a role to play.*

At Aurora Senior, everyone belongs!



Operation Sparrow is a local non-profit organization whose aim is to promote and facilitate the participation of children ages 3-18 in physical and cultural activities, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Opportunities with local groups, including karate and art, are being offered (subject to availability).

Call (905) 716-1447 now for information.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION PICTURES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014



ASPS SCHOOL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

The next school council committee meeting is
Tuesday, January 14 at 7 pm in the school library.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

You do not need to be a voting member to attend and
participate in council.

Please join us at our next meeting.





Heart and Stroke Corner – January 2014 Edition

Tip of the Month

As the height of winter is upon us we have to worry about our children's physical activity and spending too much time in front of a screen. "There is a demonstrable association between screen time and lack of physical activity and obesity. And if children are engaged in the screen, they are not engaged in society or the family," says pediatrician Dr. Glen Ward, member of the CPS Public Advisory committee. So how can we manage screen habits in a healthy way that works for everyone? A few tips from screen-savvy families: **Keep bedrooms screen free**- keep a basket in the hall, by 8pm, all gadgets go in there **Make a plan together**- get input from all family members how technology is used, time allotment, agreement that chores and homework need to be done first **Turn it off**- sounds simple but how often is the tv during dinner or texting during a real conversation? By powering down, not only are you reducing screen time, you're setting an example with your own behaviour. **Consider the alternatives**- If the screen is your kids' go-to downtime activity, give them other options. Consider playing a game of table hockey after dinner every night, or stocking the cupboard with crafts and crossword puzzles. "It starts with you," says Ward. "Turning on the TV is easier than sitting down and playing Scrabble. But are you really OK with the screen replacing one-on-one time with your child?"



Recipe of the Month

Four Season Pizza

Kids will have a great time using a variety of vegetables to decorate this pizza. The toppings are endless. Chop up a few favourite vegetables and a few new ones and let the kids get creative and involved! (Directions in GREEN are kid friendly)

Nutritional Information (1 slice): Calories: 170, Protein: 10 g, Fat: 6g, Saturated Fat: 3g, Dietary cholesterol: 11 mg, Carbohydrate: 21g, Dietary fibre: 2 g, Sodium: 502 mg, Potassium: 85 mg

Ingredients

- 1 pre-made, 12 inch (30 cm) whole-wheat pizza crust
- ½ cup (125 mL) pizza sauce
- 2 cups (200 g) shredded part skim mozzarella cheese
- Pineapple
- Red Pepper
- Green Pepper
- Broccoli
- Cheddar Cheese
- Cherry tomatoes
- Mushrooms

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400° F (200° C).
2. Chop the vegetables into various shapes and sizes.
3. Spread the pizza sauce on the crust. Sprinkle with the cheese.
4. To make a four season pizza divide the pizza in four using red pepper strips. Let the kids make a simple symbol of each season out of the chopped vegetables. For example; **Spring:** red pepper and cherry tomato flower with a green pepper stem, **Summer:** pineapple and ham sun, **Fall:** cheddar cheese leaf cut with a cookie cutter or a broccoli tree, **Winter:** mushroom snowman.
5. When your little artists are finished assembling the pizza, bake for 6 to 10 minutes.
6. Broil on high for 3 minutes to brown the top

Question of the Month

Q: "My daughter is always looking to snack in the afternoons, how can I make sure we're smart snacking?"

A: Children have smaller tummies than adults so they need regular snacks between meals to keep their energy up. But how do you choose nutritious options and establish healthy snack habits? Here are five rules: **Pair foods for power**- A well-rounded snack should include foods from at least two of the four groups in [Canada's Food Guide](#). **Know what's a snack and what's a treat**- Snacks are mini-meals that keep her going between breakfast, lunch and dinner. Treats are less healthy foods such as chips, ice cream and cake, which she enjoys occasionally. We have treats at birthday parties, amusement parks or after dinner on special occasions, but not daily. **Take it sitting down**. Which foods your children snack on is important, but so is where they snack. Similar to the idea of sit-down dinners, snacks should be eaten at a table, rather than on the run. This will make your snack more like a mid-day break. It will also help eliminate constant snacking throughout the afternoon. Plan a snack time, and fill little tummies with a variety of nutrient-rich foods.



Student Transportation Services of York Region
 320 Bloomington Road West
 Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
 905-713-2535
 FAX: 905-713-2533
 Web site: www.schoolbuscity.com

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be region-wide meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region. Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 AM
1540 AM	1580 AM				
88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	93.1 FM	94.9 FM	
95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1 FM	99.1 FM	99.9 FM	
101.1 FM	102.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	107.1 FM	

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB on twitter.

Please note that school bus charters will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled.

When busses are cancelled due to inclement weather (freezing rain, snow, extreme temperatures), schools are still open. If a parent decides to take their bussed child to school it is their responsibility to drop them off and pick them up at regular school hours. If a parent decides to keep their child who walks to school at home on inclement weather days when busses are cancelled, please call the school to notify us of their child's absence. Time is of the essence in case of a missing child, so please remember to report your child's absence. Thank you.



The Aurora Public Library in Partnership
with Family Services York Region and the
York Region District School Board presents:



Triple P- Positive Parenting Tip Sheet Discussions 2013/2014

Join us for any or all of these **FREE** sessions

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Mon Sept. 30 | Developing Good Bedtime Routines 2-8 yrs
Positive parenting suggestions on being a parent and managing difficult behavior at bedtime. * Discussion Group |
| Mon. Oct. 28 | Managing Fighting & Aggression 4-9 yrs
Positive parenting strategies to help children gain the skills they need to cooperate and get along with others. Discussion Group |
| Mon. Nov. 25 | Dealing with Disobedience 4-8 yrs Discussion Group
Positive parenting strategies are offered to help parents develop plans to prevent and manage disobedience. |
| Mon. Jan. 27 | Coping with Stress (All parents) - Tip sheet
Tips on how to manage day-to-day stress so that you can act calmly and consistently with your children. |
| Mon. Feb. 24 | ADHD – Primary Schoolers - Tip Sheet
Being a parent of a child with ADHD is a challenging job, but it can also be very rewarding. The aim of good parenting is to help your child reach their full potential. |
| Mon. Mar. 31 | Sexual Behaviour & Dating-Teens - Tip Sheet
Suggestions to help you guide your teenager through puberty and manage the sexual behaviour during this transition. |
| Mon. April 28 | Supporting Your Partner - Tip Sheet
How to work together as a parenting team and minimize the impact of any conflict on your child's development. |
| Mon. May 26 | Hassle-free Shopping with Children - Discussion
Positive parenting suggestions to help you avoid shopping hassles and to teach your child to behave responsibly. |

*Triple P Parenting
(Positive Parenting Program)*

Triple P will build on your knowledge, skills and confidence as you support the development of positive attitudes and behaviors in your children.

Tip Sheets are Triple P Informed
* Discussion Group with Workbook

Magna Room
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
This will include a Question & Answer period.

Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk,

(905) 727-9494 ex 275

Everyone is WELCOME



