



# Aurora Senior News

125 Wellington St. W,  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 2P3  
905.727.9751

**Jodi Sepkowski**  
Principal

**Claudia Fischer**  
Vice-Principal

**Gayle Brocklebank-  
Vincent**  
Superintendent  
905.884.4477

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Luchowski**  
Trustee  
905.713.1729



## Upcoming Dates

Sept. 19 - School  
Council Nominations  
due

Sept. 23 -PA DAY (no  
school)

Sept. 24 -School Council  
Meeting @ 7 pm in  
library

Sept. 24— MONDAY  
Schedule

Sept. 26—Terry Fox  
Walk/Run

Oct. 3—Meet the Staff  
Evening

Oct. 18—Picture Day

September 2013

[www.aurorasenior.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.aurorasenior.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

### *Administrators' Message*

Welcome back to a new school year!! We truly hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer with family and friends, and you are coming back to school ready to go!

The staff at Aurora Sr. and George Street have been in and working hard to ensure a smooth beginning to the 2013/2014 school year, and we are excited to begin. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students this year. As well, we have some new staff joining and re-joining our schools:, teachers Stephanie Browne, Harpreet Aujla, Cindy Ramrattan, Dawn Beal-Nacevski, new EA Shirley Lawless and our new secretary, Bridget Stoecklin. Please join us in welcoming our new staff to Aurora Senior and George Street.

Our Meet the Staff Evening will take place on **Thursday, October 3rd**. More information will come home later this month outlining details for the evening. Every month, our school newsletter will be available at the start of the month on our school website and will also be emailed to everyone. Please advise us of any changes to your email address. If you do not have access to a computer, please have your child pick up a hard copy in the office.

On behalf of all our staff, we wish everyone a wonderful school year. As William Butler Yeats once wrote "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire".

Jodi Sepkowski, Principal  
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## Home & School Communication

Communication between home and school is important in supporting student achievement and well-being. We hope to reduce the amount of paper by inviting families to read the newsletter online. Homeroom teachers will also communicate regularly with parents through newsletters, moodles, student agendas and in other ways. Communication is reciprocal. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have a question or concern. Your child's teacher is usually the first contact; however, all staff and administration are here to support as needed.

## GENERAL INTEREST COURSES

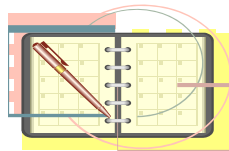
YRDSB General Interest Courses have experienced a steady decline in client registrations for the past six years. As a result, YRDSB General Interest Courses have operated at a financial loss in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This information was brought forward and discussed at the Board Standing Committee Meeting on May 21. At the June 4, 2013 Board Meeting, the decision was made to discontinue General Interest Courses.

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Protocol between the York Region Police and York Region District School Board mandates that school administrators remind parents of the search and seizure policy at the commencement of the school year. The Police Protocol states that “the school community needs to be made aware of the right of the school administrators to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. School administrators shall also make the school community aware that police may from time to time be invited onto school premises to conduct their own searches. These searches may be conducted without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal.”

## Student Agenda Planners

Aurora Senior will be offering a generic school agenda that families can purchase for **\$4.35**. Parents may choose to purchase the agenda through the school or on their own. Agendas will be on sale this week during morning recess.



## STUDENT BUSSING ELIGIBILITY

Did you know that students' bussing 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).

## WANTED

### 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*

## 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.

## Aurora Senior/George Street SAFE ARRIVALS



Our school operates a safe arrival program which requires that we check the whereabouts of all students who are absent or late each day. We need your help! If your child (ren) will be absent from

school, please call the school office at **905.727.9751** to let us know. Please leave a message on the school answering machine indicating your child's name, grade and his/her teacher's name and the reason for the absence/late, i.e. illness, appointment, etc. *We have an answering machine which is on at night for your convenience.*

### ARRIVING ON TIME

Please ensure that students arrive on time each day. Tardiness is not only a bad habit, it is detrimental to the learning of those that arrive late and disrupts the other students in the class. If your child comes to school late, please have her/him sign in at the main office, so the attendance can be changed and thus avoiding unnecessary phone calls home.

## IMMUNIZATION

Just a reminder to all parents: please make sure that your child's immunization records are up to date. The Public Health Department does check all student records.



### Student Health and Medical Information

If your child needs to take medication during school hours, we ask that you obtain the necessary forms from the school office. For legal and safety reasons written permission is required for ALL medication including inhalers, Aspirin, Tylenol, Epi-pens etc. Medication must be kept secure in the office (except for epi-pens where one will remain in the office and one is to be with the child at all times). Please ensure that all medication is brought directly to the office. For conditions such as epilepsy, as well as diabetes, parents are required to complete a medical plan form.

## Anaphylactic Reactions

School staff and parents are responsible for creating safe and healthy environments for students. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life-threatening allergies. While we take every

step to create a risk-free environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms. It is especially important that parents

communicate a life-threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the Principal and your child's teacher so that we take the steps to create accurate records and inform staff of the established protocol.

### 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 cooperation

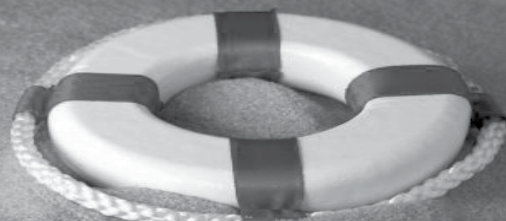


### Lunch Drop Off Routine

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.

Please help us by saving your magazine orders and renewals for our **QSP Magazine Fundraising Program**

**S.O.S.!**



**(SAVE OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS)**

## The FAMILY READING MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER IS RETURNING SOON!

Each year, we hold our QSP magazine subscription fundraiser to raise money to benefit our students while also encouraging more at home reading. The success of the program depends on your participation.

**Please save your magazine subscription renewals for our sale.** It is only when you renew directly through our program that our school receives any profit from your order. QSP will honour publisher price discount coupons, so save them too.

**If you are anxious to renew before the official campaign begins, you can support us today by shopping online!** It's easy . . . visit [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca)! **All early orders will count towards your child's rewards.**



Consider giving magazine subscriptions as gifts this year!  
Each issue acts as a reminder of your thoughtfulness!

Order a subscription for your child! Children love receiving mail and it's proven that reading print material benefits children far greater than reading material online.

Let friends and family know about our upcoming fundraiser. Send them an email using the email service at [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca) and your child will receive a thank you reward for spreading the word about our campaign.

**Thank you in advance for your support. We count on your participation!**

**QSP LAUNCH IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013**

## **IMPORTANT CORRECTIONS**

to our  
School Start-Up Package

### School Day Organization

Office Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

### **Before School Supervision 8:40-8:55 am**

Per. 1 8:55-9:25

Per. 2 9:25-9:55

Per. 3 9:55—10:35

### **RECESS 10:35-11:05**

Per. 4 11:05-11:55

Per. 5 11:55-12:45

### **LUNCH 12:45-1:45**

Per. 6 1:45-2:15

Per. 7 2:15-2:45

Per. 8 2:45-3:25

### **After School Supervision: 3:25-3:40pm**

## **School Council News**

**Nominations due:**  
September 19th

**School Council Meeting:**  
September 24th @ 7 pm



**Bicycles and In-line  
Skates are NOT to be  
ridden on school  
property.**



**Please remind your  
child that as soon as  
he/she arrives on  
school property, (this includes the parking  
lot, bus loop, field and pavement), he/she  
should dismount their bike or take off their  
in-line skates. Our top priority is the safety  
of our students and their families.**



### **ECO-LITTERLESS SCHOOLS/ WASTE FREE AND BOOMERANG LUNCH**

A Litterless/Waste-Free lunch contains no throw-away packaging or food leftovers. Lunches are packed in servings that will be completely eaten. To avoid any packaging, all food and drinks are packed in reusable containers with a reusable lunch bag or box. With this type of lunch, food items can be bought in larger quantities. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice; they are less expensive as well. With Boomerang Lunch programs, whatever comes to school/office for lunch and snacks and is not consumed, will go back home. Let's all work together to be an Eco-Friendly School.

**FRAGRANCE**



## PROMOTING SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS OF FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT ANCESTRY

The York Region District School Board provides an opportunity for students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry to self-identify. The process is voluntary and the information gathered will be kept confidential.

The self-identification process is the first step in providing:

- Culturally specific learning opportunities or activities;
- Additional support for academic achievement and well-being, including designated support staff;
- Communication between schools, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education staff, Aboriginal students and their families;
- Connections to post-secondary institutions, community groups, service providers and other partners;
- More learning opportunities for all members of the school community to develop a greater understanding of Aboriginal perspectives, cultures and [histories](#).

New students can self-identify when they register with the Board. Current students can complete an Aboriginal Self-Identification Form which can be obtained from their school.

**For further information, please see the Information for Parents and Students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Ancestry brochure available from the school or speak with the**



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 featuring karate, hockey (spring registration) and basketball (fall registration) are offered (subject to availability).

Call (905) 716-1447 now to apply for programs.

## It's your head... use it!

Head injuries are the leading cause of serious injury and death to kids on wheels. Wearing a properly fitted, certified helmet can reduce the risk of serious head injury by 85 per cent. Children and youth (under 18) are required by law to wear a helmet when bicycling. Helmets must fit properly to protect your child in the event of a crash.

Remember the **2V1 Shake, Shake, Shake** rule:

- 2:** The helmet should cover the top of your child's head and sit 2 finger widths above their eyebrows (a helmet that is too big will not provide proper protection).
- V:** Adjust the side straps so they form a V-shape under their ears.
- I:** Only 1 finger should fit between your child's chin and the fastened straps.

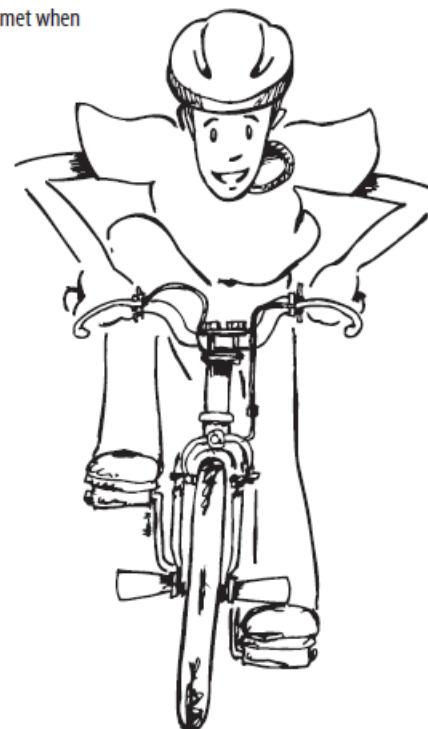
**Shake, Shake, Shake:** Have your child shake their head up and down and side to side to make sure the helmet is snug.

To provide proper protection, helmets must have a safety standard label (e.g., CSA, CPSC, Snell B-95, N-94, ASTM 1447, F-1898). Remember to check regularly for cracks, dents, and broken or frayed straps.

Be a good role model —always wear a helmet when you are cycling, boarding or blading.

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit [www.york.ca/healthyschools](http://www.york.ca/healthyschools)

  
York Region



## Character Matters!

We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity and positive regard. We honour the rights of others. We respect their belongings, the environment and the world around us.



### BOARD VISION

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



## Aurora Senior Touchstone

### *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!***

## School Council News

**Aurora Senior and George Street Public School has an active and vibrant School Council. Last year we accomplished many wonderful things and were able to successfully fundraise to purchase materials for all students. There are many ways you can get involved at either Aurora Senior or George Street and being a member of council is just one of those ways. Our first meeting this year will take place on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 @ 7pm in the library at ASPS. If you are interested in running for a position on council, please fill in the form sent home as part of the Book of Forms by Sept. 19th or bring to the council meeting on September 24th. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Sepkowski at the school.**

# September 2013

**Character Matters!**  
**Respect**  
 We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity, and positive regard. We honour the rights of others. We respect their belongings, the environment and the world around us.



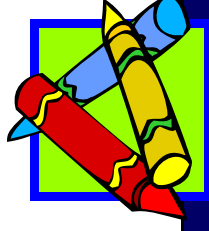
**Aurora Senior Public School**

Tel: (905) 727-9751 Fax: (905) 727-1811

Website: [www.aurorasenior.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.aurorasenior.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

eMail: [aurora.senior.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:aurora.senior.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

**BUS ROUTES HOTLINE**  
 1-877-330-3001  
[www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)



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|----|---|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|--------------------------------|----|----------------------|----|---|
| 1  |  | 2  | <br><b>LABOUR DAY</b><br>(No School) | 3  | <b>First Day of School</b>                                   | 4  |  | 5  | <b>ROSH HASHANAH **</b>        | 6  |                      | 7  |    |
| 8  |   | 9  |   | 10 | <b>PARYUSHANA</b>  | 11 |  | 12 |                                | 13 |                      | 14 |   |
| 15 | International Literacy Day  | 16 |   | 17 |  | 18 |  | 19 |                                | 20 | <b>YOM KIPPUR **</b> | 21 |   |
| 22 | <b>FALL BEGINS</b>  | 23 | <b>PT DAY</b><br>(No School)  | 24 | Monday Schedule<br>School Council Mtg. 7 pm<br>ASPS, Library | 25 |  | 26 | <b>SUKKOT</b><br>Terry Fox Run | 27 |                      | 28 |  |
| 29 |   | 30 |   |    |  |    |  |    |                                |    |                      |    | Oct 3—QSP Launch<br>Oct 8—Bus Safety Day<br>Oct 9—Cross Country                     |