



Aurora Senior News

March 2014

www.aurorasenior.ps.ca

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

**Peter Adams-
Luchowski**
Trustee

905.713.1729



Upcoming Dates

- Mar 3 - Scientists in the School
Grade 8
- Mar 4 - Grade 7 Vivian
Outdoor Recreation
Centre

Intermediate Boys
Basketball Regionals
- Mar 5 - Intermediate Girls
Basketball Regionals
- Mar 6 - Friday Schedule
- Mar 7 - PA Day
- Mar 10 - 14 - March Break
- April 8 - School Council Mtg
@ 7pm

A Message from your Administration Team

Wow! What a long couple of months of winter! January and February are behind us, and we hope spring temperatures are following. As the weather continues to change, please ensure that proper clothing and indoor and outdoor footwear are considered! Except in extreme weather conditions, all students are expected to be outside for the entire recess time. We are unable to supervise students indoors during recesses, so please ensure if your child is well enough to come to school, they are well enough to go outside.

At this time of year, we are once again in the process of creating a school organization for the 2014-2015 school year. As most of you are aware, the Ontario Ministry of Education implemented a hard cap of students in each primary classroom. Although limiting class sizes is certainly a positive move, it does introduce a number of challenges. Flexibility is limited and consequently combined classes are continuing to be more prevalent in school organizations.

We recognize that parents/guardians may have new and/or important information to share about their child (e.g., a recent medical diagnosis, positive/negative peer relationships which exist outside of school, learning style, individual and family issues, etc.) which may impact upon class placement decisions. If you wish to express, **IN WRITING** any information that should be considered as we begin to tentatively place students in classes, we ask that you do so before the **May 1st** deadline. Please be aware that any information you provide will not be shared with teachers and kept in confidence as part of the class placement process.

Our primary goal is to develop balanced classes that reflect the diversity of our community and allow for a variety of abilities, interest and talents of our learners to emerge and be appreciated. Teachers work diligently to balance the classrooms in terms of gender, academic ability and social and emotional concerns. Class placement is an important and complex process that takes many hours of thought and discussion, so **it is imperative that families adhere to the May 1st deadline. In no way should your input be considered confirmation of a particular class placement. Because of changing enrolment patterns in the spring and summer months, final class placement will be posted on the first day of school.**

Have a safe and restful March Break and enjoy your time with your family.

Jodi Sepkowski, Principal

Claudia Fischer, Vice Principal

WE ARE MAKING PLANS

We have already started planning for the 2014/2015 school year at Aurora Senior P.S. For us to accurately project class sizes, we require reliable information on students from all grades that may be joining or leaving our school.

If you will be moving over the summer, or if you know of any family moving into your neighbourhood with school-aged children that will be attending Aurora Senior Public School in September, please contact the office with this information.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE – CENTRAL

317 Centre Street East
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 1B3

Tel: 905.884.4477 416.324.2902
Fax: 905.508.9942 905.508.7116
Web: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

February 18, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians of George Street PS and Aurora Senior PS students,

At the Board meeting on February 4, 2013, Trustees approved the decision to proceed with the design for renovations to Aurora Senior PS to accommodate George Street PS students. These renovations will include new kindergarten classrooms and outdoor play area, as well as Science and Art classroom reconfigurations.

The renovations will be complete for September 2015 at which time all students in the George Street PS/Aurora Senior PS boundary from JK to Grade 8 will attend Aurora Senior PS. Full Day Kindergarten will be implemented at George Street PS for September 2014 in existing space. Staff reviewed timelines for approvals and construction, and determined that September 2015 is achievable to have renovations completed at Aurora Senior PS. Additional information will be sent out before construction begins at Aurora Senior PS.

Over the next year, staff will begin a review of internal space requirements for YRDSB. At this point, Trustees haven't yet discussed or made decisions about possible future uses of the George Street building. The school community will be notified of any decision with respect to the George Street building.

After the municipal elections in October 2014, the Trustee for Aurora-King will take the lead role for soliciting school names for the renaming of Aurora Senior PS. Community members are welcome to submit school name suggestions to the Trustee following the elections.

If you have any questions, please contact Principal Jodi Sepkowski or myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gayle Brocklebank-Vincent".

Gayle Brocklebank-Vincent
Superintendent of Schools

February 21, 2014

Dear Members of the York Region District School Board Community:

As you may be aware, our current director of education will be retiring as of July 31, 2014. The important responsibility of selecting his successor now becomes the task of the Board of Trustees.

We have engaged the services of Laverne Smith & Associates, a leading Canadian firm that has worked extensively with school boards and other public sector organizations across the country. Dr. Laverne Smith, our consultant, will be assisting us by gathering input from you, the educational community.

Your input into the qualities and characteristics that you would like to see in the new director of education is critical. Please take a few minutes to complete the [linked](#) online survey which comprises four questions. The survey results will be submitted electronically directly to Laverne Smith & Associates. All responses will be held in strict confidence by the consultant.

Please submit your response by **Tuesday March 18, 2014**. If you require more time to complete the survey, responses will continue to be accepted after this deadline.

Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Yours truly,

Anna DeBartolo

Diane Giangrande

Co-Chairs of the Search Committee for Director of Education
York Region District School Board

UNDERSTANDING THE BOARD TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR PARENTS REGISTERING THEIR CHILDREN IN FRENCH IMMERSION AND GIFTED PROGRAMS FOR SEPTEMBER 2014.

The large size of the attendance area for Gifted and French Immersion programs can increase the length of time students are required to travel on a school bus.

School bus service for all students is created in accordance with Board Policy and adheres to the following guidelines;

- Students who live the furthest from school often have the longest ride times.
- Ride times will not exceed 60 minutes unless under exceptional circumstances.
- All students will be assigned to centrally designated corner bus stops.
- Elementary students can be expected to walk up to 400 metres to a central bus stop location.

Parents can confirm transportation arrangements by accessing the Student Transportation Services website at <http://www.schoolbuscity.com> or www.schoolbuscity.com after Monday August 18th, 2014.

Congratulations to the Aurora Senior PS Chess Team



On Thursday, February 27 at the Grantham Optimist Chess tournament with over 20 schools competing they recorded their best results ever! With over 200 elementary students competing seven Aurora Senior students managed to earn a spot at the Regional tournament. Siyao C. and Eric L. finished second in their respective grades while Matthew P, Allen X, Matthew S. and Michael C. placed first in their respective grades. Best of all, all fifteen students attending accumulated enough points to win both the junior chess banner and the intermediate chess banner. Great Job Team!



Enter our contest by sharing your Cook Up Some Fun! story



For a chance to **win one of two \$200 grocery store gift cards**, families are invited to share any successes, tips or challenges they have overcome to make planning, shopping, cooking or eating together work for their family. All families who [share their story](#) with us will receive a family prize pack.

Cooking is a wonderful way for parents to spend positive time with their children and can help kids to:

- Learn new words and concepts needed for reading.
- Develop small muscle strength and coordination needed for writing.
- Learn problem solving and measuring skills needed for math.

When families have fun cooking together, they tend to eat together more frequently, and are more likely to have healthier eating habits. They also tend to have healthier weights and are less likely to develop eating disorders. Children also tend to have stronger language skills and teens are less likely to engage in risky behaviours.

The *Cook Up Some Fun! Share Your Story* contest is open for the month of March (Nutrition Month). It's a great activity for March Break!

Visit the *Cook Up Some Fun!* website at <http://www.healthyyork.com/cook-up-some-fun> to learn more about this contest and enter your story. You can also sign up to receive an email twice a month with recipes and practical ideas for planning, shopping, cooking and eating together.

For information about creating a healthy school nutrition environment, visit www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca

For health-related information call **York Region Community and Health Services Health Connection** at 1-800-361-5653; TTY: 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools

ASPS SCHOOL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

The next school council committee meeting is Tuesday, April 8 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.



YORK SIMCOE MINOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A premier organization delivering football programs to York and Simcoe Regions

Respect · Honesty · Integrity · Fair Play · Discipline · Perseverance



House League for players 6–12 years of age.

AAA OVFL for players 8–19 years of age.

Spring House League

House League Tackle Football is offered for boys and girls of varying ages and focuses on the introduction of football and player development. The Mite division is for ages 6, 7, and 8; Atom for ages 9 and 10; and PeeWee for ages 11 and 12.

The season runs from March to July with two weekday practices and Sunday afternoon games. Equal playing time is encouraged and players will learn both an offensive and defensive position.

Equipment

Upon registration, every player is provided with a certified helmet, shoulder pads, mouth guard, and protective foam pads for the knees, thighs and knees. They are also outfitted with practice and game jerseys and pants. All equipment is loaned to the player and must be returned at the end of the season. Players keep their game jerseys. The only item that players provide is cleats.

Injury Prevention

Tackle football is a high contact, high-intensity sport and it is vital for the York Simcoe Bucs to understand the steps that have to be taken to prevent injury. Proper warm-ups and equipment protection are key, as is providing solid fundamental skills for our players.

AAA Summer & Fall League

The York Simcoe Bucs are proud to be playing in the Ontario Varsity Football League (OVFL). The OVFL's objectives are the same as the York Simcoe Bucs': To teach and encourage fair play, good character, social responsibility and sportsmanship among young athletes.

The OVFL allows the York Simcoe Bucs to play at a competitive AAA level. This is offered to players from ages 8–19.

Coaching

The York Simcoe Bucs selects coaches that will have the greatest benefit to our teams/players and meet the coaching requirements and mandate of our organization. We provide free coaching clinics and will also cover certification courses for every coach.



For more information and to register visit:

www.bucsfootball.ca



Canada's #1 grassroots soccer camp!

Royal City Soccer Club



Presents

Soccer Camps 2014



Register by **June 1** for earlybird discounts.



- ⚽ July and August weeks
- ⚽ Boys & girls aged 5 to 13
- ⚽ Camp soccer ball, tshirt, medal
- ⚽ Full day, morning & afternoon sessions
- ⚽ No charge early drop off, late pickup care

8 locations in York:
Thornhill, Vaughan (Maple, Woodbridge), Richmond Hill, Markham, Aurora and Newmarket.
(see website for details)

Call for more info: **1-800-427-0536** To register or for more information, visit: **www.royalsoccer.com**



EMPATHY

We strive to sense and appreciate the emotions of others, to “stand in their shoes.”

We demonstrate appreciation of and concern for their feelings.

We try to understand issues from their perspectives even though we may not agree with them personally..



INSPIRE LEARNING



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.

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



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





Aurora Senior Public School
 Tel: (905) 727-9751 Fax: (905) 727-1811
 Website: www.aurorasenior.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
 eMail: aurora.senior.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

BUS ROUTES HOTLINE
 1-877-330-3001
 www.schoolbuscity.com

Character Matters! Empathy
 We strive to sense and appreciate the emotions of others, to "stand in their shoes", We demonstrate appreciation of and concern for their feelings. We try to understand issues from their perspectives even though we may not agree with them personally.

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Int. Boys Basketball Regionals	5 Int. Girls Basketball Regionals	6 Friday Schedule	7 PA DAY	8
9 Time Change 	10	11	12	13	14	15
MID-WINTER BREAK - SCHOOL CLOSED						
16	17	18	19	20 SPRING BEGINS	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 EARTH HOUR
30	31					

LUNCH SCHEDULE

- MONDAY - EXTREME PITA
- TUESDAY - THE LUNCH LADY
- WEDNESDAY - GREEK LUNCH
- THURSDAY - PIZZA LUNCH

(All lunches must be pre-ordered and pre-paid)