



George Street News

115 George Street
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 2S3
905.727.4921

Jodi Sepkowski
Principal

Claudia Fischer
Vice-Principal

**Gayle Brocklebank-
Vincent**
Superintendent
905.884.4477

**Peter Adams-
Luchowski**
Trustee
905.713.1729



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 25-Dec. 13 Hat & Mitten & Food Drive
Dec. 6 Tweekie Day - Pajama Day
Dec. 11 Bake Sale & Holiday Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Dec. 17 Extreme Pita for lunch day
Dec. 19 Touchstone Assembly 10:45 a.m.
Dec. 20 P.A. Day school closed
Dec 23—Jan. 3, 2014 Christmas Break school closed
Jan. 6 Classes begin
Jan. 17 Kindergarten Registration 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 16 French Immersion Information night at all FI schools
Jan. 17 French Immersion registration begins

December 2013

www.georgestreet.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Administrators' Message

Well, the snow has arrived and that means it must be December! The past month at George Street was filled with many activities and presentations –including UGOT Dance, Dairy presentations, Vision Screening, Spirit Days and, of course, Banana Split Day. We also had a beautiful Remembrance Day Assembly at Aurora Senior which included musical performances by our primary students and thoughtful presentations by the junior and intermediate classes.

It was wonderful to see so many of our parents at our JK Class Observations and Parent/Teacher conferences. Through these progress reports, observations and interviews, teachers and parents were able to reflect with students in order to set goals for future learning. Children are unique and individual in their learning style, and it is very important that they are at the centre of their learning and that they take pride in their accomplishments. Many thanks for all that you do to ensure that our children can be successful. As always, if you need to speak to your child's teacher for any reason, you are welcome to call the school and arrange an appointment or speak to the teacher over the telephone.

As we approach the holiday time, please remember that there are members of our community who may not enjoy the same opportunities as others. Your thoughtfulness and generosity can go a long way in supporting children and families who may need some additional help at this time of year. We will be sponsoring, once again, a mitten tree where donations of new winter hats, mittens and scarves will be collected and passed on to children without. As well we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our annual Holiday Food Drive and hope that you will also consider supporting this worthwhile event.

At this time of year, we have the privilege of celebrating diversity and recognizing different cultures as many of our families celebrate Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. On behalf of the Aurora Senior and George Street staff, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday and a very

Happy New Year

Sincerely,

Jodi Sepkowski, Principal
Jodi.sepkowski@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Claudia Fischer, Vice Principal
Cladia.fischer@yrdsb.edu.on.ca



George Street Public School will accept Kindergarten registrations for the 2014-2015 school year commencing January 17, 2014.

If parents know of any families in the neighbourhood with pre-school children, who will begin JK or SK next year, please make these families aware of the registration dates. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring.

The following original documents: birth certificate or immigration status and proof of residency are required at the time of registration for child and parent/guardian. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

CAYRE offers several brochures which are available online at www.care.ca the Early Learning pamphlets are full of good ideas for parents of pre-schooler's !



Winter Play

Now that snow will soon be on the ground, students are reminded that snow balls are not permitted on school property. Snow balls, ice balls, stones, etc. are dangerous. This rule applies during any time on school property. We are urging parents to remind their child(ren) of the no snowball rule. Our mutual goal is to keep every child safe. Thanks for your support.

Some of our students are not coming to school dressed appropriately for the winter. Please remind your child that winter coats must be worn to school! Mittens, hats and boots will help to ensure your child enjoys the winter weather and stays healthy! Except in extreme weather, students are expected to be outside for the entire recess time.



National Anthem: O CANADA

Every morning, we begin our day with O Canada. All students and staff stand still to give honour to our great country. We ask our parents and visitors to participate with us by standing still for our National Anthem. We are all role models for our children.

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 enrol 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 [school name] 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 enrol. 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

Attention Parents/Guardians!!

Our library currently has many audio books, some on CD's and many that are recorded on tape cassettes. We use these books as part of our classroom listening centers but the stories that are on tape cassettes are outdated and no longer have a viable way of being used. We are looking for any parents who would be interested in reading one of these books that are currently on tape cassette and recording and burning that book onto a CD so that our students can use these stories at their reading centers in the classroom. If you love to read, can make a book sound exciting, are able to record and burn a CD, and would like to help us update and expand our listening centers please contact the school with your name and number and we will get back to you. Just think, your child could be listening to you read a story while they are at school.



Hat, Mitten and Food Drive



After the amazing success of last year's food, hat and mitten drive, we will again be calling on our very supportive community to help families in need. These items will be collected by the students at George Street and Aurora Senior P.S. and then distributed to families in our community. Donations for teenagers are always needed. How about a movie pass or a gift voucher as a donation? The hat and mitten tree and "food gift boxes" will be located in the front foyer of both schools. We will also be accepting cash donations to purchase food gift certificates.

The food drive will run from **November 25 to December 13th**, so please be generous and help make this holiday season a happy one for all!

Thank you for your support!

STAFF PARKING LOT

A friendly reminder to parents that we only have a limited amount of parking spaces and they are reserved for staff. An additional parking lane on the east side of George Street for north bound traffic was created to allow parents who must drive their children to and from school to park and escort their children to the playground area. 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.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2013
Students sing O'Canada
at GSPS



GSPS students attend Remembrance Day
Assembly at ASPS



School Day Organization

Office Hours:

8:00am-4:00pm

Before School Supervision

8:20-8:35 am

Per. 1 8:35-9:15

Per. 2 9:15-9:45

Per. 3 9:45-10:15

RECESS 10:15-10:45

Per. 4 10:45-11:35

Per. 5 11:35-12:25

LUNCH 12:25-1:25

Per. 6 1:25-2:05

Per. 7 2:05-2:35

Per. 8 2:35-3:05

After School Supervision:

3:05-3:20pm

BOARD VISION

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



Character Matters!

For December we will be highlighting *Integrity*. In our school agenda's, integrity is described as follows: I will do what is right and ensure there is no difference between what I say and what I do.

Please take the time to review this character trait with your child.

School Council News

School Council Meeting:

January 14, 2014
at 7:00 p.m. at
Aurora Sr. P.S.



ECO-LITTERLESS SCHOOLS

I like the world; The world is good; World of water; World of wood; World of feather; World of bone; World of mountain; World of stone.

World of fibre; World of spark; World of sunshine; World of dark; World of raindrop; World of dew; World of me and World of you.

For the month of December we will be focusing on reducing our footprint. Many ways of us achieving this are:

- Keep heat in the building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
- Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to school in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
- Use the window blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.



UGOT DANCE

The students had fun learning some hip hop moves on Friday, November 22, 2013. They showed great rhythm and some dance "attitude".



Give the gift of physical activity



When choosing gifts this season, consider items that can have a lasting impact on the health of your children; gifts that they can enjoy over and over again.

Sports Equipment	skipping rope, football, soccer ball, baseball glove and bat, skate board, skates, hockey net, basketball net, sports helmet, bicycle, toboggan or snowshoes
Active Clothes	t-shirts, track suit, swimsuit, ski suit, knee & elbow pads, hat/scarf and waterproof mitts, sport jersey, running shoes, warm winter boots, water shoes, reflective clothing or a water bottle
Activities	lessons such as swimming, dance, aerobics, or sports lessons; parks & recreation program registration, day pass to an indoor or outdoor playground (e.g. rock climbing, water park, mini-golf, ski hill pass) or a favourite sport membership



Why not buy one or more... and give yourself the gift of physical activity, too!

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



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.