



# George Street News

115 George Street  
Aurora, Ontario  
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905.727.4921

**Jodi Sepkowski**  
Principal

**Claudia Fischer**  
Vice-Principal

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Superintendent  
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Luchowski**  
Trustee  
905.713.1729



## Upcoming Dates

Feb. 3 All school doors will be locked

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Feb. 17 Family Day  
No school

Feb. 25 School Council Meeting 7:00p.m. @ASPS

Feb. 28 Touchstone Assembly 10:45 a.m. in the gym

February 2014

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

## A Message from your Administration Team

It is hard to believe that we have moved into the second half of this school year! The time has been well spent with a great deal of academic success and growth demonstrated by each child throughout the school. It is also a very busy time in our school office with the planning for the 2014/15 school year underway. In order for us to have an accurate picture of our student body, it is important that we account for all students expected to be with us next year. If your child(ren) will NOT be returning to George Street Public School this coming September, please notify the office with a note, phone call or email.

Your child's first term report card will be sent home on **Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 (Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten reports will be sent home on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**. These report cards are based on work completed during the first term and will be written to meet the guidelines of the Ministry of Education's Growing Success policy. They will include strengths and next steps, and will be written so that they are easily understood by students and parents. Our teachers work hard to provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning and are always seeking ways to engage students and meet the diverse needs of the learners in their classrooms. Although no formal interview day is set for these reports cards, please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or would like more information.

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front door will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell which means doors will be locked at 8:50 am and 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. Both Aurora Senior and George Street continue to be safe places 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.

And, finally, with Family Day on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, we hope that you take that day to enjoy time well-spent with your family!

Jodi Sepkowski, Principal  
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## Are You Moving?

If you know that your child will not be returning to GSPS in September, please contact the school office at 905 727 4921.

## Vulnerable Sector Screening

It is recommended that any person who would come into direct and regular contact with students or who would be in a *position of trust and/or responsibility* should obtain a vulnerable sector screening as performed by their local police jurisdiction. In York Region, one is able to download the form from the York Regional Police website.  
<http://www.yrp.ca/pvsc.aspx>

The following clarifies the requirement regarding Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) for some volunteers.

Generally, it is a best practice that all volunteers hold a valid VSS. An exception to this guideline may be made the principals discretion where:

- the volunteer is **always** in the presence of school staff;
- the volunteer is **never** alone with students and is not in a position of trust or responsibility;
- the volunteer is directed not to use student washrooms, change rooms, etc.

## Family Day is February 17, 2014



## The York Region District School Board Transportation Policy

Information 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>] [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) after Monday August 18th, 2014.



**Oragami classes  
held on  
Tuesdays during  
lunch hour**



Welcome  
to  
Kindergarten

**Kindergarten registrations are now being accepted for the 2014-2015 school year.**

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](http://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.

**School Day Organization**

**Office Hours:**

**8:15am-3:45pm**

**Before School Supervision**

**8:20-8:35 am**

**front door locked**

**8:50 a.m.**

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**

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.



**Character Matters!**

For February we will be highlighting **Fairness**. We are sensitive to the needs of each individual. We treat each other as we wish to be treated ourselves. We interact with others without stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination. We stand up for human rights. Please take the time to review this character trait with your child.

**School Council News**

**School Council Meeting:**

February 25, 2014

at 7:00 p.m. at

Aurora Sr. P.S.



**ECO-LITTERLESS SCHOOLS**

***Reducing paper towel use***

How do we **Reduce** paper towel use without compromising the requirements for hand hygiene? One way is to educate and remind staff and students by creating and posting attention-grabbing signs around the school/office and at paper towel dispensers that motivate people to use less paper towels.

**FRAGRANCE**



## **Board Launches New Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan**

*Mission: To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.*

The York Region District School Board is celebrating the launch of its new Mission, Vision and Values statements and slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

The Board last reviewed these statements in the late 1990s. Since that time, education in York Region has been influenced by a number of significant changes, including changes in technology, in our communities and in our learning environments.

Community members, parents/guardians, staff members and students had the opportunity to provide input and share ideas about the ideal future of public education in York Region. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

For more information, visit the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).



### **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 was created to allow parents who drive their children to and from school or daycare to park and escort their children to the school entrance. Thank you for your co-operation

## Scientists in School visit GSPS classes



### February is heart month.



Behaviours that lead to heart disease begin in childhood and adolescence. In recent years, high blood pressure, type two diabetes and high cholesterol have been seen in young children! The risk for heart disease can be reduced by 50 per cent when we create healthier lifestyle habits such as:

- not smoking or being exposed to second-hand smoke
- increasing physical activity levels and
- making healthier food choices

Celebrate heart month at home by choosing to take steps to prevent heart disease. Your family members' hearts will thank you for it!

**For health-related information call York Region**