



# 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. 7- SK Vision  
Screening 9:00 a.m.  
Nov. 8 - Dairy Presenta-  
tion JK/SK & SK/I  
Nov. 11 Remembrance  
Day Assembly 10:00 a.m.  
at Aurora Sr. P.S.  
Nov. 12— Dairy Presenta-  
tion JK/SK a.m.  
Nov. 14- Interview Night  
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Nov. 15- PA DAY (no  
school)  
Nov. 20— Photo Re-  
takes 8:45 a.m.  
Nov. 26- School Council  
Meeting 7:00 p.m. @  
ASPS

November 2013

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

## *Administrators' Message*

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, a Progress Report will be sent home with each child. The report will outline your child's Learning Skills & Work Habits in the areas of **organization, initiative, self-regulation, responsibility, independent work and collaboration**. Strong learning skills and positive work habits are critical in succeeding in school and in life. Teachers and students have been and will continue to work together to understand what each of these skills mean and how they will be assessed. We have been working as a staff to determine behaviours that are indicative of each of the skills, what students need to demonstrate these skills and the strategies used to teach these specific skills. The first parent/teacher interviews are scheduled for **November 14<sup>th</sup> (in the evening)** and **November 15<sup>th</sup> (in the morning)**. At this time, you will have an opportunity to engage in conversation with your child's teacher to discuss the development of the learning skills and work habits and how well your child is progressing towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations.

From the Nutrition Basket Program to the Milk Program, from Pizza Lunches to School Council, from fundraising to library support, volunteers are instrumental in student well-being. The hours that volunteers give to our staff and students to improve student achievement is admirable and so very much appreciated. We are so thankful for all that you do!

Through analysis of report card data, EQAO data, classroom assessments and observations, the staff at Aurora Senior and George Street is working collaboratively to increase student achievement in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. PA days, divisional meetings and staff meetings allow professional learning opportunities where we learn about the instructional strategies that will best support our students in achieving the curriculum expectations. We are once again very excited to be part of a new network of schools that is focusing on differentiated instruction which will support our schools' School Improvement Plan and Challenge of Practice.

Finally, on behalf of the staff at Aurora Sr., we would like to say good-bye to Ms. Ramrattan who has been the LTO in for our Gr. 4/5 class this year, while Ms. Johnson has been on maternity leave. We want to thank her for all your hard work at Aurora Senior over the past year. We appreciate her dedication to teaching and the wonderful work she has done with the students. And a very warm **welcome back** to Kim Johnson who will be returning on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> to resume her teaching position in the Gr. 4/5 class.

Sincerely,

Jodi Sepkowski, Principal  
[Jodi.sepkowski@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Jodi.sepkowski@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)  
Claudia Fischer, Vice Principal  
[Claudia.fischer@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Claudia.fischer@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

## Dress for Cold Weather

Please send your child to school dressed for the cold weather that is soon approaching.



### Colds and Flu

It is that time of year when many children are getting ill with symptoms such as fever, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhea. If your child becomes ill with these symptoms, please keep them home from school until they have recovered. While we appreciate that many parents work, we ask that **you not** send your child to school with a flu or cold that will only necessitate a call home later in the day.

**Please remember that hand washing is the single most important procedure for preventing infections.**



## Pizza & Milk Days

Thank you to all the parents who have organized our pizza days and milk days. We recognize the time and commitment you dedicate to providing our students with these extra perks that mean so much to them. On behalf of the staff, we like to express our gratitude for your exemplary work and efforts in developing such wonderful home/school/community partnerships that benefit the students, parents, and staff in so many ways!



## Halloween at GSPS



## 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.



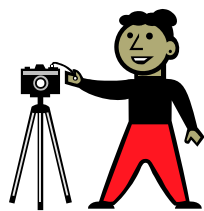
We enjoy celebrating student birthdays in our classrooms. Due to various food allergies, we ask that parents NOT send in food or loot bags for birthdays to share with the class. If you would like to do something special for your child on his/her birthday, please consider having your child share a favourite book, or purchase a book for our classroom libraries.



November 11th

### Remembrance Day Assembly

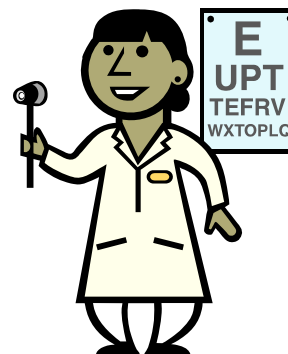
George Street Public School students will all walk over to Aurora Senior Public School to join in the Remembrance Day assembly at 10:00 a.m. in the gym. Parents and family members are welcome to join us.



**Smile ..... it's picture day**

**Photo Re-takes  
November 20th**

Vision Screening for SK students will be conducted at GSPS on November 4 & 7 at 9:00 a.m. by volunteers of the Aurora Lions Club.



### 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.



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

- 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**



**Everyone is welcome!**



**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!*

**Courage**

We face challenges directly. We seek help from others when necessary. We do the right thing even when it may be unpopular. We are able to recognize risks and danger and do not take unwise risks to gain the approval of those around us.

**School Council News**

**School Council Meeting:**

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Aurora Sr. PS.



**ECO-LITTERLESS SCHOOLS**



The George Street Eco team continues to work daily on monitoring recycling bins throughout the school. Students record daily the amount of recycling in each classroom and the accuracy of the contents of each bin. Classrooms are competing for one of the four Eco balloons each week and a marble to be added to their jar on display in their classrooms. These items are very effective visual reminders to all of us to be depositing items correctly so we do not contaminate items from the recycling program. GSPS continues to strive to retain our **ECO GOLD** awarded status, 2 consecutive years running. Our goal is to accumulate the least amount of garbage waste in our school. The Boomerang lunch is one of the tools that we use to limit garbage. Lunch waste items are returned to the students home in their lunch bags. GSPS educational focus for the month of November is striving to educate one and all one on “what’s in and what’s out”. Learning to look at the posted lists before depositing items into the recycling bins will increase classroom competition and accuracy for our weekly goals.





## **SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS! ARE BUSES CANCELLED?**

**CANCELLATION OF BUS SERVICE DOES NOT MEAN THAT SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.**  
Buses cancelled in the morning will **NOT** be running in the afternoon.

Students who **WALK** to school will still be able to attend.

Parents who drive their children to school in the morning, **must** also pick them up at dismissal time.

**Please remember to call the school office to report your child's absence if you choose to keep your child at home on a day that buses are cancelled. The Elementary Students Safe Arrival Program states that parents shall:**

- 1. inform the school of any and all absences or lateness of their elementary aged child**
- 2. make the ultimate decision to send their children to school using their best judgment in a situation when buses are cancelled but schools remain open.**

### **Tobogganing and sledding safety**



Tobogganing and sledding are fun, popular winter activities; however, every year hundreds of children are injured on toboggans. Here are some tips to keep your children safe!

- Parents should always actively supervise children at the toboggan/sled hill
- Dress children in warm layers of brightly coloured, waterproof clothes and boots.
- Use a neck warmer instead of a scarf, and cover children's head, ears and hands
- Teach children to toboggan/sled down the middle of hill and use the sides to walk to the top
- To prevent head injuries, children should wear a hockey or ski helmet; they are designed to protect the head in all directions in icy conditions
- Toboggans/sleds should be sturdy, easy to control and in good condition
- Remind children to sit on a toboggan/sled, face forward and avoid lying on their stomach —no sledding head first
- Choose a hill with a gentle slope and enough room to stop. The hill should be free of hazards (e.g., trees and rocks) and be well lit to see any potential dangers and to be seen by others
- No jumping in front of toboggans/sleds going down hill and make sure only the recommended number of children ride the toboggan/sled



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)



## 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](http://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.**

## **QSP Magazine Fundraiser – A Success!**

A huge thank you to George Street Public School students, families, and friends for participating in and supporting our QSP Magazine Fundraiser. We have reached our school goal of selling over \$4,000 in magazine subscriptions!

I would like to thank the staff and administration for their assistance and support. A special thank you to Ms. Sepkowski and Ms. Fischer for providing incentives to the students, including extra recess time and Banana Split Sundaes.

Congratulations to our Top Seller prize winners. This year two students have tied for first place and will share the prize of a \$50.00 gift card to Upper Canada Mall. The winners are Jordan D'Amico and Ali D'Amico.

I would also like to thank parent volunteers Stephanie Stoner and Bonnie Silverberg for helping out with this fundraiser and a very special thank you to Ms. McCarthy who has been a source of guidance and support throughout this campaign.

Way to go George Street!  
When we all work together we can make a difference!

- Cari Magder

**Parent volunteers  
prepare banana  
splits for all  
students at GSPS.**



**One of two winners in the student draw for a lanyard full of Monkeys**







## Prize Winners of the QSP magazine campaign !!!!

### QSP Cookie Dough and Imagine Fundraiser

George Street & Aurora Senior families it is that time again when our schools are selling cookie dough, giftware and wrapping materials in time for the holidays. This important fundraiser helps our schools raise funds to purchase needed items throughout the schools that benefit both students and staff. We hope you have taken the time to go through the brochures that came home at the end of October and are asking family and friends to purchase holiday items to help support your child's school. **Orders are due no later than November 11, 2013. Pick up will take place at Aurora Senior Public School the evening of Wednesday December 4, 2013.**

This year our schools are participating in a special campaign run by QSP and an organization called Save the Children. For every 5 items purchased our school will earn 1 chick to be donated to families in impoverished countries.

Come on George Street and Aurora Senior please send your order forms in and lets help families around the world. What a wonderful way to help start the holidays. Your support not only helps your school but families in need!