



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

Mar. 3 & 4 Visual Artist @
GSPS JK-3

Mar. 5 Scientists in School
SK/1 Mrs. Coschi's class a.m.

Mar. 5 Beach Day p.m. in the
gym

Mar. 7 P.A. Day no classes
for students

Mar. 10- Mar. 14 inclusive Mid-
Winter Break

Mar. 25 Safety Village
9-12:00 p.m. TT/JK/SK class
and Mrs. P's & Mrs. McIvor's
grade 3's

Mar. 28 Touchstone & Earth
Hour Assembly @ 1:30 p.m.

March 2014

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

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
Jodi.sepkowski@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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

Class placement Requests

A reminder to express, **IN WRITING**, prior to **May 1st**, any information regarding your child (e.g., a recent medical diagnosis, positive/negative peer relationships which exist outside of school, learning style, individual and family issues, etc.) that should be considered as we begin to **tentatively** place students in classes. 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. We appreciate your input and will certainly take it into consideration, but please do not consider it confirmation of a particular placement. Since we are well into the final term of the academic year, we continue to encourage our parents and guardians to communicate with your child's teacher (scheduled meetings, phone calls, etc.) to ensure messages are clear, consistent and tailored for your child's academic, emotional and social achievement.



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-schoolers !



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.

Winter Play



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.

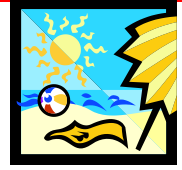
Some of our students are not coming to school dressed appropriately for the winter. Please remind your child that winter coats must be worn to school! Mittens, hats and boots will help to ensure your child enjoys the winter weather and stays healthy! Except in extreme weather, students are expected to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

Fun in the Snow !!!!!!! February 13th

Students enjoyed a fun packed afternoon of outdoor activities under sunny skies and warmer temperatures. Students visited several activity stations including snow painting, an obstacle course, sliding down the hill and hockey. The afternoon ended with hot chocolate served in the classrooms to all the students and staff that enjoyed the Fun in the Snow afternoon.



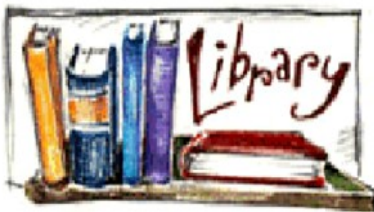
Beach Day.....March 5th



Students will be celebrating mid winter break with beach day. Bring your sunglasses, sun hats, shorts, t-shirts and towels

(bathing suits are not permitted) Classes will meet in the gym at 1:40 pm. Students will participate in the following activities during the afternoon.

1. Parachute activities in the gym.
2. Dancing to beach music in Mrs. Granger's classroom.
3. Mural in the hall where students can create a sunny day or beach picture.
4. Stories and activities centred around sunny days, beach or spring.



Thank you to our Library Volunteers who have done an outstanding job of supporting our Library. We would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs. D'Amico for all of her many long hours devoted to checking in and helping us to find lost books; Sharen Cain who comes weekly to help in the library; and to Nicole Cox who is reading and recording books on to CD's to support our classroom listening centers. We would like to thank you for all that you do to help us.

Lost and Found Items

Parents, please check the lost and found tables and bin for items that have been collected over the past few weeks.

All remaining items will be collected and donated before Mid-Winter break.



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.



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

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

Inspire Learning!



Character Matters!

For March we will be highlighting **Optimism**. We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future. Please take time to review this character trait with your child.

School Council News

School Council Meeting:

April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Aurora Sr. P.S.



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March

Are your computers off?



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE – CENTRAL



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905.884.4477 416.324.2902
Richmond Hill, Ontario Fax:
905.508.9942 905.508.7116
L4C 1B3 Web:
www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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,

Gayle Brocklebank-Vincent Superintendent of Schools

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

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



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

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

Visit the *Cook Up*