

# Community Brief



**Dec. 13, 2021 – Jan. 7, 2022 Weeks 15 & 16 of 40**

Dec. 13 - 17, 2021	Jan. 3 - 7, 2022
<b>MONDAY, December 13, 2021 – Day 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HOLIDAY SPIRIT DAY:</b>  <b>Holiday Hats &amp; Headbands</b></li> <li>• Classroom window decorating day</li> </ul>	<b>MONDAY, January 3, 2022 – Day 1</b>
<b>TUESDAY, December 14, 2021 – Day 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HOLIDAY SPIRIT DAY: Holiday PJs</b></li> <li>• Classroom window viewing begins</li> </ul>	<b>TUESDAY, January 4, 2022 – Day 2</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY, December 15, 2021 – Day 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HOLIDAY SPIRIT DAY:</b>  <b>Holiday Sweaters</b></li> </ul>	<b>WEDNESDAY, January 5, 2022 – Day 3</b>
<b>THURSDAY, December 16, 2021 – Day 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HOLIDAY SPIRIT DAY:</b>  <b>Holiday Socks, Sliders and Slippers</b></li> </ul>	<b>THURSDAY, January 6, 2022 – Day 4</b>
<b>FRIDAY, December 17, 2021 – Day 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HOLIDAY SPIRIT DAY:</b>  <b>Holiday Colours and Sparkle</b></li> </ul>	<b>FRIDAY, January 7, 2022 – Day 5</b>

**BALLANTRAE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

5632 Aurora Road  
 Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON L4A 3K3  
 905-640-2232

YRDSB website:  
<http://www.yrdsb.ca>  
 Ballantrae PS website:  
<http://ballantrae.ps.yrdsb.ca>

Sandra Angell-O’Grady ..... *Principal*  
 Sue Bezanson ..... *EOAA*  
 Debby Fontyn.....*Secretary*  
 Elizabeth Davis .....*Superintendent*  
 Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey ..... *YRDSB Trustee*

**Looking ahead...**



**January – FAIRNESS**  
 13.....School Council Mtg – 7pm  
 14.....PA Day

**School returns  
 Monday, January 3, 2022**

## Land Acknowledgement



**FIRST NATIONS AND TREATIES**

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.

## The Character Trait for December is 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.*

### PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

As the holidays approach, the excitement is building among the students (and staff too!) about the upcoming break and planned holiday festivities. While we continue to adapt some of our celebrations to account for the ongoing COVID pandemic, there remains an ongoing need to continue to focus on taking care of ourselves. This week I have included a link to the [Children's Mental Health Ontario](#) website and their tips to getting ready for the holidays. It is a brief article, and I encourage everyone to click the link and take a minute or two to read and see if there is something that you may find helpful.

With the snow and current inconsistent temperatures and weather, we continue to provide students with ongoing, daily reinforcement of appropriate snow activities. Students still require reminders and close adult supervision while playing on the yard to ensure that they are social distancing while playing with their friends. The daily announcements always include reminders that "the snow MUST stay on the ground" and "whatever clothing you were sent to school with, needs to be worn outside". We would appreciate your support with this by providing ongoing reminders at home.

We would like to thank everyone who has shown their generosity to our school through participation in our recent fundraisers: The Amazing Box of Cards, Little Caesar's Pizza Kits and Poinsettia sales. As well, we wish to thank those who have also made a cash donation to the school. The money raised through fundraising and donations enables us to provide student technology and resources/experiences that enhance the curriculum. A copy of our draft School Fundraising Plan has been included in this newsletter so that you may see what our goals are for the 2021-22 school year.

It is also important at this time to recognize our Ballantrae School Council members who have spent many hours researching, planning and implementing all of the recent fundraising efforts at our school. It would be impossible to raise money in support of our students without their enthusiasm and dedication. A huge thank you goes out to all of our Council members!

"The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing each other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays."  
W.C. Jones

Have a safe and relaxing holiday break with family and friends and a very happy new year!

*Sandra Angell-O'Grady*  
[sandra.angell-ogrady@yrdsb.ca](mailto:sandra.angell-ogrady@yrdsb.ca)

# COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES AVAILABLE THROUGH DECEMBER 2021

**December 1, 2021**

To increase access to testing for students, children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, York Region Public Health is partnering with Ontario Health (Central), York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) to offer **drop-in community-based COVID-19** testing at two sites in York Region, in addition to the [COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#).

Testing will be available for students/children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, ages two years and older, who are symptomatic or who have been identified as a close contact (e.g., are part of a dismissed cohort). Testing is also available for those with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms. The sites are walk-in and do not require booking an appointment in advance.

Testing will continue to be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in December. Additional testing dates will be shared in future communications should this be extended.

Testing options include PCR saliva and nasal swabs. One determining factor for a child's ability to complete a PCR saliva test is their ability to produce a sufficient amount of saliva. The clinician will advise on the appropriate test option. Families interested in potentially completing a saliva test should be prepared by drinking a **cup of water 60 minutes before** giving a sample. Participants can **NOT** eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum **30 minutes prior** to giving a sample.

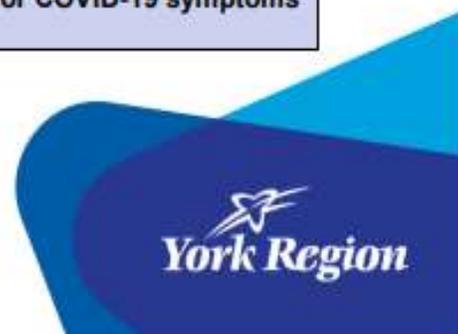
Rapid antigen testing will not be available at these testing sites for pick up or drop off. Rapid antigen testing **should not be used** when an individual is symptomatic or has been identified as a close contact of a case.

## When and where will testing be offered?

<b>George Street Public School</b> <a href="#">115 George Street</a> Town of Aurora, ON L4G 2S3 <b>Wednesdays and Thursdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.</b> <b>Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30</b>		<b>St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School</b> <a href="#">2 Davos Road</a> City of Vaughan, ON L4H 2Y1 PortaPac #2, <b>Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.</b> <b>Nov 30, Dec. 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, and 30</b> <b>No clinic Dec 28<sup>th</sup></b>	
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case	3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case
5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.	For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms	5:45 pm to 7 p.m.	For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

1-877-464-9675  
 TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/COVID19](http://york.ca/COVID19)



## **DAILY COVID SCREENING**

The Ministry has recently directed school boards to implement the daily-on-site confirmation of self-screening for all elementary students commencing in January 2022.

**Step 1:** Parents/Guardians of Elementary students are required to complete the on-line self-assessment COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool on a daily basis, prior to their child entering the school.

**Step 2:** Upon completion of the self-assessment, Parents/Guardians will complete the response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening tool?" in the Confirmation Form, using their child's GAPPS account login information.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

**MILD SYMPTOMS:** As a reminder, anyone experiencing symptoms, including mild symptoms not included on the provincial screening tool (e.g., runny nose, sore throat, etc.) should NOT attend school or child care. If your child has mild symptoms not listed on the screening tool, they can return to school or child care once their symptoms have improved for 24 hours. If your child does have symptoms listed on the screening tool, or their symptoms get worse, they are required to have a PCR COVID-19 test or stay home for 10 days

Additional information on [health and safety measures](#), as well as additional information and resources on the 2021-22 school year can be found on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

### School-based testing sites in York Region

Two new drop-in COVID-19 testing sites are available.  
Please visit [york.ca/safeatschool](http://york.ca/safeatschool) for dates and times

Town of Aurora	City of Vaughan
George Street Public School 115 George Street	St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School 2 Davos Road

All York Region students, children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families age two years and older are eligible to access testing at these sites. Testing options include PCR saliva and nasal swabs. In October and November, the sites are drop-in and do not require an appointment. Rapid antigen testing will not be available at these testing sites. Rapid antigen testing should not be used when an individual is symptomatic or has been identified as a close contact of a case.

For testing site schedules and more information visit [york.ca/SafeAtSchool](http://york.ca/SafeAtSchool)



## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

At this point in time, there are no extra-curricular activities planned.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Regular school photos have taken place. Please watch for future information about grad photos and/or photo retakes.

## FIELD TRIPS

At this point in time, field trips are on pause.

## STUDENT ABSENCES AND HYBRID LEARNING

- If any student is absent from their selected model for any reason, they will be marked absent from school.
- If students are absent for COVID-19 reasons (ie. quarantine, self-isolation), they may participate in remote learning.
- Since not all of our classes are set up for hybrid learning, it may take up to 48 hours to put this in place and will only be done for COVID-19 related circumstances.
- If students have short-term absences unrelated to COVID-19 they may access whatever work is already available on the classroom remote platform, but a hybrid classroom will not be created where one does not already exist. Those students can also be supported through regular classroom/school practice such as sending work home with a sibling, as well as Google Classroom/D2L (ie. asynchronous).
- Remote learning is not intended to provide temporary education for students who are on vacation or parent withdrawals from school. If the class/grade in a class is already **hybrid**, then students can access whatever work is already available on the class digital platform, but a hybrid classroom will not be created where one does not already exist. The student can also be supported through regular classroom/school practice such as sending work home with a sibling, as well as Google Classroom/D2L (ie. asynchronous).
- In cases of long term absences, please contact the principal to make arrangements.

The link below provides more details as well as information about other topics:  
<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

### **\*\*\*SCHOOL LUNCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED\*\*\***

Lunch time School Assistants are needed to provide supervisory support to teaching staff during peak or critical periods of the school day. This position includes lunch period eating supervision as well as outdoor yard supervision. Successful candidates will be required to complete online (virtual) health and safety training prior to start date (as well as school in-service training).

A Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) (Police Check) must be submitted prior to starting work.

School lunch hour varies between 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. with the first 20 minutes inside followed by 40 minutes outside. Times might vary due to split lunches in order to cohort students, and therefore could require 1.5 hours instead of 1 hour.

**Salary:** \$14.35/hour plus 4% vacation pay

# BALLANTRAE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDRAISING PLAN 2021-22

School Improvement Plan (SIP)	School Fundraising Plan	Timeline	Amount
<b>Learning and Teaching</b>	Forest of Reading Books Teacher Petty cash x approx 16 teachers \$100/teacher Author visits Grad subsidy Fence Art project (primer)		\$700 \$1600  \$900 \$500 \$100
<b>Technology including Cost-Sharing</b>	Refresh aging Chromebooks X 10 2 projectors Noise cancelling headphones X 8		\$3,200 \$1200 \$80
<b>Equity &amp; Inclusivity</b>	First Nations/Indigenous Presentation /Artist/Storytelling/Dance Self-regulation Equipment (ie under desk pedals, fidget toys) Playground repairs (play structure and umbrella maintenance)		\$1,300  \$200 \$400
<b>Engagement/Wellbeing</b>	Playground painting  Classroom play equipment top up	Future fundraising item	TBD  \$200
<b>Environment</b>	Gardening supplies (indoor or outdoor) Wonder wagon Time Capsule		\$100 \$100 \$200
		<b>TOTAL</b>	\$10,780

## SCHOOL COUNCIL TIDBITS



### **AMAZING BOX OF CARDS FUNDRAISER:**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Amazing Box of Cards Fundraiser!! A huge thank you to all who helped to organize this fundraiser. It was a great success!!



### **POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER:**

On behalf of the School Council, thank you to all for making our first Poinsettia Fundraiser a hit! We hope that you will enjoy your beautiful plants and arrangements over the holidays and beyond.



### **UPCOMING MEETING:**

Our next meeting has been set for **Thursday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00pm.** Please send an e-mail to [ballantrae.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ballantrae.ps@yrdsb.ca) no later than Wednesday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 if you wish to attend this meeting and a link will be shared with you prior to the meeting. We hope to see you there!



### **LITTLE CAESARS FUNDRAISER:**

Our orders are arriving shortly! Please see the information below regarding pickup times and location.



**IT'S PIZZA DELIVERY TIME!**



Pizza, bread and cookie dough kits purchased through the Little Caesars Fundraiser will be ready for pick up at the school Thursday, December 16.

Thank you to all who supported the Little Caesars Fundraiser to raise funds for the school. We are excited for you to enjoy your tasty treats!

Pick up details:

**We will be distributing Little Caesars orders from the Crush doors\* of the school between 3:00PM – 6:00PM Thursday December 16.**

\*please see attached image for the location of the school doors

❄️! *These kits should be refrigerated as soon as possible after pick up (can be refrigerated for up to a week or stored in the freezer for 3 months)*

🕒! *If you cannot make the pick up window please let Ashley Hooke (647-339-4005) or Indu Bains (416-843-4440) know as soon as possible, so we can help make alternative arrangements.*



# BPS

# SPIRIT DAYS!

## 2021-2022

<b>NOV</b> <b>18</b>	<b>Pajama Day</b> No need to get dressed today, wake up in comfy pjs and stay that way!
<b>DEC</b> <b>10</b>	<b>Crazy Mask Day</b> You could dress it up, decorate it and make it fun, show off your silliest, craziest, funniest one!
<b>JAN</b> <b>13</b>	<b>Sports / Jersey Day</b> Show your team spirit and pride for all to see, wear your favourite sports team colours or jersey!
<b>FEB</b> <b>03</b>	<b>Superhero / Villain Day</b> Everyone loves a hero, that's true; sometimes it's fun to dress up as the villain too - you choose!
<b>FEB</b> <b>25</b>	<b>Sunny Beach Day</b> Aloha! Celebrate winter in a summery way, dress in bright colours, sunglasses and beach gear today!
<b>MAR</b> <b>25</b>	<b>Games Day</b> Whether it's cards, video or board games you like to play, get creative and dress to represent any favourite one today!
<b>APR</b> <b>14</b>	<b>Wacky Hair Day</b> Vibrantly coloured, super spikey, any style will do, just be sure your hair is wackier than you!
<b>MAY</b> <b>06</b>	<b>Silly Socks Day</b> Wear them high or wear them low; crazy, fun or mismatched is the way to go!
<b>MAY</b> <b>27</b>	<b>Hat Day</b> Wear a hat that is tall, comfy, cute or full of flare, can't wait to see the one you decide to wear!
<b>JUN</b> <b>17</b>	<b>Inside Out &amp; Backwards Day</b> If everything you wear is upside down and inside out, it's okay that's what today is all about!



## Holiday Spirit Days – December 13-17, 2021

### Monday, December 13, 2021

Holiday Hats & Headbands Day and Classroom Holiday Window Decorating

### Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Holiday Pajama Day and Outdoor Holiday Window Viewing begins

### Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Holiday Sweater Day

### Thursday, December 16, 2021

Holiday Slippers, Sliders and Socks Day

### Friday, December 17, 2021

Holiday Colours & Sparkle Day – dress in your favourite festive clothing!

**\*Families are invited to come to the school to see our festive windows after regular school hours**

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## PARENT RESOURCES

(This will be a standing item in each Brief and will be added to over the course of the school year as resources become available)

## CURRICULUM SUPPORTS

### TVO Learning that Connects

At TVO, we invite you to explore these resources to enhance your students' at-school and at-home learning.

TVO's digital resources complement learning and are created with Ontario educators to maximize engagement, relevance, and student success.

Our Outreach Team provides online sessions to demonstrate how TVO's K-12 resources can be used in your classrooms today!

Request an online session:  
[bit.ly/TVOEventRequest](https://bit.ly/TVOEventRequest)

Explore TVO's Digital Resources:  
[outreach.tvolearn.com](https://outreach.tvolearn.com)

tvo  
2021-2022

K-5	<b>Advertising-Free Videos, Games and Content</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free 24/7 YouTube livestream of TVOkids programming</li><li>• 50+ one-hour lessons for Power Hour of Learning</li></ul>	tvokids
K-6	<b>Game-Based STEM Learning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NEW games for K-6 Financial Literacy and Algebra/Coding</li><li>• 65+ free online games that support foundational math skills</li></ul>	tvo mPower
Gr. 1-12	<b>Learning Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NEW 500+ Learning Activities for Grades 1-8</li><li>• Grades 9-12 searchable high school course content</li></ul>	tvoLearn
Gr. 6-11	<b>Personalized Math Tutoring and Interactive Whiteboard</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NEW Grade 11 math tutoring available</li><li>• Question Bank features 200+ whiteboards with math questions</li></ul>	tvo Mathify
Gr. 9-12	<b>High-Quality Secondary Course Material</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide students with engaging high school courses</li><li>• ILC offers 144 courses in English and French</li></ul>	tvo ILC
K-12	<b>Library of Educational Content</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance online learning with interactive multimedia content</li><li>• Search over 10K+ videos and articles by grade, subject &amp; keyword</li></ul>	tvo in the Classroom

## MENTAL HEALTH

### Kids Help Phone 101



Kids Help Phone is Canada's only national 24-hour, bilingual and anonymous phone counselling, online counselling and referral service for children and youth.

Our service is completely anonymous and confidential – we don't trace calls, we don't have call display. You don't even have to tell us your name if you don't want to. Find out more.

Whether by phone, mobile app or through our websites, you can connect with us whenever you want, however you want.

**Kids Help Phone** is a very important resource working to help support children's mental health, safety, and wellbeing. Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or [www.kidshelpphone.ca](https://www.kidshelpphone.ca) or Text 686868



School  
Mental Health  
Ontario

Santé mentale  
en milieu scolaire  
Ontario

**PARENTS and GUARDIANS:**

Are you looking for ideas about how to support your child's mental health during COVID-19 and the return to school?

<https://smho-smso.ca/covid-19/parents-and-families/>

**york hills** Centre for Children, Youth and Families **Fall 2021 Webinars and Groups**

Register at  
[www.yorkhillscentre.eventbrite.ca](http://www.yorkhillscentre.eventbrite.ca)  
or scan the barcode!



☎ 905-503-9560

👉 [www.yorkhills.ca](http://www.yorkhills.ca)

Find us on:



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

**york hills**  
Centre for Children, Youth and Families

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**HERE TO HELP LINE**

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**STARTING APRIL 6TH**

☎ **905-503-9561**

Monday | Wednesday | Friday  
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

*For children and youth (0-18 yrs) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.*

Visit [www.yorkhills.ca](http://www.yorkhills.ca) for more information!

# PARENT NOTICE

## Community immunization clinics now available for eligible students to receive vaccines against Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal disease

November 11, 2021

Immunization is one of the safest ways to protect you and your child from illness associated with vaccine preventable diseases.

Parents/guardians can now book an [online](#) appointment for their child to receive vaccines to protect them against [Hepatitis B](#), [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#) and [Meningococcal](#) disease. Please check the community [immunization clinics](#) web page often as newly released appointments will be posted regularly.

These student immunizations will be offered at community immunization clinics (not in the schools), and are available for:

- All eligible grade 7 students who will miss their doses of vaccines
- All eligible grade 8 to 12 students who missed any doses of these vaccines due to school closures and the pandemic response

If your child has been previously immunized with any of the above vaccines listed, please update your child's [immunization records online](#). It is important that you keep us informed when your child has received a vaccination. Doctors or schools do not provide this information to York Region Public Health. If you are not certain if your child is eligible for one of these vaccines, you may call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 to find out more information.

**Important:** The community immunization clinics will **not** be offering COVID-19 vaccinations. Individuals 12 years of age (born in 2009) and older can attend a dedicated [COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#). Also, students are able to receive a vaccine at the same time, or before/following, a COVID-19 vaccine.

Parents/Guardians who are unable to book an online appointment may call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 to seek further assistance.

For more information, visit [york.ca/immunizations](http://york.ca/immunizations).

PUBLIC HEALTH  
[york.ca/immunizations](http://york.ca/immunizations)  
1-877-464-9675



# Labels for stuff kids lose!



Be sure to label all your gear and supplies to help keep them out of the Lost & Found. Shop for durable, personalized labels and support our fundraiser!

mabel's labels  
FUNDRAISING

- Visit [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com)
- Choose our school from the list

**Ballantrae Public School**



## Raising Confident Competent Children

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children by;

- Encouraging respect and cooperating
- Learning to be independent
- Learning how to develop healthy self-esteem

### REGISTRATION

**Parents, Grandparents and  
Caregivers!**

**Join us to share, learn and build a  
school culture where mental  
health and well-being is valued  
and promoted.**

**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom Link will be provided

**Facilitator:** Uma Bhatt, R.S.W.  
York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and  
Families

#### **More Information:**

Oksana Majaski  
Community Partnership Developer  
[Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

*This free Parent Presentation is brought to you in  
partnership with York Hills Centre for Children,  
Youth and Families and York Region District  
School Board*

