



Cobra Communicator

We are a village, growing together

January 12, 2024.

Hello Cornell Village Families,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable winter break. It is great to start 2024 with a positive vibe in the building. We hope you enjoyed the winter break and are now happy to have your children back into school routines. We have had a great first week back with learning back in full swing and extra-curricular activities up and running. Please see all of the opportunities listed in the calendar below and encourage your child(ren) to get involved in things outside of the classroom.

Today is the kick off to our major Fundraising Initiative for CVPS. The oldest or only child in your household will be bringing home a box of cards, a parent letter and an order form. Please read the instructions carefully. The hope is that every student can sell at least one box. This box should be used to show potential buyers a sample of what they will be getting. There are two kinds of boxes and the cards are top notch! More information is provided below.

We are incredibly impressed with the student leaders at CVPS! The student council meets each Monday and they share fabulous ideas with the teachers and administrators. We have many student volunteers in the role of lunch monitors. As well, we have a group of dedicated students helping out with our announcements each day and in various other capacities around the school.

As always, please reach out if we can help with anything at all!

Sincerely,

Heather Purcell
Principal
heather.purcell@yrdsb.ca

Joanne Trim
Vice Principal
joanne.trim@yrdsb.ca

Upcoming Events:

| Date | Day | What's Happening at School? |
|------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 15 | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza Day for those who ordered • Knitting & Crochet Club - morning recess • Student Council-snack recess • Junior Boys' Volleyball lunch recess • Arts@Baythorn Applications open (grade 4 & 5 students only) • School Council Meeting- staffroom 6:30-8:00 p.m. |
| January 16 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLAY leaders with grade 3s- snack recess • Intramurals Pickleball Gr. 7&8 - am recess • Wonka Musical Rehearsal- 1:10 p.m. • Junior Boys' Volleyball game after school |
| January 17 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub sandwiches for those who ordered • PLAY leaders with grade 2s- snack recess • After school tutoring programme- grades 2 and 3 |
| January 18 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-team Meeting-snack recess • Chess club- snack recess in library • PLAY leaders with grade 2s- snack recess • Wonka rehearsal-snack recess • Little Jammerz - lunch recess • After school tutoring programme- grades 2 and 3 |
| January 19 | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Day |

Mark your calendars:

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 1 | Grade 8 Graduation Photos | April 30 | Jr. Girls Basketball Regionals |
| Feb. 5 | School Council Meeting | May 1 | Jr. Boys Basketball Regionals |
| Feb. 6 | Jr. Girls Volleyball Regional Meet | June 12 | SODA Track & Activities Meet |
| Feb. 8 | Jr. Boys Volleyball Regional Meet | June 19 | Track & Field Regional Meet |
| March 4 | Int. Girls Basketball Regionals | June 20 | Grade 8 Graduation-CVPS |
| March 5 | Int. Boys Basketball Regionals | | |

Attachments for this week:

- 📎 Battery Recycling Challenge
- 📎 Family Services York Region 2024 Winter Group Calendar.pdf
- 📎 January 2024 Student Mental Health Newsletter .pdf

Cornell Village P.S. Fundraiser – happening now!

We are excited to share that we will be having a huge fundraiser this month! We will be raising money to go toward technology needs, the Arts Programme and Miscellaneous items: (support for school clubs, academic needs, speakers, outdoor equipment, and special events).

Boxes of cards go home today! Please read the letter carefully for instructions as to how the fundraiser works. Please do NOT send cash - cheques only payable to “Cornell Village Public School”.



Two Choices Available - \$35 per box

All Occasions Cards box:

- contains 35 handcrafted cards that are designed to provide a card for almost any occasion
- includes Thank you cards, Congratulations cards, Get Well Soon cards, New Baby Cards and many more to just name a few.
- Couple this with the fact that the box also contains around 20 beautiful Birthday cards and you really are ready for almost anything.

Big Box of Birthday Cards:

- contains 35 handcrafted cards that will meet all of your Birthday giving needs.

\$12 RAISED FOR EACH BOX SOLD!

Sample Boxes will be sent home on January 12th.

Orders will be accepted until January 29th.

BIGBOX FUNDRAISING

Box of Birthdays
35 individual card designs

The following prizes will be provided by The Big Box Fundraising company:

- Pizza party for the top-selling class if the school sells 75 boxes or more
- 4 X \$25 gift cards for the top retailers if the school sells 150 boxes or more
- An 8-inch Samsung tablet “A” if the school sells over 400 boxes in total



Kindergarten Registration for September begins on January 19, 2024!

If your child is born in 2020, they are eligible for kindergarten in September.

Families can register using the following options:

- **Online** - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten > Registration. It is recommended that families use a laptop or a desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.
- **By email** - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten and email the completed form to their school email address.
- **By phone** - Families can request support to complete the registration form on their behalf by collecting the required information by phone. Families can request an interpreter, if needed.
- **In-person at the school** - Families may call the school office and request assistance with registration. You may also drop by completed registration forms. Families may visit the school office to drop off or complete a registration form. Starting **January 23**, you may call the school office to set up an appointment to drop off the required paperwork. There is a Registration Verification Process following submission of a registration package, schools will contact families to schedule an appointment for Document Verification.

School Council- Our next **School Council Meeting** is on **Monday, January 15 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Tamil Heritage Month

தமிழ் மரபுத் திங்கள்

Tamil Heritage Month 2024

Tamiliocious:
Tamils and Food:
Past, Present
and Future

தமிழ்ச் சுவை:
நேற்று,
இன்று,
நாளை

இருந்தோம்பி இல்வாழ்வ தெல்லாம் விருந்தோம்பி
வேளாண்மை செய்தற் பொருட்டு.

அடுகாரம் 9, குறள் 1

A verse from Thirukkural, a classic Tamil language text written about 2000 years ago.

**The whole design of living in the domestic life and laying up property
is to be able to exercise the benevolence of hospitality to others.**

Chapter 9, Kural 1

This official poster for Tamil Heritage Month 2024, released by Tamil Heritage Month Council, celebrates Tamil Cuisine, Tamils in Agriculture/Food Production, Preparation, Distribution and food related Hospitality sectors. From many centuries ago to the present day, Tamils have contributed greatly to food production, preparation and distribution across the world. Tamil Cuisine and culinary skills of Tamils have also made an enormous impact across the Globe. The images shown in the poster through drawings and photos are a few significant examples of that contribution of Tamils. The poster illustrates food items that are unique to Tamil cuisine, farmers, markets in Tamil homelands to restaurants in the diaspora. As 2024 is the 15th year anniversary of the Tamil Heritage Month Initiative, the central image pays tribute to our collective effort in making this initiative a great success. The artwork includes work by artists from Tamil Eelam, Tamil Nadu and Canada. We thank artists Keera Ratnam, Pirunthajini Pirabakaran and Jeeva Nathan. Poster design by Maiyuran Kanagasabapathy.

info@tamilcivicaaction.com | www.tamilheritagemonth.com

January is Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature, and highlight Tamil Canadians' vibrant traditions, history, arts, and cultures. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres.

One community-based theme for 2024 THM is Tamil Culture and Food: Past, Present, and Future. There will also be an educational focus of professional learning for staff centred on "Histories and Healing - Tamil Heritage across Time, Space, and Identity." Educators are reminded to continue to support and uplift the stories of Tamil-Canadian students in their classrooms for justice, self-determination, and healing.

Also, of significance is January 15, 2024. According to the Tamil

calendar, January 15, 2024, begins the month of "Thai." On this day, people of Tamil heritage celebrate Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the previous year's blessings and a time to look forward to the new year.

Sharing Professional Activity Day Plans

As per PPM 151, Administrators are required to electronically share their P.A. Day plans with parents/guardians post a copy in the main office prior to the P.A. Day. P.A. Day plans are also posted on the Board's public website.

January 19, 2024

Length: Full Day

Topic: Report Card Preparation, Reporting to Parents, Ongoing Communication

Entity Hosting: All Elementary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Teacher/DECE

Description:

Full Day of Professional activities focused on reporting to parents and ongoing communication regarding student achievement and well-being.

P.A. Day February 2, 2024

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Violence Prevention Training on Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Literacy/Mathematics Instructional Strategies

DISCORD- Parents Be Aware of the Platforms that your Children are using

Discord is a social media platform used for instant messaging and digital distribution. Users can communicate with video calls, voice calls, text messaging and chats. The platform is not suitable for young children (elementary school). Discord contains adult content and must be labelled as only accessible to those over the age of 18 years old. Anyone using the channel will see warnings letting them know that it might contain graphic content and it will ask them to confirm they are over the age of 18.

Unfortunately, many of our students at CVPS and surrounding schools are using Discord regularly. In Markham, we are experiencing many issues with the platform as it is resulting in a lot of bullying, bad language and racism.

It is highly recommended that you sit down with your child and review their participation with this platform. Please have a look at their text/chat history. As we become more dependent on technology, it is so important for all of us to work together and assist our children. Parents, please let us know if you become aware of any on-line behaviour/chats that are not appropriate. We remind students that we must act on all incidents of bullying whether they are on-line or in person.



Cornell Village P.S. is a walking community. Most students live within walking distance to the school. We strongly encourage all students/families to walk to school when possible. If you must drive, please exercise caution in the school zone. If you are using the Kiss and Ride area, please drive slowly! Be sure to watch for pedestrians and drop off your children on the curb side only. Please only park in designated areas and avoid blocking the flow of traffic.

Donations to Cornell Village P.S.

This year many of our students have benefited from the generous donations of others in our community. We have had families donate to our lunch programmes. We have another session starting in the new year. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for some student lunches, please email heather.purcell@yrdsb.ca or joanne.trim@yrdsb.ca. Your support is appreciated! Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to our school. If you are able, we are currently asking for donations to support many of our school initiatives including:

- **Technology:** The school continues to work towards a goal of providing technology devices for each child, starting in Grade 1. Currently there are enough devices in the school for most students to have their own device but we are currently short due to our growing population. Many devices had to be retired earlier this year, as they were obsolete and no longer functional.
- **Arts Enhancement:** Last year, we were able to purchase 90 ukuleles. We would like to continue to enhance our arts and music programs as we look for new ways for our students to enjoy the Arts.
- **Miscellaneous items:** Provide support for school clubs, academic needs, speakers, outdoor equipment and special events.

Donations can be made by clicking on the Donate button on School Cash Online or by sending a cheque made out to Cornell Village Public School. Charitable donation receipts can be emailed to you directly for any amount \$20 or greater. Your donation will go towards all three areas of need.



CVPS is Eco-friendly!

CVPS is working towards achieving an Ecoschool certification this year! Here is an update on our current initiatives:

1. **Battery collection pails** have been placed in the "front" area by the office main entrance and the library. Students can begin bringing in batteries. It is important to **tape the 9V battery terminals to avoid fires.**
2. **Snack pouch collection** bin is also in front of the library where ALL brands are being collected.

Session # 3 School Lunches:

Pizza Mondays - Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 4

Subway Wednesdays - Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, March 6

Hero Burger Fridays - Jan. 26, Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 1

Grade 1 French Immersion (FI) Information Sessions and Registrations

French Immersion (FI) registration will begin January 19, 2024, and as such, we wanted to take this opportunity to share updated information. FI Information Night will take place on January 18, 2024 at 7 p.m. Please visit the [FSL page](#) for more information about the information night and FI registration. More information about registration will be available in January

What is French Immersion?

- Provides opportunities for students to develop enhanced proficiency in French.
- Students receive instruction in French from teachers who are fluent in French.
- Begins in Grade 1 and is designed for children whose first language is not French.
- In Grades 1, 2 and 3, all subjects are taught in French. Starting in Grade 4, instructional time is shared equally between French and English.
- Program continues in secondary school.
- Secondary school students must earn at least 10 French Immersion credits to qualify for the French Immersion Certificate upon graduation.

Important Considerations

- Grade 1 is the only entry point into French immersion in YRDSB.
- Communication with parents/guardians is in English including, but not limited to, report cards, newsletters and parent-teacher interviews.
- For the first few months of Grade 1, children may not acquire skills identical to those learned by children in an English program as the focus is on learning in French.
- During the first few years of the FI program, students may not develop the same level of English proficiency as their peers in an English program, however children should acquire these skills by the end of Grade 8. Families are encouraged to continue to read to their children in their first language.

FI Accommodation Plan

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 is 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. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. 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](#). 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.

Information Sessions

This year, our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion program will take place in French Immersion schools on January 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. Program locations and additional information is available on our [website](#). If families are unable to attend the information session, they can hear about the French Immersion program on the [Tune In YRDSB: French Immersion Podcast](#).

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 19, 2024. Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2023, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enrol. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact families by phone or email to collect any necessary information. Families are asked to register by February 6, 2024. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 6, 2024. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

School Council Wants to Hear From You!

Please take a moment to complete the Google form below to let the School Council know more about what you would like to see happen at CVPS to support parents/guardians/caregivers:

[School Council Survey - Family Engagement](#) 

Extreme Cold Weather and Inclement Weather Days

An **extreme cold weather day** is declared when roads are clear but extreme cold temperatures make it difficult for buses to operate reliably, posing a safety risk to students.

An **inclement weather day** is declared when road or weather conditions make it impossible to operate a school bus safely.

When **extreme cold or inclement weather days** are called, school transportation, including buses and taxis, are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open.

Please note: there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions occur and we may need to close all schools and Board locations. Please ensure that you take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

The decision to declare an extreme cold or inclement weather day and to cancel transportation is made by 6:00 a.m. For more information, including how to check if buses are cancelled, please visit the [School Transportation webpage](#).

Important things to note on designated extreme cold and inclement weather days:

- Students will not be penalized for missing school. If you have concerns about how an extreme cold or inclement weather day will affect your coursework, please speak to your school principal or teacher.
- Any lunch service arrangements made by the school, special lunches or special events/field trips will be cancelled. If you have made lunch arrangements directly with a third party provider please check with them directly, otherwise parents should send a lunch with their child.
- If your child does not take the bus, you need to inform the school office if their child will not be attending on extreme cold and inclement weather days, otherwise the school's safe arrival procedure will apply.
- **If transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon.** If students do go to school, families will need to arrange to pick up their children.
- Parents should use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school, understanding that if they choose to send their child, that the child should remain at school for the day and must be picked up at the end of the day.

For more information, please review the [Severe Weather Days Policy](#).

Emergency Weather Days

There may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions occur and we may need to close all schools and Board locations. Closures will be considered when facilities may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations such as a significant snowfall or ice storm that restricts access to the school site, causes widespread or prolonged power failures or downs power lines.

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. **However, it is important that families have alternate child care arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and after care programs will also not operate if schools are closed. Please ensure that you take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.**

Decisions about [student transportation](#) and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m.

Screening Tool

If anyone in your family is feeling ill or showing symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny nose etc, please ensure that you make use of the [screening tool](#) for the 2023-2024 school year and follow the guidance given. This tool has been updated to reflect new protocols and guidelines.

Any students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine) or answer yes to any of the screening questions, must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool.

Students, staff members and school visitors are not required to wear masks in school. Individuals who feel more comfortable or who are advised to wear a mask can continue to wear a mask and will be supported in doing so. Hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfection protocols will continue.

Prayer Spaces

We have a designated space in the school available for students and staff who wish to pray during the day. Please let your child's teacher know if they need help finding and accessing the prayer room. The room is located beside room 201.

Worth Repeating:

Important Information to Remember:

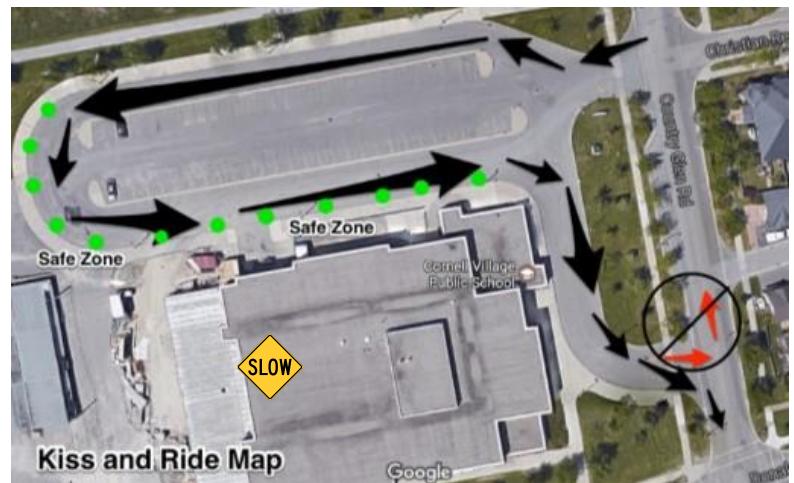
KISS AND RIDE

The entry bell rings at 8:45 a.m. Students must make every effort to be in school by 9:00 a.m. to ensure "on time" arrival in class. During the early entry time, students may enter the school hallways to unpack their bags and prepare for class. In the interest of safety, it is suggested that students who walk to school should arrive after 8:45 a.m. **when the school is supervised.** Parents who pick up their child after school need to arrive promptly.

Supervising staff are on duty in the hallways 15

minutes before the start of first period classes at 9:00 a.m. **NOTE: Supervision is not available after school.**

Staff are on duty at the end of the day to assist with bus loading and the safe exit of the building.



EDSBY SIGN UP

This platform will be required to report absences, book appointments and may be used as a communication tool with your child's teachers. For Edsby to be effective, it contains personal information about you and your family that is collected by the Board at registration. This information is used to provide services and support to you and your family. Edsby is a secure system that keeps your details and information safe and secure.

You will be receiving an invitation to EDBSY if you are new to the school, or you have not yet signed up. Please visit [this link](#) for online resources to help you register and use EDSBY.

Reporting Student Absences and Lates

We are pleased to let you know that we have a telephone attendance reporting system. This is in addition to online absence reporting through Edsby.

Regular and punctual attendance affects school success and is expected of all students. You are responsible for notifying the school before the bell time if your child will be absent or late. We have a safe arrivals

program so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students if the absence has not been reported prior to bell time.

To enhance our safe arrivals system, this new telephone system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance. It will also confirm student absences that have not been verified by automatically calling you.

If your child is going to be absent or late, please let us know before bell time by: 8:50 a.m.

1. **Logging in to Edsby and using the “Report an Absence” feature.** For more information on reporting your child’s attendance through Edsby, please see the [online video tutorial to learn more](https://bit.ly/edsbyabsence) (bit.ly/edsbyabsence).

*** If you are going on an extended vacation, please enter this on Edsby**

2. **Calling the school's main phone line at 905 471-1694 and select the option “To report a student absence or late.”**

Long-term absences or absences beyond the following day can be reported through the new telephone absence reporting system, Edsby or by contacting the school. If your child will miss more than 5 consecutive days of school, you must complete the Request for Vacation Form available through the school.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to ensure the safety of our students. Please feel free to contact us with any further questions.