

DEVINS DRIVE NEWS

OCTOBER 2019

Principal: Tracey Davies

**Admin. Support: Kelly Smith
Josie Altieri**

**Devins Drive PS
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Aurora, Ontario
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905-727-2022**

**Superintendent: Becky Green
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Principal's Message

The first six weeks of school have been great! Merci beaucoup to our staff, students and their families for attending our Open House/BBQ on September 26th. It was great to see everyone there! The BBQ was a HUGE success!

With October comes cool fall breezes and thoughts of thankfulness to DDPS. It is often said that the happiest people are those who show appreciation for the many positive people or things in their lives. We can be appreciative by using words and actions to recognize all the great things that surround us: people and their actions, nature and its beauty, important events and simple pleasures.

Our School Council has decided to offer Pasta Lunch on Mondays and Pizza Lunch on Fridays this year. The order forms were sent home last week and are due back to the office on October 17th. The School Council is also coordinating two fundraisers simultaneously - the Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser and the North Country Meat Fundraiser. The Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser forms are due back on October 25th and the North Country Meat Fundraiser forms are due back on November 5th. Both the cookie dough and the meat will be available for pick up on the evening of November 14th which is the same evening of the Family/Teacher Interviews. All proceeds from the lunch programs, these fundraisers and all future fundraisers go towards many important items for our students such as the purchase of technology supporting our Music program and field trips. Are you interested in finding out how you can help out? Please join us at our next School Council meeting on Monday, November 4th at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons. Everyone is welcome to attend!

During the week of September 23rd-27th, our students and staff participated in Safety Week activities such as how to safely evacuate the building during a Fire Drill. We also held our first Lock Down Drill and our Hold-and Secure Drill. These emergency procedures will be reviewed throughout the year.

Our Intermediate Flag Football Team competed in the regional tournament in Mount Albert on Friday, October 11th. The Cross Country Team has been practising and attended the Area Cross Country Meet on Tuesday, October 15th in Newmarket.

In order to strengthen our communication and to support our school's quest to once again become eco-certified, we will continue to email as one of the primary methods of communication to announce important information pertaining to the school as needed. Please ensure that we have your current email address so that all information is brought to your attention. Our email notifications will help to keep our parents/guardians up to date with the most recent information.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Please visit our school website frequently for updates:
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/devinsdrive.ps/Pages/default.aspx>

Volunteers in Our Schools

Volunteers are welcome and greatly appreciated at our school. In accordance with the York Region District School Board's Policies and Procedures, all volunteers who may be interacting with students are required to have a *Police Vulnerable Sector Check* (PVSC). Once you have obtained your PVSC, please submit it to the office. If you obtained your PVSC last year, all you need to do is to drop by the office to sign an *Annual Offence Declaration* and a *Confidentiality Agreement*. Any person entering the school must report to the office, sign in and wear a Devins Drive Public School Visitor's badge/sticker. For the protection and safety of our children and staff, everyone must adhere to this rule. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Halloween Safety at School

This is a time of great excitement for all of our students. We kindly ask that students do not arrive at school wearing their costumes, but rather change into their costumes in the afternoon. We would like to remind all of our students and their families that Halloween treats / food are NOT to be brought to school to be shared with anyone else as we have several students who have anaphylactic allergies. Also, it is important to remember that no masks or weapons are to be part of costumes, not even plastic ones.

Food for Celebrations

We are requesting that families please refrain from sending in food as treats for birthdays, celebrations, etc. There are a number of reasons for this, two of them being our "Healthy Schools" initiative, and the second being food allergies. As a staff, we take serious precautions to avoid any unnecessary risks. We look at the sharing of food as one of these risks. As such, we kindly ask that you DO NOT send in food treats to celebrate a birthday/special occasion.

If you feel the need to share something for your child's birthday, you are asked to please find an alternative (pencils, stickers, hockey cards, etc.) that students can hand out. Another very creative way that families can celebrate a birthday is to purchase a book for the class, wrap it up, and let your child open it in front of everyone and have the teacher read it (with a personalized birthday message from you). For Halloween, etc. students are only allowed to bring in a snack for themselves, not to share with the class. We thank you for your understanding and your support in keeping all of our students safe.

2019-2020 Devins Drive School Council Members

Co-Chairs: Katie Luedecke & Michael Memraj

Treasurer: Sandy Jenkins

Secretary: Jeanette Maines

Fundraising/Community Events Team: Melony Connor, Alexis Hunt, Sabrina Lang & Tenisha R.

Council Members: Warren Fetterly, Kerri Hardy, Tracy Hill, Mike Hill, Andrea Hulton, Catherine Johnson, Christy Knowles, Chris M., Lisa Mitchell, Jeff Smith, Heather Watts & Heather Wellard

Devins Drive School Council Meeting Dates For the 2019-2020 School Year

- November 4, 2019
- December 2, 2019
- January 13, 2020
- February 10, 2020
- April 6, 2020
- May 4, 2020
- June 8, 2020

Please note that all meetings are from 7-9 pm in the Learning Commons.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Grade 8 Information Night Sessions

Aurora High School: Wednesday, December 4th at 6:00 pm

Bill Crothers SS: Information Night Dates: Thursday, October 17th at 7 pm at Bill Crothers SS. Applications will be available from the BCSS website on Friday, October 4 and applications are due by October 25th.

Arts Mackenzie Information Night (Alexander Mackenzie High School): Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30pm at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

Dr. G.W. Williams SS: IB Program Information Night: Thursday, October 17th at 7:00 pm.
Wednesday, November 13th at 7:30 pm

2019 EQAO Results

The 2019 EQAO results for our school can be accessed on our school website at [Devins Drive Public School](#)

YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. The Student Suicide Intervention Protocol will be implemented starting fall 2019. Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally-charged and sadly real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It's important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive.

The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide. In addition, the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice.

Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, refer to the print version of the [YRDSB- Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) on the board website.

Given the urgent need to help keep students safe from suicide, each school has access to Board staff trained in suicide intervention. In the urgent situation of suicide intervention, staff trained in suicide intervention do not require parental / guardian consent to intervene. However, we do make every effort to contact parents/ guardians to apprise you of your child's situation and the assistance provided. Parents/guardians are an integral part of keeping their children safe. In the event that the intervention protocol is used, a record of the intervention will be shared with you **and a copy will be created and stored** in a private and confidential on-line records management system. In accordance with privacy and health records legislation, a copy will be retained until the student turns 31 years of age. As per the protocol parental/guardian (student if 18 or over) consent will be sought to share the intervention plan with those members identified in the record. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol please contact your school principal.

Caring & Safe Schools

The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility. Attention to maintaining secure environments, hazard awareness, and practical planning for emergencies is important for all of us. This includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence. Schools continue to be among the safest places in our community. To continue to promote the safety and well-being of students, we have developed, with our community partners, Student Threat Assessment and Intervention procedures to respond to threats of violence. Our Student Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol has been developed to respond to behaviours, including actions, statements and other indicators that suggest that a student may be "at risk" of harming others. To keep school communities safe and provide support to everyone, staff, parents, students, and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school administrator or police as soon as possible. Note - other procedures and protocols are in place to deal with threats from adults in the school community. Please visit the YRDSB Website - [YRDSB Student Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol](#) for the full brochure.

We Are Hiring PAID School Assistants!!

We are in need of School Assistants! School Assistants play an important role in providing a safe and comfortable environment for students during the lunch hour. This is a paid position, requiring you to be at the school from 12:45 pm—1:45pm. If you are interested in applying for this position or know of someone who is, either on a full-time or occasional basis, please contact the office immediately at 905-727-2022 and/or drop by the office to pick up a package.

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month - From the YRDSB Website

October is Learning Disabilities month. While some people believe that learning disabilities (LDs) are a school issue, the reality is that living with a learning disability may have an ongoing impact on a child's friendships, school, work, self-esteem and daily life.

Statistics Canada reports that 3.2% of Canadian children have a learning disability and that more children in this country have a learning disability than all other types of disabilities combined. The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario reports that estimates of the incidence rate of LDs range as high as 10% or more of the population, but there is most statistical evidence from demographic sources for a range of 4 to 6 %. In YRDSB, 46% of all students with an identification have a learning disability. Students with learning disabilities can succeed when solid coping skills and strategies are developed.

Students with LDs are intelligent and have abilities to learn despite difficulties in processing information. Difficulties in processing information can affect the way in which a student takes in, remembers, understands and expresses information. Learning disabilities can affect a person's ability in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing and mathematics.

Our classrooms and staff work to assist students with LDs to learn strategies and maximize their strengths to succeed. However, misperceptions about LDs can foster barriers between people. Together we can build awareness and take down barriers.

Imagine a world without the stigma of learning disabilities.....**If we can imagine it, we can do it!**

Upcoming Dates

OCTOBER

- 14 Thanksgiving-No School
- 15 Area Cross Country Meet
- 16 Milk Order Form (REVISED) due to office
- 17 School Photo Day
 - Pasta Lunch Order Form due to office
 - Pizza Lunch Order Form due to office
 - Area Cross Country Meet (rain date)
 - IB Info Evening-7 pm-Dr. G.W. Williams SS
- 18 Spirit Day (Wear bright colours in support of 2SLGBTQ Youth)
- 21 PA Day-no school for students
- 23 Regional Cross Country Meet
 - Milk Program begins
- 25 Pizza Lunch begins
 - Cookie Dough Fundraiser Order Form due to office
 - Regional Cross Country Meet (rain date)
- 28 Pasta Lunch begins
- 29 Grade 6 VIP Program-11:30 am
- 31 Spirit Day-Orange & Black Day