

# DEVINS DRIVE NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2019

<b>Principal: Tracey Davies</b>	<b>Devins Drive PS</b> 70 Devins Drive Aurora, Ontario L4G 2Z4 905-727-2022	<b>Superintendent: Becky Green</b> 905-884-4477
<b>Admin. Support: Kelly Smith</b> Josie Altieri		<b>Trustee: Bob McRoberts</b> 905-727-3141

### Principal's Message

Welcome back to all of our returning Devins Drive students, their families and staff. A special welcome as well to everyone who is new to Devins Drive this year.

Over the summer, our caretaking team, Travis Wood, Derek Kaskow and Rick Lee, worked very hard to make our school sparkle for the new school year. Thank you very much for your efforts! Our school looks fantastic! A special thank you as well to our office staff, Kelly Smith and Josie Altieri, in preparing everything for the start of the new school year. Merci beaucoup to all of our staff who worked very hard over the summer months to get ready for September. Your commitment to making Devins Drive a great school for our students to attend is outstanding!

Just a reminder to all students and their families that supervision starts on the school yard at 8:40 am. The first bell rings at 8:53 am for students to line up and the entry bell rings at 8:55 am.

Everyone is invited to our BBQ/Open House on Thursday, September 26th! The Optimists Club of Aurora will be hosting a BBQ at the back of our school from 5-7 pm (just like they have done for our Spring Fair). There is no need to purchase food tickets ahead of time as they will be selling tickets on the evening of the event. Please remember to bring money with you if you would like to purchase dinner. Classrooms will be open from 6:30-7:30 pm.

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.

We value your involvement and welcome you into our school. Teachers will be asking for volunteers to help out in their classrooms/around the school. As well, we are always in need of volunteers to help with our School Council events, our lunch programs and our school events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's teacher and/or the office. Please note that all volunteers must complete a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) and sign a Confidentiality Agreement in accordance with YRDSB's Policy #280, *Volunteers in Our Schools*.

Looking for a way to get involved in your child's school? Please join us for our first School Council meeting on Monday, September 16th from 7-9 pm in the Learning Commons. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We are looking forward to another great year at Devins Drive!

### Attendance and Safe Arrival Program

It is the policy of the York Region District School Board for all elementary schools to monitor and report on the safe arrival of our students. If you know that your child will be absent, please enter your child's absence in Edsby (information sheet being sent home at the beginning of the school year) or call (905) 727-2022 and press 2 to leave a message on the school's attendance line. If we do not know why your child is absent, we will, under Policy #665.0, do the following:

1. Call the home and business numbers provided.
2. Call the emergency contact number(s) provided.
3. If the above are unsuccessful, we will call the York Regional Police to report your child as missing.

Your support in following the procedure outlined above is important in ensuring the safe arrival of all of our students.

**Please visit our school website frequently for updates:**

## Devins Drive School Times for 2019-2020

Supervision Starts	8:40 am
Bell to Line Up	8:53 am
Entry Bell	8:55 am
Morning Recess	10:55—11:25 am
Lunch / Lunch Recess	12:45—1:45 pm
Dismissal	3:25 pm

We believe that regular attendance and punctuality are important life skills to teach our students. Habitual lateness and absenteeism rob students of consistency in their learning experiences and their work habits. Arriving late also centres students out for negative attention and unfairly disrupts the learning of other students. We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school regularly and in a timely manner. Appointments during the school day should be avoided wherever possible as it is disruptive to classrooms when students have to be called out of class.

## Message from Our Trustee

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website.

In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the [policies that are under review](#) and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many [different ways to get involved](#) and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Bob McRoberts  
Trustee, Aurora and King

## Student Agendas for Students in Grades 1—8

Student agendas are an important tool for teaching students effective time management skills and for promoting open communication between home and school. It is our expectation that all students will use an agenda as the primary means of daily communication and organization. The agendas are provided to students free of charge.

Additional information being sent home with your child includes the Student Registration Verification Form, the School Start Up Package and the School Council Nomination Form which are due back to your child's teacher by Friday, September 14th. Please review the Devins Drive School Information Booklet with your child and keep it at home for future reference. The YRDSB Guide to the New School Year which is published by the Board will be sent home with students as soon as we receive it during the next few weeks. Please also keep this document at home for future reference as it contains lots of information about school and Board procedures, .

### **Time to Update Your Child's Emergency Contact Information**

In the event of an emergency involving your child, we rely on the information with which you provide us to contact you. It is your responsibility to ensure that the school has the most current contact information on file. A copy of your child's current emergency information that we have on file called the Student Registration Verification Form is being sent home to you during the first week of school. Please take a moment to review the information, make any necessary changes and return it to the school so that we can update our files by Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

### **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 come to 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 sticker. For the protection and safety of our children and staff, everyone must adhere to this rule. Thank you for your support and understanding.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

The display of student work, student performances or significant achievements of our students are common school practices both within the school, on the school and board websites or at Board and school-sponsored events beyond the school. We recognize that there are situations where these practices may be contrary to the wishes of some parents/guardians and students for important reasons. If you do not wish to have your child or your child's work displayed, published or broadcast within or beyond the school, please inform the Principal in writing.

### **Use of Lockers**

Wherever available, lockers are issued to students for storing their books, coats and other personal belongings related to school activities. Students need to keep their lockers locked at all times, using a combination lock. The combinations of all locks must be given to the homeroom teacher for safe storage. Lockers are the property of the school and are made available to students for their convenience. Students who deface, damage or use their lockers inappropriately risk losing their locker privileges.

### **Please Leave Valuable Personal Items and Toys at Home!**

Students who bring valuable personal items to school including but not limited to Ipads and laptops do so at their own risk. The school has no storage facilities for valuable personal items and we cannot take care of these items for students. The Board or the school will not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen items. We kindly ask that all valuable personal items are left at home.

Students are also asked to leave toys at home including but not limited to Beyblades, trading cards and miniature hockey sticks. Toys are a distraction and can get broken and/or lost both inside the school and outside at recess which can often cause a student to become quite distressed. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this request.

### **Indoor Shoes Please!**

Our caretakers do an outstanding job of maintaining the clean and polished look of the floors in the school. Please support their efforts by ensuring that your child has non-marking indoor shoes for use in classrooms and in the gym due to the stubborn marks they leave on the floors. This is particularly important during wet weather when boots and shoes track a great deal of dirt, snow and water into the school.

Looking for a way to become involved in your child's school? Please complete and return the School Council Nomination Form by Tuesday, September 10, 2019. You're invited to our first School Council Meeting for the 2018-2019 school year on Monday, September 16th at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons. We look forward to seeing you there!!

### **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.

### **Safety Precautions for Students with Allergies**

Creating a safe and healthy environment that meets the needs of everyone at our school is a challenge at the best of times; however, this challenge is even more difficult when we are dealing with students with severe and/or life-threatening allergies. While it is virtually impossible to ensure a completely risk-free environment, there are some key measures that we can put in place to protect everyone.

- If your child suffers from severe allergies, please inform the teacher and the office immediately so that key information could be shared and emergency procedures put in place or reviewed.
- If there is an emergency, medication that must be administered immediately after a reaction, please sign the appropriate release forms at the office, ensure that the office has a current dose of the medication and that your child also carries an easily accessible dose on his/her person.
- **Please read labels carefully when choosing snacks and meals for your child. Please do not send any food items to school with your child that contain/may contain nuts/peanuts.**
- Remind your child that he/she is NOT allowed to share food with others.
- In an effort to keep all of our students and staff safe, birthday cakes, treats etc. cannot be brought to school for distribution at any point in time during the school year.

### **Keep Our Students Safe! IMPORTANT Parking Lot and Traffic Safety Information**

Please note that cars are NOT permitted to drive through, stop or park in the bus loop at any time. The loop is for buses only. Parking in the bus loop is strictly prohibited at any time of the day.

If you drive your child to school in the morning or pick him/her up at the end of the day, we request that you use the "drop off/pick up" area located in the front of the school. Students should be dropped off at the raised concrete platform in the lower south parking lot. They should be ready to exit the car immediately upon stopping and should only exit the car from the passenger side. Cars should stop for only 20 seconds to allow students to exit. Please note that you may not park here. If you need to park, our "VISITOR" parking is available at the front of the school.

When picking up students at 3:25 pm, we ask that you arrive on time and please wait outside for your child(ren). This allows staff to supervise the safe dismissal of students.

### **Litterless Lunches**

In keeping with our commitment to teach our students awareness about the need to protect the environment, we are kindly asking families to send students with lunches using reusable containers. Students are also encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to school. By doing this, we will all help make our school eco-friendly! Thank you!

### **Student Transportation Information**

The majority of students at Devins Drive arrive and leave by bus. Students are given extensive support and education during

the month of September to ensure their safety and comfort while boarding and riding the bus. You can support their efforts by:

- ensuring that your child knows his/her bus route number and the name of the bus stop where he/she boards the bus from home.
- ensuring that your child arrives at the bus stop on time to board the bus and that students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are met promptly at the bus by an adult. Bus drivers have been instructed not to let young students off the bus unless there is an adult there to meet them. With no adult present, the bus driver will return the child to the school.
- talking to your child about safety issues on the bus such as staying seated, no eating, no throwing objects out of the window or on the bus and no loud conversations.
- - ensuring that any time your child does not take the bus, the teacher is informed in writing that day. If you need to change your afternoon pick-up plans, please ensure you inform the office by 2:00 pm.

### **Changes in Your Child's Transportation Arrangements?**

If your child's transportation arrangements have changed since you registered or if they change at any point throughout the school year, please notify both the office and your child's teacher immediately at 905-727-2022.

### **Student Transportation Services Website**

The STS website, [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com), is a valuable tool for schools and parents/guardians and contains important transportation information including but not limited to:

- Bus stop location, route information and service times for all schools
- Late bus listings
- First time rider safety events
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- STS information brochure
- Policies and procedures
- STSYR works closely with school bus operators to help ensure safe, reliable transportation is provided to students. Occasionally service times may be disrupted for various reasons. As a result, parents/guardians and students are encouraged to review the Late Bus Report available at <http://net.schoolbuscity.com/latebus> .

### **Access to Transportation Eligibility and Route Information**

Transportation eligibility can be determined by referring to the Bus Stop Information tab on [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) This tool enables parents/guardians to enter their house number, street address and select their child's school from a drop-down box to determine if they are eligible for transportation. Families whose address is eligible for transportation will receive the bus stop location closest to their home, along with applicable service times. This year parents/guardians were able to access this revised route information as of Monday, August 28. If a child is registered at school and is eligible for transportation, no additional registration is required to ride the school bus.

### **Is Your Child Eligible to Take the Bus?**

- All YRDSB students in K1 - Grade 3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation.
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4 - 8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation.

## 2019-2020 DDPS Staff / School Organization / Telephone Directory

Office Staff—Ms./Mme Tracey Davies (Principal), Mrs. Kelly Smith (EOAA), Mrs. Josie Altieri (SAS-A)

Caretakers—Mr. Travis Wood (Lead Caretaker), Mr. Derek Kaskow & Mr. Rick Lee

<b>Teaching Staff</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>Voice Mail Extension</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Aiello, Mme Frances	105	Gr. 1 FI (1AF)
Alexander, Mr. Jeremy	221	SACC Teacher / SERT
Boadway, Ms. Amber	103	FDK A
Chung, Mme Caitlin	106	Gr. 1 FI (1BF)
Cimarelli, Mme Linda	126	Gr. 2 FI (2AF)
Cook, Ms. Jennifer	110	Gr. 1FI (1CF)
Damtsis, Mr. Mike	212	SSC/SERT
Gagnon, Mme Natasha	125	Gr. 2 FI (2CF)
Jenkins, Ms. Brittany	102	FDK B
Le Moine, Mme Melody	205	Gr. 3/4 A
Le Moine, Mr. Marc	215	Gr. 7/8 A
Livingston, Mr. James	508	Prep Coverage
Mancino, Mme Tracey	114	RR / Teacher Librarian
Milroy, Mrs. Andrea	124	Gr. 1/2 A
Monacelli, Mme Silvia	107	Gr. 1 FI (1DF)
Palumbo, Mme Lindsay	511	FI Prep Coverage
Pesce, Ms. Stephanie	206	Gr. 3/4 B
Petroff, Mme Natasha	108	Gr. 1 FI (1EF)
Rodrigues, Ms. Lucy	214	Gr. 5/6 A
Smith, Mr. Jeff	220	MIDCC Teacher / SERT
Smith, Ms. Tammy	216	Music / Prep Coverage
Tomberg, Mme Ilona	503	Core French / FI Prep Coverage
Utica, Mme Andra	109	Gr. 1 FI (1 FF)
Wei, Mme Jeanne	127	Gr. 2 FI (2BF)
Wellard, Mme Heather	123	SERT / FI Prep Coverage
Woodhead, Ms. Tracey	217	Gr. 6/7 A
<b>Support Staff</b>		
Broughton, Ms. Jennifer	509	CYCW
Castro, Mr. Anthony	513	Agency Worker
Culbertson, Mrs. Leona	507	DSW
Da Silva, Ms. Betsy	515	DSW
Day, Ms. Heather	512	DSW
Hickman, Ms. Katie	501	DSW
Johnson, Ms. Rebecca	500	DECE
Price, Ms. Kim	518	EA
West, Ms. Heather	516	ISW