

DEVINS DRIVE NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

Principal: Tracey Davies Admin. Support: Kelly Smith Josie Altieri	Devins Drive PS 70 Devins Drive Aurora, Ontario L4G 2Z4 905-727-2022	Superintendent: Neil Gunathunge 905-884-4477 Trustee: Bob McRoberts 905-727-3141
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Principal's Message

On behalf of the staff at Devins Drive, I would like to thank you for your involvement in your child's education. I would also like to thank our School Council for their on-going support of our students and our school. The Family Movie Night that they organized last week was a HUGE success! Over 200+ people came together in our Gym to watch "Toy Story 4".

We are very fortunate to have such a caring, dedicated staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes, from our Teachers to our Support Staff and School Assistants to our Caretakers and our Office Staff. Thank you for all that you do each and every day to support our students and their families.

We have begun our *Holiday Heroes Drive* in partnership with the York Regional Police to support others in need. We have placed our holiday tree in the main foyer just outside the office and under it, students and their families can place gifts around it until December 10, 2019. All of the gifts will be donated to the Holiday Hero Drive.

As the Winter Break is almost upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe, relaxing holiday. See you in 2020!

Mark Your Calendars!

Winter Break: Monday, December 23, 2019 to Friday, January 3, 2020

First Day Back to School: Monday, January 6, 2020

Kindergarten Registration Begins: Friday, January 17, 2020

Grade 1 French Immersion Information Session: Thursday, January 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Begins: Friday, January 17, 2019

The Colder Weather is Almost Here!

With the cold and snowy weather fast approaching, we must remind our students of the need to dress in the clothing that will keep them warm and dry. The essentials include: a warm coat, snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves and a hat. It would be a good idea to send in an extra pair of mittens and/or socks in your child's school bag as these items often get wet in the course of a child's play at recess. Please mark your child's name on each piece of clothing brought to school. This helps us find the owner of the lost clothing.

Inclement Weather Procedures Attention Devins Drive Families

If there is an inclement weather day and your child is going to be absent, please ensure you notify the school office of your child's absence at 905-727-2022, option 2 (attendance line) regardless of whether they take the school bus or walk. DDPS has a 24 hour/7 day a week Attendance line and this voicemail is checked regularly.

If the school buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not be operational in the afternoon as well. Please note that all lunch programs are cancelled on any inclement weather days therefore if your child attends school on an inclement weather day, please provide a lunch for your child. Thank you for your support.

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

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 17, 2020

Kindergarten registration will commence on **Friday, January 17, 2020** for the 2020-2021 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years of age during 2020, 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. For more information, please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

Grade 1 French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information Sessions

Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on **January 16, 2020 at 7 p.m.**

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2020 <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx> to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration

FI registration will **begin on January 17, 2020**. Parents/guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in September 2020, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. This Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register, between January 17 and February 7, 2020. Registration during this period is not first-come, first-served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 7, 2020. 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.

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 will be 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: www.yrdsb.ca. 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.

Message from Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and an important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Semitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Bob McRoberts
Trustee, Aurora and King

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.

Pick Up / Drop Off Times at the Front of the School

Do you drive your child to school in the morning and/or drive to the school to pick your child up at the end of the school day? If so, please ensure that you **always** obey the posted traffic signs on the streets surrounding our school, ensuring that you only park where parking on the street is allowed and that you **do not** block the driveways of the houses surrounding the school at any point in time. Please also do not use our neighbour's driveways to turn around in during busy times as this creates unsafe conditions for our students and their families. Please note that the Aurora By-Law Department will be monitoring the area around our school at random times to ensure that drivers are adhering to the posted traffic signs. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter. Safety is our top priority!

Winter Weather

With winter weather already here, we would like to share a few important reminders.

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an extreme cold or inclement weather day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

Inclement Weather Procedures

School Bus Cancellation Notice School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and Environment Canada forecast. Please note the following;

A decision to cancel school bus service will be region-wide meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.

School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York Region. Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.

Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.

If regular home to school runs are cancelled, Charter trips will not operate.

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO 590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM 88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM TELEVISION CITY TV CFTO Barrie CFTO TV GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001.

Upcoming Dates
DECEMBER 2019

- 2 Pasta Lunch
School Council Meeting-7 pm-Learning Commons
- 4 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
Grade 8 Info Session-6-7:30 pm at Aurora High School
- 6 Pizza Lunch
- 9 Pasta Lunch
- 11 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
Grade 8 Info Session-6-8 pm at Aurora High School
- 13 Pizza Lunch
- 16 Pasta Lunch
- 17 Grade 6 VIP Session-9:30 am
- 18 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 20 Pizza Lunch
Holiday Sweater Spirit Day / Red, White & Green Spirit Day

December 23 - January 3 - Winter Break

Upcoming Dates
JANUARY 2020

- 6 Welcome Back!
Pasta Lunch
- 8 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 10 Pizza Lunch
- 13 Pasta Lunch
School Council Meeting- 7 pm-Learning Commons
- 15 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 16 Grade 1 French Immersion Information Session-7 pm-Gym
- 17 PA Day-No School for Students
Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Begins
Kindergarten Registration Begins
- 20 Pasta Lunch
- 22 Pop-up Popcorn Sale
- 24 Pizza Lunch
Multiples Spirit Day
- 27 Pasta Lunch
- 29 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 29 Gr. 8 Grad Photos-9:00 am
- 31 PA Day-No School for Students