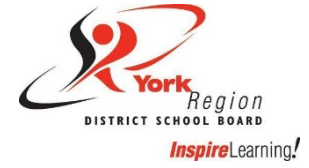




Devins Drive P.S.



70 Devins Drive, Aurora Ontario, L4G-2Z4
905-727-2022

Principal: Rosanna Totino
Administrative Assistants: Hali Czetner, Christina Chickrie
Lead Caretaker: Travis Wood

Superintendent: Neil Gunathunge
Trustee: Bob McRoberts

December 2021/January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

December, a month full of many wonderful traditions and celebrations, is a busy month for all of us! There has been high energy and excitement radiating throughout our school as we head into the holidays which offer us the irreplaceable gift of time to spend with family.

Throughout the school year, we maintain a focus on student achievement, and we continue to nurture the well-being of our students through a focus on social-emotional learning. Our students are well set into their classroom routines and are becoming more involved in their own learning. Our teachers in all subject areas continue to strive to improve each child's achievement by sharing with students what the learning targets and success criteria are to be successful. On-going descriptive feedback is provided to help each child meet their potential and reach their goals.

Given the recent drop in temperatures, we would like to remind everyone to wear appropriate clothing before heading off to school. Of course, a winter jacket, boots, hats, and mittens or gloves are a must, but a warm scarf and snow pants will also help keep the chill away once winter is finally here. On most days, all of our students are expected to remain outside during our 30-minute morning recess, and at lunch from 1:10 to 1:45 p.m. Providing an opportunity for students to play helps students to be more attentive and prepared for learning.

As we look forward to a New Year full of promise, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you much joy and peace as you spend time with loved ones, enjoying this season of celebration!

Yours in partnership,
R. Totino
Principal



COVID-19 School Screening

Parents and guardians of Elementary students are required to complete the on-line self-assessment [Daily Screening Tool](#) prior to their child entering the school.

Message From Our Trustee

With case counts remaining relatively stable, I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff members for continuing to adhere to health and safety protocols. Your efforts are appreciated and important to protecting the health and safety of our school community members. As we have since the start of the pandemic, the school board continues to meet regularly with public health and follow their guidance. Families looking for more information or resources on COVID-19 and our schools, including health and safety guidelines, frequently asked questions and mental health resources, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening or York Region's www.york.ca/safeatschool.

In November, we held the **school council forums**. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in shared learning with school council representatives on priority topics including the ABCs of mental health and actioning anti-racism practices. Thank you to all of the participants and to all school council members for your partnership. There are so many valuable [ways families help to strengthen our schools and support student learning and achievement](#). We value the partnership that we have with families, and thank you for your ongoing support.

As partners, we want to support you in supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. The **Family Resources** page on the Board website provides quick access to online tools such as Google Classroom, School Cash Online, Edsby and more. It also provides links to information to support you in engaging in your child's learning - resources like translation tools, IT support for families and tips on protecting your child's privacy online. It also includes links to other information you may find helpful. Find it at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or from the link on the homepage.

Over the past few months, York Region District School Board has been conducting a review of its Trustee Areas. The boundaries of the areas that school board trustees represent change over time. The goal of the **Trustee Determination and Distribution Study** is to ensure fair and equitable representation of all public school supporters. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation on the proposed options. The final report will be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 8. You can find more [information about the study and the recommendations on the Board website](#).

The upcoming winter season is a time of celebration for many, and I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I hope that over the winter break, you find time to rest, relax and rejuvenate and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Bob McRoberts

Trustee – Aurora and King



Important Dates

December 20 – December 31: Winter Break (*school resumes Monday, January 3*)

January 14: - P.A. Day – No school

January 17 – School Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!

Hello Devins Drive Families! School Council is looking for volunteers to help with fundraising efforts. Bring your ideas and helping hands to help raise funds for our school. Please email the Devins Drive School Council at devins.drive.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca with your name and contact information.

Michelle Chislett – School Council Chair

Random Acts of Kindness/Les Gestes de Gentillesse

We have recently launched a random acts of kindness initiative to make someone else's day brighter. Students acknowledge these acts of kindness on tickets which are collected and posted in the school's front foyer. When our daily morning announcements occur, some of these acts of kindness are also shared. Your home support in promoting acts of kindness is greatly appreciated!



School Yard Play Areas



Student behaviour in the school yard during outdoor play is monitored daily by our supervising staff and students are regularly reminded to remain in their designated recess cohort play area.

It is important for each child to form close bonds with their own grade-level peers and to have opportunities to develop social skills appropriate for their age (how to break into a group, how to cooperate, how to play fairly, how to take turns, how to solve minor conflicts).

As we face the winter months, we know that our students love to get outside in the fresh air and new fallen snow. However, for the safety and enjoyment of all, we remind students that the throwing of snowballs is not allowed and students must be mindful of fair and respectful play with regards to the building of snowforts. This means they must not engage in the stealing of each other's snowblocks or destroy each other's forts. We will be enforcing these safety rules through our progressive approach that includes counseling, student reflection and/or removal of play privileges with the restoration of positive peer relations being the ultimate goal.



*From all the staff
at Devins Drive P.S.,
we wish you a safe and restful
Winter Break!*