

DEVINS DRIVE NEWS

February/March 2020

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

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that Spring is almost here! Although the warmer weather is hopefully right around the corner, please ensure that your child is aware that they still need to dress warmly as it can sometimes be a bit blustery out on the school yard at the back of the school, especially at morning recess.

Are you moving this summer? Please help us plan ahead by informing us of your plans for next year. If you know that you will be moving and your children will be changing schools, please let the school office know as soon as possible. This will help us be more accurate when determining staffing and preparing class lists for September 2020.

As we begin the process of organizing classes for September 2020, it is valuable for parents/guardians to understand the procedure used in student placement decisions. The ultimate goal in all our efforts at Devins Drive PS is to enhance student achievement and well-being. We attempt to place students in the most positive learning environment possible given each individual pupil's skills, knowledge, attitudes, work and social habits. A great deal of time is spent ensuring that each student's academic and social needs are met. Classes at each grade level are formed using the following criteria:

- Class sizes consistent with Ministry and Board guidelines;
- A gender balance in each class;
- A range of performance levels within each class;
- Matching pupil learning styles with teaching strategies wherever possible;
- Promoting positive social relationships while minimizing unproductive associations

As we get closer to the end of the school year, decisions will be made based on the aforementioned criteria. It is important to recognize that while we try to place each child in the optimum learning environment, all final decisions regarding pupil placement remain the responsibility of the Principal. If you have any information about your child that you feel would be pertinent in the placement process (e.g., learning styles, twins' placements), please inform the Principal in writing by Friday, May 15, 2020. In order to assist us in our efforts to create balanced classrooms, and to create the optimum learning environments, we respectfully ask your assistance in not making specific teacher requests as requests for specific teachers will not be considered. Thanking you in advance for your support and cooperation.

School Lunch Assistants Needed!

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 — 1:45 pm. If you are interested in applying for this position, either on a full-time or occasional basis, please contact the office at 905-727-2022.

Safety Before and After School Hours

We would like to remind parents/guardians that student safety is our first priority and that teacher supervision in the yard starts at 8:40 a.m. even in inclement weather. If students are dropped off prior to this time, it is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to supervise their children. Parents/Guardians should also ensure students are picked up promptly at our 3:25 p.m. dismissal time as our yard/school supervision ends at 3:30 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Message from Our Trustee

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.
- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.
- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).
- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#).

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

I wish everyone a healthy and successful winter season.

Bob McRoberts
Trustee, Aurora and King

Inclement Weather Procedures

School Bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents/guardians and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:30 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/guardians 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/guardians will require the same transportation home.

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.**

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.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found bin is once again overflowing with coats, mitts, hats, lunch bags etc. If your child has lost anything recently, please visit the school to look. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity shortly after March Break on Friday, March 27th.

Upcoming Dates February/March 2020

February

- 26 Pink Shirt (In support of Inclusivity/Anti-bullying)
Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 28 Pizza Lunch

March

- 2 Pasta Lunch
School Council Meeting-7:00 pm-Learning Commons
- 4 Dental Screening Clinic for JK, SK, Grades 2, 4 and 7
Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 6 Pizza Lunch
- 9 Pasta Lunch
- 11 Gr. 7 VIP-9:30 am
Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 13 Pizza Lunch
PJ's Spirit Day
- 16 - 20 MARCH BREAK
- 23 Pasta Lunch
- 25 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 26 Purple Shirt Day in support of Epilepsy Awareness
Gr. 8 VIP-11:30 am
- 27 Pizza Lunch
- 30 Pasta Lunch