

DEVINS DRIVE NEWS

JANUARY 2020

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

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that you had a fantastic Winter Break spending time with family and friends. Thank you to the many families who made donations to the Holiday Hero Campaign coordinated by the York Regional Police to support local needs. We appreciate how our school community rallies together to help those in times of need.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Devins Drive community a wonderful, prosperous and healthy 2020. The start of a new year brings with it the hopes and dreams of many amazing things to come! It is an excellent time to reflect on our goals, to celebrate our successes and to review our commitment to excellence. New hopes, new goals and new expectations are always a part of a resolution that many of us make. Students should be included and are encouraged to set academic and social goals for themselves. Setting high expectations is part of this process; however, please ensure that the expectations are achievable as we move forward together on your child's educational journey.

Safety is our top priority! 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 and that you only park where parking on the street is allowed. Also, please ensure that you do not block the driveways of the houses surrounding the school at any point in time. As well, please 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 very much for your support and cooperation with this matter.

Mark Your Calendars!

Grade 1 French Immersion Information Session: Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Begins: Friday, January 17, 2020

Kindergarten Registration Begins: Friday, January 17, 2020

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.

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.

Please note that if the school buses are cancelled in the morning, they are also cancelled in the afternoon as well. Please note that all lunch programs are cancelled on any inclement weather days as well. Therefore, if your child attends school on an inclement weather day, please ensure that you 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 begins Friday, January 17 for the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to welcoming our new students and families to our school.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2020, live within the school boundary and whose parents/guardians are public school tax supporters are eligible to register for kindergarten.

There are two ways you can register for Kindergarten:

- **Online.** You can access the online registration information at bit.ly/KindergartenYRDSB. A laptop or desktop computer is strongly recommended to complete the online registration, rather than a mobile device. Once you have completed the forms online, you will need to take some required documents to your school for verification only.
- **In person.** Families are welcome to visit the school in person to register beginning Friday, January 17, 2020. Registration forms are available at the school or on the Board's website at bit.ly/KindergartenYRDSB.

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 **Thursday, 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.

Gr. 2 FI Students transferring to Lester B. Pearson PS in September 2020

Our Grade 2 French Immersion students will be transferred by our school secretary to Lester B. Pearson PS for September 2020. There is no need to register your child at Lester B Pearson PS as this is an automatic process. Please note that, as part of the transition process, our grade 2 FI students will be going on a field trip to Lester B. Pearson PS in the Spring. More details to follow.

Safety Before and After School Hours

We would like to remind parents 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.

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 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.

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/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.

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 for January 2020

- 6 Welcome Back!
Pasta Lunch
- 8 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 10 Pizza Lunch
- 13 Pasta Lunch
School Council Meeting- 7:00 pm-Learning Commons
- 15 Pop-Up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 16 Grade 1 French Immersion Information Session-7:00 pm-Gym
- 17 PA Day-No School for Students
Kindergarten Registration Begins
Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Begins
- 20 Pasta Lunch
- 22 Pop-up Popcorn Sale-12:30 pm
- 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