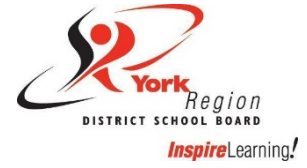




Devins Drive P.S.



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

Principal: Rosanna Totino
Administrative Assistants: Hali Czetner, Christina Chickrie
Lead Caretaker: Russell Hamilton

Superintendent: Neil Gunathunge
Trustee: Bob McRoberts

March, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Promoting kindness is a priority at Devins Drive P.S. Students who are kind are not only helping others, they are also helping themselves. Research indicates that being kind promotes happiness for the giver and the recipient. Collectively teaching our children to be kind will help create a school environment where all of our students can succeed. In February we had Errol Lee, singer/dancer, lead his virtual Caring Concerts presentations for all classes. Through the vehicle of song and dance, Errol Lee shared many important messages about being kind and showing empathy for one another. We also continue to highlight our random acts of kindness initiative to make someone else's day brighter. Students acknowledge these acts of kindness on tickets which are collected and shared during morning announcements. Thank you for your continued support in promoting acts of kindness with your child(ren)!

Yours in partnership,
R. Totino
Principal

End of Day Dismissal

In terms of bus safety expectations while on school property, parents are reminded to not walk in between parked busses but rather use the designated crosswalk. The West side parking lot is not available for parents to park during morning arrival and end of day dismissal as this interrupts the flow of school bus traffic. Please avoid parking on Devins Drive right in front of the school when coming to pick up your child as this prevents our busses from safely entering and exiting school property. Please use side streets for parking your vehicle. If you need to pick up your child prior to end of day, please ensure to contact the school office no later than 3 p.m. in order to ensure that this last minute change is addressed. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.



Important Dates

March Break: March 14 – 18
School Council Meeting: April 11



February 23, 2022, was Pink Shirt Day at DDPS. This is a day when people wear a pink shirt to symbolize a stand against bullying, encouraging us to look beyond our differences and celebrate the things that make us unique. When we lift each other up, we see past the things that separate us and see instead the things that unite us as people. DDPS students and staff wore pink to show that we do not tolerate bullying.

Errol Lee Presentations



On Wednesday February 16, students had the opportunity to enjoy Errol Lee's Caring Concerts virtual presentations. He had important messages to share. Students in the primary division had the presentation, "Hands are for Helping". Students learned the importance of developing self-control to manage their behaviour in a safe, kind and responsible manner. Strategies for peaceful conflict resolution were also shared. Students in grades four and five participated in the presentation, "The Hero Club". Students learned about bullying through the eyes of a victim, a bystander and an upstander. Concepts included the importance of having empathy, standing up for others and being confident. Students in grades six to eight participated in the presentation "Honouring Black History" during which students were provided with a compelling look at the lives of several members of the Black Community. Concepts included examples of exemplary character demonstrated by current and historical Black people and the positive differences they made and continue to make in today's world.

Are you Moving?

This is the time of year when we begin planning for the next school year. In order to assist us with this process, if you know that you are moving out of the area or that your child(ren) will not be returning to Devins Drive PS in September, kindly inform the school office at **905-727-2022**. Thank you.



EQAO Testing

The Grade 3 and Grade 6 Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics are conducted in every publicly funded Ontario elementary school under the auspices of the province's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The assessments are based on the Ontario Curriculum for Grades 1 to 8 and measure how well students have met the provincial expectations in reading, writing, and mathematics. This year's assessments will occur between May 4 – June 24. More information will follow in the near future.

School Council Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee thanks all families who supported the recent fundraising efforts, Recipes in a Jar and Artshine. This will be used to support student achievement and well being.



Students Arriving Late for School

The office has seen students arriving late for school in the mornings. Frequent reasons given include “slept in” or “traffic”.

Students arriving late to school is a problem that is very disruptive to learning:

- ☐ The late student misses valuable instructional time
- ☐ The late student often feels embarrassed when they arrive late in class
- ☐ The class loses focus and rhythm when a child enters the class late

Winter weather often results in longer drive times. Please ensure that you have left yourself enough time to get to school on time. Also, please take into account that there is always traffic congestion as parents drop off students. The best way to always be on time for school is to encourage your child to take the bus daily if you are eligible for transportation.

Cell Phones



We continue to have some students using their cell phones at recess and lunch. Cell phones are not to be used unless directly related to the curriculum and under teacher supervision. Additionally, please do not text or call your child during the school day. Any communication should occur through the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

*We wish you a safe
and restful March Break!*

