



DR. ROBERTA BONDAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

401 Grand Trunk Ave, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 0T4
Tel: (905) 417-8046 ✉ dr.roberta.bondar.ps@yrdsb.ca
Fax: (905) 417-8492 🐦 @DrRBondarPS

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Wendy McVicar-Lew

Principal

Kirsten Lee

Vice-Principal

Sachel Gordon

Office Staff

Lisa Bartolomeo

Office Staff

Kella De Miglio

Office Staff

Paul Valle

Superintendent
905-764-6830

Linda Aversa

Trustee
647-462-0921

Administrators' Message

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year! We are very pleased to be joining the Dr. Roberta Bondar school community and are proud to be a part of such a wonderful school. We have already had the pleasure of meeting some of the students and parents, and we hope to have the opportunity to meet the rest of our families over the next few weeks. We look forward to working with all of you and continuing the work of the school focused on student learning and well-being.

We are committed to ensuring that each of our students feel welcome, safe, respected and supported. Our joint work together will continue to build upon the positive, safe, caring and inclusive environment already evident at Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School as we learn and grow together. This year, our school organization includes grade one French Immersion. We look forward to this new learning experience at our school.

Preparing a new school for the beginning of the school year takes the hard work and commitment of many people. Our caretaking staff (Mr. Emo, Mr. Basso, Mr. Cragg, Ms. Hopkins and Ms. Sarasin) have been working tirelessly throughout the summer. We thank them for their commitment to ensure our school is ready for learning. In the office, Ms. Gordon, Ms. Bartolomeo and Ms. De Miglio have been very busy processing many new student registrations and preparing for our school start up. We appreciate all of their hard work to ensure our students and staff are prepared for the upcoming school year. Our teachers have been organizing classrooms and planning programs in set up for another successful year. Thank you to the teachers for their ongoing commitment to student learning.

The start of every new school year brings us new faces and new opportunities. We would like to extend a special welcome to our new Dr. Roberta Bondar staff members: Sachel Gordon (Office), Erica Seetner (FDK), Jacqueline Giordmaina (FDK), Afshid Aminzadeh (Gr. 1 FI), Raoul Saxena (Gr. 1 FI), Natacha Hounsou (Gr. 1 FI), Christina Angeloni (Gr. 2), Alexa Pattara (SERT, Prep), Lorelei Santos (French), and Jennifer Jackson (French). We look forward to working with them.

In order to ensure a safe drop-off and pick up routine, we ask all parents to adhere to the procedures put in place and outlined in the newsletter. We encourage families to walk to school to alleviate the traffic congestion around the school, as well as engaging in a healthy habit. We ask students and parents/caregivers to be extremely cautious when dropping off and picking up students as the traffic can be extremely heavy. Please ensure great care is taken when crossing the street. We appreciate the support of the entire community in order to keep our students safe.

We wish you all a wonderful start to the 2018-19 school year!

Tentative School Organization

Below is the tentative school organization for the 2018-2019 school year. Please note that due to enrolment changes, we may need to reorganize classes later in September. We appreciate your support.

Name	Position
Nicole Stamkos	FDK
Kim Salituro	FDK
Erica Seetner	FDK
Jacqueline Giordmaina	FDK
Bryan Hunt	FDK
Shawna Leibtag	FDK
Laura Gudat	FDK
Afshid Aminzadeh	Grade 1 French Immersion
Natacha Hounsou	Grade 1 French Immersion
Raoul Saxena	Grade 1 French Immersion
Andrea Cundari	Grade 1
Krista Lewicki	Grade 1
Toni Navarro	Grade 1
Nicole Fantauzzi	Grade 1/2
Christina Angeloni	Grade 2
Jeff Szpirglas	Grade 2
Amarpreet Purewal	Grade 2/3
Ashley Garner	Grade 2/3
Sarah Davis	Grade 3
Linda Shufman	Grade 3
Fathia Nasir	Grade 3/4
Cynthia Belanger	Grade 4
Stefania Iaboni	Grade 4
Vivian Bravos	Grade 5
Peter Dias	Grade 5
Cynthia Voskakis	Grade 5/6
Holly Murdoch	Grade 6
Hiba Balche	Grade 6
Biljana Bressi	Grade 7
Andy Gabriele	Grade 7
Nina Phan	Grade 8
Jacqueline Canton	Grade 8
Tamara Bagg	Grade 8
Kamila Martin	ME Community Class
Merav Halperin	SERT
Natalie Spitzten	SERT

Name	Position
Christina Tino	SERT
Alexa Pattara	SERT/ME/Prep
Rose Vacca	Reading Recovery/Literacy Teacher
Roula Politis	Reading Recovery/Prep
Karen Mandel	Music
Keith Yoon	Music
Nora Freestone	French
Jennifer Jackson	French
Lorelei Santos	French
Gina DeGregorio	ELL
Karen Lonsway	Teacher Librarian
Deborah Tobin	Empower/ELL/Prep
Maria Lansing	DECE
Irina Alexeeva	DECE
Rayleen Finn	DECE
Jenna Iaboni	DECE
Momena Ferdous	DECE
Anna Kerimli	DECE
Fauzia Sharma	DECE
Krizia Iacovone	Educational Assistant
Margaret Wolska	Educational Assistant
Angela Grassa	Child and Youth Worker
Sharon Boisselle	ADH
Vinetta Harding-Smith	ADH
Anne Hyde	ADH
Slavka Kapor	ADH
Rupdai Ramkumar	ADH
Sachel Gordon	Office Admin Assistant
Lisa Bartolomeo	Office Admin Assistant
Kella De Miglio	Office Admin Assistant
Darren Emo	Lead Caretaker
Frank Basso	Caretaker
Chris Cragg	Caretaker
Rhonda Hopkins	Caretaker
Kirsten Lee	Vice-Principal
Wendy McVicar-Lew	Principal

School Information

School Day

8:00 - 8:15 am	Entry
8:15 - 10:15 am	Instructional Time
10:15 - 10:35 am	Recess
10:35 - 11:55 am	Instructional Time
11:55 - 12:55 pm	Lunch
12:55 - 2:35 pm	Instructional Time
2:35 pm	Dismissal

Upcoming Dates

Return Startup Forms	Friday, September 14, 2018
Return School Council Nomination Form	Monday, September 17, 2018
Curriculum Night	Thursday, September 27, 2018
School Council Meeting	Monday, October 1, 2018
Gr 7 Immunization	October 4, 2018
Photo Day	October 15, 2018

Recess and Lunch Times

We will continue to have a full school morning recess from 10:15 am-10:35 am. Students will play in designated areas (Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Intermediate). Kindergarten students will be in the kindergarten yard. Primary students will play on the side of the tarmac closest to the portables and field. Junior and Intermediate students will play on the east tarmac and field.

During the lunch hour, students in grades 4 - 8 will be outside from 11:55 am - 12:25 pm, and will be eating inside from 12:25 pm - 12:55 pm. Primary students in grades 1 - 3 will be eating from 11:55 am - 12:25 pm and will be outside from 12:25 pm - 12:55 pm.

School Holidays

Labour Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 8, 2018
Winter Break	Monday, December 24, 2018-Friday, January 4 th , 2019 inclusive
Family Day	Monday, February 18, 2019
Mid-Winter Break	Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 15, 2019
Good Friday	Friday, April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2019

Professional Activity and Training

Monday, September 24, 2018
Monday, October 22, 2018
Friday, November 23, 2018
Friday, January 18, 2019
Friday, February 1, 2019
Monday, June 3, 2019
Friday, June 28, 2019



Important Information

School Start Up Package

A number of important forms have been included in the 'School Start Up Package' sent home today. Please take the time to read this material carefully and return the forms that require a signature to your child's homeroom teacher **no later than September 14, 2018**.

An electronic version of the YRDSB [Guide to the School Year, 2018-2019](#) is provided. Hard copies will be sent home once received.

Office Index Card Verification Form

During the first week of school, you will receive a copy of your child's **Office Index Card Verification Form** which indicates all of the contact information we have at the school. Please check over this information carefully and make any necessary corrections. It is very important that we have up-to-date information. If there are no emergency contacts listed (other than parents/guardians), please ensure to add this information. Office Index Forms should be returned to the school **no later than September, 14, 2018**.

2018 - 2019 School Council

If you wish to become a member of the Dr. Roberta Bondar School Council, please complete the nomination form in the School Start Up Package and return it to school by Monday, September, 17th. Our first school council meeting on Monday, October 1st. All parents/guardians are invited to join us at School Council meetings throughout the year. We look forward to working with you this year.

Cell Phones/Bring Your Own Device

For personal safety and security, some parents want their children to have cell phones. We understand that desire and support it. Cell phones and other personal communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day, except when used for learning purposes with the clear permission of the classroom teacher. The school is not responsible for personal items that go missing at the school. If a student is using a phone without permission it may be confiscated and given to the office. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. Please note that cameras and cell phone camera functions are not permitted to be used on school property without explicit permission.

In the Book of Forms that was sent home today, the YRDSB has ask that parents read and initial that they, and their child(ren), understand and will follow the school and [Board's policies](#) with respect to technology and personal devices. You can find information related to technology on pages 49 and 50. Thank you for support on this matter.

Physical Education Classes

Students will participate in physical education classes twice a week. All students from grades six to eight are expected to have a change of clothing for gym classes. Students are required to wear shorts or track pants, a t-shirt, and indoor running shoes. Younger students will not be required to change, however they will need to wear clothing appropriate for gym classes on these days

Accident Insurance

For your convenience, the board has made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. (iA Financial Group).

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the unexpected costs of injury from accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For complete plan details, please visit kidsplus.ca.



Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools

Keeping Our School Safe

In accordance with the Principal's responsibilities under the Education Act to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment, the school has a right to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice or permission of any person. From time to time, the police may be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches, and these searches may be conducted without notice or permission of any member of the school community as per our Joint Board and Police Protocol. When conducting a search of school property, persons or personal property, the police are responsible for conforming to all legal requirements with respect to searches.

School Yard Safety

In order to prevent physical injury and because of our concern for student safety, students at Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School are expected to avoid activities that involve aggressive play and touching. Activities that are not acceptable include wrestling, piggy-backing, tripping, pushing, shoving, body-checking, poking, punching and other forms of play in stairwells, hallways and playgrounds. Please take the time to review these expectations with your child(ren).

Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors, including parents and volunteers, are welcome at Dr. Roberta Bondar. For safety reasons, all visitors and volunteers are asked to sign in at the office and wear a 'visitor' or 'volunteer' tag (available in the office). This helps us to know who is in the building for security reasons. Parents /guardians /visitors are not to be in the school hallways without checking in at the office first. If you do not have a visitor or volunteer tag on, staff members are required to redirect you to the office. When you leave the school, please return the tag to the office and sign out.

Volunteers assume an important role within a school. A requirement of the YRDSB to assist in ensuring a safe environment for students and staff is the completion of a *Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC)* and the signing of a confidentiality agreement. If you wish to volunteer in the school or on a field trip, please ensure you have a vulnerable sector check completed with York Regional Police. A letter to share with your application is available in the office.

If you have completed a PVSC and submitted it to the school in a previous school year, an *Annual Offence Declaration Form* and confidentiality agreement will be sent home with your child. Please complete these forms and return them to the school.

Safety Week

Sept 24th – 28th

The York Region District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students. To support the endeavour, the week of September 24–28 has been designated YRDSB Safety Awareness Week. All public elementary and secondary schools across the region will be featuring activities and events that highlight various facets of safety at school and in the community. Students will be participating in a wide variety of activities intended to increase awareness of safety hazards and how to avoid them.

In addition, as part of the Safety Week activities, all schools in the York Region District School Board will be conducting emergency preparedness exercises. To ensure that all members of the school community are familiar with the emergency procedure, we will be conducting a practice Lockdown drill. In advance of the drill, we will review protocols and expectations during an emergency with all students, staff and affected partners.

My name is ...



Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

We will continue to follow the drop off and pick up procedures currently in place at Dr. Roberta Bondar PS. in order to ensure the safety of our students during drop off and pick up times it is essential that we all work together. Please follow the procedures outlined below. In addition, please do not make -U-turn in front of the school as U-turns are extremely dangerous and put our children at risk.

Morning Drop Off:

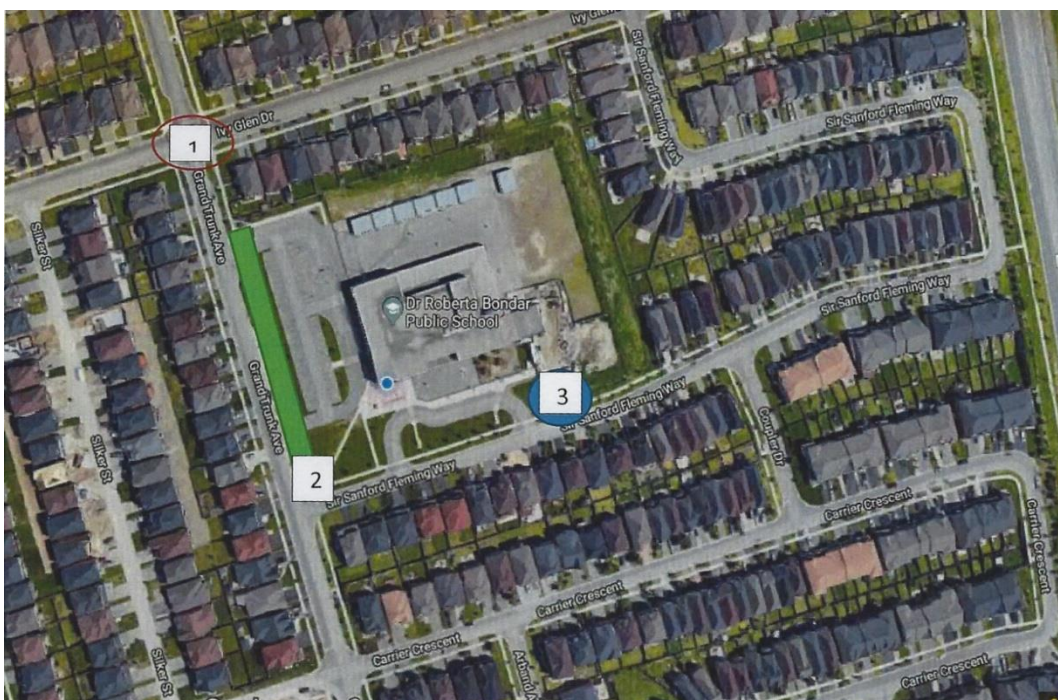
8:00 am – 8:15 am

- Both the parking lot and bus loop will be **CLOSED**.
The following options are available during the morning drop off:
 1. Drop off your student(s) along Ivy Glen Drive or Grand Trunk Avenue to be supported by the Crossing Guard.
 2. Drop off student(s) on the EAST side of Grand Trunk Avenue, with students exiting vehicles along the curb.
 3. Enter the small loop at the EAST end of the front bus loop, off of Sir Sanford Fleming Way.
- For parents of Kindergarten students, please park and walk your children to the kindergarten gates.

Kiss N' Ride After School Procedures

Dismissal – 2:35 p.m.

- Parents wishing to pick up students may drive through the Kiss N' Ride to pick up their child(ren). Please ensure to **drive slowly and cautiously**. We want to ensure that everyone is safe.
- There is **no parking** or leaving your vehicle while in the Kiss N' Ride lane. If your child(ren) is not ready, you must exit the Kiss N' Ride, circle around and re-enter the loop.
- Please do not stop or park in the Kiss N' Ride lane unless your child is there ready for you to pick him/her up.
- For parents of Kindergarten students, please park and pick up your child(ren) at the kindergarten gates at dismissal time.



Positive Climates for Learning

Medication

Either on a regular basis or at times throughout the year, some students may need to take medication at school. Parents are required to complete a *Request for Administration of Medication Form* signed by the parents and approved by the principal before the medication can be given or stored in the school. Written permission is required for ALL medications including inhalers, Aspirin, Tylenol, etc. Medication is kept in the office and students are supervised as they take any medication. Students are not permitted to carry medication with them unless the office is aware of an ongoing emergency medical condition.

Please note that the forms have recently been revised for the 2018-2019 school year.

Creating a Safe and Healthy School for Students with Allergies

This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life-threatening allergies. While we take every step to create a risk-free environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms. It is especially important that parents communicate a life-threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the principal and your child's teacher so that we take the steps to create accurate records and inform staff of the established protocol.

We ask that you avoid sending any foods that may contain peanuts and/or nuts. Please check the list of

ingredients for peanut oil/butter/sauce/flour/meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts, goober peas, and artificial nuts. Examples include: cookies, chocolate, granola bars, some cereal bars and some chocolate nut spreads. Avoid products that say "may contain peanut/nuts". Imported products have different labelling requirements, please read the labels carefully when sending these products to school.

A substitute peanut butter product is being marketed to consumers as a safe alternative for children to bring to schools in place of peanut butter. We ask that parents refrain from including these kinds of products in your child's lunches or snacks. These products tend to look, taste, and smell very much like peanut butter. While the product is nut free, it mimics a known allergen that causes anaphylaxis in some children to the degree that it is indistinguishable from the allergen. It is a convincing substitute, opening up the possibility that it can be confused as peanut butter, or worse yet, peanut butter could be confused as this soy-based product.

The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority, which is why our schools have procedures in place to minimize risk of anaphylaxis reactions in our students. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in avoiding the use of these products to assist in our continued efforts to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students. We thank you for your cooperation. Remember... we must all work together to keep our children safe!

Grade 7 School Vaccination Program

Please note that York Region Public Health does not send vaccination consent forms to schools. They have been mailed directly to families with children enrolled in Grade 7. Similarly, the consent forms are no longer returned to schools, rather they are completed and returned directly to York Region Public Health. If your child enrolled or transferred to the school late and has not received these forms by mail, please contact the York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452.

The tentative dates that York Region Public Health has scheduled for the clinics at Dr. Roberta Bondar P.S. are Thursday, October 4, 2018 [1st Hep B and 1st HPV (Grade 7s)], and Spring 2019 [date to be finalized; 2nd Hep B, 2nd HPV and Menactra/Meningitis (Grade 7s)].

Terry Fox Run

This year we will once again be participating in the Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Schools all across Canada will be paying tribute to Terry Fox by participating in a school-wide walk and the staff and students of Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School will participate on **Thursday, Sept 27th**, we will be holding our sixth annual Terry Fox Run. We will be sending home more information in the coming weeks.



Back to School Information

Student Transportation

Student Transportation Services (STS) is a joint venture between the catholic and public school boards in York Region. The mandate of STS is to provide a safe, efficient and on-time transportation for students. Transportation officers design and manage bus routes based on Board approved criteria as set out in policy #680. The school staff does not create bus routes or determine who is eligible to ride the bus. Parents and students can access a variety of information on the STS website www.schoolbuscity.com, including eligibility for bussing, pick up locations (if eligible) and late bus information. When on the website, click on the MapNetWEB icon to search for your address and/or school.

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Safe Arrival

Our check of your child's attendance is an important part of our daily routine. In the interest of ensuring that your child's safety we ask you to cooperate with us by following the steps below if your child is absent or is expected to be absent in the near future:

- If a future absence has been planned, please enter the absence directly on Edsby or inform your child's teacher by note, giving the date and length of time of the expected absence.
- In all other cases, please enter the absence directly on Edsby or call 905-417-8046 to inform the office or leave a message concerning your child's absence on the answering machine.

If a child is not in school, and the school office has not received any notification from the parents, the school will take the following steps:

- Call the student's home.
- If we do not reach you at home, we will call your work and/or cell phone numbers.
- If we cannot reach you at work, we will call your emergency contact numbers.
- If we are not able to obtain information from your emergency contact regarding your child's whereabouts, we will speak to a sibling, if one is in the school.

If we are not able to obtain any information, we will consider your child missing and will contact the York Regional Police.

Punctuality is Important!

Punctuality is a life skill that is valued by school, employers in the workforce, and society. Regular attendance ensures continuity of program and assists students in achieving academic success as well as maintaining social ties. Students can enter the building between 8:00am and 8:15am, The instructional day begins at 8:15 am sharp. Please note that there will be indoor supervision beginning at 8:15 am. This enables students time to go to their coat hooks/lockers to get organized for the school day.

We ask all families to put morning routines in place to ensure that children arrive on time for school. They should plan to enter the school between 8:00 am and 8:10 am. Several strategies will be used to help students who are repeatedly late to school. Students may be expected to make up lost time during recess or after school. Parents/guardians can monitor their child's lates and absences on Edsby. We will inform parents if a student's attendance is a matter of concern. Severe cases will be referred to the York Region District School Board's Attendance Counselor.

Please help your child start each school day on time and prepared to learn!





Are you interested in becoming a School Assistant?

School assistants provide supervision inside while the students are eating their lunch in the classrooms, and outside on the playground while the children are at play.

This is a paid position (\$11.97 per hour + 4% vacation pay), requiring one hour of work per day.

Our lunch hour is 11:55 am – 12:55 pm daily.

Requirements include a Vulnerable Sector Screening by the York Region Police and a statement of good health from your family doctor. If you are interested in this position, or know someone who would be interested, please contact the school office at (905) 417-8046 or via e-mail at dr.roberta.bondar.ps@yrdsb.ca.



A Note from the Dr. Roberta Bondar Library...

September Library Corner

Welcome to Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School Library! I hope you and your family have had a great summer and enjoyed reading over the summer. I look forward to seeing returning families to the Library and meeting new families to the school community.

Library Orientations Grade 3-8

Grades 3-8 will have orientations to the Library this fall. At the end of their orientation, students will sign out books. Once all the classes have been for their orientation, open book exchange will begin! Students will have an opportunity to visit the Library during the week.

Primary Book Exchange Grade 1-2

Grade 1 and 2 students will have scheduled weekly book exchange times where classes will come down to the Library for book exchange. During their visit they will participate in a Library program, select a Library book and sign out Borrow-A-Book. Borrow-A-Books are books at a “just right level” for students and is designed to foster independent reading skills. Primary students are able to borrow 2 books and 2 Library books.

Kindergarten Book Exchange

End of September-beginning October, Kindergarten students will have the opportunity for book exchange once a week. Students will have a Library Book bag with their Library card attached to the Library bag. Students will be able to sign out 2 books each week. Please remember to send Library Book bags each week in order for your child to get a new Library book.

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a few hours a week to volunteer? Have you considered volunteering in the school Library? We are looking for volunteers to

- Shelve books
- Scan in books
- Process new library materials

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Lonsway at (905)417-8046 Ext. 118

Looking forward to seeing your child visit the Library this fall.

Mrs. Lonsway Teacher-Librarian