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Principal's Message

November has been as busy as ever at Highview Public School! Our students have kept busy with a number of clubs and teams, including the Eco Club, Greater Good Club, Kindergarten Helpers, Library Helpers, Choir, and Heathy School Team as well as the Intermediate Volleyball teams, Volleyball Clinics and Basketball Clinics. We have also participated in a number of events such as the author visits, a visit from Dr. G.W. Williams' Secondary School, spirit days, several field trips and a beautiful, emotional and meaningful Remembrance Day service led by our House Captains on November 10th. The Healthy Schools Committee has been busy with several workshops and are busily organizing our Walking Wednesdays. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who arranged these activities and events on behalf of our students.

Many of you have been in to meet with teachers to discuss your child's learning so far this year and to reflect on their future learning needs. I would encourage parents to speak with their children about their learning goals throughout the remainder of the term, and the rest of the year. Please also talk with your child about the importance of their Learning Skills, as these play a very important role in the success of students. We will be launching a Learning Skills Honour Roll Award that will be awarded to students from Grade One through Grade Eight who achieve a minimum of three Goods and three Excellents on the Term I Report Card. As a staff, we have discussed the importance of learning skills and will be engaging our students in deepening their understanding of learning skills and setting goals for improvement. Certificates will be distributed at our Term I Awards Assembly.

As we move into the winter months, we have been speaking with students about the importance of punctuality, arriving at school on time, and being prepared to learn. School staff are on duty at 8:20 each morning and we suggest to students that they plan on arriving at school by 8:25. That way, if they are running a few minutes late they will still arrive at school prior to the bell ringing.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Holiday Concert on the evening of December 14th, and sharing with you the best wishes of the season. The students and teachers have been working hard to prepare for this event and are looking forward to showcasing their talents.

In closing, as we approach the Winter Break, on behalf of the staff, we would like to wish our Highview families a restful break. The Winter Break begins on Monday, December 25th with students returning to school on Monday, January 8th. To those who celebrate at this time of year, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and all the best for the holidays and the New Year.

Mr. Biemiller

A Big Highview Thank You!

Highview P.S. and the Healthy Schools Committee would like to thank the Optimist Club of Aurora and the Healthy Kids Community Challenge program for their generous donations to our Healthy Snack program. We would not be able to offer the program without their support. We appreciate the commitment and support of our Community partners in making Highview P.S. a better place.

OPTIMIST CLUB



OF AURORA

**Thank
You!**



**HEALTHY KIDS
COMMUNITY CHALLENGE**

Message From Our Trustee

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

Be a Highview Holiday Hero

This holiday season, the Highview Greater Good Club (the GGs) is once again supporting the York Regional Police's Holiday Heroes program and the Aurora Lions Club holiday drive.

Please bring in non-perishable foods, NEW pyjamas and NEW toys to help support needy families in York Region. Our Highview Holiday Hero Drive is currently running and will continue until **Thursday, December 14th**.

Donations may be placed in the boxes in the front foyer.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Be a Holiday Hero!

Winter Break Reminder

Please note that the students' last day of school is Friday, December 22nd and that the Winter Break runs through to Friday, January 5th. The first day of school in the new year is Monday, January 8th, 2018.

If your family will be extending this break period, please inform your child's teacher and the school office in writing at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!



Eco Team Recycling Initiative

Can tabs - waste that continues to fill our landfills. One can tab in the landfill may not make much of a difference but once you have multiple, it creates a big problem. Instead of piling up the landfills, Highview is politely asking you to send them to school with your child. Whether you have two can tabs or 2,000, everything makes a difference. Collected can tabs will go towards making wheelchairs for kids. Plastic water bottle caps are another major issue. We are also collecting and recycling water bottle tops.

Batteries, cell phones, and printer cartridges are other major issues in the environment. Everything decomposes eventually. But when "eventually" means after millions of years, we're creating more and more build up. There are harmful chemicals in the above which can lead to air pollution. Please take a few minutes out of your day and donate can tabs, water bottle tops, batteries, printer cartridges, or cell phones to the Highview Eco Club. Boxes will be placed in the front foyer for items to be dropped off. Thank you!



School Bus Cancellation Information

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 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 weather 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.
- When bus service is cancelled, all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.**

The YRDSB operates 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 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 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	105.9 FM	107.1 FM				

TELEVISION

CITY TV	CTV Barrie	CTV Toronto	CP24	GLOBAL NEWS
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A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB on Twitter.

Winter Weather

Winter tends to arrive like a lion. Please ensure that your children are prepared for the winter weather when coming to school. Supervision during the recesses is *outdoor only*. On severe weather days with extreme wind chill temperatures or a cold weather alert, we use judgement to shorten the length of time spent outdoors. You should anticipate that your child will be outside for recess everyday throughout the winter. An extra pair of mittens or a hat are a good idea in the younger grades, as snow play often creates very wet children and outdoor clothes don't always have time to dry thoroughly between recesses. As well, please ensure that your child has **indoor** shoes to wear. This is necessary both for comfort and safety as children must have footwear on at all times in case of a fire alarm.

Please be sure to listen to the radio (or watch television news in the morning) on bad weather days to see if school busses have been cancelled. **Remember - if busses are cancelled in the morning, they are cancelled for the day.** Students who are dropped off at school in the morning need to be picked up by 3:05 p.m. promptly as we do not have staffing for after school supervision.

Too Sick to go Outside?



Then you are too sick to attend school. It is an expectation at Highview P.S. that if your child attends school then they must go outside at the recess breaks. Supervision is not available in classrooms or the office during these times of the day.

Kindergarten Registration - 2018

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 19, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, live within the school boundary, and whose parents are public school tax supporters, will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information, please visit the YRDSB website or contact the office at 905-727-6642.



Character Matters



Our Character Trait for the Month of December is **Honesty**.

“Honesty means being truthful to others, being truthful to yourself, doing what’s right regardless of who’s around, and being someone others can trust.”

Character Calendar

**Respect, Responsibility,
Empathy, Honesty,
Fairness, Initiative,
Perseverance, Integrity
Courage, Optimism**

Math Minute



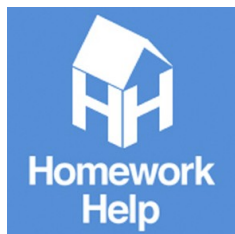
Parents often ask how they can support their child’s math learning of math skills at home. Technology provides us with a number of websites and tools that support parents in reinforcing and understanding math concepts. At times, parents state that they would like to help their child with a math concept, but they do not understand or remember the concept from when they were in school. A number of resources are available to help students with math:

The Khan Academy

(www.khanacademy.org) is a free resource, that provides both instruction and practice in a wide range of math skills ranging from simple arithmetic to high school and university level modules.



The Ministry of Education’s Homework Help program (www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org) is part of the Ministry’s Provincial eLearning Strategy. The Ontario Ministry of Education and the Independent Learning Centre launched a new project called **Homework Help**. All Ontario Mathematics students enrolled in Gr. 7 – 10 have access to this resource, which includes *many new features and online resources*. Students log on to Homework Help and using an interactive chat room, they can obtain personalized tutoring from a certified Ontario Mathematics teacher. Chats take place Sunday to Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 9:30 pm. **Homework Help is no cost, live, and anonymous. In order to register for this program you will need your child’s Ontario Education Number (OEN), which is found at the top of their progress report, or can be obtained from school.**



Healthy Schools & The Jingle Bell Walk

It’s back by popular demand - the "Jingle Bell Walk"! Everyone mark your calendars for the upcoming Walk to School Wednesday "Jingle Bell Walk". The date is **Wednesday December 6th**. You must walk to school to get the jingle bell bracelet.

Remember parents: you may drop your children off and have them walk a block or two to school - that still counts! We will have Healthy School team members out in front of the school handing out the bracelets. For those students who take the bus, they will be given the opportunity to walk during morning recess so they can earn a jingle bell bracelet. If the weather is cold, the walk will still be on.

GO HIGHVIEW GO! Let’s get walking!

Stay tuned for more activities and news from your Healthy Schools committee.



Upcoming PA Days

Please note the following dates are P.A. Days therefore there is no school for students on these days:

Friday, January 19th

Friday, February 2nd

Important Bus Transportation Message

Did you know that students’ bussing 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. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter’s eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.



WOULD YOU ENJOY **COLLABORATIVELY** LEARNING THE ONTARIO CURRICULUM THROUGH **THE ARTS?**

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an **Elementary Integrated Arts Program** at Baythorn Public School. If you are currently in grades **four or five** you may apply for the **arts@baythorn program**, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a **cooperative learning environment**.

To learn more about the **arts@baythorn** program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Thursday, January 18, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Applications will be available at **bit.ly/arts_application2018**
online after the January 18th, 2018 info night.

If you require further information, please call us at
Baythorn Public School
(905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek
Principal

The Arts Team

Meytal Daniels
Vice Principal





**Dekpor
School
Development
Organisation**

Hi there!

Just wanted to let everyone know about the shoes that were collected in September and October. Linda left Canada on November 4th with her daughter and 6-yr-old granddaughter. We were able to take advantage of luggage space so six suitcases containing almost THREE HUNDRED pounds of shoes from Highview (and Aurora Prep Academy) made the journey via plane.



With the help of our Atorkor Vocational Secondary students, all the shoes were laid out and sorted by type and size in our library...and then the fun began!

The website is up for you to see:

http://dekporschool.org/Dekpor_School_Development_Organisation/Photos/2017/ShoeDrives/highview_aurora_distribution.html

What an amazing gift for the kids of Dekpor!

Smilin',
Carol

Carol Sheardown

Director,
Dekpor School Development Organisation

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www.DekporSchool.org

www.facebook.com/DekporSchool

We're making a difference!



December 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Character Trait of the Month H					1 Day 5 GR. 6 VIP Program 	2
o	4 Day 1	5 Day 2	6 Day 3	7 Day 4	8 Day 5	9
	Wheelchair Basketball Program - Grades 3 to 8					
		Williams Guidance Visit for Gr. 8s	Jingle Bell Walk		Crazy Hat, Hair &/or Socks Day 	
10	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13 Day 3	14 Day 4 Holiday Concert @ 6:30 p.m. 	15 Day 5 	16
e	18 Day 1	19 Day 2	20 Day 3	21 Day 4 	22 Day 5 Pajama & Bring your Favourite Stuffie Day 	23
s	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30
t						
31	1 New Year's Day	2			5	6

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!