



The Holland Landing Highlights

[School Website](http://hollandlanding.ps.yrdsb.ca) hollandlanding.ps.yrdsb.ca
[School Attendance Reporting](http://yrdsb.edsby.com) yrdsb.edsby.com
[School Cash Online](http://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com) yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com
[School Bus Info](http://schoolbuscity.com) schoolbuscity.com
[HLPS Twitter](https://twitter.com/hlpsyr) @hlpsyr

Holland Landing Public School
16 Holland River Blvd.
Holland Landing, ON L9N 1C5
Tel: 905.836.6614
Fax: 905.836.7882

January 29, 2021

From the Office

211 Ontario

Do you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter?

For information and referral to government, health, community and social services, call 2-1-1, search 211Central.ca, text 21166, live-chat at 211Ontario.ca/chat or email gethelp@211Ontario.ca. 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages to connect you to local community supports.

Thoughtexchange

To further support students and families, the Board will continue to gather parent/guardian and student feedback on learning environments. We want to hear from elementary families and students to better understand best practices and suggestions for student learning and well-being support.

We are using an online tool called Thoughtexchange to invite meaningful feedback from our students and families. Parents and guardians of elementary students are encouraged to support their children in responding to the Thoughtexchange. The current Thoughtexchange asks:

FAMILIES / STUDENTS

- What successes have you/your child experienced this school year?
- What supports do you feel will increase your/your child's learning and engagement experiences?
- Please provide any comments or suggestions you feel may help us when considering the improvement of your/your child's learning experiences

To participate and learn more, please visit the [YRDSB website](http://yrdsb.ca).

This opportunity closes on **February 8 at 11:59 p.m.**

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Model Change Request Process

The process will open on Monday, February 1 to request a change in your child's school program model from face to face learning to virtual school or from virtual school to face to face for the remainder of the school year. Following the Ministry's confirmation of the date of our return to face-to-face learning, we will provide you with the official YRDSB change of program start date for students.

On **Monday, February 1**, families will receive an email with the process to request an Elementary School Model Change. **Only families requesting a school model change need to complete the survey.** Please complete the survey (to switch models) by **Monday, February 8, at 5 p.m.**

Please note that **there will not be another opportunity to change program models this school year.**

Staff will continue to work diligently to provide the best program for each child and to comply with the reduced cohort class size targets. However, we cannot guarantee that there will not be an increase in combined grades or a change to the number of students in classes in some schools. Due to the complexity of the pending reorganization and staffing, your child may be assigned a new teacher. You will be informed of any changes to your child's class placement or program model through the school principal.

Black History Month

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.

As a school and community, we invite you to participate in this celebration.

Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and doing well. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their flexibility, patience and perseverance during the school closures. We understand that the pandemic is creating challenges and hardships, and we will continue to prioritize and do our very best to support the well-being, learning and achievement of our students during these difficult times.

There are resources on the Board website that students and families may find helpful, including tips for speaking with your child about COVID-19, support using technology, community and mental health resources and more at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

One of our [priorities](#) as a Board of Trustees is to Champion Equity and Inclusivity: we aim to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.

Anti-Black Racism

We want each and every one of our students to know that they are valued, welcome, safe and respected in our schools. We know that sadly that is not the reality for some students and that incidents of anti-Black racism continue to occur in our community and our schools. These incidents cause pain, make our students feel unsafe and affect their well-being and achievement. This is not acceptable.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing information and inviting you to participate in the *Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy: Creating anti-racist and Black affirming learning and working environments* virtual event. During this

event we will be unveiling our Anti-Black Racism Strategy, which was developed in coordination with families, students, community partners, educators and members of our senior leadership team. The strategy was developed in response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism, and it will be a critical tool to support positive change in the system and to improve the experiences of Black students and staff.

A series of training sessions, webinars and opportunities for learning will also be made available. Future communication will provide registration options.

I want to thank the members of the Anti-Black Racism Committee for generously giving their time, sharing their difficult experiences and their voice. We are committed to ensuring that this strategy is more than a piece of paper and are committed to doing the work to create more equitable learning environments.

I also want to acknowledge that February is Black History Month, and while we take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the incredible contributions made by Black Canadians, we will also be looking forward to launching our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy. We will also be continuing our [celebration of Black excellence](#) in our community and I encourage you to take the time to read the stories of some of the inspiring individuals learning and working here in York Region.

We all have a role to play in creating a community that enables everyone in it to thrive, and in doing this work, we will create a more inclusive and positive environment for *all* of our students and families.

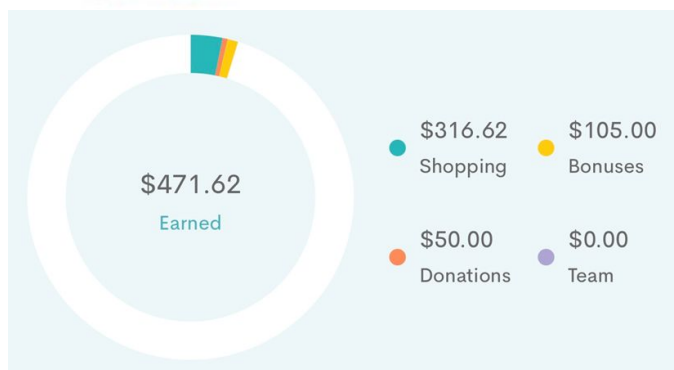
Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey
Trustee - East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville

School Council

Please join us at our next virtual School Council meeting on **Tuesday, February 2nd** at 7:00 pm!
Agenda and link to the meeting will be sent to families by email on Tuesday, February 2nd.

FlipGive

Please consider joining our FlipGive fundraising team! We've raised **\$471.62** so far!



- ❖ How to participate;
- Download the FlipGive App or visit www.flipgive.com/join to sign up
- When asked to "join existing team", enter our unique team code: **YF9WHZ**
- Have fun shopping!

Reach Out!

If you have a question for our School Council, or any items you would like to be brought to our attention, please email our Chair - Zalema Mavor holland.landing.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca

Looking Ahead

February...

1 - PA Day

15 - Family Day (no school)

